

Irondequoit United Church of Christ Weekly Word



Irondequoit United Church of Christ
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Weekly Word Reference Guide

- Lighted Cross - October 2023

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Visit our Website

OCTOBER LIGHTED CROSS

Sunday, October 22, 2023

@ 10:03am

In person Worship

Worship Leader

Rev. C. Paul Grenier

Liturgist

Jim Jonas

Bible Reading

Exodus 33:12-23

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22



Pastor's Note

Dear Beloved IUCC,

Who is God? And what does it mean to “know God?” Throughout history there are many stories of mystical experiences with the divine such as the one in today’s lectionary, Exodus 33:12-23, where Moses sees God “face to face... well almost. In this story, Moses asks to see God, so he is placed in the cleft of a rock and sees God’s “backside,” after God passes by. This is certainly a mystical experience, but maybe not the one Moses was expecting. Have you ever encountered God in a way you didn’t expect? Some people think it has to be some amazing religious experience, but maybe God is present to us every day. As a divine character in one of my favorite books remarks, “Humans, they live in a world where grass continued to be green and the sun rose every day, and flowers turned into fruit, and what impressed them? Weeping statues, and wine turned into water... As if the turning of sunlight into wine by means of vines, and grapes, and time, and enzymes, wasn’t a thousand times more impressive, and happens a thousand times every day!” The challenge is not only recognizing God working in our lives when we see it, but also distinguishing every day earthly events from signs from God. If the car breaks down, is God trying to tell us not to go on that trip, or do we just need to change the oil? Knowing the answers to these questions takes a lifetime of spiritual practice and discernment, and we will still need a lot of faith. This is why we must continue to cultivate our relationship with God through worship, prayer, and service to others. And occasionally, we will get glimpses of God, “a foretaste of Glory Divine,” to spur us on our path, even if it is God’s backside.

Blessings, Pastor Paul

Mark Your Calendars Holy Eve Harvest Party!

Halloween has often been maligned by Christians as a Pagan Holiday that revels in darkness and promotes demons and witchcraft. This understanding of Halloween is as historically fictional as the Boogie-man. Most northern cultures have festivals this time of year to give thanks for the harvest at the end of the growing season. These festivals have often included elements reminiscent of death in order to ward off the dangers of winter and make the celebration of life that much more spectacular. Until modern times these festivals have always been a combination of Christian and local customs.



Now if Satan has claimed Halloween as a Holiday for himself, I aim to take it right back for Christians. In New Jersey, where I'm from, the night before Halloween was called "Mischief Night," and it was unofficially the night where kids would go play pranks on the neighbors, they didn't think would give them candy the next night. If there is a similar tradition here, then let's give the kids something more productive to do.

On Monday October 30th from 6:30 to 8:30ish we will be hosting a harvest party by our new fire pit, beside the church. This will be a fairly casual event like our June Ice-cream social. We will have food, fire, music, and I will tell a few ghost stories. All are welcome to come and bring your friends and family, even if you only have time to stop by for a few minutes. If you would like to volunteer to help setup, bring food, or tell a story please let Pastor Paul know. pastorpaul@irondequoitucc.org

See you around the fire!

Though our modern Halloween is sometimes looked down upon by Christians as a celebration of ghosts and goblins and all things wicked, its historical roots are not so dark. In the Northern Hemisphere, most cultures that were far enough from the equator to have seasons held some sort of fall festival to give thanks for the

harvest. As Christianity spread throughout the world these harvest festivals were Christianized.

At the same time, in preindustrial cultures there was a real fear of the coming winter when nights would be long and cold, and food would be scarce. So, these festivals often included elements to ward off evil.

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=SFNsS2xYWWt1OHJ0NC9VdFh6QU9CZz09>

Meeting ID: 483 630 339 Passcode: 024392



The Irondequoit Nursery School Co-op is once again holding a Trunk or Treat for our community's children, and they have asked us to join in the fun! You can participate by bringing a car and some candy to pass out, or by just bringing kids to eat the candy. Volunteers are encouraged to decorate their trunks with family friendly Halloween themes. **The event is scheduled for 5:30 this Friday, Oct. 20** and should not last longer than an hour.

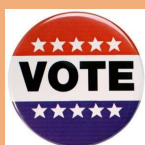
"Understanding Blindness" - October 22 Event

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*



IUCC to be a Polling Site on Election Day Tuesday, 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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 19

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA - Love and Service

7:00PM Zumba

7:00PM RMJO

Friday, October 20

5:30PM ICNS "Trunk or 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)

Monday, October 23

7:00PM Outreach Team Meeting

7:00PM BSA Troop #96

7:00PM Zumba

Tuesday, October 24

9:30AM Music Therapy

2:00PM IUCC Bible Study

4:45PM Music Therapy

7:30PM Alateen Group Meeting

7:30PM Al Anon Family Group

Wednesday, October 25

6:00PM Praise Band Rehearsal

6:30PM GS Troop #60141

6:30PM Scout Troop #96

Thursday, October 26

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA - Love and Service

7:00PM Zumba

7:00PM RMJO

Friday, October 27 (Nothing Scheduled)

Saturday, October 28

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA-Love & Service

Sunday, October 29

10:03AM In-Person Worship

Lockup Schedule

Oct 16 - Oct 22.....David Gloss
Oct 23 - Oct 29.....Rich Hamlin
Oct 30 - Nov 5.....Scott Krieger



Girl Scout Troop #61028 Community Service Project to benefit IUCC Members!

