

The Community Messenger

July

2025



Erica Extemporaneous

I was a sophomore in college when Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm. It was my first cognizant encounter with the United States at war. (I was a small child when the Vietnam War drew to a close. I knew that my church had sponsored a refugee family with several children close to my age, but that was the limit of my understanding.) I was startled. I was frightened. I didn't know what to think.

I remember going to a friend's house – her dad was a professor – and staying up long into the night watching the news coverage. We didn't have cable in the dorms, and television reception was spotty at best. I remember a friend from Germany returning home post haste, with hardly a chance to say goodbye. I remember thinking about friends and acquaintances from high school who were in the military. I remember an impromptu prayer vigil around the peace pole, and a professor's five-year-old daughter saying that she wanted her baby sister to have a chance to grow up.

I remember how I felt. I remember fear and anxiety and even compassion for collateral damage, whether intentional or incidental. I was struck by the gravity of the situation. I knew my understanding of the world around me would never be quite the same.

Fast-forward some thirty-four years, factoring many armed conflicts and profound unrest abroad along with significant terrorist attacks on our own soil, tenuous race relations, and nearly innumerable school shootings and other targeted acts of violence. The recent news of United States air strikes in Iran is troubling, but just as troubling is the extent to which it feels as though just one more story on the nightly news – although now our news is a 24/7 barrage, overwhelming even on a slow day.

I was visiting dear friends with different political sensibilities than my own when the news broke. We barely acknowledged the announcement, if at all. When did we become so hesitant to disagree with one another? Why does it feel so perilous? The independence and freedom we celebrate in such fine fashion each Fourth of July grants us the privilege of thinking for ourselves. Why not celebrate *that*?

We pray for God's peace. We pray for God's protection. We pray for God's grace, already freely given. We are invited, we are encouraged, to trust in God. I can't help but think... Are we paying attention? Are we doing all that is within our seemingly limited sphere of influence to shift the balance?

Are we numb, deadened somehow by the anger and fear and injustice we have come to accept as the cost of doing business?

Friends, care for yourselves during these difficult days. Care for one another. Pay attention to what all of this, whatever *this* may be, does to your soul, your heart of hearts, your faith – in God and in humankind. In the words of Colbert S. Cartwright, whose thoughtful prayer of thanksgiving I am fond of sharing following our celebration of communion, “So far as it depends on us, help us to live peaceably with all.”



Take good care,

Erica

Get the word out...



The Marketing Committee is working hard to improve HCC's visibility in the community and would like to ask for your help. The church has a website, a Facebook page, Instagram presence, and an X account. In order to get our information out to the public, we need more of you to join our pages or follow us on these platforms. Sharing the posts will also increase our exposure. Check out each of the following links:

Website: www.howlandcommunitychurch.org

Instagram: [instagram.com/howlandcommunitychurch](https://www.instagram.com/howlandcommunitychurch)

Facebook: [facebook.com/120944564587773](https://www.facebook.com/120944564587773)

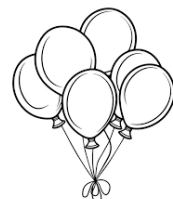
X (formerly Twitter): x.com/@howlandchurch

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our social media presence, please contact Patty DiGiacobbe @ howlandcctreasurer@gmail.com.

Congratulations...



Haylee Adgate
Madison Bickerstaff
Jacqueline Morrison
James Morrison



Recipients of the Herman and Jane Crum Scholarship

Greetings from Gabby!

Hello friends! I have really been enjoying my summer. I have made many new friends at the HCC Learning Center. Every week, Erica goes downstairs and reads to the children. Did you know that Erica really likes to read? It's a good thing, because the children really like to listen to the stories that she shares. Sometimes, I jump into her pocket and go with her. The children have been very curious about me. Everybody gets a turn to hold me and I get to go all the way around their circle. I am glad that they are very gentle with me. Do you have a favorite story that you like to share with others? I hope so. If not... Erica and I have suggestions!



Your friend,
Gabby

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School

Make a joyful noise!

July 9, 2025

July 30, 2025

6:00 pm -7:30 pm

In the HCC Pavilion (weather permitting) or South Hall

Children and Grown-ups of all ages welcome!

