



The Community Messenger

ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

APRIL 2024



He has risen! He has risen, indeed! We have wandered in the wilderness of Lent, asking difficult questions, questioning easy answers. Some of us have given up creature comforts, small sacrifices seeking to awaken awareness. Some of us have taken on spiritual disciplines of prayer, of study, of outreach to those who stand in need. We have walked this road as a community of faith, to be sure, but also as pilgrims on our own journeys of grace and gratitude.

We joined in the parade, waving our palm branches, shouting hosanna, the excitement building with every breath. We gathered in the upper room, sharing in a meal we remember every time we worship together. We fell asleep in the garden, where Jesus was betrayed with a kiss. We scattered in fear, standing with the angry yet somehow indifferent mob, shouting “Crucify him!” We watched in heart-wrenching horror and unbearable sorrow as Jesus was nailed to a cross as he took his last breath.

We went with Mary to the tomb, awash in grief and loss, astonished to discover the stone had been rolled away and the body was nowhere to be found. We stood, weeping, wondering, waiting... and then... when we couldn't believe our eyes, when we couldn't trust what we didn't understand, at the sound of our name, we knew. We knew that life had conquered death. We knew that everything he tried to tell us was true. And we knew there was a story that needed to be told.

Friends, let us tell the story. Let us share the Good News, in word, in deed.

Let our lives bear witness, as we witness what is possible when we lead with God's love, freely given.



Take good care~*Erica*



Greetings from Gabby!



Happy Easter, my friends!

Do you remember when we buried the alleluias at the beginning of Lent? I was a little bit disappointed because Erica told me I couldn't play in the bucket of alleluias. Did you see what happened on Easter morning? It's almost like the alleluias turned into Easter lilies! Do you remember what we say on Easter morning? "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

~ Gabby



A Prayer for Spring

Maybe it's because I am sitting here in my office on the last official day of winter (a bit annoyed) watching it snow that a prayer of Springtime keeps dancing around in my head. Or maybe it's just a reminder that the Winters of our lives will inevitably pass on to Spring regardless of our frustrations and feelings that it's never going to stop snowing. Whatever the case may be, what I am left with is hope and a reminder of God's love for us. It can't snow forever. Let us pray...

Lord Jesus,

We come to you in this time of birth and renewal in praise and thanksgiving.

We praise you and all the beauty you place in our lives during this season of Spring.

We are reminded of your love for us when we see and smell the flowers in bloom, an explosion of colors and fragrance.

We are reminded of your kindness and care for us on sunny days when we feel the warm rays of the sun on our faces, and the gentle breeze through our hair.

And we are reminded of your delicate nature when we walk barefoot in the new and soft shoots of the green grass.

We thank you, Lord.

We thank you for bringing back all that was asleep, all that was hibernating, and all that was awaiting their time to grow, to live, and to be a part of your glorious world.

Help us find the time during this season to grow in our lives and in our faith.

To shed the tiredness of a long winter sleep, and reach out to the world renewed and ready to spread your beauty, love, kindness, care, and delicate nature to all we meet throughout our day.

Amen

Best wishes,

Danny





Client Choice Pantry

Our food pantry is scheduled for Friday, April 19th during the usual hours of 3-5 pm. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Optimally, we require 10-12 church member volunteers for a smoothly running pantry. Although we are not asking for our members to bring in milk, eggs and bread, if you would like to contribute money towards these foods, any donation would always be appreciated. Please put the words "Food Pantry" in the memo section of your check. We will always require volunteers to help us unload and stock our shelves and freezers, generally the day before the pantry each month. A big Thank You to Howland United Methodist Church for their generous donation of foodstuffs this past month!

Linda Hitmar

VOLUNTEERS
APPRECIATED



Lectionary for April

April Schedules

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
April 7	Kathy Purdum	Judi Matyas Captain	<u>Sanctuary</u> Janice Wagner
April 14	Tom Hitmar	Natalie Sanders	<u>JHR</u> Susanne Shaulis & Naomi Foster
April 21	Gretchen Hrusovsky	Andrew Steele	
April 28	Dawn Adgate	Matt Sanders	

Apr. 7, 2024

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Apr. 14, 2024

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Apr. 21, 2024

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Apr. 28, 2024

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8





(330) 349-9488

2260 Niles Cortland Rd SE
Warren, OH

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

➔ *Support* ←

**HOWLAND COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

April 14, 2024

11:00am – 4:00pm

10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support Howland Community Church by presenting this flyer to the Niles Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to Howland Community Church!