Girl Scout Troop #61028 who uses our facilities for meetings would like to give back and offer their services to our church members who may need assistance with yard maintenance. The group is more than willing to provide a helping hand or two and rake leaves for you! If interested, please contact the office (544-3020 or email: office@irondequoitucc.org) so that a convenient date and time can be coordinated with the Troop Leader to accommodate your request.

YOU ARE INVITED ...

**THE SUNSET HOUSE
SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Quilts and Art - October 20th – 21st, 2023



FRIDAY/SATURDAY

OCTOBER 20th - 10am – 5:00pm

OCTOBER 21st - 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*



Winter Clothing Collection – A Great Success!

Our congregation is known for their generosity, and came through again! Outreach asked for donations of warm winter outerwear for

the homeless teens involved with the SPIRIT NYS organization and we were planning to collect until early November. SPIRIT NYS came by and picked up what we had collected so far and because there has been such an outpouring of generosity, they let me know that they now have what is needed to help the youth they serve. We can feel good knowing that the teens will look great and stay warm this upcoming winter! ***Please don't put any additional items in the Fellowship Room, but feel free to put them in our clothing shed or donate to another worthy charity. Thank you!***

UCC's *Neighbors in Need* Collection was held on 10/15/23 - but there is still time to contribute!

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. You can send a check to the IUCC Office at 644 Titus Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617 (indicating it is for the Neighbors In Need collection).



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)



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 1st 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"*





Halloween and My Crafty Mom

October brings to mind the fantastic creative loving seamstress called Mom. My Mom never met a craft she couldn't do. I remember saying to my Mom that I didn't have a shirt that went with the slacks I wanted to wear to the roller skating rink one evening. She dug down into her material stash, came up with a coordinating print, and whipped up a simple sleeveless blouse for me to wear in about 30 minutes.

No store-bought Halloween costumes in my house. I had the most creative cat, witch, and even Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater's Wife prize

winning costume in the town's kiddy parade. She continued making creative costumes by making my daughter's costumes.

I am the youngest of four, and we were each 15 months apart in age. Needless to say, my Mom had her hands full. My Dad was a good provider, however, my Mom found numerous ways to supplement his pay to pay for those little extras. She cared for children in our home, was a test kitchen for Betty Crocker, sewed ALL of the costumes for the dancing classes we took, and more. She gathered us together along with the childcare kids, and the neighborhood kids, (and there were many) to put on a play in our back yard.

Many parents that have a child with a disability want to smother the child in the name of protection. October is Blindness Awareness Month, By the way, I didn't even know the word blind until I began attending the state school for the blind in Batavia when I was in second grade. I just couldn't see as well as the rest of the kids. I know it was difficult for my Mom, but she with trepidation allowed me to stretch my wings. She covered her eyes while my Dad taught me how to ride a two wheeler bike in our yard. She allowed me to go skate at a public skating rink with my siblings, cringed when I rode the biggest roller coasters, held her breath when I dove off the side of a quarry where we swam, and pretty much worried but allowed me to do everything the other kids did when I insisted.

You know me as someone that has no usable vision. However, I grew up having some usable vision. Mom would help us find the right lighting so I could play board games with the kids, read playing cards, and distinguish different colors for my American Brick constructions. Mom instilled in me a desire to create useful attractive items through knitting, crocheting, plastic canvas, latch hook and more mediums. She would say something like, "Well, I don't think you could make a flower on plastic canvas, being that you can't see." She knew that would hook my determination to do it. I'd say, "Of course I can. Let's do it." And I did. When I finished, it was a red rose on that coaster I made.

I collect lighthouses, and I wanted to make a wall hanging of a lighthouse with a latch hook rug kit. She took the chart in the kit, and painstakingly translated those symbols into color abbreviations, sorted all of those little pieces of yarn, dictated the translated pattern to me so I could braille it. It is hanging on my wall still.

People of my Mom's age found it hard to ask for help. However, I like to think that since she saw me ask for help when I needed it, that she

was able to ask for help sometimes. I knew I made it as a cook when she called me from her work one day and asked me to make a casserole for her to take to a meeting that night. When her eyesight was decreasing, she asked me to download a baby sweater pattern and print it in large print for her, because even at 90, she was still knitting layettes for her church's new mothers.

I am blessed to have incorporated many of my amazing Mom's values and skills; cook tasty food and share it, make useful items for others, read to little kids, and love deeply. *Bernice Bird*

"Second To None"!



Happy Halloween from the little witch, 8-year-old "Pixie" who won second place in a Halloween costume contest!

Submitted by pup-parents, Rev. Bob and Sally Bermudes

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 no later than Wednesday, November 1st to: 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!



PLEASE NOTE:

Autumn is here ... 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* 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!!

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 Humphrey 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)

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.

Find us on YouTube

Visit our YouTube Channel

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