

The Community Messenger

June 2025



Erica Extemporaneous

I grew up watching Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. I adored Mr. Rogers. I'm not sure if it was his gentle demeanor, or his finely honed appreciation of pretending... I mean, he had a passage way to the Land of Make Believe right in his living room! It might have been his honesty. Whatever it was, those thirty minutes were sacrosanct. Not to mention... My kindergarten teacher's husband was a minister who had gone to seminary with Mr. Rogers. It was almost like we practically knew each other! But then, I suppose that familiarity was part of the appeal.

A few weeks ago, I awoke in the afterglow of an absolutely delightful dream. I was walking down a crowded concourse at a busy airport. Mr. Rogers walked up alongside of me, draped his arm around my shoulder, looked into my eyes and began to sing "I'm proud of you." In the midst of the confusion swirling around me, I simply took it all in, soaking up the encouraging words like a sponge. My morning began with a peaceful assurance I wasn't altogether aware I in fact needed.

That particular song wasn't one of my favorites for some reason, so I looked up the lyrics online as a refresher: "I'm proud of you, I'm proud of you, I hope that you're as proud as I am, proud of you, I'm proud of you, I hope that you are proud and that you're learning how important you are, how important each person you see can be. Discovering each one's specialty is the most important learning..."

Pride is an interesting thing. The Book of Proverbs cautions that it goeth before a fall, suggesting we keep it in check. Yet God created us, fearfully and wonderfully. Like so much in life, it is about finding a balance. Humility doesn't demand denying our strengths, rather being mindful of the impact they have upon others. Recognizing our purpose is a daily discovery, whether we are just beginning our journey or are well on our way. It is that time of year, isn't it? When commencements send young people toward new hopes and dreams and possibilities... When slightly older folks perhaps think about roads not taken, for better or worse.

My dream reminded me of the grace in messages received when hearts are tender and minds open. It reminded me of how important it is to pay attention to the words that we say and the things that we do, particularly when we realize others are paying attention to us.

I was sharing my dream with several of the youngest among us one Sunday morning. There was a bit of a generation gap, so they didn't know who Mr. Rogers was. They were familiar, however, with the notion of having dreams. One of them told me that he liked to keep his good dreams in his head. I was very intentional, not to mention genuine, as I thanked him for such a good idea.

I am proud that it is my good fortune to be your pastor, and that you are willing to share a bit of your journey, your story, with me and with each other. "It's such a good feeling!" Thank you!

Take good care,

Erica

Congratulations Graduates

Special prayers and blessings for:

Jacqueline Morrison – Warren John F. Kennedy High School

Matthew Vencel – University of Tampa

We are proud of you!!!!



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)

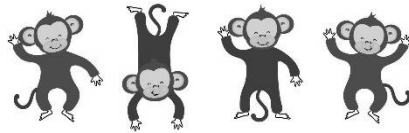
X (formerly Twitter): x.com/@howlandchurch

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

Greetings from Gabby!

Summer time is here! There are so many fun things to do in the summer. You can sleep in (but why would you want to?)... You can play outside all day... ride your bike... climb a tree... go swimming... You can even go to Intergenerational Vacation Bible School! (Intergenerational is just a fancy way of saying it doesn't matter how young or old you are – you are welcome to come! There will be something for children... and grown-ups... of all ages!) The theme is "Make a Joyful Noise." I don't know about you, but I LOVE to make noise! I hope to see you there!

Your friend,
Gabby



Intergenerational Vacation Bible School

Make a joyful noise!

June 18, 2025

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!



Cards, Anyone?

A group of us have been getting together every other Thursday evening in the John Howland Room for cards/game night, however during the summer months, we will meet only once a month. Sometimes we play cards and other times we play teams for a board game. It's been a really fun evening!

If you are interested in a fun evening and a light dessert, please come and join us. Our next game night will be June 12th. There is always room for more players!



News from the Official Board

- Howland Community Church will be hosting a booth at "Pride in the Valley," on Saturday, June 21 from Noon to 9 pm at the Courthouse Square in Warren. Church members and friends who are interested in spending an hour or two handing out buttons and answering questions can sign up on Sunday mornings or may contact Alan Purdum.
- The Crum Scholarship is again being offered for those studying at college or trade school. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Operating Fund

	March Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$22, 749.41	\$91,095.12	\$90,616.00
Expenses	\$23,652.85	\$109,799.51	\$102,673.00
Difference	-\$903.44	-\$18,704.39	-\$12,057.00

Reminder...

If you have vases from altar flowers, please return them to the church office at your convenience.

Thank you!