Pancake Breakfast Saturday, April 13th and May 4th in South Hall, 9 AM to 11 AM

An All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast will be served on April 13th and May 4th 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

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!



SALE



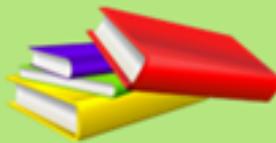
Donated items MUST be clean and usable. We will accept your usual garage sale items - furniture, clothing, toys, shoes, kids items, kitchen and housewares, decorative items, books/movies, tools, sportswear and gear, electronics, etc.

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.

SALE

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.



It's Fish Fry Time!!!

\$14.00 Per Person
\$7 Per Child



It's Fish Fry Time!!! We will hopefully have at least two more Fish Fry this year, March 29th and April 12th from 4:30—6:30 p.m. Much help is needed to make this successful. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary for helpers. There is also a dessert sign up sheet. We average 250-300 dinners per night. That's a lot of dessert!

Thank you! Dawn Adgate

	February Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$ 20,863.81	\$ 45,152.43	\$ 46,414.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 22,086.58</u>	<u>\$ 46,492.90</u>	<u>\$ 53,472.67</u>
Difference	\$ (1,222.77)	\$ (1,340.47)	\$ (7,058.67)



SOLAR ECLIPSE ON APRIL 8, 2024

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the last time a solar eclipse was visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next time a solar eclipse will happen in Ohio is 2099. A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. In the earlier stages of the eclipse; green clothing may seem to appear a bit brighter, and red clothing may seem to fade to a shade of gray.

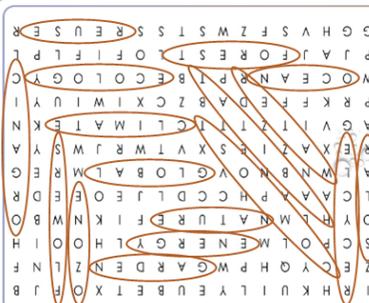
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 G G H V S F Z W S T S S R E U S E R



There will be no Blood Drive at the Church for May. Next Scheduled: June 3, 2024

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

- Forest
- Water
- Recycle
- Nature
- Habitat
- Global
- Ozone
- Flowers
- Ocean
- Reuse
- Climate
- Planet
- Ecology
- Compost
- Organic
- Energy
- Solar
- Garden



American Red Cross

Howland Community Church

APRIL

2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Red Cross  Blood Drive   James Janek 7P Boy Scouts-NH	2  Nancy Janek	3 6P Trustees 1P Women's Group John Howland Rm	4  Lorada Bezilla	5 GAB SALE 9-1P 	6  SALE GAB SALE 9-1P ♥ Terry & Jull Gardlock 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
7 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship  Matt Sanders	8 7P Elders Solar Eclipse  7P Boy Scouts-NH	9  Paul Bickerstaff	10 1P Women's Group John Howland Rm	11 	12 Fish Fry (SH) 4:30-6:30  Steve Schubert	13 9-11A Pancake Breakfast (SH)  Rita Bobco  Evelyn Tarleton 6P—AA Mtg-NH
14 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser 11A-4:00P  Jan Wagner	15 6:30P Finance 7P Official Board 7P Boy Scouts-NH	16  Preston Thigpen	17 1P Women's Group John Howland Rm	18	19  Client Choice Food Pantry   Brendan Minogue	20 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
21 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship	22  7P Boy Scouts-NH May Newsletter Articles Due	23	24 1P Women's Group John Howland Rm	25 	26  DJ Pascale	27  FFM 11-12:30 P (SH)  LeeAnn Tucker 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
28 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship  Jacob Beasley  Deb Christy  James Morrison	29 7P Boy Scouts-NH	30  Haylee Adgate  Linda Quinlan				

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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2024



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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.



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 April 20th

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