

# Irondequoit United Church of Christ Weekly Word

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Irondequoit United Church of Christ  
644 Titus Ave  
Rochester NY 14617  
(585) 544-3020

[office@irondequoitucc.org](mailto:office@irondequoitucc.org)

**Pastor Paul: Tele #609-330-8752  
or email: [pastorpaul@irondequoitucc.org](mailto:pastorpaul@irondequoitucc.org)**

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## Weekly Word Reference Guide

### **Worship This Sunday**

- Notes on Worship
- Pastor's Note

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

- Weekly Bible Study
- Home Energy Efficiency Workshop
- Do You Hear What I Hear - Children's Choir
- Advent Decorating Fast Approaching
- Holiday Show - flyer details
- Advent Journey
- Weekly Calendar of Events
- Lock-up Schedule

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

- ESWA Request - Drivers Needed
- IUCC - Emergency Preparedness
- Community Service Project - Girl Scout Troop #61028

### **Opportunities to Give**

- Stewardship Sunday/IUCC Pledges
- Pennies for People

### **Opportunities to Act**

- Period Packs - erase period poverty
- 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, November 19, 2023**

**@ 10:03am**

**In person Worship**

**Worship Leader**

**Rev. C. Paul Grenier**

**Liturgist**

**Mary Ozel**

**Bible Reading**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

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## **Pastor's Note**

Dear Beloved IUCC,

This Sunday's scripture and sermon on "The Parable of the Talents" will flow nicely from last Sunday's sermon on "The Parable of the Bridesmaids." Last Sunday I talked about being prepared and part of this preparation is getting ready for the future. Though there are many interpretations to this parable, one major interpretation is that Jesus is telling us to invest our talent and treasure now to make a better tomorrow. Therefore, this Sunday we will be talking about stewardship and giving to the church so that we can continue our work together. There are many ways to give, from weekly donations, to a yearly pledge, to putting IUCC in your will, all of which are crucial for our future.

Last week we approved a budget created by calculating what we will have spent this year and projecting it onto what we will need in the coming year. Then we added our modest hopes for the cost of expanding programs and missions. This budget allows everyone to see what we plan to do with their donations before they make their pledge. It is called a “faith-based budget,” because it relies on God, with the help of the congregation, to meet our financial needs. Leadership has presented a vision of our hopes and dreams for the upcoming year and then it is up to all of us through our pledges and giving to make those dreams come true.

We are entering a season of charity and giving, and there are a lot of things tugging at our wallets. As you are considering your pledge this year, I would urge you to think on the words of Jesus, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt 6:21) Consider deeply how much you value our church and the wider IUCC community and give accordingly.

*Blessings, Pastor Paul*

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### **Bible Study!**

Our weekly Bible Study is held each **Tuesday at 2:00p.m.** Looking forward to engaging with the group 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**

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IRONDEQUOIT RESIDENTS,  
**SAVE THE DATE!**



# Home Energy **EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP**

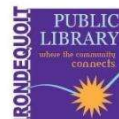
Learn how recent federal legislation can save you money, and make your home more sustainable and comfortable

Thursday  
Nov 16, 2023  
**6:30 PM**  
Irondequoit Public Library  
Room 115



Learn how to:

- Take advantage of state and federal programs to lower home energy costs
- Maximize upcoming Inflation Reduction Act savings for your home and car
- Reduce costs for residential solar, heat pumps, green appliances, and more



**Do You Hear What I Hear??!!**



## **Children Choir, Christmas Plays and More!**

Music is always a big part of worship at this time, so we are putting out the call for singers and musicians of all ages! If you have any urge to sing consider joining our choir for the next few weeks and making this Advent and Christmas something special. Invite friends, encourage family members, pick up people on the street! The more the Merrier!

Our Music Director Deborah Cox-Robinson is planning choir and bell rehearsals on Wednesday nights.

This year Christmas Eve takes place on a Sunday, so we will not be having normal worship on Sunday morning. Instead we are hoping to do a Christmas pageant of some sort involving as many children as we can get! Then we will be doing the more traditional candle-light service at 7:00 that evening.

If you want to help, or have grand children you think you can capture, let Pastor Paul and/or Deborah know via email, or just talk to us after church.

