

*Open to God's Spirit,
we reach out in Love to the World
and invite All to journey with us*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The VINEYARD

Newsletter of The Lockport
United Church of Christ

MAY 2025

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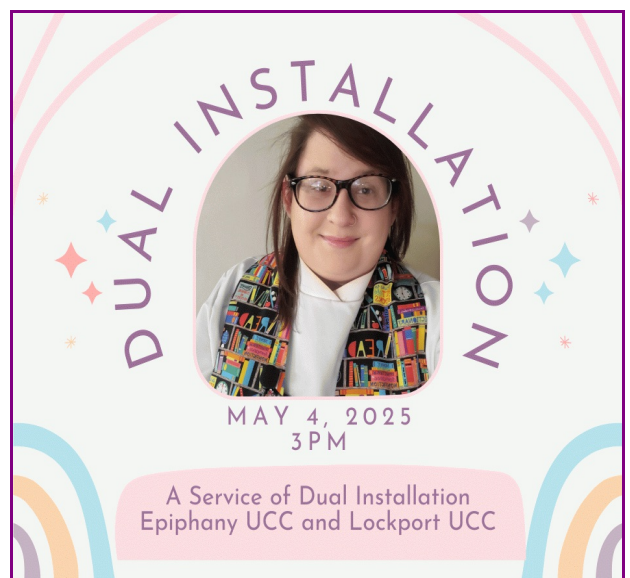
Installation Service for Pastor Hope

May 4 - 3:00 PM - at Epiphany UCC

It is time for us to celebrate the covenant made amongst Lockport UCC and Epiphany UCC and the WNYACIC in the ministry of the church to which we are all called. On May 4, we will be celebrating all these covenantal relationships through a Dual Installation Service at Epiphany UCC.

The service will be at 3:00 PM, followed by a reception, also at the church. We invite all of our members and friends to come celebrate this joyous occasion!

Please Note:
*There will NOT
be a worship
service that
morning at
Lockport UCC.*





Growing
in faith &
friendship
one meeting
at a time.

Interested in Bible Study?

We have two discussion classes here at Lockport UCC
They are both casual, lay-led groups,
and would welcome new folks at any time

Tuesday Morning Group

Our Tuesday group meets each week at 10:00 am. The group explores the lectionary scripture readings for each week. See Nancy Sy if you would like to join them or need more information.

Thursday Bible Study

Our Disciple group meets on Thursdays at 5:30 until 7:00 pm. This group explores a variety of topics, usually in the form of multi-week series. We are just finishing our series entitled "The Difficult Words of Jesus." In May we will be starting a new 6-week series, "Bible Stories for Grown-Ups - Reading Scripture with New Eyes." If you would like to join us, please let Cyndy know so that we can prepare study materials for you.



Kathleen Hendricks
passed on to her eternal rest on April 3

The Mother of John Hendricks
also passed on March 24

We express our deepest condolences
to John and the Hendricks Family.
We will continue to hold this family in our prayers.

THE VINEYARD

A publication of The Lockport
United Church of Christ
80 Main St. - Suite H
Lockport, New York
(716) 433-2545

*The Vineyard is published
ten times a year to keep
members and friends
informed about
programs of the church
and news of its people.*

Submissions Welcome
Deadline for Next Issue:
May 18, 2025

HOW TO REACH US

Our Website - lockportucc.com

Church Office

80 Main St. - Suite H

716-433-2545

lockportunited@roadrunner.com

Mailing Address

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Lockport, NY 14095

Help Us Keep In Touch

E-mails are a great way for us to get in touch with members when there is a need – snow cancellations, a meeting change, etc. If we don't have yours, please take a moment to send an e-mail note to Cyndy, then we'll have yours on file when we need to be in touch quickly.

***If you are Hospitalized or
in need of Pastoral Care***

please contact Pastor Hope
or the Church Office



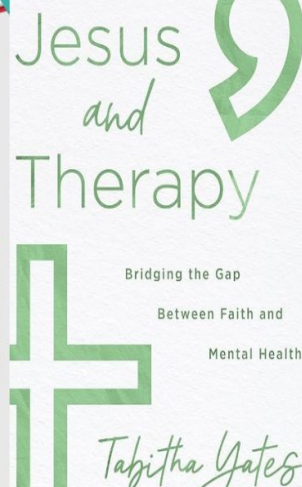
LIKE US on facebook
~ and Please ~
SHARE our Posts

It will help us reach
a wider audience!

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN
THE MENTAL HEALTH
STRUGGLE! JOIN US! BEGINS
MARCH 24**

**WHAT: BOOK STUDY
WHEN: MONDAYS, 530PM
WHERE: LOCKPORT UCC
(80 MAIN STREET, SUITE H,
LOCKPORT)**

"Tabitha is a true rarity. Her words
are the unspoken truths of millions."
Sophia San Filipo, managing editor of Love What Matters



NEW BOOK STUDY

Pastor Hope is leading a new book study on Mondays at 5:30 PM. The book is "Jesus and Therapy - Bridging the Gap Between Faith and Mental Health" by Tabitha Yates. The series began on March 24, but it is not too late to join.

