
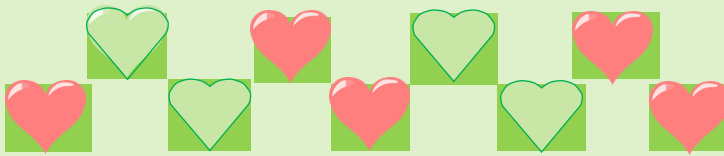


The Community Messenger

February 2025

ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

A vertical decorative element on the left side of the page, featuring a series of hearts in shades of red and pink, and a red ribbon that winds down the page.

It is such a joy to listen to stories of Howland Community Church back in the day. Stories about Reverend Taylor and the profound impact he had not only on the congregation but also the larger Howland community. I recently met a woman who remembers Reverend Taylor and his wife staying at her parents' house during the early days of his ministry here. Stories about the Europe trips and the learning and preparation ahead of time which were so very formative for so many young people. Stories about the canteens following athletic events, and Ladies Night Out, and Men's and Women's Fellowship, and CYF, and Sunday School filled with young people and nurseries filled to the brim with babies and toddlers.

I love how intently you regard Howland Community Church's unofficial motto and mission statement – A House of Prayer for All People. You take seriously those unequivocal words of welcome, not only on Sunday mornings, but every single day of every single week, as we open our doors to the children in the Learning Center and the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. As we provide space for folks battling with addiction to find community with one another. As we feed the hungry, body and soul, through our Client's Choice Food Pantry and our Free Fellowship Meals.

The thrill of hope, of possibility as we dream together of what the future holds for Howland Community Church is nothing short of life giving. We have so many members who grew up in this church, so many members who have raised their families in this church. We certainly want to see that continue, and even grow.

Nevertheless, the struggle is real. The church of 2025 is not the same as the church so many of us revere in our mind's eye. The culture has changed. Our membership has changed, in terms of head count, demographics, not to mention active participation. If I had all the answers, if I knew the magic formula to ease our anxieties and allow us to trust that the ground under our feet is more or less solid, I would certainly share that ever elusive information.

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What I can do, what I will do, is continue to hold the church in prayer, to lead the church in prayer and study, sharing the scriptures and preaching the Word. I can encourage you to be faithful to the call that God has placed upon each of our hearts. I can do my level best to lead you through what might prove to be a difficult season of taking stock. I have always been fond of the idea of asking difficult questions and questioning easy answers. That is what it is going to take as we discern what is possible given the reality of where we stand. That is what it is going to take as we determine our way forward.

I not only encourage you, I implore you to make an investment in this process – of time, of service, of financial support as you are able. There is a path forward, and we need to chart that course together. A wonderful starting point – please consider attending our Annual Congregational meeting on February 2, 2025 immediately following worship. There are so many stories yet to be told!



Take good care~Erica
HAPPY
Valentine's Day



Greetings from Gabby!

Well, I have to be honest with you. I am not a fan of the snow, or the cold. Monkeys tend to prefer things to be a little bit warmer than they have been lately. I am happy that I live in Erica's office, and I don't really have to go outside... except when I jump in her pocket, and I haven't been doing that nearly as much lately.

I have many friends in Erica's office. During Advent and Christmas, though, many of my friends had things to do in other parts of the church. They helped with the Christmas Open House and it took them a while to get back to the office. But everyone is here now, and I am happy about that. I have been making valentines to share with my friends. Do you have friends that you are celebrating this valentine's Day? I hope so! Here's a valentine from me to you!



~ Gabby

The Shaulis family would like to thank the Congregation for making salads and desserts and all they did in regard to the meal in memory of John Shaulis.



Susanne



February 2nd
Annual Meeting



Tuesday, February 4, 2025
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN NORTH HALL



American Red Cross

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



Please mark your calendars for our February Food Pantry...Friday, February 21 between 3-5 pm. We'll be unloading a smallish food order and restocking our pantry shelves on Thursday morning, the 20th. We are appreciative of any amount of time you can give us...AN EXTRA NOTE: Please bring in any empty egg cartons you may collect before the Feb. pantry and place them in the basket near the church office door.

Linda Hitmar

Thank You Volunteers



The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

Lectionary for January

Feb. 2, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

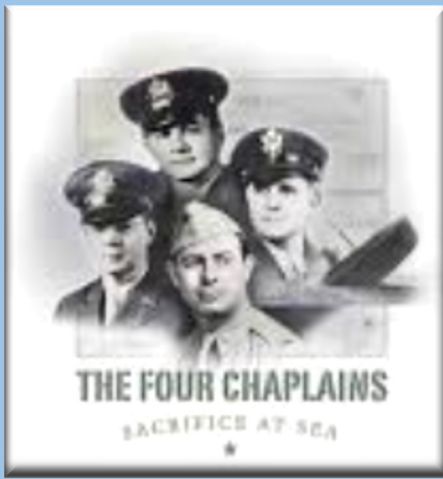
Feb. 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Feb. 2	Bim Turner	Anna Marie Ottney Captain	<u>Sanctuary</u> Linda Raphoon
Feb. 9	Tom Hitmar	Linda Raphoon	
Feb. 16	Jeffrey Morrison	Becky Philbin John Layfield	<u>JHR</u> Jane Walters
Feb. 23	Alan Purdum		





10:00 AM Worship on February 9, 2025

Four Chaplains Sacrifice at Sea. Sponsored by the American Legion, Dave Luther and Boy Scout Troop 28.