[\*pastorpaul@irondequoitucc.org\*](mailto:pastorpaul@irondequoitucc.org)

[\*deborahcox445@gmail.com\*](mailto:deborahcox445@gmail.com)

### **Proposed Schedule of Christmas Rehearsal Activities:**

**Wednesdays beginning NOVEMBER 15th**

**Children 5:00pm**

**Adults 6:00pm**

**Bell Choir 7:15pm**

**With hope for the best of Christmas blessings!**





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**Mark Your Calendars!  
Advent Sanctuary Decorating,  
Saturday 12/2/2023**

Halloween is barely over, Thanksgiving has yet to arrive, but the Advent season is fast approaching and with that a favorite IUCC tradition: decorating the church sanctuary!

This year the first Sunday of Advent is 12/3, so the day before we invite you to gather at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to fluff wreaths and garlands, hang lights and banners, decorate a tree with Chrismons and spread seasonal joy around the church. There is a job for everyone, and plenty of time to socialize, maybe listen to some holiday tunes and enjoy refreshments while we work. We are generally done within an hour or so. This year we'll have special window decorations: Nativity scenes from Pastor Paul's extensive collection will be displayed on the sills!

Your Advent Elves, Dan Reardon and Laurel Fuller, will get things ready; if you have any questions, just speak to one of us at church. Don't miss it!

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It seems that the Holidays are coming earlier and earlier, and they are more and more filled with things to do, plan, and worry about. In our secular society “the Holiday Season,” begins on Black-Friday, or right after Election Day, or maybe even before Halloween. It is a time for decorating, crafting, and cooking. It is a time for doing, and most importantly it is a time for buying!

The church, as always, is counter-cultural. We are called to live in the world but not be of the world. “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” (Titus 2:11-12) As a result the Church celebrates the time before Christmas as “Advent,” a season of patience, prayer, and giving.

To help our community tap into this unique aspect of our faith Pastor Paul will be offering an Advent Devotional Group on Monday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm. (Dec. 4, 11, 18.) We will be discussing the theology and the traditions around Advent and Christmas, in an effort to deepen our understanding of this Holy-day season.

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**Save the Date!!**



STAGED READING OF:

# The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

A COMEDY BY MARK BROWN

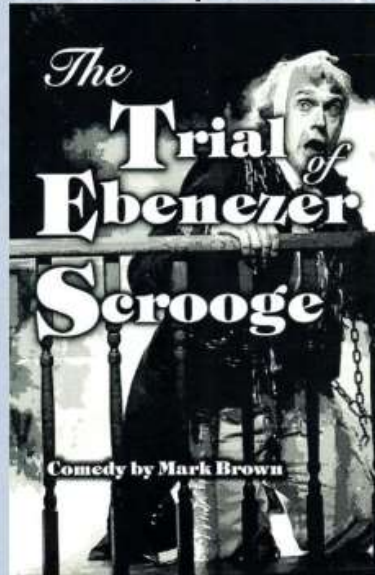
*Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>: 7:00pm*

and

*Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 3:30pm*

At:

Irondequoit United Church of Christ



644 Titus Avenue  
Rochester, New York  
14617

"Produced by special arrangement with  
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY  
of Woodstock, Illinois"

Originally produced by the Orlando-UCF Shakespeare  
Festival, Orlando, Florida  
on December 3, 2004,  
Jim Heisinger, Artistic Director, Mary Ann Dean,  
Executive Director

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Thursday, Nov 16  
9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA - Love and Service