If you're interested, please speak to Pastor Hope.

COMMUNITY DINNER FOR MAY

Edna and her crew of cooks and servers, will be serving another meal for the local community on **May 28**. As always, the meals will be available free, and served as take out only from 5 to 5:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church. Whatever is on the menu, you can be sure it will be delicious!

Happy Spring!

TO OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Lucinda Hohle

Absolut Care - 4540 Lincoln Dr.
Gasport, NY 14067

Linda Layer and Kevin O'Connor

Mt. View Assisted Living
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.
Lockport, NY 14094

David Payne

Lockport Rehab & Health Care Center
909 Lincoln Avenue - Lockport, NY 14094



RIP Medical

Debt Relief

Please don't forget our ongoing mission to help alleviate medical debt for people who are living with the burden of crushing debt from medical bills.

This organization is able to buy \$100 worth of debt for every dollar donated.

**They have
recently surpassed
\$15 Billion worth
of debt paid off!**

That means the weight of medical debt has been blessedly removed from of a lot of people – and our donations have been part of that.

Change and small donations are welcome, so please keep adding to our little collection box in the narthex.



Best Wishes to these folks celebrating Birthdays in May

3 Susan Hagenbach
3 Don Henning
5 Elaine Babcock

18 Linda VanderWeide
31 Lucinda Hohle

Happy Anniversary to . . .

Mike & Christine Derby-Cuadrado 5-31-1997

*If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, please give it to Cyndy.
We want to include everyone in the best wishes!*



*“I have been reminded of your sincere faith,
which first lived in your grandmother . . .
and in your mother . . . and . . .
now lives in you also.” - 2 Timothy 1:5*

Mother's Day ~ ~ May 11th

*Happy Mother's Day to all of the Mothers, Grandmothers,
and women who have been mother figures in our lives.*

WEEKLY VINE

In the Weekly Vine, we share the full sermon from that week, some highlights from our service, and also any prayer concerns or news that comes up. **If we don't have your e-mail, you will not receive it unless you contact us.**

If you would like to receive the Weekly Vine, just contact Cyndy and provide your e-mail address. If you are receiving it and would rather not, let Cyndy know that, too.



GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 21 thru April 28

Income from Pledges & Offerings	4,159.00
Mortgage Income	2,611.44
From Investments	5,000.00
Total Expenses	10,160.65

If you have questions about our finances, please contact me. I am always happy to speak with you. – Cyndy Corrieri, Treasurer

LOOKING AHEAD

Some Dates to Note

June 8 - Pentecost Sunday

We celebrate the “Birthday” of the church in our morning worship service that day.

June 29 - No Service

On this weekend, the downtown Lockport craft show will be held. We are cancelling service that morning because, due to the vendor and visitor parking, our folks will probably be unable to park anywhere around the church.

August 3 - Worship in the Park

On this Sunday we will hold our annual worship and picnic in the park. We will again be at the Veteran's Park in Gasport.



OUR CHURCH CEMETERY

Plots in St. Peter's Cemetery are available for \$800 each. If you would like to purchase plots, just call Dan Holler and he will be happy to help you with that.



Strengthen the Church UCC Offering

God calls us into community. One where "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome." God wants our whole Christian movement to be a "big tent" where all can be genuinely welcomed.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Our conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our movement. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

We will be accepting donations to the Strengthen the Church offering throughout May. There will be offering envelopes in the narthex at church, or just mail your gift to the church. Please make checks payable to Lockport UCC.

WE NEED A NEW STORY

By Jacqueline Lewis

We need a new story in this nation. Most of America's peoples, it might be said, yearned for the story that has been called the American Dream. That mythical story promises equality to a broad diversity of races and ethnicities, and accommodates differences in physical and mental ability, gender and sexual orientations, religions and beliefs. That story promises the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That story promises freedom to live, work, learn, play and grow where one chooses. That story promises that each of us can worship the God of our choice, in the way that we choose, or to choose not to believe in God at all. For many of us it has become clear that the so-called American Dream is not a reality for us.

We need a new story. One grounded in respect and mutual flourishing. We need a new story formed by a fundamental belief that humans are wonderful, that we need each other to survive, and that we are called to protect and steward each other and creation. We need a new story in which we are protagonists, not puppets. We don't have apathy in this new story; we have agency. We are tired in this story, but we take a break and then we jump back in, and we wrestle with injustice until we defeat it. We fight until freedom comes for all of us.

You and I must create this new story. Let's go!



