



The Community Messenger



ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

I am not, in any way, shape or form, an athlete. I am fond of joking (but not really) if you ever see me running, you should be running as well, as danger is surely afoot. Truth be told, I am not much of a spectator, either. By virtue of being in marching band and jazz band, I have seen my fair share of football and basketball games, but that's all.

The Olympics are an exception. There is something about the convergence of so many people with such impressive control of their bodies and minds. The self-discipline and skill necessary for training and competition is incredible. The idea of folks with such diverse backgrounds and cultures sharing a world stage is refreshingly hopeful during anxious times.

My favorite event is women's gymnastics. Perhaps it is because I am rather uncoordinated, dare I say clumsy, but I marvel at such strength, power, and spirit. There is an alluring balance of grace and grit. I remember Mary Lou Retton's fierce performance that secured the all-around gold medal in 1984. Then in 1996, who could forget Kerri Strug, who "stuck the landing" even though she had seriously injured her ankle. Simone Biles' decision to prioritize her physical as well as mental health in 2020 stands out as a feat of strength and courage of a different mettle.

I don't recall exactly when it happened, but there is another moment in gymnastics history that has stayed with me. A young woman from Team USA had just completed her routine, and while she finished strong, it was evident she had hurt herself in some way. As the camera panned to her teammates, there was a considerable display of enthusiasm. Then, I noticed one of the athletes mouthing what I took to be "Are you okay?" Her brow furrowed a bit as she expressed concern for her friend. Winning isn't everything, particularly if the cost is someone's well-being.

We all need to be reminded, from time to time, that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139.14) We need to be reminded that respecting our limitations is not a sign of weakness, but rather remarkable strength. We need to be reminded that compassion is far more precious than gold. And, we need to be reminded that we are all, in fact, in this together.

Take good care~*Erica*



Greetings, Howland Community Church Family-

It is with a heavy heart that I let you know that my time at Howland Community Church will be coming to an end sooner than I had expected.

As part of my ordination process I have to undergo CPE Training, which is experience and education in Chaplaincy. I knew that I would eventually be taking part in this training, however, I didn't realize that I wouldn't be able to work elsewhere while going through training. I will be working under a Chaplain at a United Church Homes assisted living facility in Canal Fulton, which is by Canton. That's an hour drive from Shaker Heights, and even further from Howland. I will be putting in 20 hours a week of service time there. On top of that, I will be taking part in a 4 hour class every Wednesday, and I'll have weekly meetings with instructors and my mentors. This is a 6 month training program that will take me from October to April.

A few weeks ago I had what the United Church of Christ calls a Wisdom Circle. It was comprised of the General Minister of the Living Water Association, my advisor, mentor, and pastor from my home church in Shaker Heights. The Wisdom Circle is designed to determine what a Member in Discernment has left to complete before their ordination. It was determined that I will be ready for my ordination paper, and final preparations after I complete my CPE Training. I hadn't anticipated it happening so quickly.

Had I known that my ordination process was going to be completed so quickly I wouldn't have applied for the Youth Pastor position at Howland Community Church. However, I can't with a good conscience say that I shouldn't have applied. I can't state this enough, it has been an absolute pleasure, honor, and blessing to get to know all of you and to be a part of the Howland Community Church Family. What you all and Erica have done for me in this journey I am on is immeasurable. You all taught me how to walk on this ministerial path, and for that I will be forever grateful to all of you. I could write an entire book on all that I learned from Erica but you all know how special and amazing she is. What a blessing it is to have had her as a mentor and friend, and to continue to have her mentoring me even as I navigate through this next chapter. She and I are friends for life.

As far as the business side goes I just wanted to mention a few things. This job was always about what I could do for H.C.C. and the experience I could gain from it. I was allotted 20 hours a week, but rarely did I ever exceed 10 hours a week. Also, *every* donut, pizza, juice box, craft, party favor, etc. that was used for Youth Group from day 1 was paid for by Rene and me. I didn't want to tax the church anymore than was necessary, and it was our pleasure to help out the church that was always so good to us. Furthermore, after I preached on Father's Day (6/16) I stopped receiving any pay, and I've been working as a volunteer and will continue to do so until August 25, which will be the last day I'll be at the church in a working role.

Goodbyes are always difficult but this is definitely not a goodbye. I am not moving out of the state, and when my schedule allows believe that I will be down in Howland for church, for the special Christmas and Lent services, fish fries, etc.

I love you all and though I won't be serving as your youth pastor anymore I hope that I will always be your friend and a part of your family.

Blessings and Peace,
Danny



Best of luck!

