



Savoring Summer's End

We feel it in the air. Mornings are a little more crisp. We notice the days are a few minutes shorter, and even just a few minutes' difference marks a change in our inner cadence. We see the trees with that sense the end is near. Some change prematurely as if they are thrilled to wear their fall colors. Summer is winding down.

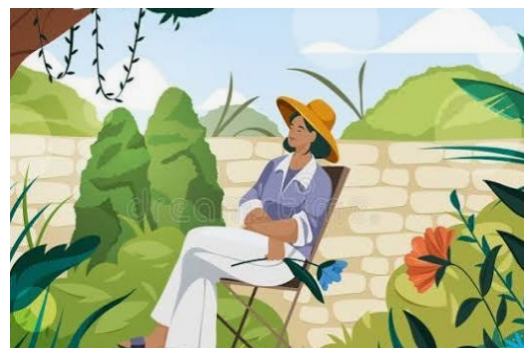
It was a great summer. Friends and family were visiting, Summer activities and outings were offered, and the weather was nearly perfect. It reminded us how important it is for us to be together. God designed us to live in community with one another. We learn much about God when we can see the *Imago Dei*, the image of God, reflected in the presence of another.

This summer we had the luxury of sitting at a shaded picnic table in our yard for hours with friends, talking and laughing over homemade pizza or bowls of ice cream or hot dogs or watermelon. It was time we know we will not have open in our schedules for much longer.

We feel the pull of Fall. School supplies flood the stores; the leaves will change completely and then drop. New routines will fill our days soon. We feel the tug between the cadences of Summer and Fall.

Our family eats dinner outside tonight at our picnic table, knowing this may be one of our last meals outside for awhile. After the dishes are cleared, we linger outside. Neighbors walk by with their dog and say hello. We can hear another neighbor playing with his toddler in their backyard; the giggles drifting over the fence. Across the street yet another neighbor sits on his porch, listening to music.

We are overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for these last few months and the Summer days and nights we've had. We think about how God is good in both large and small things. And tonight, as you sit in your little square of the world, you might ponder a verse from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (9:8) This is what the end of summer feels like: abundance in grace, abundance in goodness.





Just Peace Church Retreat

Blessing the Pets

Baby Shower

Bible Study at LUCC

Neighborhood Dinner

Out of the Box God

Lockport CARES

Worship Walks on the Water

Trick or Treat

New Member Class

Remembering 911

Musings from the Flock

Compassion Not Cruelty Events

Our Mission Statement

*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



HOW TO REACH US

Our Website:

lockportucc.com

Church Office:

80 Main St. - Suite H

716-433-2545

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Mailing Address:

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THE VINEYARD

Newsletter of The Lockport
United Church of Christ

*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:

September 20, 2026



**CHURCH
RETREAT**
September 19
10am to 12pm

For over 30 years, the Just Peace Church pronouncement has inspired a grassroots movement of UCC congregations committed to corporately naming and boldly proclaiming a public identity as a justice-doing, peace-seeking church.

We at Lockport UCC, are in the process of making a decision about becoming a Just Peace Church. As part of that process, we will gather for a retreat at the church on September 19. There will be refreshments and a craft project, as well as fellowship. We hope everyone will join us for this retreat!

BLESSING THE PETS

September 20

Bring your pet to be blessed during our Pet Blessing at the morning worship service.



BABY SHOWER

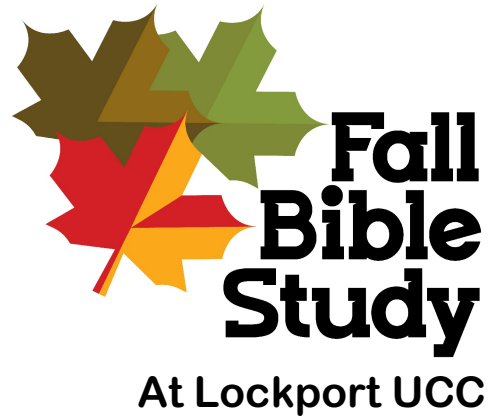
September 27



Following our morning worship service, we will have a Baby Shower for Nikki Eddy & Chris Benninger. We invite everyone to stay and help us celebrate!