"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- John 13:34-35



The Church in Action

United Church of Christ Corner
ucc.org

MY THOUGHTS

from New York Conference UCC
Happenings

Sometimes, when I get to typing too fast, I make mistakes. And sometimes, when I make mistakes, I find the typo funny.

Maybe you've had the occasion to make this same mistake: instead of typing *United* Church of Christ, I type *Untied* Church of Christ.

Every time I do it, I chuckle...but it also makes me think sometimes: are we, as a denomination, as a church, and as members of this church, more *united*, or more *untied*? Are these terms mutually exclusive?

We're reminded in John's gospel (chapter 17, verse 21) that Jesus prayed to God 'that they may all be one...' That quote has been adopted by the UCC as our denominational motto, and much has been written about our unity in the midst of our diversity, especially as we strive to be 'one'.

Our ministries together often honor the idea that being *united* does not mean being uniform, and our current cultural and political climate makes this concept challenging to put into practice, for sure.

I'm as curious about what it means to be '*untied*' as a church as I am about what it means to be '*united*' as a church! And I'm wondering if we can be *united* in Christ and *untied* in Christ in the best possible ways.

Some options for a church that is *untied*: freed from conventional thought or expectations. Released from constraints. Untethered and mobile. Able to be flexible.

Some options for a church that is *united*: shared purpose. Common foundation for faith and action. Mutual respect. Covenantal.

When at our best, I think we, as members, and as member churches of the United Church of Christ, are *united* in our love of Christ and our love of neighbor.

When at our best, I think we are *untied* in Christ, free to be the individuals God created us to be, in all of our glorious diversity.

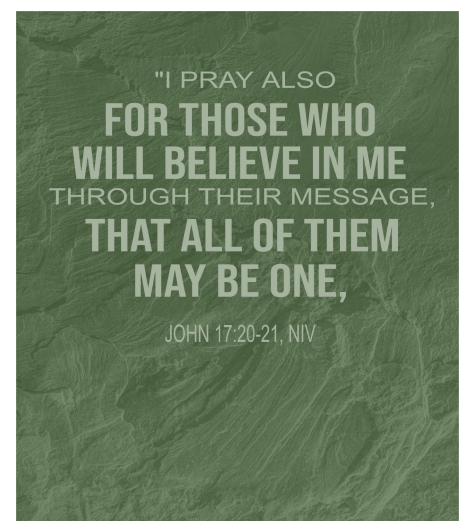
In what ways do you see us as the United Church of Christ being *united*? In what ways do you see yourself *united* with our siblings in Christ?

Additionally, in what ways do you see us as the United Church of Christ being *untied*? Does that feel freeing to you, or threatening?

I think I am more likely to view being *united* and *untied* as positive aspects of our covenant together (even if they are in tension with one another). And it makes me laugh to think that I never would have explored these concepts had I been a better typist!

Eastertide blessings,
Rev. Gary Ferner

Associate
Conference
Minister
New York
Conference
United Church
of Christ





Over the last 100 days of the Trump Administration, our nation has seen alarming actions of executive overreach that attempt to sideline Congress and threaten the checks and balances our Constitution was built to protect. From freezing funds Congress already approved, to trying to dismantle entire agencies, to using emergency powers to push harmful policies without due process or oversight—these and other actions go far beyond politics. They tear away at democratic norms and put our civil society at risk.

This isn't about party or personality—it's about principle and the common good. Our diverse faith traditions teach us to care for the common good, stand up for justice, and protect the most vulnerable. And right now, that means standing up to prevent unchecked executive power. We urge Congress to act now, with moral courage, to end the abuse of power. Oversight isn't optional, it's essential to our democracy.

We call on Congress to have Moral Courage to:

- Reinstatement and full funding of agencies that serve the common good such as USAID and the Consumer Protection Agency as a moral and constitutional imperative.
- Block the Trump administration's potential invocation of the Insurrection Act to further militarize the border and misuse the military to support mass deportations.
- Stop abusing the Alien Enemies Act to deport immigrants and green card holders without due process and suggesting the same for citizens and permanent residents
- Support bipartisan legislation that reins in tariff policies hurting the global and U.S. economy
- Defend SNAP, Head Start, Medicaid, Social Security and other programs that serve as a lifeline to millions of children and families, with daily and emergency food and medical assistance.
- Block any attempts by the Trump administration to revoke the tax-exempt status of Harvard University and other tax-exempt organizations based on their DEI policies or other political disagreements with the administration.
- Overall, demand an end to the abuse of executive power that undermines our freedoms

Send a message to your elected representatives to demonstrate courage in this dire moment!

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS
OR OTHER ISSUES, YOU CAN . . .

TAKE ACTION

Contacting your Representative and Senators in Washington CAN make a difference.
Send a letter or email, or make a phone call to let them know your feelings on this issue.

The UCC has an easy-to-use letter template on their website that you can use if you like, to contact your US Representative and Senators. Find it here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/JAWM/Campaigns/123254/Respond>