



The VINEYARD

Newsletter of The Lockport
United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2023



Service of Remembrance

Sunday, November 5



This annual service is a time to remember those members we have lost in the past year. You are also invited to submit any other names of loved ones or friends you would like to remember. All names submitted will be read in worship, as we light candles on the altar.

If you would like to submit names for this service, please do so by October 29. You may put your list of names in the collection plate, or you may send them to Cyndy by phone, text or email.

We will also be sharing holy communion as part of this special service.

As we light the candles and gaze upon their glow, we will remember the powerful communion we have with the saints – those who have blazed the trail before us – those whom we have loved and followed – now lost to this world, but always in our hearts.

We will pause to be grateful for all those who have been, and still are, part of our lives and part of this church. We are reminded of how their lives have reflected the goodness of God, and encouraged us to live our own lives in a better way.

From Pastor Rick

Hello, all members and friends of Lockport United Church of Christ!

The UCC planning calendar reminded me last week that fall has officially begun. I definitely have mixed feelings about this time of year. On the one hand, nothing is better than the beautiful autumn foliage of Western NY (and stepping on crunchy leaves on a clear, crisp day while walking the dog). On the other hand, it all points to the inevitability of winter. And it all happens so fast, doesn't it?! Summer flew by, and I'm trying to recall what I even managed to do to enjoy it. Life itself is like that ... It passes in a whirlwind of activity and friendship and family. Children grow up, communities change, and many people we love eventually pass from this life, as will we someday. The Psalmist compares us to flowers and grass that are vibrant but eventually fade away. That may sound sort of sad, but the writer's point is that the Creator is eternal – and we are an eternal part of God's creation. Keeping that perspective helps me to be at peace in the midst of changes I have no control over.

I am grateful for the committed core of folks who make up the worshiping community at Lockport UCC, as well as those who can no longer attend worship regularly but who love and support the church however able. Thank you for your faithfulness! This summer we were blessed to be able to share a free community picnic in the church parking lot which drew people of all ages for games, food, and fellowship. We continue to show up to be the church for those around us; we are making a difference in the world! We also held a sale to disburse items in our building that are no longer needed as we prepare to move on. Again, thank you to those who worked hard to make the sale possible. It all feels a lot like moving from the vibrancy of summer into the falling leaves of autumn into an uncertain winter ... with the belief that spring and new life are ahead. Keep praying for your church and its leadership as we discern opportunities for the future. God is with us through all the changes!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Rick



Fall Worship Themes

We continue in the long Season of Pentecost, which will take us right up to the start of Advent. Here are the worship themes Pastor Rick has planned for October and November.

October 1 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon: The First and the Last

October 8 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Sermon: Rules!

October 15 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Matthew 22:1-14
Sermon: By Invitation Only

October 22 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 33:12-33
Sermon: Seeing God

October 29 – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost.

Worship Theme
to be announced

November 5 – Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost All Saints Sunday

Text: Joshua 3:7-17
Sermon: Into the River

November 12 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Matthew 24:45-51
Sermon: Stewards

November 19 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Theme
to be announced

November 26 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Text: Matthew 25:31-46
Sermon: Executive Orders

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.



THE VINEYARD

A publication of The Lockport
United Church of Christ
98 East Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
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*The Vineyard is published
bi-monthly to keep members
and friends informed about
programs of the church
and news of its people.*

Submissions Welcome
**Deadline for Next Issue:
November 19, 2023**

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Our complete newsletter and lots of other information is available on our website at:

lockportucc.com

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, just send your e-mail address to Cyndy. It's a quick and easy way to get your newsletter, and it will save the church money.



Like us on
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Church Office

98 East Ave. 433-2545
lockportunited@roadrunner.com

***If you are Hospitalized
or in need of Pastoral Care***
please contact Pastor Rick
or the Church Office



Upcoming Community Dinners

We continue to offer our free monthly dinners to assist those in our community who struggle with food insecurity.

The dinners are served on the 4th Wednesday of each month, between 5:00 and 5:30 PM, and available as take-out only.

Our next dinner date is planned for **October 25**. We also have *tentative* plans for a dinner on **November 22**. This may depend on the closing date for the building sale. (Watch for more definite details about this later in the *Weekly Vine*.) If you can help prepare or serve meals, or make deserts please contact Edna to volunteer.

Bible Study Groups

Our **Tuesday group** continues to meet at 10:00 am in the Mayflower Room. See Nancy Sy if you would like to join them or need more information.

Our **Disciple group** is extending our break until further notice, due to the transitions happening in the church. We are tentatively planning to resume classes in January.