Fun, games, crafts, music and yummy treats for everyone!



Operating Fund

	May Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$32,126.43	\$123,221.55	\$113,295.00
Expenses	\$19,360.67	\$119,535.18	\$122,949.00
Difference	\$12,765.76	\$3,686.37	-\$9,654.00



Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – July

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
July 6	Tom Hitmar	Natalie Sanders – Captain	SANCTUARY Karen Brown
July 13	Dawn Adgate	Amy Gazdik	JHR
July 20	Jeff Morrison	Matthew Sanders	Rita Bobco
July 27	Brooke Schubert	Andrew Steele	

Lectionary for July

July 6, 2025

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13, 2025

Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 20, 2025

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

July 27, 2025

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Client Choice Pantry

Our July food pantry will take place on Friday the 18th of July, between the hours of 3 – 5 pm. There is always room for a few more volunteers. On Thursday, the 17th, we plan to have a Second Harvest Food truck delivery, and on that day, we will unload the truck and stock the shelves to be ready for the pantry. (Time to be announced.) Monetary donations to benefit the food pantry are always welcome, and with these funds we purchase perishable foods that Second Harvest seldom has available. Thank you again for your support.



Linda
Hitmar

OPERATION SHOELEATHER

Just a reminder.... Coming up during the 5 Sundays of August, we will be collecting monies to purchase gift certificates for school shoes for children in need. The deacons will pass around the shoeboxes after the usual morning offering so that you may place your donations in the box.

-- Outreach Committee



Independence Day

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

Stars and Stripes

Waterballoon Toss

Independence Day

National Anthem

Fourth of July

American Flag

CrackerJacks

Firecrackers

Hamburgers

Fireflies

Fireworks

Patriotic

Sparklers

Barbeque

Baseball

Veterans

Cookout

Friends

Hotdogs

Peanuts

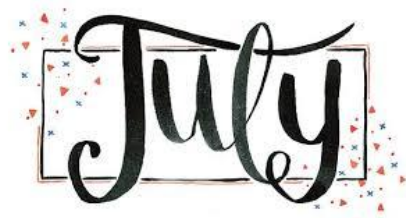
Sunsets

Family

Smores

Summer





Howland Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tish Brown David Ottney Jim & Tonya Rollison	2 Sawyer Dyett Kenner Francis-Sable 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	3 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	4 Greyson Turvey-Airwyke	5 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
6 10 AM Worship	7 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	8 Jeff Brown Sandy Caldrone Judy Clifford	9 Dick and Jeanine Abruzzi 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) 6 – 7:30 PM Intergenerational Vacation Bible School	10 7-9 PM Card Club (JHR)	11	12 Jack Clifford 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
13 10 AM Worship Noisy Coin Collection	14 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	15	16 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) David Brown	17 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH) Daryl Gross Kathy Kalmar	18 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry John Layfield August Newsletter Articles Due	19 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
20 10 AM Worship	21 Chuck Adgate 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	22 Daryl & Chun Gross Barry Ottney	23 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	24 Jennifer Turvey	25	26 11 AM – 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH) 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
27 10 AM Worship Paul Noftsinger Ann Tereba	28 Holden Dyett Katie Ottney 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	29	30 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) Intergenerational Vacation Bible School 6 – 7:30 PM	31 Brooke Schubert Olga Sten		

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

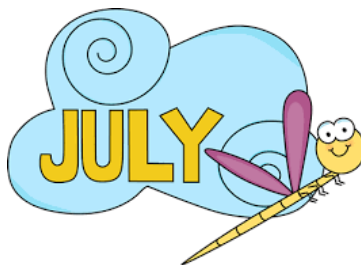
WE'RE ON THE WEB:

HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

E-mail: hccced@gmail.com

Phone: 330-856-3628

Fax: 330-856-4496



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 163
Youngstown, OH

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Reverend Erica L. Brown, Senior Minister
Andrew Purdum, Director of Music
Rebecca Shelton, Organist
Diane Andrews, Office Coordinator
Minta Pitts, Custodian
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



