

In her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston suggests, “There are years that ask questions and years that answer.” Sometimes it is only in retrospect that we are able to discern the difference. Some questions seem simple, almost inconsequential. Others carry more weight. Sometimes answers are effortless, strong and sure in their certainty. Others are more malleable, given to circumstance and even happenstance.

Questions help us determine where we are heading and help us make sense of where we have been. Personally, I tend to put more stock in the questions than the answers. How they are framed, to whom they are asked, their intended purpose – each smaller question has the potential to draw us toward larger answers. I am quite fond of saying, “Ask difficult questions. Question easy answers.”

Crafting questions can be a bit of an artform. You have heard me speak of my friend Ethan, I am sure. He is on his high school’s Academic Challenge team. He will tell you that, while there may be no such thing as a “stupid” question, there are definitely poorly worded ones. In a quiz bowl context, questions are meant to solicit particular, factual answers. Sometimes, however, questions are meant to shine a light in the darkness that comes from not knowing. Sometimes questions awaken us to what may yet be possible if we dare to look at what counts as an answer from a different angle.

So often over the course of a week, I have many conversations with many of you. So often, I think to myself of someone else who needs to hear bits and pieces of what we are talking about – folks who have dealt with similar circumstances, folks who are engaged in various church projects and efforts, folks who would be blessed by the insightful thoughts and ideas you so generously share with me.

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What might it look like if we, as a church, as people following our faith as best we can, as children of God, God's beloved, accepted a challenge? What if we decided to be intentional about what it means to be a part of this particular community of faith? What if we made a commitment to think deeply about our hopes and dreams for Howland Community Church, and perhaps what is more, what we are willing to do to see our vision come to fruition?

I would like to provide a number of opportunities for us to be in conversation around those things that perhaps matter the most to us as people of faith doing our best to love God and one another. How can we support one another? How can we better serve a world grown weary? What do you bring to the table, and what is it you need to take away?

Several dates are already on the calendar – what a great joy it would be to add additional dates due to overwhelming interest! All are welcome... if you are new to HCC or you have been here for years, if you attend regularly or drop in on occasion, if you have questions, if you have answers... All are welcome!

If you have questions, feel free to reach out!

### **Questions & Answers,**

### **Hopes & Dreams**

July 8, 2024 – 11:00 am – Monday

July 11, 2024 – 2:00 pm – Thursday

July 30, 2024 – 2:00 pm – Tuesday

August 1, 2024 – 7:00 pm – Thursday

August 6, 2024 – 7:00 pm – Tuesday

August 8, 2024 – 11:00 am -- Thursday

Take good care~*Erica*

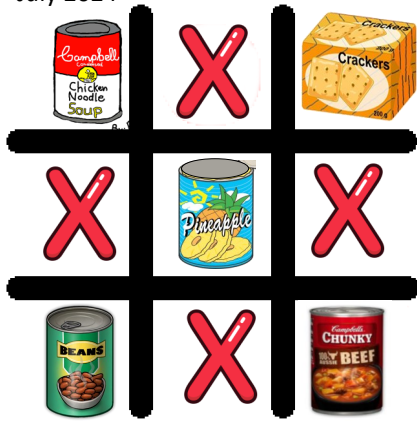


### **Greetings from Gabby!**

It sure is hot outside! I haven't been doing very much exploring... It is nice and cool in Erica's office. We are both very grateful for the air conditioning! What do you like to do when it is too hot to do much of anything? I hope it will be nice weather for our Intergenerational Vacation Bible School on July 10, July 31, and August 14. I hope to see you there!

~ Gabby





## Client Choice Pantry

Our Food Pantry continues monthly throughout these warmer summer months. Our next pantry is scheduled for Friday, July 19th between 3-5 pm. On Thursday, the 18th, we'll be unloading a food order and restocking the shelves. If you are able to offer a few hours of your time towards either of these projects, we would appreciate it. Also during the month of July ONLY, we will be accepting empty egg cartons. Please bring to the basket located near the office front door of the church.