Happy Autumn to Our Shut-in Members

Lucinda Hohle
Absolut Center
4540 Lincoln Dr.
Gasport, NY 14067

Linda Layer
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



October Birthdays

- 1 Sara Boots
- 10 Laurel Klino
- 12 Cali-Rae Haseley
- 12 Nicolino Pellegrino
- 12 Logan Leibovitch
- 14 Gary Budde
- 17 David Henning
- 27 Cheryl Reid



November Birthdays

- 13 Larry Henn
- 17 Jenna Le
- 26 Jonathan Reid



Fall Anniversaries

October 28, 1972
James & Elaine Babcock

Nov. 22, 1997
Richard & Tammy Dodge

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, however, 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.



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.



Little Food Pantry

Please continue your generous support of our little food pantry in the front yard of the church. The need is great, and thanks to you, we are doing a lot to help needy families in our own community.

Little Library

Our little library is also very popular. Please refrain from bringing any adult books at the present time because we have a large supply on hand. We continue to need children's books, however, so if you have an opportunity to donate those, they would be most appreciated.

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.

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

Building Sale Update

As we have told you previously, we accepted an offer from the Challenger Learning Center of Lockport to purchase our church building. We entered into a contract with them, which included a contingency that they receive financing for the purchase through a grant they have applied for.

In September we were notified that a decision on that grant award would be postponed until December. Since then, however, we have reason to believe that the funds to purchase the building *may* be released sooner than that.

Unfortunately, at this time we do not have any more definite information about when we will be able to close on the sale. We will keep the congregation informed of any new developments as they occur.

General Fund Summary July 24 thru September 24

In the interest of keeping the congregation informed, the Church Council has opted to publish a thumbnail sketch of our church finances in each newsletter.

Income from	
Pledges & Offerings	8,831.00
Other Income	11,498.14
Total Income	20,329.14
Total Expenses	13,238.01

If you have questions about our finances, please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to speak with you.

Cyndy Corrieri, Treasurer

2024 Church Budget

The Church Council has discussed ways of preparing a budget for next year, and come to the conclusion that it's really not practical to do so at this time. With so many unknowns in our future at the moment, whatever we would come up with would be so much guesswork, that it really would be meaningless. Therefore, the Council has decided to just continue for now without an actual budget. Once we have a better idea of our future finances, then we can prepare a budget that better reflects our situation.



This year's CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 15. Registration, followed by the walk, will begin at 12:30 in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot.

CWS CROP uses the money collected to alleviate hunger here and throughout the world, with 25% of the donations being used right here in our local community.

This will be the 43rd walk in Lockport, and Lockport UCC has been involved since it's very beginning, with our former pastor John Ellis organizing the first walk. We hope that you will help us continue this tradition by making a donation.

We will be accepting contributions throughout the month of October. There are offering envelopes for this purpose in the narthex, or you may simply mail your donation to the church. Please make checks payable to Lockport UCC.

Neighbors in Need UCC Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

We will be accepting gifts to NIN throughout the month of November. If you would like to make a donation, just place it in the offering plate on any Sunday, or mail it to the church. Be sure to note that it is for NIN, and make checks payable to Lockport UCC.



Pantry Collection Sunday, November 19

On Thanksgiving Sunday we will be receiving your donations of non-perishable food.

Food collected will be shared in our local community to make this Thanksgiving holiday a little better for some local families.



Happy Thanksgiving



Let us give thanks!



Autumn . . . Season of Surrender

Macrina Wiederkehr

Blessed are you autumn,
chalice of transformation,
you lift a cup of death to our lips
and we taste new life.

Blessed are you autumn,
season of the heart's yearning,
you usher us into places of mystery
and, like the leaves, we fall trustingly
into eternal, unseen hands.

Blessed are you autumn,
with your flair for drama
you call to the poet in our hearts,
"return to the earth, become good soil;
wait for new seeds."

Blessed are you autumn,
you draw us away from summer's hot breath.
As your air becomes frosty and cool
you lead us to inner reflection.

Blessed are you autumn,
season of so much bounty.
You invite us to imitate your generosity
in giving freely from the goodness of our lives,
holding nothing back.

Blessed are you autumn,
your harvesting time has come.
As we gather your riches into our barns,
reveal to us our own inner riches
waiting to be harvested.

Blessed are you autumn,
season of surrender,
you teach us the wisdom of letting go
as you draw us into new ways of living.

Blessed are you autumn,
feast of thanksgiving.
You change our hearts into fountains of gratitude
as we receive your gracious gifts.

