

# Irondequoit United Church of Christ Weekly Word

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## Weekly Word Reference Guide

### **Worship This Sunday**

- Notes on Worship
- Pastor's Note

### **Events at and around the Church**

- Belated Birthday Wishes
- Weekly Bible Study
- "Understanding Blindness" Event
- IUCC for NYS Spirit Coat Drive
- Salem X-mas Bags Collection
- IUCC Election Site
- Weekly Calendar of Events
- Lock-up Schedule

### **For The Good of the Community**

- Sunset House Silent Auction
- Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

### **Opportunities to Give**

- Neighbors in Need Offering
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### **Opportunities to Act**

- Petition to Create Composting Facilities
- Honored Ushers
- IUCC Community Connection Corner
- Church communication details and deadlines

### **Remember in Prayer**

- Friends and Family
- Worldwide
- Military

### **More about who we are**

- Safe Sanctuary Church
- Mission Statement

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Visit our Website

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**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

**@ 10:03am**

**In person Worship**

**Worship Leader**

**Rev. C. Paul Grenier**

**Liturgist**

**Jim Hinman**

**Bible Reading**

**Exodus 32:1-14**

**Isaiah 25:1-9**



## **Pastor's Note**

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Dear Irondequoit UCC,

One of the biggest challenges of a preacher, especially a modern progressive preacher, is to walk the line between religion and politics. The Bible, both Old and New Testaments was extremely political in its time. When we read Isaiah preaching against Babylon, it would be as if I was to preach about the evils of China. When Jesus talks about Ceasar, it would be as if I were to directly talk about Joe Biden or Donald Trump. Furthermore, the Bible is supremely concerned with morals, ethics, and how individuals and societies should act. These concepts cannot be separated from politics.

Yet, we know that to blend politics and religion can be a very dangerous combination. The battle cry of the first Crusaders to march on Jerusalem in

1096 AD. Was *Deus le volt* or “God Wills It!” Today, many of us recognize the phrase “Allahu Akbar!” which originally was a prayer but is now the battle cry of Islamic Terrorists. It simply means, “God is Great!” Though, all authentic religions, at their core, promote peace and harmony under God, or oneness, they have all been weaponized at certain times and places to fuel anger, hatred, and division. This is the true corrupting evil, or sin, with which, as professed Christians, we must all contend. As the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:11-15 “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

After the increased violence in Israel, I as a preacher am faced with the dilemma of what to say, if I should say anything at all? I know that the conflict in Israel is a difficult issue, and it has a history of controversy within our own church community. However, I believe the Prophets of the Bible call all faithful people to face controversy head on and speak up against injustice wherever they see it. I also believe it is a Pastor’s duty to preach the Gospel as it relates to us here and now, rather than retreating into ancient history and theology.

For this Sunday, I am being called to say something about the current conflict in Israel, while acknowledging that there are no easy answers in the face of such horrific violence, and deep division. Last week we talked about the 10 commandments, and one particular commandment seems to apply to this situation. “Thou shalt not take the Lord’s Name in vain.” Usually, we think of this as a minor Commandment that means do not swear and use curse words, but it also applies to religious hypocrisy. Someone who praises God while killing innocent people, is taking the Lord’s name in vain in the worst way possible.

This week’s lectionary also offers some striking commentary on the current situation in Israel and Palestine. The reading from Isaiah 25:1-9 could be an inspirational poem for both Palestinians and Israelis. What are we to make of scriptures like this? Finally, if we continue the lectionary readings in Exodus, we come to the story of the Golden Calf, which is all about creating false idols, (answers?) in times of anxiety.

In summary, I do not know exactly what God will call me to say this Sunday, but I encourage you to pray for the people of Israel and Palestine along with our world leaders.

*Blessings, Pastor Paul*

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I would encourage you to watch this short video on the history of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict to get a better understanding of the situation. Be advised that this video is a few years old, but it is as non-biased as you can get, and very informative. (Be aware this is taught in a very fast paced modern teaching method.)



