

# The Community Messenger

## ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

JANUARY 2025

Happy  
New Year



I have always been a bit clumsy, from the time I was a little girl. Coordination is not a strong suit. To this day, my mom shudders to think how I might have turned out without the ballet classes. I have at least a measure of grace, I suppose.

Sometimes when we fall, or nearly fall, we say we've lost our balance. Our equilibrium is off kilter. It might be that there is a rock we've tripped over, or maybe one of the dog's toys. It could be that a crack in the sidewalk jumped up out of nowhere.

Sometimes, though, we lose our balance because all is not as it perhaps could, or should, be. We spend so much time tending to this, that, or the other thing that other things end up suffering. We end up suffering.

The start of a new year is a perfect opportunity to take stock of where you are focusing your time and energy. What has your attention? What might you be neglecting? Focusing on your faith might be a step in the right direction.



Take good care~*Erica*



## Greetings from Gabby!



Happy New Year!

Did you stay up late to ring in the New Year? I tried, but I am a very busy monkey, and I need my rest.

Do you have anything you are hoping the new year will bring? I hope 2025 is full of all good things!

Happy New Year, again!



Happy  
New Year

~ Gabby

### "Thankfulness"

Firstly, thank you to the congregation for your support in packing our 30 Christmas baskets, along with your donations of food, gloves, hats, shampoo, body wash. What a fun time the crew had in putting the baskets together!

Thanks go to the Howland Fire & Police Departments, as well as the State Police Barracks for donating canned food received during their "Cram the Cruiser" campaign.

Thanks to GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League for donating 30 hand knitted hats for all the mothers who received Christmas food baskets.

Kudos to Dr. Kenneth LaPolla, DDS for providing the adult toothbrushes to supply every adult and older child.

A Shout Out to members of Boy Scout Troop 28, who carried out the generously packed food baskets for our families.

Hats off to the Hayco Co. who donated 12 small children's bicycles, which were to be given to 4, 5 and 6 year old children. The recipients of all this generosity also have already expressed their thanks. Here are some comments that we have received in the past few days...

"Thank you for the food box and the surprise of the bike. She loves it and has been riding it already." "Thank you all. Merry Christmas." "Thank you guys so much for the food box. It really means a lot to our family. May God bless and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year." "Thanks. Happy Holidays." "Thank you so much for your generosity!"



## 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 our Christmas baskets, and certainly to our HCC Food Pantry. We look forward to continuing our work within this community in 2025, beginning with our JANUARY 17th FOOD PANTRY. Your Outreach committee appreciates your assistance in furthering the work that we are all asked to do.

Thank You Volunteers

Linda Hitmar

# JANUARY SCHEDULE

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Jan. 5	Gretchen Hrusovsky	Barry Dunaway Captain  Leanna Dunaway  Gary Arblaster	<u>Sanctuary</u> Karen Brown
Jan. 12	Barb Turvey		
Jan. 19	Barb Layfield		
Jan. 26	Katy Kell		
			

### Lectionary for January

**Jan. 5, 2025**

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

**Jan 12, 2025**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Jan. 19, 2025**

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

**Jan. 26, 2025**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

Happy New Year!



# Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on February 2, 2025 immediately following the church service. We will be discussing and approving the slate of Officers for the Congregation as well as the Budget for 2025. The Nominating Committee will also have a list of participants for the various committees.

Copies of the proposed officers, committee persons and the budget will be available two weeks before the meeting on the table in the back of the sanctuary. All reports from the Official Board and Committees are due by January 13th or sooner. We hope that many of you will attend this very important meeting.



**Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025**



<b>Finance</b>	November Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$16,513.12	\$221,003.20	\$258,277.00
Expenses	\$17,808.90	\$242,515.38	\$259,241.00
	-\$1,295.78	-\$21,512.18	-\$964.00

If you have questions, please contact Patty DiGiacobbe

**Monday, January 6, 2025 & Monday, January 13, 2025**  
**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





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Office Closed Katy Kell Marilyn Rambo	<b>2</b> 6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>5</b> 10A-Worship 	<b>6</b> Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6P (NH) 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>7</b> Harry & Lori Stull	<b>8</b> 6P—Trustees 1P Women's Group	<b>9</b> Karen Brown	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>12</b> NOISY COIN OFFERING 10A-Worship 4-6P Girl Scouts (NH)	<b>13</b> Leslie Bond <u>Reports Due for Annual Meeting</u> 7P Elders 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1P Women's Group 	<b>16</b> 6-8P Girl Scouts (NH) Emma Adgate Larry Rambo	<b>17</b> 3-5 P Client Choice Food Pantry	<b>18</b> 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>19</b> 10A-Worship 	<b>20</b> Office Closed 6:30P Finance 7P Board 7P Boy Scouts-NH February Newsletter Articles Due	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> 1P Women's Group	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> FFM 11A—12:30P Naomi Foster 1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>26</b> 10A-Worship 4-6P Girl Scouts (NH)	<b>27</b> 7P Boy Scouts-NH Natalie Sanders	<b>28</b> Leanna Dunaway Linda Hitmar	<b>29</b> 1P Women's Group 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Jordan & Caleb Becker	

**HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
198 Niles Cortland Rd. S.E.  
Warren, Ohio 44484

# JAN 2025

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



The Community Messenger is the monthly newsletter of the **Howland Community Church** (affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, and the 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 Jan 20th

Reverend Erica Brown, Senior Minister

Andrew Purdum, Director of Music

Rita Bobco, Finance Manager

Linda Mikula, Administrative Assistant

Minta Pitts, Custodian