All are Welcome!



The Celebration Band will return on Sunday morning March 2nd, playing "Mardi Gras" music in anticipation of the beginning of Lent. The band will provide joyous hymns and selections to enliven our morning service.

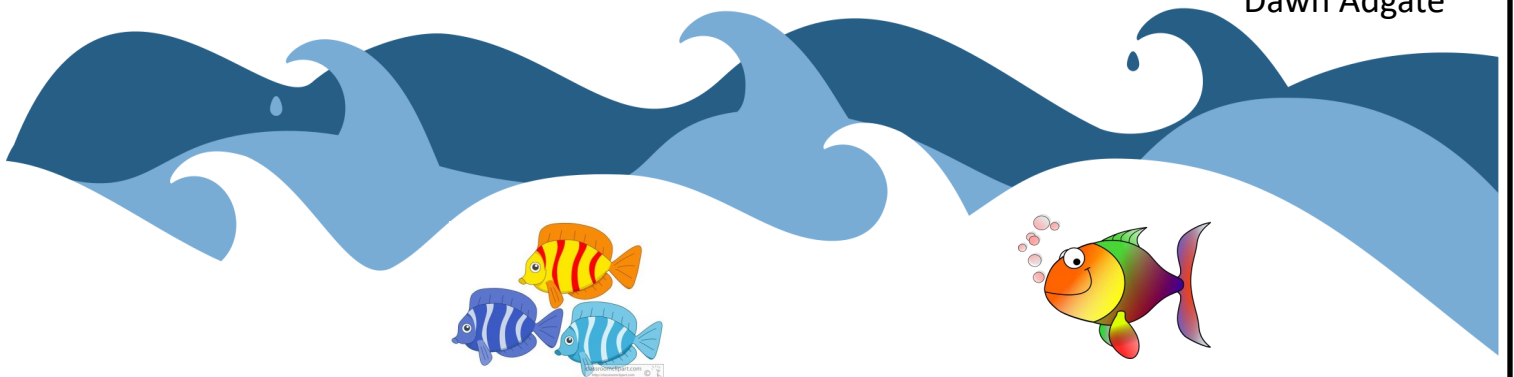


It's Almost Fish Fry Time!!!

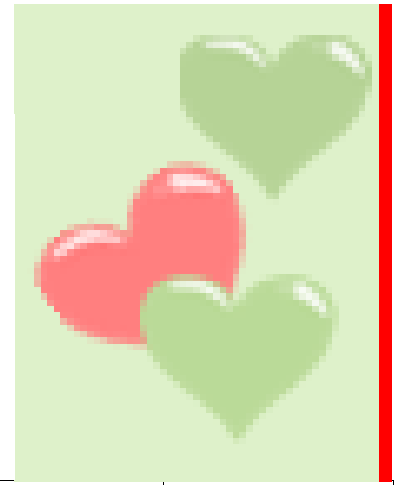


It's is almost Fish Fry time! Ash Wednesday is March 5, which will make the first Fish Fry, Friday, March 7th. Much help will be needed this year to make them a success. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary beginning February 2 to help get a feel for the number of volunteers willing to help.

Thank you!
Dawn Adgate



HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>2 10A-Worship</p> <p>Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6P Trustees</p> <p> Bob Holinbaugh</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6P (NH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p> <p> Jeanine Abruzzi</p>	<p>6</p> <p> Diane Andrews Betty Arblaster Bim Turner</p> <p>6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p> Sue Blosser</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>9 10A-Worship</p> <p>4 Chaplains Sacrifice at Sea. Sponsored by American Legion, Dave Luther & Boy Scout Troop 28</p> <p>NOISY COIN OFFERING</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7P Elders</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p> <p> Jeanine Abruzzi</p>	<p>13</p> <p> Randy Baker Denise Newhouse Kenton Thigpen Taylor Waid</p>	<p>14</p> <p></p> <p>3-5 P Client Choice Food Pantry</p> <p> John & Rita Bobco</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10A-Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p></p> <p>6:30P Finance 7P Official Board 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>18</p> <p> Bonnie Diglaw</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p> <p> Harmon Andrews</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>March Newsletter Articles Due</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p> Jill Lewis</p>	<p>22 </p> <p>FFM 11A—12:30P</p> <p> Sara Andrews</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10A-Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>25</p> <p> Tonya Rollison</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p> <p> Harm Andrews III Larry & Marilyn Rambo</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p> Judith Minogue Becky Vandegrift</p>	

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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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 Feb. 20th



Reverend Erica Brown, Senior Minister
Andrew Purdum, Director of Music
Rebecca Shelton, Organist
Rita Bobco, Finance Manager
Linda Mikula, Administrative Assistant
Minta Pitts, Custodian