

The Community Messenger

ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

March 2024



When the day begins up to one's ankles in mud, I think it's only fair to be a little wary of what all might follow. Friends, I'm not kidding. My shoe actually came off! Nevertheless, Mom and I recently attended a clergy spiritual life retreat at Camp Christian in Marysville, Ohio. Carrie Newcomer, Quaker singer and songwriter, poet and dare I say prophet was the keynote presenter. Our hearts and minds are full, blessed by her presence and insight. You may have noticed, I can't seem to stop talking about it.

The title of the retreat was "A Great Wild Mercy: Sustainable Hope and the Practice of Presence." From the opening session, I was captivated by the notion of "hope as holding in creative tension everything that is, and could and should be, and everything we do each day to narrow the distance." That was an idea she shared from her friend Parker Palmer, who writes about community, leadership, education, and spirituality.

Through poetry, song, and shared stories, we asked far more questions than we answered. Such is the nature of spiritual growth and development. Given the opportunity to breathe deeply and rest easily, we open ourselves to the plying and prompting of the Holy Spirit. Making space for those things that confound us, we are able to find our footing, to walk with confidence and something like grace.

Like the mud that clung to my sneakers with considerable tenacity, the content of this experience has clung to my soul and my spirit. It suffuses the stuff of my day with glimmers of grace and hints of hope. I would like to provide you the opportunity to engage in a brief Sunday afternoon retreat. On March 10, 2024 following worship, you are invited to share in a meal and a time of spiritual renewal. All are welcome! Please let us know if you are planning to come so we will be sure to prepare sufficient food. I hope to see you there!

Take good care~*Erica*





Greetings from Gabby!



You know I like to go exploring. Well, this week I found something very interesting in the sanctuary. I found a big boat with lots of animals... well, they were pretend animals. And I suppose the boat isn't really that big... Erica told me that her daddy collected those animals for her at the gas station. She also told me the story of a man named Noah who built something called an ark. It rained a lot. Then it stopped and God made a promise that he would never make it rain that much again. Then he put the rainbow in the sky so we would always remember his promise. I learn something new every day!

~ Gabby



Spiritual Life Retreat
at Howland Community Church

March 10, 2024

11:00 – 2:00 p.m.

An afternoon of food and fellowship,
song and silence, poetry and prayer

All are welcome!



Client Choice Pantry



Thanks for all of your help during these first two pantries of 2024. March 15th between 3-5 PM is scheduled for the next pantry, and some of our usual volunteers will not be available, either to help unload groceries on Thursday the 14th, nor during the actual pantry on the 15th. If you are only able to help out occasionally, we would appreciate your considering coming in for part of these 2 days. We have provided food for close to 60 families so far this year - thank you to this congregation for your support in this needed community service.

Linda Hitmar



March Schedules

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Mar. 3	Tom Hitmar		
Mar. 10	Jeffrey Morrison	Jim Diglaw Captain	<u>Sanctuary</u> Dawn Adgate
Mar. 17	Alan Purdum	Bonnie Diglaw Emma Adgate	<u>JHR</u> Dawn Adgate
Mar. 24	Brooke Schubert & Kathy Purdum	Haylee Adgate	
Mar. 31	Alan Purdum		