Greetings from Gabby!

The calendar says it is August, but that can't be right! That would mean a summer is almost over. Boo! No... that would mean it was October. Let's not rush things! Make sure you enjoy every single day! Don't forget about Intergenerational Vacation Bible School on August 14, 2024 from 6:00 -7:30 pm. I promise you will have so much fun!

~ Gabby



Did you know that there is a group of wonderful women who gather on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the John Howland Room? We discuss our faith and other theological issues. We pray for one another, our larger church family, and beyond. Occasionally we solve the problems of the world. There is room for you, too! Come join us!

WEDNESDAYS 1:00-2:00 pm

In the John Howland Room



Operation Shoeleather



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. Contributions can be given during the passing of the 'shoeboxes' during our Sunday collections.



First of all, a Thank You to those who have been volunteering their time to work with our long standing Food Pantry. This past year, we have been requesting volunteers for both the unloading of food, stocking the shelves, and readying the North Hall to receive clients, -- as well as to be available to give out the food during the actual pantry hours. There are two opportunities to serve the community through our church outreach every month. Our August pantry is scheduled for Friday, August 16th during the usual hours of 3-5 pm. We plan to receive food from Second Harvest Food Bank truck on Thursday, the 15th. Please check your calendars to see if you might have some available time.

Linda Hitmar

Lectionary for August



Aug. 4, 2024



2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
 Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
 Psalm 51:1-12
 Psalm 78:23-29
 Ephesians 4:1-16
 John 6:24-35

Aug. 11, 2024



2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
 1 Kings 19:4-8
 Psalm 130
 Psalm 34:1-8
 Ephesians 4:25-5:2
 John 6:35, 41-51

Aug. 18, 2024

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
 Proverbs 9:1-6
 Psalm 111
 Psalm 34:9-14
 Ephesians 5:15-20
 John 6:51-58

Aug. 25, 2024



1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43
 Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
 Psalm 84
 Psalm 34:15-22
 Ephesians 6:10-20
 John 6:56-69

August Schedules

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Aug. 4	Sarah Sanders	Judi Matyas Captain	<u>Sanctuary</u> Janice Wagner
Aug. 11	Barb Layfield	Natalie Sanders	<u>JHR</u> Susanne Shaulis & Naomi Foster
Aug. 18	Katy Kell	Andrew Steele	
Aug. 25	Bim Turner	Matt Sanders	



MYSTERIOUS WORD: _____

M	U	S	H	R	O	O	M	C	S
B	O	O	T	S	E	N	I	P	R
G	B	U	W	O	O	D	S	L	A
N	I	A	N	M	W	O	N	S	L
I	K	I	C	T	A	M	A	R	U
H	E	B	I	O	A	P	K	E	C
S	E	R	I	F	R	I	E	V	O
I	T	E	N	T	N	N	N	I	N
F	K	C	A	S	K	C	U	R	I
T	R	E	K	K	I	N	G	G	B

- ACORN
- BINOCULARS
- BOOTS
- BIKE
- FIRE
- FISHING
- MAP
- MOUNTAIN
- MUSHROOM
- PINE
- RIVER
- RUCKSACK
- SNAKE
- SNOW
- TENT
- TREKKING
- WOODS

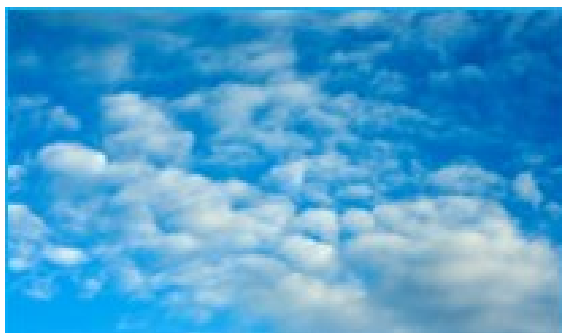
SOLUTION: CLIMBING

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!

Take good care~*Erica*



**Questions & Answers,
Hopes & Dreams**



August 1, 2024 – 7:00 pm – Thursday

August 6, 2024 – 7:00 pm – Tuesday

August 8, 2024 – 11:00 am -- Thursday



(330) 349-9488
2260 Niles Cortland Rd SE | Warren, OH

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««
Howland Community Church
 August 25, 2024
 11:00am-3:00pm



10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support **Howland Community Church** by presenting this flyer to the Niles, Ohio

Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **Howland Community Church!**

Don't miss Intergenerational
Vacation Bible School!


August 14, 2024

6:00 – 7:30 pm

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



All are Welcome!!





