



# The Lighted Cross

## October 2023



## IRONDEQUOIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 10:00am-4:30pm

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Website: [Irondequoitucc.org](http://Irondequoitucc.org)

### **Staff:**

Rev. C. Paul Grenier, Pastor

Carla Fox, Office Manager

Deborah Cox-Robinson, Music Dir

Bobbie Heinkel, Sexton

Kyle Vokes, Maintenance

Worship Techs: Maddie Pratt, Mary

Massoth, Eleanor Massoth, Adam

Tylock, Dominic Del Prete, Derek

Cudo

Rev. Dr. Robert Bermudes, Pastor

Emeritus

### **Leadership Team**

Cindy Adams & Jim Hinman,

co-Moderators

Ken Zeiner, Vice President

David LaTart, Marilyn Weaver,

Judy Viken, Randy McDonald, Gail

Bradley, Team Leaders

### **Finance Team**

Laurel Fuller, Church Treasurer

Mar Doromal, Endowment Treasurer

Karen Sorokti, Memorial Treasurer

### **Caring Connection Team**

Gail Bradley, Mabel Thayer, Barb

Zuegel, Bobbie Young

**Worship Videos on our  
Website/YouTube Channel** - Visit

[www.irondequoitucc.org](http://www.irondequoitucc.org) on the  
Media Page or our Youtube channel  
by searching *Irondequoit United  
Church of Christ*

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## **A NOTE FROM PASTOR PAUL**

*October 2023*

Dear Beloved Community,

Ever since I was a little kid, I have loved the Holiday of Halloween. Not only because of the loads of candy we would collect, in fact my older brother would usually trick me into giving him all my good stuff, but because of the decorations, the colors, the costumes, and the general spirit of the whole season. It would begin with the changing of the leaves from monochrome shades of green to vivid displays of reds, oranges and yellows. Our senses became alive to the beauty and bounty of the fall festival as our meals started to include favorites like pumpkin pie, hot apple cider, butternut squash, and candy corn cookies. On our way to and from school the leaves would crackle under our feet, and even the air was different. It was crisp and seemed filled with a sharp anticipation for the holiday.

Then of course there was the costume planning. My friends and family would agonize as we each tried to outdo one another in creativity and cleverness. I think our best year was when my friends and I went as the I.R.S., Internal Rascal Squad, handing out Halloween audit slips from door to door in exchange for candy. Though I never articulated it, I always thought of Halloween as a supremely Christian holiday, where family, friends, and the entire community were called upon to revel in the gifts God had given us, such as the physical gifts of food, or the spiritual gifts of creativity and beauty. I have also always thought that Halloween powerfully embodies many Christian values such as community, hope, and love.

The concept, as I understood it, was that the entire neighborhood had informally decided to spend their money and time throwing the local children a party as a sign of their love for their neighbors and hope for the future. In fact, one of the origin stories about our modern tradition of "Trick or Treat," is about a woman who was sick of kids ruining her garden every Halloween, and so she threw a party for them instead.

Because of its prehistoric roots in the celebration of the fall harvest and the preparation for winter, Halloween lends itself easily to many secular and religious interpretations. The early church knew this as they adapted the Celtic Samhain and the Roman Frelia, to become "Hallows eve" or Holy Eve and All Saints Day. These are days for celebrating life, and remembering the dead Christians who went before us.

The meaning behind Halloween goes far deeper than kids and candy, and it is far more Christian than some fanatics would have us believe. I would urge our church to cultivate this deeper meaning of Halloween.

The trend seems to be that Halloween is becoming less an event for kids in their neighborhoods, and more a celebration for all ages that takes place in public areas such as malls, town centers, and college campuses. Dare we hope that Churches and Chapel's become an open venue for this celebration as well, where the Christian spirit of the fall festival can be celebrated in all its many ways?

There are many ways we can do this. I would like to have a fall fire and party later this month, and I know the Nursery School Co-op will be having their annual Trunk or Treat in our parking lot. Also, we will be having an "All Saints Day" service on November 5<sup>th</sup>, where we will remember all the loved ones in our community that have passed away this year.

If you have any ideas, or would like to help please let me know, and together we can put the Hallowed back in Halloween!

Blessings, *Pastor Paul*

### **Come Join Our Music Program**



We are looking for any interested congregational members who might like to sing or ring bells.

If you are interested, please contact our Music Director, Deborah Cox-Robinson.