7:00PM Zumba

7:00PM RMJO

**Friday, Nov 17**

**5:00PM Troop 96 Camp-out @ IUCC (thru Sat afternoon)**

**Saturday, Nov 18**

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA-Love & Service

**Sunday, Nov 19**

**10:03AM In-Person Worship; Stewardship Sunday**

**3:00PM Pastor Paul Installation Ceremony (reception following)**

**Monday, Nov 20**

2:00PM BookEnds Book Club

**3:00PM Finance Team Meeting**

**7:00PM Facilities Team Meeting**

7:00PM Scout Troop #96

7:00PM Zumba

**Tuesday, Nov 21**

9:30AM Music Therapy

**2:00PM IUCC Bible Study**

4:30PM Music Therapy

7:30PM Alateen Group Meeting

7:30PM Al Anon Family Group

**Wednesday, Nov 22**

**5:00PM X-mas Choir Rehearsals**

6:30PM GS Troop #60141

6:30PM Scout Troop #96

**Thursday, Nov 23 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING (Office Closed)**

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA - Love and Service

7:00PM Zumba

7:00PM RMJO

**Friday, Nov 24 (Office Closed)**

**Saturday, Nov 25**

9:30AM Music Therapy

7:00PM AA-Love & Service

**Sunday, Nov 26**

**10:03AM In-Person Worship**

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**Lockup Schedule**

**Nov 13 - Nov 19.....Dan Leusch**

**Nov 20 - Nov 26.....Tim Tracey**

**Nov 27 - Dec 3.....Dave Latart**

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**\*\*\* Drivers Urgently Needed to deliver food  
and more to needy families \*\*\***

**From ESWA:**

There is an urgent need for volunteers to help with our supplementary food distribution benefit on Thursdays and Fridays to our members of low-income working families. This program allows our members to receive fresh produce and meats on a weekly basis to help bridge the nutritional gap that can arise when trying to feed a family on a fixed or low-income budget. **Volunteers can arrive at 234 Bay St. anytime Thursday or Friday afternoon and they will be given food to deliver and addresses.** Thank you for any amount of time you are willing to give.

Also, this month:

Drivers are needed for **ESWA's Thanksgiving Food Distribution at Greece Baptist Church on Monday, 11/20/23, 8am-5pm and Tuesday, 11/21/23 8am-9pm.** Local grocery stores will be donating turkeys and assorted food items for ESWA member's Thanksgiving food boxes and the members who are without transportation will need their boxes delivered to them.

Drivers are needed for **ESWA's Toy sort on 12/15/23** at TBD and times TBD for our Holiday party where member families will be receiving toys donated by local churches.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tina Howard at 585-654-9640 or email [eswa-roch@juno.com](mailto:eswa-roch@juno.com)

In Solidarity and God Bless,  
Tina, ESWA Coordinator

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### **Be Prepared - Emergency Medical Treatment at IUCC**

To ensure that everyone using our facility could be helped in an emergency, we have some important tools available and wanted to make sure you are familiar with them. These tools are located in the storage cabinet on the wall opposite the main office. Call 911 immediately before proceeding with anything else. *Remember that these tools need to be administered as quickly as possible to be successful and good Samaritans are protected from legal recourse if the person is hurt or dies in spite of your attempts.*

----- > We have an AED (automated external defibrillator) which is a device that can shock a stopped heart back to life. It is simple to use and there are instructions that anyone can follow.

-----> We have doses of Narcan which are used when there is a suspected overdose. This medication is simply inserted into the person's nose like an inhaler. A second dose may be necessary if the first one is not successful. *Note: The person will not be harmed if it is administered but they are not suffering from an overdose.*

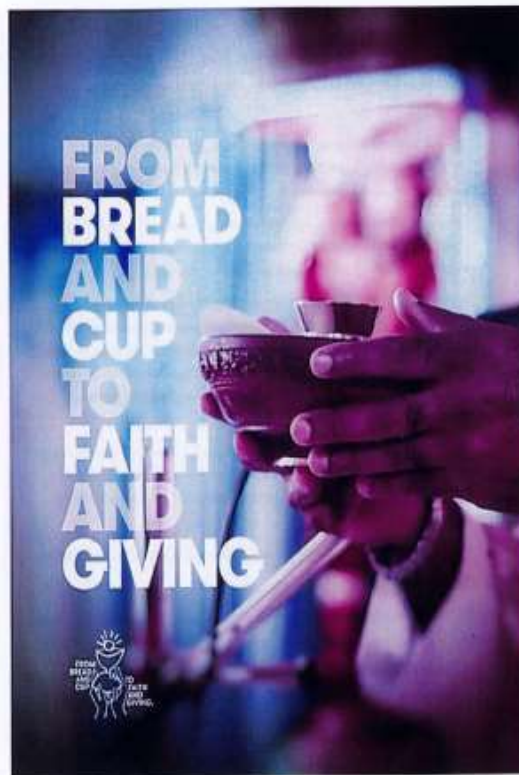
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**Girl Scout Troop #61028  
Community Service Project to  
benefit IUCC Members!**

**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](mailto:office@irondequoitucc.org)) so that a convenient date and time can be coordinated with the Troop Leader to accommodate your request.**

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From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**

**O**ur Stewardship theme, "From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving," connects God's generosity and our stewardship. What would it mean for our lives to embody God's abundance?

