

The Community Messenger

November 2025

Erica Extemporaneous

I love autumn, with its beautiful foliage and a crisp bite in the air. The gentle movement as one season slips seamlessly into another can be mesmerizing. When I moved to Chicago, someone asked my favorite season. I replied that it was a toss up between spring and fall. They advised me to pay attention, because each lasted roughly fifteen minutes. True enough!

Not long ago I was having a conversation with someone about the act of finding joy in a world that seems to have lost a bit of its light. We live in trying and troubling times. It takes tremendous energy to navigate what seems like treacherous terrain. Our feet search for purchase upon a landscape that shifts and shimmies, sending us slipping this way and that.

Joy sometimes seems slippery, as well. We barely catch sight of a spark of happiness before it fades away. There is a wonderful line in Robert Frost's poem "A Passing Glance:" "Heaven gives its glimpses only to those / Not in position to look too close."

Once in a while, joy doesn't necessarily look like herself. Occasionally, she will peak from behind a quiet sigh. I happen to be particularly fond of fallen leaves floating in puddles or plastered on pavement underneath a veneer of rain... leaves that have drifted from their branches but are not yet ready to give up the ghost. In those moments when what little light there is catches itself just so, I am reminded that change has the capacity to be beautiful and endings can carry with them a quiet promise of beginning again. When prose plays at poetry and the ordinary becomes extraordinary, we know a moment of peace that passes understanding. Thanks be to God!



Take good care,

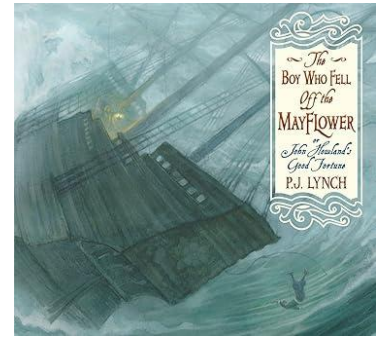
Erica

Greetings from Gabby!

Every now and then, I like to explore a bit. It's even more fun now that I have my friend John Howland to keep me company – and to help me try to stay out of trouble! When we were in the John Howland Room, we noticed a book one of our Boy Scout leaders gave the church a while ago – *The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune* by P.J. Lynch. It's about the real John Howland, ancestor of the founder of Howland, Ohio. He was on the Mayflower and fell off the boat! But luckily, he was saved. That's a relief! Maybe I should stay closer to Erica's office... Maybe not! Happy Thanksgiving!



Your friends~ Gabby
and John Howland



“Go and Do the Same” — Living Our Faith Through Stewardship

This year's stewardship theme, “Go and Do the Same,” calls us to live out our faith through action, compassion, and generosity. Just as the Good Samaritan reached out with love and care, we too are invited to respond to the needs around us — in our church, our community, and our world.

Stewardship is one of the ways we do that. When we share our time, talents, and resources, we become active participants in God's work. Every act of service, every offering, every prayer is a way of saying, “*Here I am, Lord — send me.*”

Our church continues to touch lives through worship, outreach, and fellowship because of your faithful giving. In the coming days, stewardship materials and pledge information letters will be arriving in the mail. We encourage you to take some time to read through them, reflect on how God is calling you to serve, and prayerfully consider your response.

Together, let's follow Christ's example of compassion and service — and *go and do the same.*

~Patty DiGiacobbe



Spaghetti Dinner

Drive-Thru

Thursdays

October 23 and 30
November 6, 13, 20
December 11, 18



4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Howland Community Church
198 Niles-Cortland Road SE, Warren, OH 44484



Meal includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad,
bread, and dessert



Adults: \$13.00 | Children under 12: \$7.00



Card Club

The Card Club will be meeting on **Thursday, November 6th and 20th** at 7pm in the John Howland Room. All are welcome!