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

### **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=SFNsS2xYWWtlOHJ0NC9VdFh6QU9CZz09>

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

### **OUTREACH**

#### **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 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.

*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 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*

### **Our Finances at Work in the Community**

During the last month IUCC has been blessed to be able to assist some wonderful organizations as they carry out important efforts to help our friends and neighbors with a variety of needs.

Using funds from the St. Paul Legacy Fund we were able to donate \$500 to Uplift Irondequoit. Their office is located in IUCC and they are Irondequoit's primary community advocate for prevention and reduction of youth substance use assisting them to grow up healthy and happy. Using funds from the Olson Fund we gave \$250 to Color Irondequoit Green which is focusing on a variety of environmental issues within Irondequoit and the surrounding area. \$500 in Olson Funds were also provided to ERASE (Eliminating Racism and Seeking Equity in Irondequoit) as they attempt to make our community a safe and inviting place for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to fund our Outreach. We still have some funds left to spend in 2023, so if you have an organization you feel would benefit from our outreach, please speak to one of the members of our committee so they will be considered.

In Christ's Love,  
Outreach Committee Members (*Brenda Campbell, Cindy Adams, Bernice Bird, Gail Hall, Randy McDonald, Lois Metzger, Nancy Smith and Marge Zeiner*)

### **"Understanding Blindness"** **Event on 10/22/23**

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 under employed 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 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 on everyone. Let's extend that extravagant welcome to our neighbors once again this November.

## *IUCC Community*

### *"Connection Corner"*

## **Spotlight: "Autumn Delights"**



## 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 pains takingly 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 eye sight 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***

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## **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.

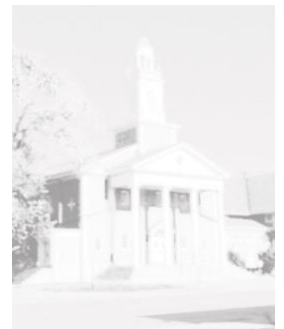
**Our next publication comes during the month of November. Therefore, we would like to request that you consider writing a personal story, prayer, poem, or reflection about Thanksgiving and/or what you are grateful for during this special holiday.** Some examples include sharing a special memory, a recipe, 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@irondequoituucc.org](mailto:office@irondequoituucc.org).**

## ***Welcome!***

If you're searching for a spiritual home, we've been expecting you! Join our vibrant and diverse Reconciling Congregation as we discover what God has in store as we walk in the way of Jesus together.

We're an inclusive, intergenerational Christian community committed to social justice, service, diversity, spiritual growth and integrity. Our faith and work reflect God's unconditional love and Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors as ourselves.



## **We Remember In Prayer**

Randy Hems and Family, William Peterson, Janet Goodman, Carol Cowan, 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, Deborah Robinson-Cox and Family, Vandy Humphrey and family; the Family of Carol Cowan

***All people affected by  
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)

## LOCKUP VOLUNTEERS

Sept 25 – Oct 1	John Currie
Oct 2 - Oct 8	Steve Damtoft
Oct 9 - Oct 15	Fred Frosino
Oct 16 – Oct 22	David Gloss
Oct 23 – Oct 29	Rich Hamlin
Oct 30 – Nov 5	Scott Krieger

## Holy Humor

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



YOU DEVILS SOMETIMES MANAGE TO SCORE A POINT OR TWO AGAINST US ANGELS, BUT YOU NEVER WIN ... HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE FACT THAT YOU MAY HAVE A BAD COACH?



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

*Information to help us know and care about each other, no matter which worship service we attend. To be included, send news directly to: [office@irondequoitucc.org](mailto:office@irondequoitucc.org)*

## Birthdays in October

Susan Stelman	10/1
Irmgard Wintermute	10/2
Gail Bradley	10/4
Colin Dunham	10/5
Brenda Campbell	10/5
Joan Willsey	10/5
Rev. Paul Grenier	10/9
Susan LaTart	10/11
Rebecca Leusch	10/12
Megan Branch	10/13
Katie Izzo	10/13
Carla Weber	10/13
Attila Lampert	10/14
Bryn Straub	10/16
Steven Tylock	10/16
Randy McDonald	10/16
Bob Miller	10/17
Lucy Waugh	10/17
Conor Dunham	10/17
Harrison Hood	10/18
Evelyn Stateler	10/18
Joseph Izzo	10/19
Arlene Branch	10/20
Terry Frosino	10/21
Barbara McMormick	10/23
Michael Littler	10/25
Rich Hamblin	10/27
Melisa Izzo	10/28
Rebecca Straub	10/28
Nancy Smith	10/29
Karen Sorokti	10/30
AnnMarie Depoian	10/31