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**Happy Belated Birthday**  
**Pastor Paul!!**

*He celebrated another trip around the sun  
on October 9th!!  
Continued health and happiness is wished  
for you in the year ahead!*



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**Bible Study!**

Our weekly Bible Study is back in session each **Tuesday at 2:00PM**. Looking forward to engaging with the group again and encouraging new participants to join us!

**Tuesdays on Zoom at 2:00PM with Rev. C. Paul Grenier**

**The link is:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/483630339?pwd=SFNsS2xYWWtIOHJ0NC9VdFh6QU9CZz09>

**Meeting ID: 483 630 339 Passcode: 024392**

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## **"Understanding Blindness" - October 22 Event**

What does blindness mean? What are blind people like? What should I do when I meet a blind person? How do blind people do...? Please join me and a couple of blind friends after the church service on October 22 to answer these questions and others you may have. The National Federation of the Blind of New York, Rochester Chapter will provide many informative brochures about specific topics and resources.

Do you know that 2/3 of all blind people are over the age of 65? Also, did you know that 70% of all blind people are either underemployed or unemployed despite having many marketable talents and achieving advanced degrees?

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

My friends and I are excited to inform our fellow church members, so, please come and have a dialog with us. *Bernice Bird*

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## **Keeping Homeless Teens Warm This Winter**

You may recall that IUCC's Outreach Team hosted a presentation earlier this year from an organization called **SPIRIT NYS** which is working to help homeless students in the Rochester City Schools. They are supplying many forms of special assistance to provide resources that will allow the

students to successfully graduate from high school and beyond.

This year they are providing these services to approximately 55 students and they are asking for assistance from a few organizations to donate gently used or new winter clothing. Due to the sensitive nature of homelessness, they cannot supply us with specific names of the youth, but all adult sizes are helpful for males and females. The items should be appropriate for ages 16 – 19. Warm coats are the highest priority. Last year, they needed sizes small through XXL, and there were more males than females. They also are accepting hats, scarves and gloves. If they receive too many items, or things not appropriate for the youth in their program, the items will be donated to the school's clothing closet for anyone in need.

Our Outreach Team believes that this is a very worthwhile project and hope that you will consider donating one or more items. You may want to save money by looking for gently used coats at local thrift stores!

**IUCC will be collecting the items from October 1<sup>st</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup>.** Please put the clothing items in the labeled box which will be in our Fellowship Room.

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It is once again time to think about the **Salem Nutrition Center Christmas gift bags**. This year they are asking us to collect men's deodorant. There will be a box in the front hallway for them. Once again, I (Nancy Smith) will gladly shop for you. You can leave it in the office, well-marked, or just give it to me. I thank you in advance as this congregation is always so generous.

Thank you, gracias, merci!!!!

*Nancy Smith, for the Outreach Committee*

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## **IUCC to be a Polling Site on Election Day** **11/7/2023**

Last year was our church's first year serving as a polling site for the Monroe County Board of Elections. We had over 1500 Irondequoit residents come through our doors to cast their ballots, and the election workers were very pleased with our surroundings and the welcome we gave them and the voters. Some of those voters have returned to the church to worship with us!

This year we can do even more! Last year a few VERY dedicated IUCC folk welcomed voters, steered them toward the dining room where voting machines were set up, offered refreshments, and gave anyone interested some background on our amazing old building. This year we'd like to offer even more hospitality: refreshments for the polling workers; baked goods and coffee or cider for our visitors; information on all the groups that meet at IUCC and the programs we support and offer; someone to point out the restrooms. It is a long day; we will be open from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., with the workers arriving at 5:00 a.m. and leaving by 10:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to organize refreshments, and to act as greeters and/or servers for a 2-hour day or evening shift. Other ideas you may have are welcome.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or leave your name and contact info with Carla in the church office. The more helpers we have, the easier it is for everyone. Let's extend that extravagant welcome to our neighbors once again this November.

