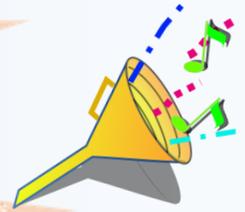




# The Community Messenger

ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

JANUARY 2024



When I was a little girl, one year in Sunday School we made silver bells out of Dixie cups and aluminum foil. We used small round ornaments for the ringers and strung the bells together with a combination of yarn and gift wrap ribbon. We would always hang them on the curtain rod right behind the Christmas tree, using of course a paper clip turned inside out and upside down. We would do this, ideally, before decorating the tree.



On more than one occasion through the years, those bells managed to escape our notice when we were un-decorating the house. Out of the direct line of sight until the tree came down, they were often forgotten, and quite honestly forlorn, without all of the other trappings of the season. Once they were discovered, we would hastily remove them and struggle to find a good place to tuck them for another year. After a while, it became somewhat of an inside joke.



But what if it wasn't so much of a joke? What if it was a subtle reminder that the true gift of Christmas lingers long after the tinsel and evergreen boughs are long forgotten? What if they were meant as place holders for the spirit of a season we are often too frantic to appreciate in full? What if they called to mind the familiar carols which herald angels sing?

In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, an altogether repentant Ebenezer Scrooge vows, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach." We would do well to do the same. In this new year, may we be ever mindful as our past and our present come together to influence our future. May we listen for the echoes of yesterday amid the cadence of today marching ever onward into tomorrow. May we keep Christmas in our hearts, and maybe in our living rooms, the whole year round!



Take good care~Erica



## Greetings from Gabby!

Happy New Year, friends! Did you get to stay up to welcome In 2024? I tried, but I fell asleep long before midnight. I was a tired monkey! 2023 was a big year for us! I am so excited to have

Danny DeMarco as our new Youth Pastor. I can hardly wait to see what wonderful ideas he has for the youngest among us, and the slightly older but not altogether grown up among us. That's really all of us, isn't it?

What are you looking forward to this year?



~ Gabby

Growing up, January 1st always meant two things. 1. College football bowl games. 2. Sauerkraut and pork. Those are the two memories that stand out to me the most. However, when I reflect further on those memories I see that there was so much more. What watching college football and sauerkraut and pork really symbolized was spending time with family in celebration of the new year.

The older I get the more I understand that it's almost always the people that make the moments and celebrations in life so memorable. We often reminisce about the places we went to on vacation and the moments of accomplishments in our lives. Yet, if we really think back it's the people we shared those vacations with, and the people who showed up to celebrate our accomplishments that made those memories the true blessings that they are.

This new year I am going to try and focus more on the people than the moments. Remembering, every moment we get to spend with the people we love is a gift, whether that's at the beach or sitting on the couch watching TV. Happy New Year, Friends!

Best wishes,  
Danny

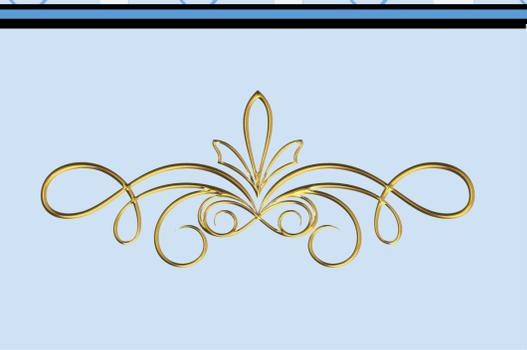
*Happy  
New year*



## Client Choice Pantry

A Thank You to you, our congregation, for your continued ongoing support of the Outreach of this church. This past year you have given your time, your effort, and your monies to the local charities to which we donate, to Operation Shoeleather, to our monthly free lunch program, to support women with personal care items in the month of May, to our Christmas baskets, and certainly to our HCC Food Pantry. We look forward to continuing our work within this community in 2024, beginning with our January 19th food pantry. Your Outreach committee appreciates your assistance in furthering the work that we are all asked to do.