Lectionary for March

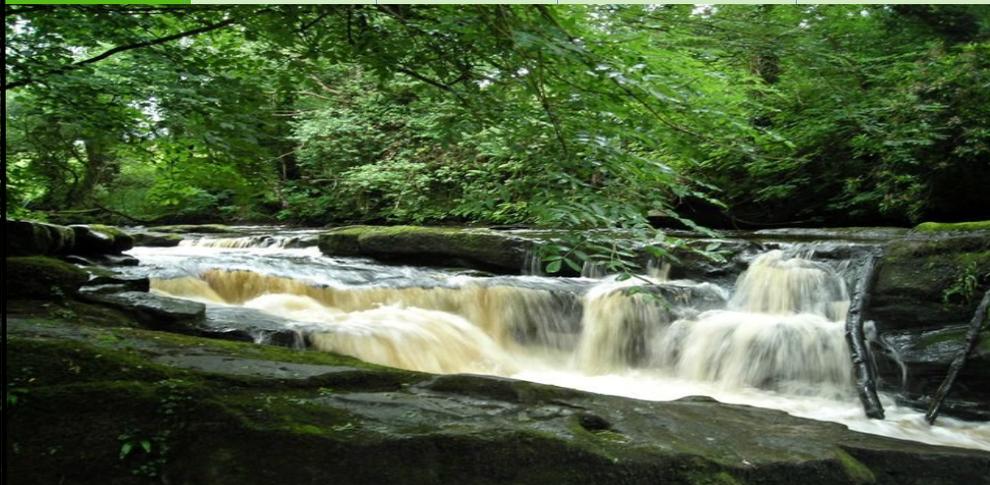
Mar. 3 2024
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Mar. 10, 2024
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Mar. 17, 2024
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Mar. 24, 2024
Liturgy of the Palms
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 11:1-11
John 12:12-16
Mark 14:1-15:47
Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

Mar. 31, 2024
Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18
Mark 16:1-8



The Howland Community Church GAB (Garage/Attic/Basement) Sale will occur:



- Friday April 5th from 9 am-1 pm, and
- Saturday April 6th from 9 am-1 pm

We will be accepting GAB Sale donations in the North Hall of the church at the following times:

Saturday March 30, 9 am-12 pm

Monday April 1, 4 pm-6 pm

Tuesday April 2, 4 pm-6 pm

Wednesday April 3, 9 am-12 pm

Thursday April 4 NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED!



Donated items **MUST** be clean and usable. We will accept your usual garage sale items - furniture, clothing, toys, shoes, kids items, kitchen and housewares, decorative items, books/movies, tools, sportswear and gear, electronics, etc.

Please **do not** bring bins of miscellaneous items that you're not sure what's in the container - it helps us tremendously if items are organized and boxed appropriately in drop-off. We also **do not** accept any cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs or computer monitors.

Sarah will have signup sheets at the back of the sanctuary for volunteer times beginning Sunday, March 3 - this event is not possible without the gracious hearts and hands of our volunteers! If you have any questions, please call Sarah at 330-322-8162.



GAB



BAKE SALE
BOTH DAYS!



APRIL 5TH & 6TH



Please note donations are accepted from HCC church members, attendees, family, and friends only.

We do not accept bulk leftover items unsold from residential garage sales.

Easter Flowers



Dedication to Read: (Please Print)

- Send to a shut in
- Will pick up after Worship
- Easter Lily
- Tulip
- Hyacinth

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please include \$15 per flower with your order. Make checks payable to **Howland Community Church** and mark it, "**EASTER FLOWERS.**"

Deadline for ordering is Monday, March 18, 2024
No orders will be taken after the deadline.
Sorry, prepaid orders only.



FINALIZING EASTER PIE SALES

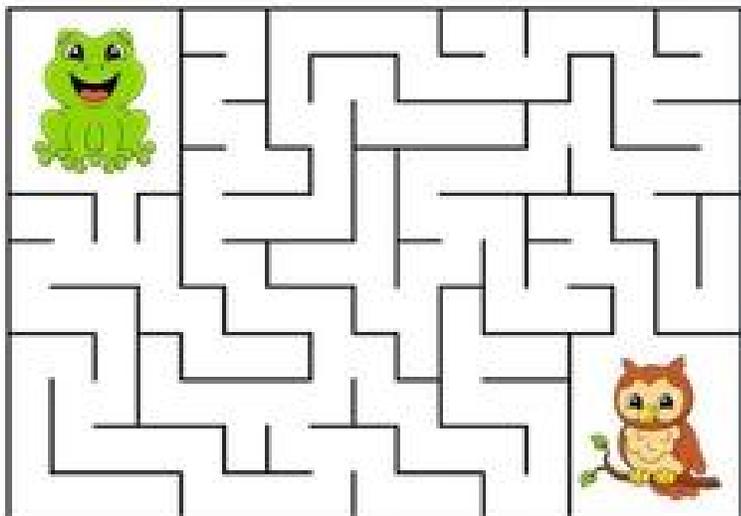


Pies from Gardner Pie Company in Akron can be still be ordered through March 6 with a pick up date of March 21. Flavors provided include Apple, Apple Walnut, Cherry, Berry and Peach. Pies will be \$15.00 each. They come frozen and unbaked. Baking instructions will be included. Consider picking up an order form and asking your friends and family to order some pies. Orders can also be placed through a form on our website at

<https://howlandcommunitychurch.org/fundraisers>.



