



# The Community Messenger

ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

April 2025



On April 11, 1970 at 2:13 pm Eastern Standard Time, the Apollo 13 mission launched into space. My dad watched the broadcast with great enthusiasm. At least I imagine it was with great enthusiasm, because he was to be married that very day – at 3:00 to be exact. I am told he came perilously close to being late. Of course, that might also be because he and his brother were assembling the reel-to-reel player Uncle Brownie had given my parents as a wedding gift.



On April 11, 1971, which just so happened to be Easter Sunday, I was baptized, along with twenty or so other little ones. I am told I slept through the Halleluiahs Chorus. I am also told there was a torrential downpour after church. My mom and I were in the car with my Gramma and Grampa Slagle and Grampa stopped because there was a young man in uniform who appeared to have car trouble. Turns out it was my Uncle Brownie, and a hose had burst on my dad's car. Perhaps they ought not to have been left alone, given their track record!



April 11, 1985, my grampa was in the hospital with complications pertaining to diabetes. He was admitted three days prior, a couple hours before I was to be at the church for the practice for confirmation. I missed the practice, but I was indeed confirmed on Sunday, with at least some of the same folks with whom I was baptized. I wore a blue turquoise plaid skirt and top with a round white collar and the Jerusalem cross the confirmands were given by the church. A picture taken on that day is one of my very favorite photos, goofy looking bangs aside.



April 11, 2000 fell on a Tuesday. A most peculiar day of the week to schedule an ordination service. Unless, of course, you happen to be me, in which case you practically insist upon that day, steeped in all manner of sacred significance. The Associate Regional Minister in Illinois and Wisconsin argued with me when I indicated I wanted the entire congregation to come forward to participate in the laying on of hands. I dug in my heels, as I do on occasion. The theme was one of welcome. I wanted to feel the weight of all of the hands of all of the people blessing me with their presence on such a momentous



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tell you the tale that led to my Uncle Brownie and I (the shenanigans continue) making a last-minute run to the liquor store, of all places. Kahlua Cream Cookies. If you know, you know. When all was said and done, I danced down the aisle with my friend Paul at my side and all those who participated following behind.



I believe it is good to celebrate together when there is something worth celebrating. Twenty-five years of ordained ministry feels like something worth celebrating! Please join us immediately following worship on April 13, 2025 in the John Howland Room. There will be cake, or something else similarly celebratory. I am so grateful that Howland Community Church is a part of my story, and I feel blessed to be a part of your story. Our story, perhaps I should say.

Take good care~**Erica**

### Greetings from Gabby!



Spring certainly is a windy time of the year. Just a few weeks ago, the wind was particularly blowy. I could hear it whistling through the windows in Erica's office. I decided to do a little exploring, to make sure everything was okay. Everything was NOT okay. The wind blew down the playhouse in the courtyard! The wind blew it all the way apart! Oh my goodness! I am glad no little monkeys or munchkins were hurt! I heard that the Learning Center would really like to get a new playhouse. I think I might have a few nickels and dimes, maybe even a quarter or two, to contribute to the cause. How about you?

~ Gabby 



### News from the Official Board



At the **February** meeting of the Official Board, we reviewed the findings of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the relationship between HCC and the Learning Center. Several recommendations were implemented. A subsequent meeting between members of the LC staff and board and the HCC board was very cordial and productive.

Also at the February meeting, the money from the Wanda Grima bequest was entrusted to the Endowment Fund.

At the **March** meeting Tom Hitmar, Katy Kell, Judi Matyas, and Robin Sanders were appointed to the Pastoral Relations Committee. An invitation to join the Trumbull County Interfaith Softball League was read.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Monday, April 7, 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

## Client Choice Pantry



Thanks go out to the Howland Rotary for their generous contribution of \$500 to our Food Pantry. Also, kudos to the Howland School System students. They collected, donated, and delivered a large amount of canned goods, along with a monetary donation from the Howland Classroom teachers. Our next Food Pantry is scheduled for Friday, April 18th, which is Good Friday. Volunteers would be appreciated between 3-5 pm to help with the pantry, as well as assisting with our food delivery on Thursday morning, the 17th.