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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Thursday, October 12**

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA - Love and Service

7:00PM Zumba

7:00PM RMJO



**Friday, October 13 (nothing scheduled)**

**Saturday, October 14**

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA-Love & Service

**Sunday, October 15**

**10:03AM In Person Worship; "Neighbors In Need Collection"**

**Monday, October 16**

**2:00PM Bookends Book Club**

**3:00PM Finance Team Meeting**

**7:00PM Facilities Team Meeting**

7:00PM BSA Troop #96

7:00PM Zumba

**Tuesday, October 17**

9:30AM Music Therapy

**12:00PM Ruth Circle Group**

**2:00PM IUCC Bible Study**

4:45PM Music Therapy

7:30PM Alateen Group Meeting

7:30PM Al Anon Family Group

**Wednesday, October 18**

5:30PM GS Troop #63179

**6:00PM Praise Band Rehearsal**

6:30PM NFB Monthly Meeting

6:30PM GS Troop #60141

6:30PM Scout Troop #96

7:00PM ICNS Parent Meeting

**Thursday, October 19**

9:30AM Music Therapy

6:00PM GS Troop #61028

7:00PM AA - Love and Service

7:00PM Zumba

7:00PM RMJO

**Friday, October 20**

5:30PM ICNS "Trunk 'n Treat"

**6:00PM Blind Pumpkin Carving Party**

**Saturday, October 21**

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA-Love & Service

**Sunday, October 22**

**10:03AM In-Person Worship - ("Understanding Blindness" Event immediately following Services)**

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**Lockup Schedule**

**Oct 9 - Oct 15.....Fred Frosino**

**Oct 16 - Oct 22.....David Gloss**

**Oct 23 - Oct 29.....Rich Hamlin**

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**YOU ARE INVITED ...**

**THE SUNSET HOUSE  
SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISING EVENT  
Quilts and Art - October 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**



**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> - 10am – 5:00pm**

**OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup> - 10am – 2:00pm**

**Winning bids announced after 2:00 pm Saturday.**

**IRONDEQUOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

Featuring modern and vintage quilts

Mixed media Arts from local artists.

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE SUNSET HOUSE COMFORT  
CARE HOME AND HOSPICE**

# BE THE CHANGE

VOLUNTEER &  
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



Deliver meals for Meals On Wheels!

**Meals On Wheels** needs your help  
delivering meals to homebound  
residents in Irondequoit!

- Delivery takes about 60- 90 minutes
- Meals are picked up in Irondequoit
- Easy to follow route directions

*For more information or to begin the  
application process please call 274-4385 or  
visit our website at [www.homecare.urmc.edu](http://www.homecare.urmc.edu)*



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**UCC's Neighbors in Need Collection is Coming  
10/15/23**

This year the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” theme continues, and its focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

One-third of the offering supports [the Council for American Indian Ministry \(CAIM\)](#) and two-thirds are used by [Justice and Witness Ministries](#) to provide to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We hope that you will be inspired to assist with a financial gift to the United Church of Christ for this purpose. An envelope will be provided to anyone in attendance, but you can also send a check to the IUCC Office at 644 Titus Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617.



### **PENNIES FOR PEOPLE**

Unfortunately money doesn't grow on trees nor do those pennies come from heaven, they come from people like us so take the time to donate your loose change or dollar bills to Pennies for People at Church. IUCC will send the change to UCC NY Women to join with other donations to benefit a local organization that supports women and families in need. Please place your donation in the jar in the breezeway. Thank you!

## Petition to Create Composting Facilities Within Monroe County, NY



Started May 18, 2022

### Why this petition matters



Started by [Color Fairport Green](#)

PETITION TO: Monroe County Legislature

We, the undersigned residents of Monroe County, New York, call on the County Legislature to create jobs, generate beneficial soil additives, and reduce our reliance on other counties by building several composting facilities within the county so that businesses may comply with the NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling law.

Make a Difference in Monroe County. Help us build Composting Facilities for a Greener Future! [chng.it](#)

For more information contact Brenda Campbell ([bjcamp61@gmail.com](mailto:bjcamp61@gmail.com))



## **Honored Ushers Training!**

Ushers are an essential part of our Sunday service that are deserving of respect and honor. They are the welcoming face of the church that greets visitors and ensures everyone is seated comfortably. They are the ones who watch over the congregation and help out if anyone is in distress during the service. They collect and protect the offering and facilitate the church's most sacred ritual of Holy Communion. Ushers are the ones who "assure" the congregation that they are seen, safe, and that the service will go smoothly.