SANCTUARY ADVENT

GIVING TREE

Nov. 30th – Liquid Body Wash & Deodorant

Dec. 7th – Shampoo & Conditioner

Dec. 14th – Hats, Gloves, & Scarves

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

This year our Christmas Food Baskets will be given to our clients from our monthly food pantry. This being said, we are planning to provide baskets for up to forty families. Your generous donation of a basket will allow a family to enjoy a blessed Christmas. We are asking you to help fill baskets with the following items:

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Gravy

Pineapple

Jello

Cake Mix

Frosting

Cereal

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Crackers

Bread

Rice

Tomato Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup

Christmas Baskets should be dropped off on **Sunday, December 14th** at the kitchen door (Door #3) before or after the church service. Volunteers will be available to assist in unloading your car. Please give as Jesus would have us.

Thank you in advance! ~ "Little" Linda Raphoon

Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – November

| Date | Elder | Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month) | Diaconate Kitchen (All Month) |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| November 2 | Gretchen Hrusovsky | Natalie Sanders – Captain | Sanctuary Karen Brown |
| November 9 | Jeffrey Morrison | Amy Gazdik | |
| November 16 | Bim Turner | Matt Sanders | JHR Rita Bobco |
| November 23 | Brooke Schubert | Andrew Steele | |
| November 30 | Alan Purdum | | |

Helping Hands Craft Show!

Get ready for a festive day of shopping, creativity, and community! Join us for our annual Craft Show featuring handmade gifts, seasonal décor, jewelry, baked goods, and more — perfect for your holiday list!



Date: Saturday, November 8



Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy lunch from our kitchen and take part in our vendor raffle while supporting local crafters and artisans. A donated handmade quilt will be part of the raffle. Admission is free — bring your friends and family for a fun day of holiday shopping!

News from the Official Board

It's the time of year where preparation for the holidays and for 2026 are in full swing! Church committees will be considering their membership and annual budget meetings are beginning. Soon it will also be Stewardship season! It's a very exciting time to get involved.

For some of the day-to-day work, the church is working with Youngstown Computer for a much-needed refresh of the computers in the church office.

*Please mark your calendars for the upcoming **Annual Congregational Meeting**, which will occur after service on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**.*

Respectfully Submitted~Sarah Sanders

Lectionary for November 2025

November 2, 2025

(All Saints Sunday)

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalms 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

November 9, 2025

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Job 19:23-27a

Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21

Psalms 98

Psalms 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

November 16, 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25

Malachi 4:1-2a

Isaiah 12

Psalms 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 30, 2025

(First Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

CLIENT CHOICE FOOD PANTRY

First of all, a big **THANK YOU** to those members who were able to respond to our need for additional volunteers for the October truck unloading and food pantry. Please note, our November pantry will not take place until **Friday, November 21st between 3-5 pm**. We anticipate bringing in only a small amount of food on Thursday, the 20th. ~Linda Hitmar

Open & Affirming Committee

Why should we be "Open and Affirming" when we have always welcomed anyone who comes to worship at our "House of Prayer for All People"? In Luke 14:13-14, Jesus says:

¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

At a time when many people assume that churches are unwelcoming--and indeed hostile--to members of the LGBT community, we have an opportunity to follow Jesus' example and actively invite those whom others would shun into a loving Christian fellowship here at HCC.

We are planning a series of informational seminars and 'Q and A' meetings in the new year as we prayerfully explore this topic together.

The O&A committee will meet on Monday, November 10, at 6:00 pm. All of our meetings are open to church members and your input is always welcomed. Questions and concerns may be addressed to Alan Purdum, Sarah Sanders, Tom Hitmar, Rev. Brown, or any other committee member.

Operating Fund

| | September Activity | YTD Balance | Budget YTD |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Income | \$20,773.58 | \$213,010.37 | \$204,061.00 |
| Expenses | \$20,650.07 | \$206,463.95 | \$209,768.00 |
| Difference | \$123.51 | \$6,546.42 | -\$5,707.00 |