Patty





It's Fish Fry Time!!!



\$14.00 Per Person
\$7 Per Child

It's Fish Fry Time!!! We will hopefully have 5 more Fish Fries this year. Mar 1, March 8, 15, 22, and Mar 29. from 4:30—6:30 p.m. Much help is needed to make them successful. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary weekly for helpers. There is also a dessert sign up sheet. We average 250 to 300 dinners per night. That's a lot of dessert!

Thank you!
Dawn Adgate



	January Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$ 24,288.62	\$ 24,288.62	\$ 23,207.00
Expenses	\$ 31,739.65	\$ 32,739.65	\$ 32,530.00
Difference	\$ (7,451.03)	\$ (7,451.03)	\$ (9,323.00)



Note: A beginning of the year transfer of \$9,500 was made to the Capital and Music Programs, contributing to the large deficit in January.

Patty



BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



American Red Cross

Monday, April 1st, 2024

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN



Donors may report to the North Hall from 12:00-6:00 p.m.
Call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment



Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 2nd and April 13th in South Hall, 9 AM to 11 AM



An All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast will be served on March 2nd and April 13th 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. Volunteers will be needed for this monthly breakfast. Sign up sheets will be available at the church, or contact Patty DiGiacobbe to volunteer.

Patty

NEW BOOKS THEY MAKE A GREAT GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAY! **\$15**

HCC Cookbooks

It's Cookbook Time! **AVAILABLE NOW**



\$5 each

Fundraiser for the Organ
Bumper Stickers For Sale



Happy Easter!



HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

happy EASTER

March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>FALL SPRING</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 10TH</p>					<p>1</p> <p>FISH FRY 4:30-6:30p (SH)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9-11A Pancake Breakfast (SH) Barbara Layfield P—NA Mtg—NH 6P—AA Mtg—NH</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship Barb Turvey</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6P 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>5</p> <p> Mari-Lee Yeropoli</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1P Lenten Study John Howland Rm 6P—Trustees</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>FISH FRY 4:30-6:30p (SH)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg—NH 6P—AA Mtg--NH</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship Mary Stiver DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7P Elders John & Barbara Layfield 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1P Lenten Study John Howland Rm </p>	<p>14</p> <p> Chuck & Dawn Adgate</p>	<p>15 FISH FRY 4:30-6:30p (SH) 3-5P Client Choice Food Pantry (NH) Suzanne Baker Erica Brown Keith Walker</p>	<p>16</p> <p> Alan Purdum 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg--NH</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship </p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30P Finance 7P Official Board Brian Guy 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Primary Election Eli Becker</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1P Lenten Study John Howland Rm Tom Caldron Anna Marie Ottney Newsletter Articles Due for April</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)</p>	<p>22</p> <p> John DiGiacobbe Steve Lewis FISH FRY 4:30-6:30p (SH)</p>	<p>23</p> <p> Bob Tucker 1P—NA Mtg—NH 6P—AA Mtg--NH</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship PALM SUNDAY</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1P Lenten Study John Howland Rm </p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30P Service Joe & Lorada Bezilla</p>	<p>29 OFFICE COSED 12:00 Noon 7:00P Evening Service FISH FRY 4:30-6:30P (SH)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>FREE FFM 11:12:30P (SH) </p>
<p>31</p> <p> 8:30A Easter Brunch 10A-Worship</p>						<p>1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg--NH</p>

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Warren, Ohio 44484

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MARCH



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10 Psalms 46:10



OFFICE HOURS

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

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Articles for
Next Month's
Newsletter are
Due March 20

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