

The Community Messenger

October 2025

Erica Extemporaneous

The Book With No Pictures, by B.J. Novak, is as the title implies, a book without pictures. Initially, it's a bit of a hard sell for the story-time set. Pictures are fun to look at while you are listening. Or, pictures can be passageways into other stories. What else do you notice? What else do you see? Do you wonder why? But I digress.

The Book With No Pictures has a disclaimer for any unwitting grown-up who might be coerced into reading it to the children in their lives. The book compels its reader to say any number of silly things sure to send listeners into fits of laughter. "Bluurff," for instance. Or, "My head is made up of blueberry pizza." It's a creative and clever premise.

Every week, I spend a bit of time in the Learning Center. I read a book to the children. Often, I have stuffed animals related to the story with whom they visit while listening. I field questions from the sublime to the ridiculous... so many questions! I listen to updates on pet tater tots and weekend plans and what was for dinner last night and how the latest booboo came to be. They are generous with their hugs and snuggles.

Every week, I step into the pulpit, having spent time with scripture. I have studied, wrestled, considered, questioned, and challenged the texts before me. Then I try my hand at crafting something to share with you. I try to provide a context, taking into account historical, geographical, and cultural considerations. I think about the world in which we live, wondering what we might take away from the scriptures that could help us live more faithfully. I endeavor to invite you into the conversation, posing questions and pointing out possibilities, perhaps painting a picture of sorts. There are all kinds of things to look at within the text. There are many things to notice.

The Book With No Pictures is actually rather similar to the Bible, as a point of fact. (Although, I know of several beautiful children's Bibles with fabulous illustrations. For perhaps the slightly more sophisticated palette, you might want to take a look at the St. John's Bible. Absolutely stunning. <www.stjohnsbible.org>) If you take seriously the words found in the Bible... if you take them to heart, and do as they say... if you live your life following the example of Jesus... if you love your neighbor, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger... chances are, some folks might tilt their heads as they look at you, perhaps wrinkling their brow. Some will laugh at you for your generous spirit. Others may write you off because you make them uncomfortable, calling attention to their own fears and apprehensions.

But friends, I promise you, your efforts, whether large or small, timid or mighty, costly or financially negligible, will not go unnoticed. They will be celebrated as triumphs of the spirit and unmeasured grace. They will be a breath of hope in a hopeless place, a song of peace in a war-torn world. They will change the world, making it a better place for all of us.

Take good care,

Erica

Greetings from Gabby!

John Howland and I are very excited. There are so many fun things happening at HCC! The Blessing of the Animals is coming up – you can bring your dog or your cat or your Guinea pig or even a stuffed animal, if you like. I am pretty sure Pastor Erica draws the line at reptiles and amphibians, though! And then, before you know it it'll be time for Trunk or Treat. If you are interested in helping out with that, be sure to let Pastor



Erica know. Otherwise... come in your costume with all of your friends and have a “boo-tiful” time! You can find more information about both of these events elsewhere in this newsletter... just like a treasure hunt! Have fun, and we will see you soon!

Your friends~ Gabby and John Howland

A Season of Stewardship

This fall we enter into a season of stewardship, a time to reflect on the many ways God has blessed us and how we can, in turn, support the life and ministry of our church. Stewardship is about more than just finances—it's about sharing our time, our talents, and our treasure so that together we can continue to be a light in our community.

Like many churches today, we are facing financial challenges. Yet we also see great opportunities to grow, serve, and live out our mission. Every gift of time, prayer, service, and financial support makes a real difference.

In the coming weeks, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you might be called to contribute in the year ahead. Whether it's volunteering in a ministry, making a financial pledge, or simply being present in worship, your commitment helps strengthen our church family and ensures we can continue to serve others in Christ's name.

Let us enter this season with hope, gratitude, and trust that God will provide through the generosity of His people.

~Patty DiGiacobbe



CLIENT CHOICE FOOD PANTRY

Our client numbers picked up during the month of September, so we are anticipating larger numbers throughout the rest of the year. **Our October pantry date is scheduled for Friday, the 17th between 3-5 pm.** We expect to have a Second Harvest truck delivery on Thursday, the 16th....time to be announced later. Volunteers will be helpful during both of these dates. Thanks for bringing in empty egg cartons--we continue to use them as we sometimes are able to purchase our eggs in bulk.

~Linda Hitmar

Helping Hands Craft Show~Saturday, November 8th, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM!