If you'd like to bring a gift, they are registered on Amazon at:

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/1ZS0KV5JJU3YL>



TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

Our Tuesday Bible Study group meets each week at **1:00 pm**. They are a lay-led group that 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

After taking a summer break, the Disciple Group will be resuming classes in September. On **Thursday, September 10**, we will gather for orientation and pizza at 5:30 pm. Then on **September 17**, and each Thursday thereafter, we will resume our class discussions from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Disciple typically does a variety of multi-week series on a variety of topics throughout the year. Our first will be a six-week series, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*.

We would be happy to welcome any interested folks to the group. If you would like to join us, please let Cyndy know so that we can have study materials ready for you.

BIBLE 101 CLASS

Pastor Hope leads a Bible 101 class about **Twice a month on Sundays** at 12noon. 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.

PASTOR HOPE'S SERMON SERIES FOR SEPTEMBER



NEIGHBORHOOD DINNER FOR SEPTEMBER

Many of our neighbors find themselves struggling to feed their families. To help alleviate some of that food insecurity in our community, we offer our FREE dinners to the public on the Fourth Wednesday of each month.

We will hold our next Neighborhood Dinner on **September 23**. They are served from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, and available as take-out or eat-in.



The menu has not been determined yet, but will certainly be delicious as always. Edna will be needing helpers to prepare and serve, so if you can volunteer to help please speak to Edna.

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR 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



BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 Caiden Paul
- 6 Xavier Haseley
- 14 Suzanne Wilson
- 16 Enzo Rongo
- 17 Tina Zuba
- 20 Karen Henn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9-29-1990
Dan & Beth Holler



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.

LOCKPORT CARES SPECIAL OFFERING

We at Lockport UCC have been supporting Lockport CARES since it began here in our community. They are the only emergency homeless shelter in Eastern Niagara County. When local residents experience an emergency, such as a fire or eviction, the CARES shelter is there to offer temporary housing. How? Here's some examples of their services:

- Emergency shelter for up to 15 consecutive business days
- Small, comfortable rooms
- Safe, secure, drug/alcohol/violence-free environment
- Homemade breakfast and dinner
- Packed lunches
- Full laundry service
- Shower/bathroom with personal care kits
- Television viewing space
- Patio and picnic space
- GOD's WORD

We will be accepting monetary donations for CARES throughout the month of September. Please make checks payable to Lockport UCC. Note that it is for CARES, or use one of the special offering envelopes on the table at church.



HALLOWEEN FUN FOR ALL AGE FOLKS!

We will be participating again this year in the Trick or Treat on Main Street event, handing out candy to the trick-or-treaters that come to our door.

We need your help to collect enough candy for the kids. Please consider donating a bag or two of candy. Last year we had over 900 children – so we need a lot of candy! Please bring in your candy by **October 18** (or sooner) so we have time to get the handout bags prepared.

We will also have a Halloween Party that night for our church family! More details on that later.

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WORSHIP WALKS ON THE WATER

Our Worship Walks continue on **Wednesdays, 10-11:30am**, starting at Wide Waters.

Together we walk and talk, pray and play, and be on the lookout for God to show up around us.



(see Pastor Hope if you have any questions)

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June 22 thru August 23

Income from	
Pledges & Offerings	5,892.97
Mortgage Payments	5,222.88
Other Income	74.00
Total Income	11,189.85
Investment Withdrawals	10,000.00
Total Expenses	16,382.77

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

New Members CLASS

Pastor Hope Offers New Member Class

On **October 25**, Pastor Hope will hold a New Member class. If you are interested in becoming a member of Lockport UCC, please speak to Pastor Hope about it.

New Member Service

On **November 1**, our morning worship will include a service to welcome our new members.



Garbage Craft with Sue Cruickshank October 4

I don't know what it is, but it sure sounds interesting, doesn't it? Save the date and watch for more details later!

Remembering 911

If you're old enough to remember September 11, 2001 (like I am) you might be amazed that 25 years has gone by since that day (like I am). It was one of those rare (awful!) days when most of us remember what we were doing when we saw, or heard, that those towers had come down.