It doesn't take much time or effort to be an usher, but it does take commitment and consistency. Therefore, we will be holding our first Usher's Training this fall. This training will be no more than two hours and it will involve food and fellowship. If you would like to be part of this training please sign up this Sunday.

### **What does an Usher do?**

- Ready the Sanctuary to receive the community for worship. (Lighting candles, gathering bulletins, etc.)
- Greet people as they arrive. (informally)
- Collect the offering and ensure it is stored safely.
- Serve Communion to the Congregation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month.
- Help anyone who is distressed or confused.
- Sound the alarm in case of danger such as fire.
- Be a source of welcome and information for visitors.

*IUCC Community "Connection  
Corner"*







### **New Initiative to Bring Light to the Lighted Cross and various church communications ...**

Pastor Paul is interested in making all church communications more interesting, by highlighting the diversity of talents and personalities in our congregation.

Every month we ask congregation members to submit articles and announcements, but we might get more diverse submissions if we provide our readers with a prompt.

**Our next publication comes during the month of November. Therefore, we would like to request that you consider writing a personal story, prayer, poem, or reflection about Thanksgiving and/or what you are grateful for during this special holiday.** Some examples include sharing a special memory, a cherished recipe, a description of a special tradition in your family, or a reflection for this time of year and what it means to you.

**Please consider contributing an article to share in this IUCC Community “Connection Corner” section. Please send them no later than Wednesday, November 1st to: [office@irondequoitucc.org](mailto:office@irondequoitucc.org).**

Also, don't let the struggle with the thought of putting pen to paper with your stories hold you back ... Pastor Paul is more than happy to assist you if you need a little help to bring your words to life!

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Autumn has arrived ... the calendar is filling up fast as we look forward to many activities and events to be enjoyed! We welcome news, articles, and any other noteworthy information you want to provide in future church communications. We ask that submissions be sent via email to: [office@irondequoitucc.org](mailto:office@irondequoitucc.org) as follows:

For inclusion in the weekly **Wednesday e-Newsletter** (delivered electronically) - submit **by 5:00pm Tuesdays, the day prior to the mailing.**

For inclusion in **the Sunday Announcement Insert** (printed tri-folds) - **submit no later than noon on Thursdays**

For inclusion in the weekly **Worship Email** (sent electronically each Saturday) - items can be added to the Announcement section **until noon on Fridays**

Thank you in advance! We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your useful information!!

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### **We Remember In Prayer**

Randy Hems and Family; William Peterson, Janet Goodman, Barbara Zuegel, Alice Littler, Don Vanselow, Hudson Campbell, Olga Deavitt, Laura Fregosi, Amanda Gee, Diana Kubick, Jim Loveland, Tony Proietti, Ida Saucke; the Grenier Family, Marilyn Weaver's Family, Vandy Humprey and Family; Family and friends of Carol Cowan

*All people affected by natural disasters.  
and conflicts worldwide*

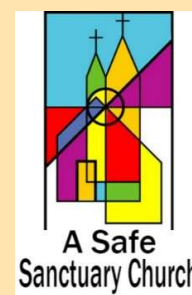
### **In The Military**

Major Gregory Campbell, USAF (son of Brenda & Doug Campbell),  
PO3 Andrew Loveland US NAVY (grandson of Jim & Carol Loveland),  
Paul Gately (son of Mary Gately)

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### **We are a Safe Sanctuary Church**

In a world that is becoming increasingly divided, people are weary of judgment and starving for acceptance. Even in places that should be open and safe, many have felt unwelcome. By simply living God's love, Irondequoit United Church of Christ is a place where everyone can feel welcome and accepted.



## **Irondequoit United Church of Christ Mission**

*We extend God's love and extravagant welcome to all  
to share in our community of worship and following Jesus,  
to work together toward a more Just world.*

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Find us on YouTube

[Visit our YouTube Channel](#)

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