

The Community Messenger July 2026

Erica Extemporaneous

I am a part of the generation that grew up with “Sesame Street” and its far more rambunctious relation “The Electric Company.” As much as I enjoyed Big Bird and Snuffleupagus and the likes of albeit considerably younger versions of Rita Moreno and Morgan Freeman, I was always partial to Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Rogers was patient. He took seriously the fears and anxieties all children, all people, experience, gently offering assurance all the while validating very real emotions and concerns. He was present. At the start of the program, as he traded his suit jacket for a cardigan and slipped into sneakers instead of his dress shoes, I knew instinctively that Mr. Rogers’ attention was trained on whatever he would be sharing with me and his other television neighbors. I try to model that centered focus in my professional life as well as my personal life. It is more than simple courtesy, although simple courtesy ought to not be taken for granted. It is about honoring where you are, and with whom you are, in any given moment. It can be a powerful practice, and I assure you, it *requires* practice.

As I write this newsletter article, I am crossing items off my “to do list” in preparation for my sabbatical. As I have shared with my young friends in the Learning Center, I am going on an adventure! I keep thinking about Mr. Rogers and the song that marked the end of each episode... “... I’ll be back when the day is new, and I’ll have more ideas for you. You’ll have things you’ll want to talk about. I will too.”

I’ll be back!

Take good care,

Erica



Greetings from Gabby!

Hello friends!

It is very quiet in Pastor Erica's office. It is also very neat and tidy. That might be because Pastor Erica is on her adventure.

John Howland and I are ready to help any way we can. We know a lot of helpful things. If you need anything at all, just let us know.

Wait a minute.

John Howland has a good point. The Elders and the Official Board might be a little bit more helpful than us... but just in case – you know where to find us!



Your friends~
Gabby and John Howland



CLIENT CHOICE

FOOD PANTRY

Again almost 50 families came in for food assistance in June! Our July pantry is scheduled for Friday, July 17th, between 3-5 pm. We expect to bring in a food order from Second Harvest on Thursday morning, the 16th. We would appreciate any volunteer time you can give us on those dates. ALSO, after years of having thousands of plastic bags, now we find that our supply is almost nonexistent. Please start saving your grocery store size plastic bags for us, and bring them to the basket near the front office door.

Thank you for your continued support!

~Linda Hitmar

Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – July 2026

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
July 5	Diane Andrews	Natalie Sanders – Captain	Sanctuary Karen Brown
July 12	Dawn Adgate	Amy Gazdik	
July 19	Barb Layfield	Matt Sanders	JHR Naomi Foster
July 26	Brooke Schubert	Andrew Steele	& Susanne Shaulis

Lectionary for July 2026

July 5, 2026

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12, 2026

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19, 2026

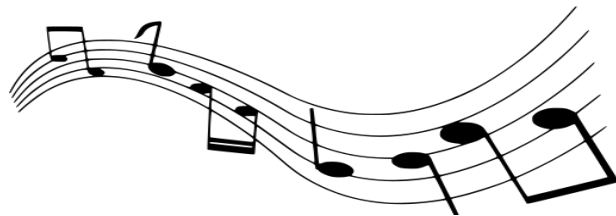
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26, 2026

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Official Board and Finance Committee

Please note that the Official Board and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, July 13th, which is one week earlier than usual.



What's Your Favorite Hymn?

Sunday, July 19th will be a "hymn-sing" Sunday! We will sing as many as we have time for. Please drop your suggestions in the offering plate or email them to hccced@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Operating Fund Update

	May Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$19,890.65	\$113,602.63	\$110,802.
Expenses	\$20,678.53	\$120,265.35	\$111,537.00
Difference	-\$787.88	-\$6,662.72	-\$735.00



Howland Community Church at Pride in the Valley event in downtown Warren



PLEASE RETURN SURVEY - LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS!

The Open and Affirming Committee requests that the survey mailed to members and regular attendees be returned (by mail, in the offering box, or at the office) no later than Sunday, July 26th. (I made a small typo in the Welcome Statement. Please ignore the extra "and" in the last sentence of the second paragraph.)

Thank you~ Alan Purdum

**God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above.**

July 2026 - HCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	2 7 pm Game Night (JHR)	3	4  1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
5 10 am Worship	6 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	7	8 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	9 6-8 pm Girl Scouts (NH)	10	11 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
12 10 am Worship- Noisy Coin Offering	13 6:30 pm Finance 7 pm Official Board 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	14	15 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	16 7 pm Game Night (JHR)	17 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry	18 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
19 10 am Worship- Hymn Sing	20 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	21	22 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	23 6-8 pm Girl Scouts (NH)	24	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 7 pm Game Night (JHR)	31	

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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



International Council of Community Churches