Receiving the bread and the cup—also known by names such as Lord's Supper, communion, holy communion, Eucharist, breaking of the bread, sacred meal, and simply "the table"—provides a focus to Christian community.

At the table, God uses the loaf and the cup as visible signs of God's pure, unbounded love for us and for all. The everyday ingredients become symbols of God's abundance. Love that invites everyone in. Food enough for all. Cups shared, even when not everyone agreed. In all the different ways we celebrate it in our congregations, communion allows us to taste and imagine God's gracious providence.

Too often, our minds get stuck on thoughts of scarcity. "There will never be enough," we tell ourselves. And if there's not enough, we want to control who gets what. Perhaps that's why the word *sparse* (meager) contains the word *parse* (divide). Fears of scarcity divide us.

Our fears make God's table manners ever more crucial. God invites. God provides. God pours - until our cup overflows.

Such abundance allows our hearts to imagine a new way of living. We can embrace God's unconditional love as the basis for our lives as individuals and communities.

Stewardship ponders this question: how can we reflect God's abundance with what we have? This question can help us think about ways to connect our experience of God's generosity with the choices we make in our lives.





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office@irondequoitucc.org

7 November 2023

Dear fellow church family member,

On behalf of the Leadership Committee, I am writing to ask you to prayerfully consider pledging your support to our mission and ministry for the upcoming year.

As you have hopefully noticed, there are a lot of exciting things happening here!!  
Among other things, we

- are regularly hosting approximately 80 people at worship, roughly double from two years ago;
- recently welcomed nine new members;
- have reinstated a children's program during the service;
- are regularly offering adult education opportunities;
- are forming a children's choir to help celebrate Christmas;
- will be hosting another IUCC Players production:
  - "The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge" on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>;
- are close to hiring a Director of Youth and Family Ministry;
- are hosting a number of community organizations and service providers in our building to the point where our building is active 7 days a week!!;
- are again serving as a polling place on Election Day and welcoming voters;
- are budgeting for carrying out our mission in our community and using our endowment fund to responsibly support growth and promote God's plan for our congregation

I hope you will join us in supporting our church family with your time and treasure and will prayerfully consider making an increased commitment to our future by pledging your support on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, when pledges will be received.

Thank you.

Jim Hinman  
On behalf of the Leadership Committee



## **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!

## Period Pack: Menstrual Hygiene Kit

In many parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty - lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies - important to healthy practices. Not having these supplies can lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions. How can you help?

Ruth Circle is leading the way to donate towards this cause but we NEED your monetary help as well.

Each kit through CWS [Church World Service] costs \$25 + a \$2 processing fee.

We will be collecting monetary donations during church services on Sunday, November 19th and 26th.

Checks [ IUCC - Period Pack] can also be sent or dropped off to the IUCC office by December 1st.

Thanks in advance for helping women and girls around the world living in period poverty have the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy and live with dignity during their cycle.

*IUCC Community "Connection  
Corner"*



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**November Highlights**



*In the tender light between fall and winter  
the margins **soften**, the colors **shift**.  
You may not be sure of what's before you  
but your heart describes **what you remember**.*

*A brindled barn, a scarlet edge  
a gilded field, a sloping roof.  
A glow of people you know and love.  
An open door that **calls you home**.*

*A glimpse of grace you cannot see  
but know is there.*

*Celebrating this **season of gratitude**,  
and every open door that calls us home.*

*Poem by Margret Melozzi*

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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 November publication will be arriving shortly. Therefore, in preparation for the next issue during the month of December we would like to request that you consider writing a personal story, prayer, poem, or reflection about this "most wonderful time of the year!"** Some examples include sharing a special memory, a cherished recipe, a description of a special tradition in your family, or a reflection for this special 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 ASAP 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!





**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The holidays are right around the corner ... 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**

Jennifer Grenier, Randy Hems and Family; William Peterson, Janet Goodman, Barbara Zuegel, Alice Littler, Don Vanselow, Olga Deavitt, Laura Fregosi, Amanda Gee, Diana Kubick, Jim Loveland, Tony Proietti, Ida Saucke; 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)

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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.



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### **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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