

*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

OCTOBER 2025

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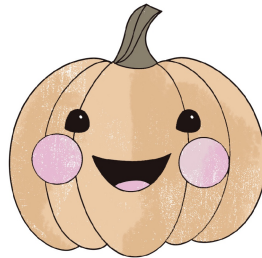
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Halloween Party

Friday, October 24 - 5 to 7 pm

Halloween is a Fun Holiday
for Folks of All Ages!

Trick or Treat on Main Street

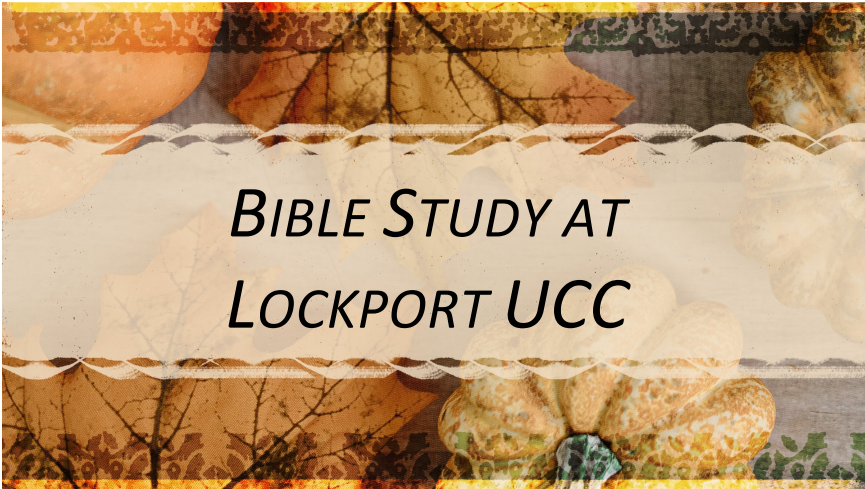
We will be participating again this year in this downtown event, handing out candy to the trick-or-treaters on Main Street.

Church Halloween Party

While we hand out the candy, we also invite our members to come to the church for a Halloween party! We will have pizza for everyone. You are encouraged to wear a costume if you like. (But it's not mandatory)

Candy Donations

We would also like to ask our members to donate a bag or two of candy for the kids who come to our door. Last year we had over 700 children – so we need a lot of candy! Please bring in your candy by **October 19** so we can get the handout bags prepared.



BIBLE STUDY AT LOCKPORT UCC

Tuesday Study Group

Our Tuesday Bible Study group meets each week at **1:00 pm**. They are a lay-led group who discusses the lectionary scripture readings for the week.

Please see Nancy Sy if you would like to join them or need more information.

Disciple Discussion Group

Our Disciple group has resumed classes for a new year of discussions. We meet every **Thursday, 5:30 to 7:00 pm**.

Also a lay-led group, we discuss a variety of topics, usually in the form of a multi-week series.

New folks are most welcome any time! If you'd like to join us, please let Cyndy Corrieri know in advance so that we can have study materials prepared for you.

Bible 101 Class

Pastor Hope leads a Bible 101 class on the **First and Fourth Sundays** of the month, following the morning worship service.

This is a basics of the Bible course for anyone who is new to the Bible or wants a refresher.

If you are interested in joining, please see Pastor Hope to get homework/study materials.

HOW TO REACH US

Our Website - lockportucc.com

Church Office

80 Main St. - Suite H

716-433-2545

lockportunited@roadrunner.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 427

Lockport, NY 14095

***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***



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.

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.



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:
October 19, 2025



CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

The Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York, Pennsylvania (1970). Since then, CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities, large and small, raising millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Lockport's 45th Crop Hunger Walk

The CROP Walk in Lockport started in 1980, and Lockport UCC has been participating since it began – in fact it was pastors from this church that began the walk in Lockport! The CROP walk supports hunger programs here in our community **(25% is donated to local organizations)** and worldwide.

This year's CROP Walk for Hunger in Lockport will be on **Sunday, October 26**. The walk begins at First Presbyterian Church, in the parking lot on Ontario Street, between 12:30 and 12:45.

Whether you want to participate in the walk or not, please consider a donation to this important ministry to alleviate hunger. We will be accepting donations at any time through **November 16**. There are offering envelopes on the table at church. Please make checks payable to **Lockport UCC**.

A History of Feeding the Community

In about 2010, Lockport UCC starting serving regularly scheduled meals to the community, free of charge. There was a simple purpose behind this mission . . . Feed Hungry People. 15 years later we are still doing just that with our monthly free meals!

The meals have varied a bit over the years – the day may have changed, or the location, or the type of service (eat-in or take-out). However, there has been one constant throughout the years – Edna Stubbs. She had the vision to start the meals, and has headed up the effort ever since. She plans the menus, shops for the food, does most of the cooking, advertises to the community, and generally keeps things organized. THANKS is not a big enough word to show our appreciation!