Dawn Adgate



Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – June

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
June 1	Gretchen Hrusovsky	Anna Marie Ottney - Captain Emma Adgate Haylee Adgate John Layfield	Sanctuary Dawn Adgate
June 8	Brooke Schubert		JHR Dawn Adgate
June 15	Barb Layfield		
June 22	Katy Kell		
June 29	Bim Turner		

Herman and Jane Crum Scholarship Application Now Available

Howland Community Church members and children of church members are eligible to submit an application for a scholarship from the Herman and Jane Crum Scholarship Fund, maintained by the Endowment Fund Board of Howland Community Church.

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 for the Church Board to review by June 15

To receive a copy of the Crum Scholarship application, please e-mail HCCCED@gmail.com and one will be provided to you. Award decisions will be made by June 30, 2025. The monies available in this scholarship fund vary year to year and an award amount will be decided once applications have been received and approved. Any monies awarded will be a one-time award for that school year, and funds will be given directly to the school or institution where the student is officially enrolled.

Any award is to be considered a gift not required to be repaid; however, if a recipient wishes to pay back the amount awarded to be utilized in the granting of additional scholarships in the future, that action is welcomed.

For any questions regarding the Crum Scholarship, please call or email the church and a representative from the Church Board will get back to you. We are excited to offer this scholarship and look forward to reviewing applications!

Lectionary for June

June 1, 2025

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

June 8, 2025

1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24)

1 Kings 17:17-24

Psalm 146

Psalm 30

Galatians 1:11-24

Luke 7:11-17

June 15, 2025

1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15

Psalm 5:1-8

Psalm 32

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20, 2025

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 42 and 43

Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

June 29, 2025

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Client Choice Pantry

Our June food pantry is scheduled for Friday the 20th of June, during the usual hours of 3 – 5 pm. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Optimally, we require 10-12 church member volunteers for a smoothly running pantry. We may have a Second Harvest food delivery on Thursday the 19th of June, so we will be doing our usual unloading and restocking then. Thank you to the Howland High School students for volunteering to carry out groceries During the months of April and May... AND AGAIN, A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO DONATE YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO ASSIST WITH OUR COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY WORK.

Linda Hitmar

Dear HCC Members and Friends:

I have made the difficult decision to conclude my work at HCC. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and your families over the past several years. Working here as the Administrative Assistant is an experience I will always remember. I wish you the very best now and in the future!

Sincerely,

Linda Mikula

Best wishes Linda!



Howland Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship Choir Sunday	2 Rick Clark 6 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	3	4 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	5 Amy Waid 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	6	7 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
8 10 AM Worship Pentecost Noisy Coins Offering	9 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	10	11 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) Barry Dunaway	12 7 PM Card Club (JHR) Katherine Morrison	13	14 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
15 10 AM Worship Father's Day Addison Schubert Leanna & Barry Dunaway	16 6:30 PM Finance 7 PM Official Board Keith & Pat Walker 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	17 Tom & Sandy Caldrone	18 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) Intergenerational Vacation Bible School 6 – 7:30 PM Tracy Fessler	19 Office Closed Juneteenth 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	20 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry Brendan & Judith Minogue July Newsletter Articles Due	21 "Pride in the Valley" – Courthouse Square Noon – 9PM Lucas Morrison 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
22 10 AM Worship Andrew & Melissa Bickerstaff Mara Turvey Bryson Thigpen	23 Bob & Leeann Tucker 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	24	25 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	26 Jeff Morrison	27 Jordan Becker Brooke Waid Ronald & Regina Whitsel	28 11 AM – 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH) Bob & Jean Holinbaugh 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
29 10 AM Worship Fifth Sunday Offering for Missions Cory Dyett	30 Robin & Natalie Sanders Kevin Vencel 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)					

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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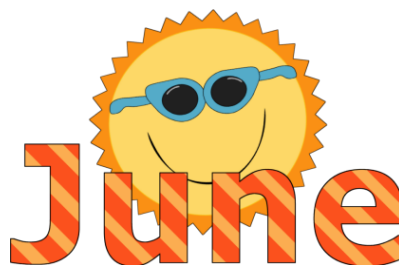
WE'RE ON THE WEB:

HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

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Phone: 330-856-3628

Fax: 330-856-4496



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Reverend Erica L. Brown, Senior Minister
Andrew Purdum, Director of Music
Rebecca Shelton, Organist
Rita Bobco, Finance Manager
Diane Andrews, Assistant Finance Manager
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.

Summer Office Hours:

The office will be staffed intermittently during the summer months but phone messages will be answered promptly.



International Council of Community Churches