NOVEMBER WORD SEARCH

APPLE
 BISCUITS
 BREAD
 CAKE
 CARROT
 CORNUCOPIA
 CRANBERRY
 DINNER
 GRAVY
 HAM
 HARVEST
 PIE
 POTATO
 PUMPKIN
 ROLLS
 SALAD
 SQUASH
 STUFFING
 TURKEY
 YAMS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | H | A | R | V | E | S | T | U | F | F | I | N | G | S |
| S | H | G | P | O | T | A | T | O | S | A | G | Z | M | Q |
| L | C | O | T | E | A | G | T | T | F | C | U | A | E | L |
| Z | H | C | K | N | G | B | I | U | C | N | H | I | L | Z |
| H | K | A | N | R | C | U | D | O | R | O | P | A | Z | T |
| S | C | N | A | P | C | Y | R | A | M | K | A | C | O | Z |
| A | D | V | L | S | G | N | Y | R | L | P | E | R | Z | Z |
| U | Y | C | I | F | U | C | R | D | P | A | R | Y | R | Z |
| Q | G | B | S | C | R | T | R | L | A | A | S | S | E | J |
| S | Z | Z | O | O | E | Q | E | T | C | E | U | B | N | W |
| L | O | P | L | X | B | O | B | F | K | H | R | T | N | A |
| V | I | L | H | O | A | Y | N | L | O | C | K | B | I | G |
| A | S | X | K | G | A | J | A | V | I | P | N | Q | D | U |
| V | I | E | C | M | O | U | R | P | U | M | P | K | I | N |
| D | B | X | S | N | Z | R | C | R | N | S | X | K | V | Z |



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD



COMMITMENT SUNDAY – All are invited to present their Stewardship Pledge Cards during worship!

CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING - Please join us after service for our annual turkey dinner. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Once fed, the fun begins! Please join in the annual decorating of our beautiful church for the Advent season! Any and all help is greatly needed and appreciated!

November - HCC Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|  | | | | | | 1 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH) |
| 2 10 AM Worship All Saints Sunday | 3 6 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH) | 4 ELECTION DAY HCC Learning Center-Closed | 5 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6 PM | 6 4:30-6:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner Drive Thru 7PM Card Club (JHR) 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH) | 7 | 8 10 AM –3 PM Helping Hands Craft Show |
| 9 10 AM Worship Noisy Coin Offering Secret Angel Reveal | 10 6 PM Open & Affirming Comm. 7 PM Elders 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH) | 11 VETERANS DAY  | 12 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) 6 PM Finance and Budget | 13 4:30-6:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner Drive Thru 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH) 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH) | 14 | 15 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH) |
| 16 10 AM Worship | 17 7 PM Official Board 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH) | 18 | 19 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) 4-6 PM Pie Sale Pickup (NH) | 20 4:30-6:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner Drive Thru 7PM Card Club (JHR) 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH) | 21 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry | 22 11 AM – 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH) 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH) |
| 23 10 AM Worship Commitment Sunday Thanksgiving Dinner Hanging of the Greens | 24 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH) | 25 | 26 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) | 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING  | 28 Office & HCC Learning Center-Closed | 29 |
| 30 10 AM Worship First Sunday of Advent | | | | | |  |

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| Krystal Moison | 1 | Loyd Miller Sr. | 9 | Jeffrey & Katherine Morrison | 24 |
| Terry & Debbie Williams | 3 | John & Patty DiGiacobbe | 14 | Anna Marie & Barry Ottney | 26 |
| Tom & Patty Holloway | 4 | Janie Nash | 15 | Mark Waid | 27 |
| Patty DiGiacobbe | 6 | Gary & Betty Arblaster | 16 | Terry Williams | 28 |
| Taylor Bickerstaff | 6 | Kevin & Carol Vencel | 17 | Patty Holloway | 29 |
| Debbie Francis | 7 | Jim Matyas | 21 | Sam & Jan Wagner | 30 |
| Joe Bezilla | 7 | Paul & Shirley Bickerstaff | 22 | | |

Please note: If you fail to see your birthday/anniversary listed, please contact the church office at 330-856-3628 so that we may update our information. Bless you!

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

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Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT No. 163

Youngstown, OH

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Reverend Erica L. Brown, Senior Minister
Andrew Purdum, Director of Music
Rebecca Shelton, Organist
Minta Pitts, Custodian
Diane Andrews, Office Coordinator
Alan Purdum, Chair of the Congregation
Sarah Sanders, Vice-Chair of the Congregation

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
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