But huge as Edna's contributions have been, no one can do this alone. She has had support from other church members, too. (Her son Kevin is always a big help!) There are always volunteers to help with the preparation, packaging and serving. We have to give them a big Thank-you, too!

Today, the monthly meals continue. We have been blessed to have, initially, First Presbyterian Church, and now Emmanuel United Methodist Church offer their facilities to us so that we could continue this mission. (After moving to our new location we no longer had a kitchen to use.)

But have you ever wondered how important this effort is? What difference does it make in the local community? Well, it **IS** important . . . and it **DOES** make a difference!

Our most recent dinner, in September, served **180 meals** to people in our community – the biggest service we've ever had! And does it matter to the folks we serve? Well, there are stories happening all the time that tell us YES! Here's one example from our last dinner . . .

Service was over, and the team was packing up to leave. Everyone who came had received a meal – 173, with only 7 meals leftover. Suddenly, 5 children appeared, apologizing for being late and asking, "Isn't there anything left?" Well, 5 children plus their 2 parents add up to 7. (Coincidence?) The workers had planned to take these meals home for their own dinner – but they were handed over to these children instead. As Edna was leaving, she says the 7 of them were sitting on the grass outside the church, eating their dinners. That free meal certainly mattered to that family!

Also at that last dinner, a man came in for a meal and handed a folded paper to one of the workers. He had hand-written this note to say thank you . . .

*To the Staff / Volunteers at Lockport United Church of Christ
and Emmanuel United Methodist Church:*

My name is Alexander Benson, and I just wanted to say "Thank You".

Thank you for your professionalism. Thank you for your courteousness. Thank you for your preparation of good & nutritious food. Thank you for your cheerful attitude. Last, but not least, thank you for your selfless devotion.

Thank you, Alexander Benson



(Continued on next page)

Feeding the Community (continued)

So, we just want to say Thank You, too! Thank you to Edna, Kevin, and the team that volunteers every month. Thank you as well to all the church members who have helped over the years by prepping, serving, making desserts, and contributing money or time in any way.

Jesus said, "Feed my people." Well, we have done that – serving thousands (I can't even guess how many) of meals over these years – and everyone at Lockport UCC can be proud of that!



October Dinner

The mission continues! Our next Neighborhood Dinner will be held on **October 22**, at Emmanuel UMC. It will be free as usual, delicious as always, and available as take-out from **5 to 5:30 pm**.



Happy Halloween

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



10 Laurel Klino
12 Cali Rae Haseley
14 Gary Budde
27 Cheryl Reid
28 Nicolino Pellegrino



10-28-72
James & Elaine Babcock



GENERAL FUND

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

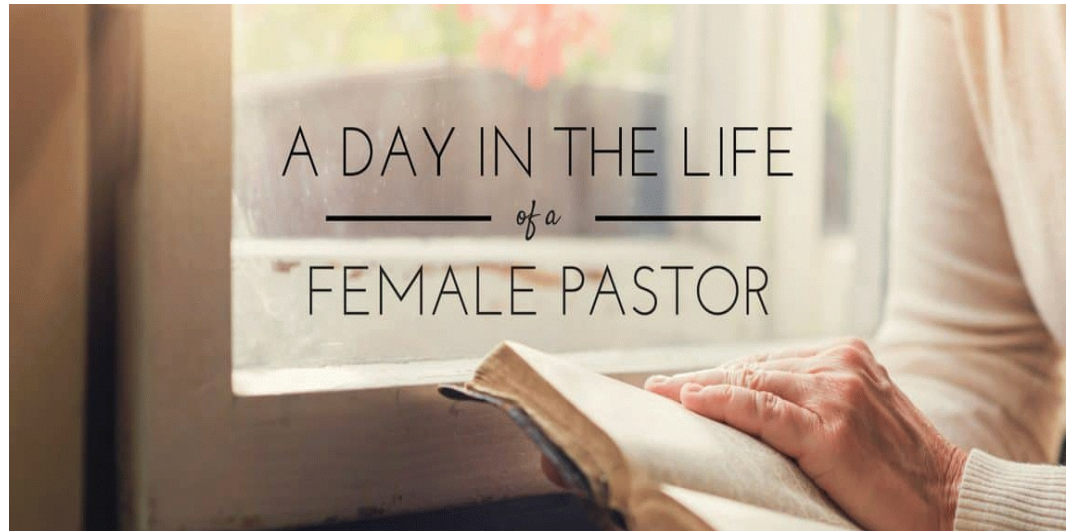
August 31 thru September 27

Income from	
Pledges & Offerings	2,635.00
Other Income	126.00
Mortgage Income	2,611.00
Total Expenses	7,452.86

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.