I happened to have the TV on at the time. Within minutes of the hit to the first tower there were replays of the event showing on the screen. My first thought was that a horrific accident had occurred. But as I watched the live picture of the scene, it happened again – another plane hit the other tower! Then the realization begins to dawn – this was no accident. Not long after that, the situation grew even worse as the towers collapsed. Soon, we discovered that two other planes had crashed – one into the Pentagon and one in Pennsylvania on route to Washington. It was almost too incredible to take in!

This is (briefly) my story (Cyndy C), and I'm sure you have a story about that day as well. As we approach the 25th anniversary of this dreadful event, share your story with others, talk about your feelings, as the grief rises to the surface again.

Most of all, let us remember and pray for those who died, those who survived, and those who have died since then from the effects of the exposure to the site. We remember the heroism by individuals and first responders that was shown on that day, and in the weeks and months that followed.

May the peace of God which does pass all understanding, keep our hearts and our minds and those whom we love, now and forever, in the love of Christ Jesus.



Musings from the Flock

by Cyndy Corrieri

While pondering how to word a newsletter article I was working on, I was distracted by what seemed to be a constant chirping from the garage. Knowing that the door had been open all day, I suspected that a bird had flown into the garage and had now become an occupant of a place God never intended this little birdie to occupy.

I got up and looked into the garage. There he (or she) was, a little yellow finch, sitting on a box, not far from the wide open door. I wondered why he didn't just fly out? Thinking he might be hurt, I went out and slowly approached him. He quite easily flew up into the rafters. So, not hurt.

I opened the other garage door (we have two) and went back inside, thinking that with the whole front of the garage open, he will surely find his way back to the great outdoors. But the chirping continued, and seemed to be getting louder. Half an hour later I looked out, and he was back on that box – right in front of the open doors. Within a foot or so of freedom, but still he just sat there chirping. Why?

It made me think of how we humans are often faced with the same sort of situation. We have this feeling that we should do something – go through a door, so to speak – but we hesitate. Most likely out of fear of some kind. Fear of embarrassing ourselves . . . Fear of physical harm . . . Fear of making a mistake . . . Fear of how it might effect someone else . . . Fear of the unfamiliar . . .

It strikes me that whenever change is accomplished, it starts (or is furthered) with someone who chose to take a risk and walked through a door they might have felt unsure or frightened of. Martin Luther, when he challenged the church and posted his 95 Theses. Rosa Parks, when she decided not to give up that bus seat. Alex Pretti, when he stepped forward to help a woman who had been pushed to the ground.

It happens every day with “ordinary” people as well. When we choose to reach out to someone who is grieving, even though we don't know if we can find the right words. When we choose to share our resources with those less fortunate, instead of holding back out of fear that we won't have enough for ourselves. When we speak up about injustice by writing that letter to Congress or joining a protest march, even though someone else might be angered.

I don't know what kept that bird in my garage for so long, even though the door to freedom was right in front of him. Maybe it was fear of the predators that are out there, and this space felt safer. Maybe it was confusion about what was the right thing to do, and he didn't want to make a wrong choice.

I don't know what held him there, but I do know that he eventually left my garage. He summoned up the courage to fly through that door. Maybe we can all learn from that little Finch, and summon the courage to fly out that door that we've been afraid to go through!



*This is **Your** newsletter, and we would love to hear your “Musings”! We invite you to write up a few paragraphs sharing your thoughts about whatever may be on your mind, any topic you choose, and send it to Cyndy. We will share it in a future newsletter.*



~ COMPASSION NOT CRUELTY EVENTS ~



**IS
CHRISTIAN
NATIONALISM
CHRISTIAN?**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT! JOIN
US FOR AN EVENING OF
LEARNING AND DISCUSSION TO
ANSWER THIS QUESTION
TOGETHER**

**HOSTED BY NORTH PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT 300 NORTH FOREST ROAD
IN WILLIAMSVILLE**

**OCTOBER 14, 2026
6:30PM-8:00PM**

PRAYER FOR THE POLLS

**A MULTI-SITE PRAYER VIGIL
ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION**



CURRENT HOSTING CHURCHES INCLUDE:

**ST. JOE'S UNIVERSITY RC CHURCH
NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ST. JAMES UCC**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2026
6:30PM**