Linda Hitmar



## APRIL SCHEDULES

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Apr. 6	Barb Layfield	Barry Dunaway <b>Captain</b>	<u><b>Sanctuary</b></u> Diane Hughes
Apr. 13	Katy Kell	Gary Arblaster	
Apr. 20	Bim Turner	Leanna Dunaway	<u><b>JHR</b></u> Susanne Shaulis and Naomi Foster
Apr. 27	Brooke Schubert	Preston Thigpen	



## Lectionary for April

### Apr. 6, 2024

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

### Apr. 13, 2024

Liturgy of the Palms  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40  
Liturgy of the Passion  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56  
or Luke 23:1-49

### Apr. 20, 2024

Acts 10:34-43 or  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or  
Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or  
Luke 24:1-12

### Apr. 27, 2024

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29 or  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31





# JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER AT RAISING CANE'S!

**Mention the fundraiser at the register  
and Cane's will donate 15% of sales to:**

**Howland Community Church**

**DATE & TIME:**

**May 01, 2025 from 04:00 PM - 09:00 PM**

**LOCATION:**

**1954 Niles Cortland Rd SE, Warren, OH 44484  
+1 330-631-6729**



	February Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$37,710.22	\$52,021.79	\$45,258.00
Expenses	\$25,940.65	\$51,156.77	\$46,589.00
Difference	\$11,769.57	\$865.02	-\$1,331.00



## Easter Flowers

**\$15 For Each Flower**

☐

Send to shut in

☐

Will pick up after worship

☐

Easter Lily

☐

Tulip

☐

Hyacinth

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication to Read: (Please Print)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please include \$15.00 per flower with your order.  
Make checks payable to **Howland Community Church**  
and mark it, **"EASTER FLOWERS."**

Deadline for orders is **Monday, April 14, 2025**

No orders will be taken after the deadline.

**Sorry, prepaid orders only.**



# LANTERN FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S RETREAT

A GATHERING FOR ALL HEARTLAND CONFERENCE WOMEN!

*Small World, Big Circle: Covenanting Together in Faith and Service*

## April 25-27, 2025

Speaker:  
Rev. Jonathan  
Bradner



Camp Christian:  
10299 Maple Dell Rd.  
Marysville, OH  
43040

Other Information

People can register at [www.LanternFellowship.com](http://www.LanternFellowship.com)

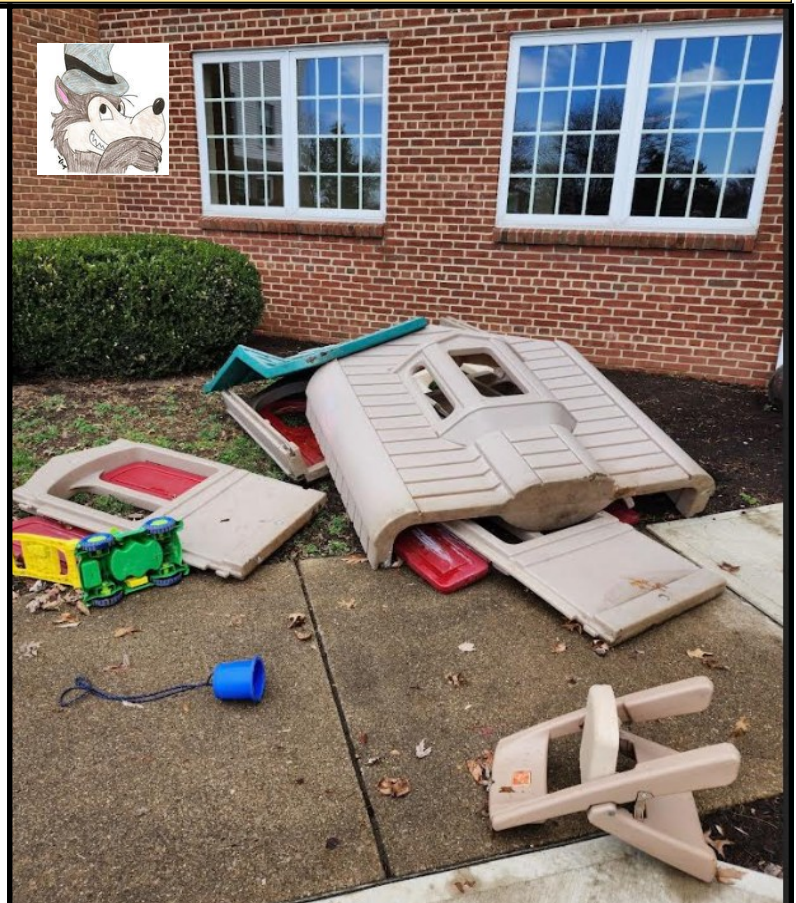
Please contact Patty DiGiacobbe if you have questions.