*Pastors
Are
People*



I have some news to share with all of you . . . pastors are imperfect people. Pastors are only human, just like all of you! I am sorry to burst that bubble and break the picture-perfect image that many of us grew up with about clergy. To be clergy was next to godliness, as clergy and other religious professionals (nuns, missionaries, pastors, etc.) were held to a higher standard of ethical living. But Church, the higher up the pedestal goes . . . the greater the fall. When religious leaders and clergy are elevated upon pedestals or idealized as perfect or revered as divine, it can lead to abuses of power in the church.

Pastors are human . . . and experience all the same struggles of being human that others do. And just like all humans, pastors make mistakes and mess up at times. Attaining perfection is too lofty of a goal for anyone to attain . . . and it is something that I simply cannot attain. Believe me Church, I have tried and tried and tried! If perfection were attainable, I would have already attained it because I have struggled with perfectionism for most of my life.

Over the course of my ministry journey, I have been held up to unrealistic standards. People closest to me have said “that’s not pastor-like” and “you’re a pastor, you shouldn’t do or say x, y, and z” and “that’s not very godly of you.” As a recovering perfectionist, I already hold myself up to standards higher than most, but truth be told clergy are held to standards that rob us of our humanity. Considering God came to us as a human person named Jesus, I do not think that God meant for clergy to throw off their humanity for a pseudo-divinity.

As your pastor, I cannot promise to be perfect. But I can and do promise to learn from my mistakes, put my best self forward, and to continue to grow to become more and more like Jesus on my spiritual journey. It seems to me that God doesn’t want pastors that claim to be more holy, more religious, and more divine than everyone else. Why? Because a perfect pastor is unrelatable, unapproachable, and inaccessible. Perfect pastors don’t know what it is like to make a mistake or what it is like to try and try and try again when things don’t go as planned or what it is like to struggle with making choices in life. But imperfect pastors are relatable, approachable, and accessible.

Y’all, I cannot be a perfect pastor. But if you are willing to have a perfectly imperfect pastor who has a nose piercing and tattoos and a potty mouth (at times) and drinks way too many vanilla chai iced lattes but who tries her best to become her best self and to do what God has called her to do in serving two amazing churches . . . I am here for as long as you’ll have me!

*Abundant Blessings,
Your Perfectly Imperfect Pastor*



The Church in Action

United Church of Christ Corner
ucc.org

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. -Galatians 6:2

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.

Two-thirds of the NIN offering supports ministries of justice in the UCC, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C. NIN grants additionally fund the work of local UCC congregations and partners in direct service and advocacy.

One-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) of the UCC.

Who is CAIM? Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hock in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska.

Today, there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors.

In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 people from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations, strengthening their participation in the life of the church.

This prayer is based on the text from the 1999 General Synod resolution that affirmed the Neighbors in Need offering alongside the other three Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.

*God of compassion,
Give us the courage to breathe in care,
and breathe out all that separates us.
The voices of your people can be lost
in a cacophony of need.
Help us to pay attention and see clearly
our neighbors.
Encourage us to not only help, but listen,
so all may have a voice in the
decisions that affect their lives.
Strengthen us to confront evil
and alleviate suffering.
Let us not turn away from the direct needs
of ourselves and those around us
even as we seek to dismantle
deeper injustice.
Turn us toward justice, peace
and reconciliation.
We pray in your holy name,
Amen*

We will be accepting gifts to NIN throughout the month of October. There will be special offering envelopes at the church. If you would like to make a donation, just place it in the offering plate on any Sunday, or mail it to the church. Please make checks payable to Lockport UCC.



No to War, Yes to God's Creation



Our faith calls us to stand for justice, invest in sustainable peace, and to build a just world where all God's creation can thrive. That is why we are calling on Congress to invest our tax dollars into protecting God's planet and people instead of increasing funding for war.

On Just Peace Sunday, UCC congregations around the country took time during their worship to be reminded of the values we have professed as a Just Peace denomination. As a Just Peace Church, we have stood in "opposition to the institution of war" and affirm that "Peace is Possible" and can only be brought about through our continued commitment to building peace, with justice.

As our congregations recommit to peace, our government appears to be recommitting to warfare. Congress is currently negotiating the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), an annual bill which sets the budget for the Department of Defense. Each year, the military budget rises at the expense of other critical line-item spending. This past year saw devastating cuts to Medicaid and SNAP benefits, as well as massive cuts to foreign assistance around the globe. These decisions directly harm our local communities and our global neighbors.

It is unacceptable that Congress would defund so critical programs that encourage peace, education, and health worldwide while investing tax-payer dollars in more military machines. Furthermore, the devastating effects of global military on our environment are well documented. Global military activity is responsible for an estimated 5.5% of global emissions, meaning that if the world's militaries were a country, they would be the fourth largest emitter in the world.

Join us to urge our congressional members to have compassion for God's planet and people by not increasing the defense budget and instead fund for programs that would benefit all God's people. Urge your Congress members to say "No to War, Yes to God's Creation" today!

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.ucc.org/action-center/>