

# The Community Messenger June 2026



## *Erica Extemporaneous*

When you called me to be your pastor, in your thoughtful wisdom, you afforded me the opportunity to have a month-long sabbatical following seven years of ministry with you. To be clear, this time is in addition to my vacation. I have been with you for almost eight and a half years. I hope that this is only the beginning of our journey together.

I will be taking the month of July as a time of intentional rest and renewal. I will be traveling a bit, visiting places that feed my soul and spark my curiosity. I imagine I will read perhaps a bit more than usual. I imagine I will write perhaps with a bit more enthusiasm than usual. I imagine I will enjoy music, conversations with friends, and the beauty of the world around us... sunsets, the moon glistening on the water, drops of dew on flower petals.

I will worship differently than I am able to worship when I am in the pulpit every week. I will listen to someone else's words, hearing scripture and prayer perhaps in new ways. Or, I will turn off the alarm and sleep in on a Sunday morning. You'll never know!

There are also some things I will not be doing. I will not answer my phone or check my e-mail. I will not call or text or e-communicate with you. This is an essential piece of rest and renewal. I will hold you close in prayer. I imagine you might consider holding me in prayer, as well. Over the course of the next month, the Elders, in conjunction with the Pastoral Relations Committee, and I will work together to ensure that pastoral needs of the congregation will be met in my absence. Rev. Cynthia Klingimier, our Regional Elder for District Four, will be a part of this process, as well. You will be in good hands.

Please feel free to be in touch with any specific concerns you may have. It is a blessing to be your pastor. I am grateful for this opportunity to breathe deeply and tend my own fires for a bit. I am excited to hear how you come together to care for one another, as you always do, perhaps in new ways. I am excited to return to you, refreshed and renewed, ready to continue the ministry we share.

Take good care,

*Erica*



## Greetings from Gabby!

Hello friends!

Summer is almost here! I was a little bit worried the wind might blow it away, but I think we are going to be okay.

I understand that Pastor Erica is going on something called a sabbatical. That is a big and fancy word that means Pastor Erica will be able to have extra time to rest and recharge. I would like to go with her, but she has asked me to stay here and keep an eye on all of the stuffed animals in her office.... And to keep an eye on all of the big and little people who she cares about. John Howland and I will do our part. How about you?



Your friends~

Gabby and John Howland



**CLIENT CHOICE**

**FOOD PANTRY**



Thank you for your contributions of toiletries toward our Mother's Day gifts for our May pantry. We were able to give out a small bag of refreshing items and jewelry to every woman who attended! Our June pantry is scheduled for the 19th between the hours of 3-5 pm. We will be picking up a small order of foodstuffs on either Wednesday or Thursday of that week, so please listen for further information, as far as unloading and stocking.

~Linda Hitmar

## Operating Fund Update

	April Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$18,473.34</b>	<b>\$93,711.98</b>	<b>\$88,631.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,216.96</b>	<b>\$98,878.16</b>	<b>\$89,650.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$2,256.38</b>	<b>-\$5,166.18</b>	<b>-\$1,019.00</b>

## Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – June 2026

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
June 7	Brooke Schubert	Haylee Adgate – Captain	Sanctuary Dawn Adgate
June 14	Bim Turner	Emma Adgate	
June 21 Father's Day	Tom Hitmar	Brandy Pauline	JHR Dawn Adgate
June 28	Katy Kell	John Layfield	

### Lectionary for June 2026

#### June 7, 2026

Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 33:1-12  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

#### June 14, 2026

Genesis 18:1-15  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8

#### June 21, 2026 - Father's Day

Genesis 21:8-21  
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

#### June 28, 2026

Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 45:10-17  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42



**WARREN FAMILY MISSION**  
ESTABLISHED 1998

# Upcoming VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Make a difference in our community. Join us!*

Aug  
3-7



**BACKPACK GIVEAWAY**  
August 3rd-6th, volunteers will help count supplies and fill backpacks. **August 7th**, volunteers will help distribute backpacks to families.

Oct  
9-23



**COAT DRIVE**  
October 9th-22nd, volunteers will help hang coats and organize winter items. **October 23rd**, volunteers will help community members shop for the items they need.

Nov  
20-25



**THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
November 20th-24th volunteers will help with food prep. **November 25th**, volunteers will help serve Thanksgiving dinner to our community.

Dec  
1-11



**CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE**  
December 1st-10th volunteers will help sort and organize toys. **December 11th**, volunteers will help parents shop for their children.

Dec  
16-19



**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
December 16th-21st, volunteers will help with food prep. **December 19th**, volunteers will help serve Christmas dinner to our community.

*Many hands. One mission.*

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact Paige Campbell at the Warren Family Mission  
 330-394-5437  [volunteer@warrenfamilymission.com](mailto:volunteer@warrenfamilymission.com)



## GIFTS FOR DAD



Aftershave  
Beer  
Belt  
Book  
Card  
Chocolate  
Compass  
Cuff Links  
Golf Balls  
Grilling Tools  
Hat  
Keyring  
Mouse Pad  
Mug  
Pen  
Pocket Knife  
Power Tools  
Razor  
Slippers  
Socks  
Tie  
Wallet  
Watch

### SURVEY ARRIVING SOON--PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS!

All members on the HCC mailing list will soon be receiving a "Straw Vote" letter from the Open and Affirming Committee. The letter will include the proposed Welcoming Statement drafted by the committee, and a card to indicate your response. We have always been "A House of Prayer for All People". This one-question survey will help us explore what that means. We look forward to your participation!

~Alan Purdum

### Herman and Jane Crum Scholarship Application Available



Howland Community Church members and children of church members are eligible to submit an application. Eligible applicants must:

- be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at an institution of higher learning beyond high school (includes vocational schools)
- be a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio
- submit a completed application via email to [HCCCED@gmail.com](mailto:HCCCED@gmail.com) by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Download a copy of the Crum Scholarship application from [HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG](http://HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG) or request one from the church office.** For any questions regarding the Crum Scholarship, please contact the church office at 330-856-3628 or [hccced@gmail.com](mailto:hccced@gmail.com). We are excited to offer this scholarship and look forward to reviewing applications!

~Alan Purdum

# June 2026 - HCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  6 PM Trustees 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	2	3 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	4  7 PM Game Night (JHR)	5	6  1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
7 10 AM Worship	8  6 PM O & A 7 PM Elders 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	9	10 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	11  6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	12	13  1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
14 10 AM Worship- Noisy Coin Offering	15  7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	16	17 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	18  7 PM Game Night (JHR)	19 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry	20  1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
21 10 AM Worship 	22  7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	23	24 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	25  6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	26	27 11 AM - 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH)  1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
28 10 AM Worship	29  7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	30				



**HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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**WE'RE ON THE WEB:**  
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**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**