It's a day full of creativity, community, and fun, all while supporting the **mission work of our church.**



What to look forward to:

-  Unique vendors (spots still available!)
-  A full kitchen open for tasty food
-  A delicious bake sale
-  Exciting raffle prizes

And here's where **YOU** come in: we'll need volunteers to help make this event a huge success! Keep an eye out for the **sign-up sheet on Sunday**, and jump in where you can.



Want to reserve a vendor spot or sign up early to volunteer? Contact **Patty DiGiacobbe at 330-448-1700.** Let's come together to make this year's Craft Show the **biggest and best yet!**

3 Letters

HAY
OWL
PIE
RED

4 Letters

COOL
CORN
MAZE
PEAR
RAKE

5 Letters

CIDER
CRISP
QUILT
SOCKS
SPICE
TREES

6 Letters

APPLES
AUTUMN
COLORS
LEAVES
ORANGE
SCHOOL
SEASON
YELLOW

7 Letters

FALLING
HARVEST
PUMPKIN
SWEATER

8 Letters

CHIPMUNK
MUSHROOM
ORCHARDS
RUSTLING

9 Letters

CHESTNUTS
DECIDUOUS
PINECONES

11 Letters

WHEELBARROW

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Open and Affirming Committee will meet with Rev. Allen Harris, our Regional Minister, after worship on October 5. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – October

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
October 5	Tom Hitmar	Anna Marie Ottney - Captain	Sanctuary Dawn Adgate
October 12	Brooke Schubert	Emma Adgate	
October 19	Barb Layfield	Haylee Adgate	JHR Dawn Adgate
October 26	Katy Kell	John Layfield	

News from the Official Board

The following actions were taken at the September meeting of the HCC Official Board:

1. The board implemented security procedures including locking the doors during worship services. Those arriving after the start of worship will be buzzed in at the front or rear office doors.
2. Also discussed were the rising costs of routine building maintenance and utilities.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Per our Official Board directive and to ensure a safe church environment, we are seeking volunteers to watch the office cameras during our Sunday services. Volunteers will receive training on the cameras and what to do in case of an emergency. Sign up will be on a monthly basis. Please reach out to me if you have any questions regarding this vital volunteer opportunity.

With thanks-

Dawn Adgate

Lectionary for October 2025

October 5, 2025

Lamentations 1:1-6
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Lamentations 3:19-26
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 12, 2025

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 66:1-12
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 19, 2025

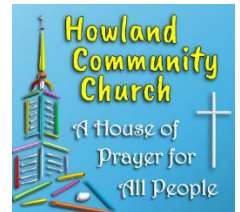
Jeremiah 31:27-34
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 119:97-104
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 26, 2025

Joel 2:23-32
Sirach 35:12-17
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 65
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in learning more about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, or the International Conference of Community Churches? How about a bit about the history of Howland Community Church? Erica is planning to offer a series of information sessions over the course of four or five weeks. No obligation to attend all of them... come as you can, or as your interest directs. If you are interested, please speak with Erica and let her know your availability so we can get this scheduled!



Card/Game Night

The Card/Game Club will be meeting on **Thursday, October 9th and 23rd at 7pm in the John Howland Room.** Come and join in the fun! No prior experience necessary!

Operating Fund

	August Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$31,301.86	\$192,606.79	\$181,332.00
Expenses	\$15,968.61	\$185,813.88	\$187,710.00
Difference	\$15,333.25	\$6,792.91	-\$6,378.00

October - HCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH) 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	3	4 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
5 10 AM Worship World Communion Sunday – Guest speaker Rev. Allen Harris	6 6 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	7	8 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	9 7PM Card/Game Club (JHR) 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH)	10	11 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
12 10 AM Worship Noisy Coin Offering BLESSING of the ANIMALS 3 pm	13 6 PM Open & Affirming Comm. 7 PM Elders 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	14	15 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	16 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH) 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	17 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry	18 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
19 10 AM Worship	20 6:30 PM Finance 7 PM Official Board 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)		22 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	23 7PM Card/Game Club (JHR) 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH)	24 TRUNK or TREAT 6-8pm	25 11 AM – 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH) 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
26 10 AM Worship	27 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	28	29 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	30 5-7 PM Boundless Wonders (SH)	31 	

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Libbey Baker	1	Daniel Moison III	14	Marian Francis-Sable	23
Ron & Shawn Tarary	2	Chuck Drennan Jr	18	Gary Arblaster	25
Rick Casassa	6	Amanda Kellerman	18	David Bobco	26
Brian O'Dell	6	Owen Allison	18	Jehanna Francis-Sable	28
Becky Noftsinger	12	Harm & Diane Andrews	20	Becky Drennan	29
Andrew Purdum	13				

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. Thank you!



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Non-Profit Org.
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 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

