

## SERMON NOTES

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**ITHACA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Connecting with our community by offering hope and purpose in Christ.*

**September 2023**



Everyone faces decisions on a daily basis – some of them minor, some of them major. How can we know that we are making the right decisions?

God tells His people in Isaiah 30:21, ***“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”***

But how can we hear God’s voice? How can we really know what God wants us to do in each instance? The answers are found in the Bible which is filled with practical suggestions for making the right choices. Join us for this series *Finding & Knowing God’s Will* as we explore God’s Word to find the answers that you need for all the decisions in your life.

## THE MISSION FIELD

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**Do you see a need that has gone unmet?** We’re looking for a few outwardly-focused ministry ideas. If you have any suggestions for how Ithaca UMC can connect with the community to offer hope and purpose in Christ, please get in touch with one of the members of the Leadership Board: *Pastor Gary Simmons, Mark Monroe, Ben Bates, Jim Bowen, Joelle Gibson, Keegan Hartman, Glenda Konecny, Scott Merchant, and Anna Rittersdorf.*

## GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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### Children's Church at 10:30 AM during Worship Service

All children preschool - 6th grade are welcome. Pastor Gary will dismiss them to the education wing for a Christ-centered experience geared for them. Please retrieve your children following the service.

### Cry Room and Nursery Care

Available during Sunday worship service for children 3 years old and under. Both are located in the education wing and the nursery is staffed by volunteers on a rotating schedule. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the nursery or if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Deana Schaffer at 989-576-1765.

### Assisted Listening System

A "Hearing Loop" is provided in this sanctuary for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use this service, please switch to "T".

## STAY CONNECTED

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**Senior Pastor:** Gary Simmons

**Assistant to the Pastor:** Mark Monroe

**Worship Leader:** Keegan Hartman

### Contact Pastor Gary

**E-mail:** PastorGarySimmons@Gmail.com

### Questions to ask? Announcements to make?

**E-mail:** Connect@IthacaUMC.org

**Phone:** 989-875-4313 (Leave a message)

**Church Office:** Currently Unstaffed

**Join the Prayer Chain:** Prayer@IthacaUMC.org

### Sermons, calendar, and much more online!

**Website:** www.IthacaUMC.org

**FB & Insta:** @IthacaUnitedMethodistChurch

**YouTube:** Ithaca UMC Worship

Facebook



Instagram



Website



YouTube



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Special Church Conference Results (& Next Steps)

All recommendations from our Leadership Team were overwhelmingly passed by a membership vote. The Special Session of the Michigan Annual Conference will ratify our decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church on November 30, 2023. We will liquidate the Sackett Endowment Fund for the purpose of payment to the UMC as part of the disaffiliation agreement and then become members of the Global Methodist Church effective January 1, 2024. At that time, we will officially become known as **Ithaca Living Hope Church**. New name. Same God.

### Free Event: Harvest Days

#### Saturday, September 9th

3:30 - 6:00 PM: Pumpkin Games, Corn Hole, Antique Tractors

6:30 - 8:00 PM: Praise Band Live in the Parking Lot

Feast on walking tacos, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and donuts.

#### Sunday, September 10th

Fall Kick-Off Worship Service and Sunday School

### Leadership Board Meeting

Thursday, September 21st at 5:30 PM in the church basement.

### Operation Christmas Child

Grab a box in the lobby and fill it with age and gender appropriate gifts per the guidelines.

You can also simply donate funds to support the project.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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**Sunday School Teachers** are hard to find. If you'd be willing to volunteer as a teacher or an assistant for one Sunday per month, please see Anna Rittersdorf.

## FAITH@HOME

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**Small groups** are a great way to build authentic relationships with other Christ followers and dive deeper in discipleship. If you'd like to take this opportunity to grow in your faith and experience Christian camaraderie, we encourage you to join an existing small group or start one of your own. Please contact Mark Monroe at 989-506-7996 or Ken Gibson at 989-388-2831.