## Howland Community Church Learning Center

Dear Congregation,

On Sunday, March 16th, the strong winds or the big, bad wolf blew down our courtyard playhouse. We are asking for donations to replace it for our Learning Center children. As the weather warms, they will be outside more and the playhouse was one of their favorite places to play. Donations can be placed in a collection envelope and marked "Playhouse".

With many thanks,  
LC Board, Directors, Teachers and Children



The Howland Community Church GAB (Garage/Attic/Basement) Sale will occur:

- Friday May 2nd from 9 am-1 pm, and
- Saturday May 3rd from 9 am-1 pm

We will be accepting GAB Sale donations in the North Hall of the church at the following times:

Saturday April 26th, 9 am-12 pm

Monday April 28th, 4 pm-6 pm

Tuesday April 29, 4 pm-6 pm

Wednesday April 30, 9 am-12 pm

NO DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THURSDAY MAY 1ST!

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, April 6th - 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.



## GAB Sale May 2nd and 3rd

Bake Sale  
Both Days



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.































# HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Jesus is risen

Suddenly Jesus met them.  
"Greetings," he said.  
They came to him,  
clasped his feet and worshiped him.  
Matthew 28:9



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>   James Janek	<b>2</b>  Nancy Janek	<b>3</b>  Amy Gazdik	<b>4</b> <b>Fish Fry (SH)</b> <b>4:30-6:30P</b>  Lorada Bezilla	<b>5</b>  1P—NA Mtg—NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>6</b> <b>10A-Worship</b>  Terry & Jill Gardlock	<b>7</b>  <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> <b>12-6P (NH)</b> <b>6P—Trustees</b>  7P Boy Scouts-NH  Matt Sanders	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>   Paul Bickerstaff	<b>10</b> 6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)	<b>11</b> <b>Fish Fry (SH)</b> <b>4:30-6:30P</b>	<b>12</b>  Steve Schubert  1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>13</b>  <b>NOISY COIN OFFERING</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>10AWorship</b>  Rita Bobco	<b>14</b> <b>7P Elders</b>  <b>Last Day to Order</b> <b>Easter Flowers</b>  Jan Wagner	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Preston Thigpen	<b>17</b>  5:30P Service with Simple Supper	<b>18</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 12:00 Noon Service 7P Evening Service <b>3-5 P Client Choice</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Fish Fry (SH)</b> <b>4:30-6:30P</b>	<b>19</b>  Brendan Minogue  1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>20</b>  <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>9A Easter Brunch</b> <b>10A Worship</b> 	<b>21</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Easter Monday</b>  <b>May Newsletter</b> <b>Articles Due</b>  6:30P Finance 7P Official Board 7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  DJ Pascale  <b>FFM 11A—12:30P (SH)</b>  1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH
<b>27</b> <b>10A-Worship</b>   LeeAnn Tucker	<b>28</b>  Deb Christy  James Morrison  7P Boy Scouts-NH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Haylee Adgate  Linda Quinlan	<b>31</b> 		

## HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

E-mail: [hccced@gmail.com](mailto:hccced@gmail.com)

Phone: 330-856-3628

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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 Apr. 21st

Reverend Erica Brown, Senior Minister

Andrew Purdum, Director of Music

Rebecca Shelton, Organist

Rita Bobco, Finance Manager

Linda Mikula, Administrative Assistant

Minta Pitts, Custodian

Alan Purdum, Chairman of the Congregation

Sarah Sanders, Vice-Chairman of the Congregation