Linda Hitmar

### Lectionary for July

#### July 7, 2024

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
 Ezekiel 2:1-5  
 Psalm 48  
 Psalm 123  
 2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
 Mark 6:1-13

#### July 14, 2024

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19  
 Amos 7:7-15  
 Psalm 24  
 Psalm 85:8-13  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Mark 6:14-29

#### July 21, 2024

2 Samuel 7:1-14a  
 Jeremiah 23:1-6  
 Psalm 89:20-37  
 Psalm 23  
 Ephesians 2:11-22  
 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

#### July 28, 2024

2 Samuel 11:1-15  
 2 Kings 4:42-44  
 Psalm 14  
 Psalm 145:10-18  
 Ephesians 3:14-21  
 John 6:1-21

# JULY SCHEDULES

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
July 7	Kathy Purdum	Barry Dunaway <b>Captain</b>	<u>Sanctuary</u> Dawn Adgate
July 14	Tom Hitmar	Leanna Dunaway	
July 21	Gretchen Hrusovsky	Haylee Adgate	<u>JHR</u> Dawn Adgate
July 28	Dawn Adgate	Emma Adgate	





# Operation Shoeleather



Just a reminder that Operation Shoeleather will take place during the Sundays of August. Our Outreach committee will once again be collecting funds to purchase gift cards for school shoes to be given to children in need.

## Don't miss Intergenerational

### Vacation Bible School!

July 10, 2024

July 31, 2024

August 14, 2024

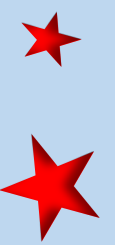
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Stories, puzzles, games, crafts, yummy treats  
and lots of fun!!!

**All are Welcome!!**



Finance	May Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$ 18,717.28	\$ 115,596.07	\$ 117,035.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 19,088.67</u>	<u>\$ 112,923.80</u>	<u>\$ 120,939.33</u>
Difference	\$ (371.39)	\$ 2,672.27	\$ (3,904.33)



**Monday, July 1st, 2024**

### 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**





Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of July  
★ ★ ★  
**JULY**  
**2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  <b>Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6P</b>  Tish Brown  David Ottney  Jim & Tonya Rollison	<b>2</b>  Sawyer Dyett  Kenner Francis-Sable	<b>3</b> 1P Women's Group	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>  Kay Brown	<b>6</b> 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>7</b> 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship	<b>8</b>  Jeff Brown  Sandy Caldron  Judy Clifford  Shawn Tarary <b>11A Q&amp;A (JHR)</b> 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>9</b>  Dick & Jeanine Abruzzi	<b>10</b> 1P Women's Group  <b>6-7:30P Intergenerational Bible School</b>	<b>11</b> 2P Q&A (JHR)	<b>12</b>  Jack Clifford	<b>13</b> 1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>14</b> 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship	<b>15</b> 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>16</b>  David Brown	<b>17</b> 1P Women's Group  Daryl Gross  Kathy Kalmar	<b>18</b>  John Layfield	<b>19</b>  <b>3-5P Client Choice Food Pantry</b> <i>August Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>20</b> 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>21</b> 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship  Chuck Adgate	<b>22</b>  Daryl & Chun Gross  Barry Ottney 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> 1P Women's Group  Jennifer Turvey	<b>25</b>  Chris Rambo	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  FFM 11-12:30PA  Paul Noftsinger  Ann Tereba 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>28</b> 9:30A Youth Group 10A-Worship  Holden Dyett  Katie Ottney  Kole Tarary	<b>29</b> 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>30</b> 2P Q&A (JHR)	<b>31</b>  6-7:30P Intergenerational Bible School  Brooke Schubert  Olga Sten			

**HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

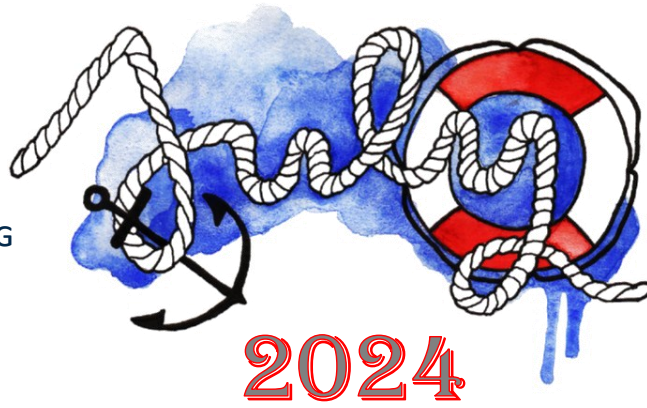
WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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2024

Non-Profit Org.  
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Youngstown, Ohio



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—Friday  
9:00AM—1:00PM

Don't Miss the  
**DEADLINE!**

Articles for  
Next Month's  
Newsletter are  
Due July 19th

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