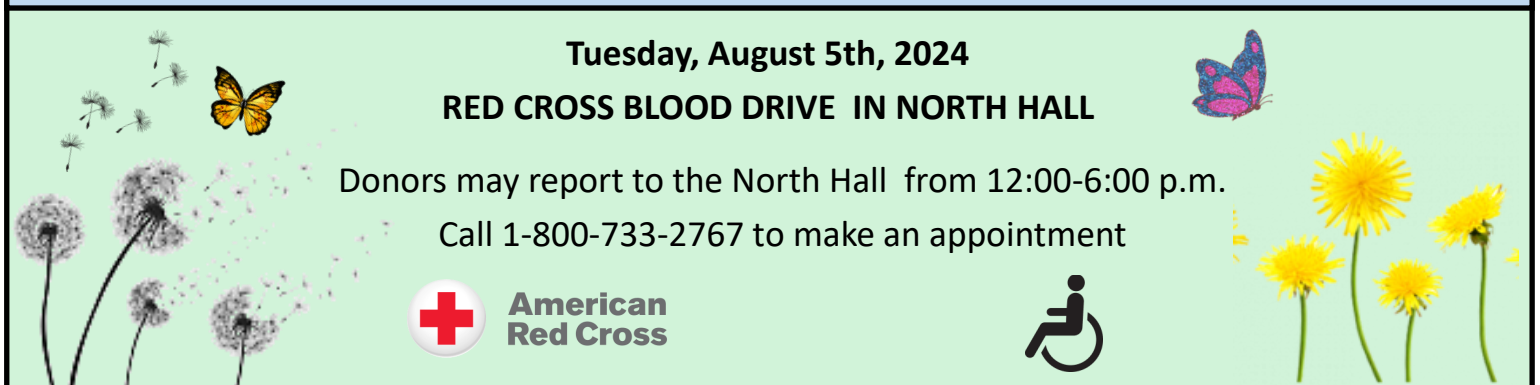
FINANCIAL	June Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$18,479.71	\$134,075.78	\$140,242.00
Expenses	\$22,939.73	\$136,655.20	\$143,616.00
	-\$4,460.02	-\$2,579.42	-\$3,374.00

If you have questions, please contact Patty DiGiacobbe.

Tuesday, August 5th, 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



August

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever — do not abandon the works of your hands.
- Psalm 138:8 -



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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			<p>1 7P Q&A (JHR)</p>	<p>2 Dick Abruzzi</p>	<p>3 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
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<p>4 9:30A-Youth Group 10A-Worship</p>	<p>5 12-6P Red Cross Blood Drive (NH) 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>6 7P Q&A (JHR)</p>	<p>7 Jim & Bonnie Diglaw</p>	<p>8 11A Q&A (JHR)</p>	<p>9 </p>	<p>10 Mike Matyas 1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
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<p>11 9:30A-Youth Group 10A-Worship </p>	<p>12 7P Elders Jean Holinbaugh 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6-7:30P Intergenerational Bible School Alan & Kathy Purdum</p>	<p>15 </p>	<p>16 3-5P Client Choice Food Pantry Melissa Bickerstaff</p>	<p>17 Lew Christy Tom & Linda Hitmar 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
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<p>18 9:30A-Youth Group 10A-Worship Marilyn Lisby Jim Rollison</p>	<p>19 6:30P Finance 7P Official Board 7P Boy Scouts-NH Susanne Shaulis</p>	<p>20 September Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>21 Carol Vencel Karen Walters</p>	<p>22 Tom Hitmar</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 FREE FFM 11-12:30P Jim Harter 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
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<p>25 9:30A-Youth Group 10A-Worship</p>	<p>26 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 PSALM 4</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Brad Guy Kate Montgomery</p>	<p>31 Haley Vandegrift 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
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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

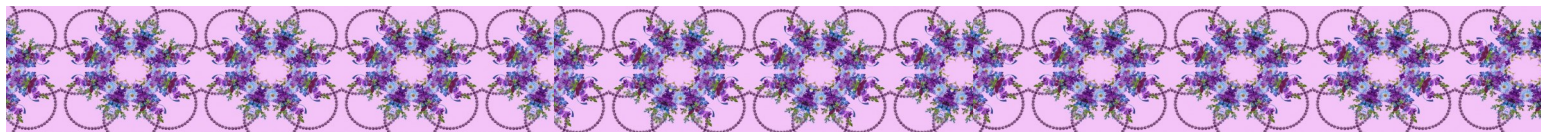
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August 2024



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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—Friday
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

Articles for
Next Month's
Newsletter are
Due Aug 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