Linda Hitmar



### Lectionary for January

#### Jan. 7, 2024

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

#### Jan 14, 2024

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

#### Jan. 21, 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

#### Jan. 28, 2024

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

# JANUARY SCHEDULE

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Jan. 7	Barb Layfield	Barry Dunaway Captain	<u>Sanctuary</u> Karen Brown
Jan. 14	Katy Kell	Gary Arblaster	
Jan. 21	Bim Turner	Leanna Dunaway Bryson Thigpen	<u>JHR</u> Karen Brown
Jan. 28	Brooke Schubert	Preston Thigpen	



An All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast will be served on February 3 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children. The breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, and beverages.

This will be a monthly breakfast. We will need volunteers to help with this fundraiser. Contact Patty DiGiacobbe for information.

Patty



Fundraiser for the Organ  
Bumper Stickers For Sale

\$5 each

**NEW BOOKS**

THEY MAKE A GREAT GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAY!

**\$15**

**HCC Cookbooks**

AVAILABLE NOW

It's Cookbook Time!

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2023**

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN NORTH HALL**

Donors may report to the North Hall from 12:00-6:00 p.m.

Call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment



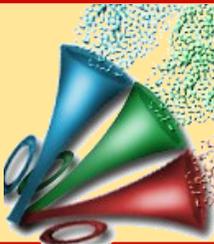
**American Red Cross**



# HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

# January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year</b>  Katy Kell  Marilyn Rambo	<b>2</b>  Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6P (NH)	<b>3</b> 6P—Trustees	<b>4</b> 6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>7</b> 10A-Worship	<b>8</b> 7P Elders 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>9</b>  Karen Brown	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Leslie Bond 1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>14</b> 10A-Worship 	<b>15</b>  6:30P Finance 7P Official Board 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>16</b>  Emma Adgate  Larry Rambo	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)	<b>19</b>  3-5 P Client Choice Food Pantry  Dorothy Miller	<b>20</b> 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>21</b> 10A-Worship	<b>22</b> 7P Boy Scouts-NH February Newsletter Articles Due	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Naomi Foster	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  FFM 11A—12:30P  Natalie Sanders 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>28</b> 10A-Worship  Leanna Dunaway  Linda Hitmar	<b>29</b>  7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 			

**HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**

198 Niles Cortland Rd. S.E.  
Warren, Ohio 44484

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

E-mail: hccced@gmail.com

Phone: 330-856-3628

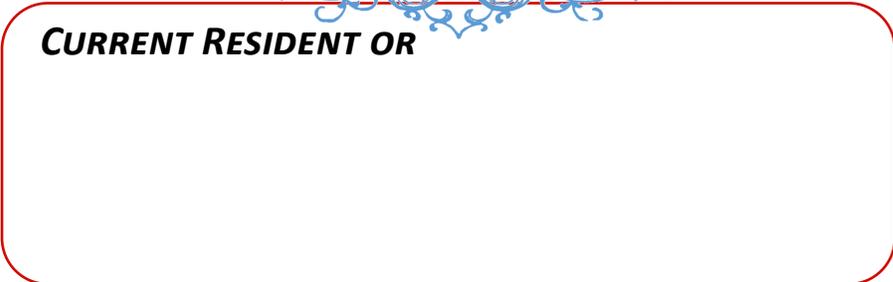
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# JANUARY 2024

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT No. 163  
Youngstown, Ohio



**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**



The Community Messenger is the monthly newsletter of the  
**Howland Community Church**

(Affiliated with the Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, and International Council of  
Community Churches). Our church is **"A House of Prayer For All People."**

We offer Sunday School for children and a fellowship gathering after  
Worship. Communion is served every Sunday.

*Happy New Year!*

**OFFICE  
HOURS**

**Monday—Thursday  
9:00AM—4:00PM  
Friday  
9:00AM—Noon**



Reverend Erica Brown, Senior Minister  
Danny DeMarco, Youth Pastor  
Andrew Purdum, Director of Music  
Rita Bobco, Finance Manager  
Linda Mikula, Administrative Assistant  
Minta Pitts, Custodian

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**



Articles for  
Next Month's  
Newsletter are  
Due Jan. 22