

The Community Messenger

ERICA EXTEMPORANEOUS

March 2025



My Grampa Slagle had a deeply abiding faith in God. I know this because of how he lived his life. I know this because of what he valued. I know this because of all he taught me about how to live, and love, and those things that are important. Grampa was not what you would call a regular church attender. Christmas and Easter, for sure; maybe Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. He could often be persuaded by a covered dish dinner, as well. I will say this.... Grampa never missed Ash Wednesday.

Every year on Ash Wednesday, Warren First United Methodist Church and Grace A.M.E Church joined together in worship. We alternated locations and preachers every other year... choirs as well. The music! Such beautiful music, so very different from what we were perhaps used to hearing. The same could be said of the preaching – we were not accustomed to the enthusiasm, or the sense of the Spirit, that seemed to envelop the pastor at Grace A.M.E. The host congregation prepared a sprawling meal and the guests brought dessert, which I recall was always a glorious array of pie. Do I even need to clarify that the pie was homemade, down to the last crumb of crust?

Grampa worked for many years at Republic Steel. A number of the gentlemen at Grace AME worked by his side. They loved to visit and share stories, occasionally eliciting a raised eyebrow from their wives. I loved being introduced as Bud's granddaughter, while Grampa's friends spoke of their own grandchildren, some of whom were my classmates.

I don't know that I understood exactly what Ash Wednesday meant, beyond the fact that we seemed to spend even more time at the church in those weeks leading up to Easter. I did know that it was important to realize we didn't do this alone. Lots of people, in lots of churches, marked this time, these forty days give or take, as holy.

Warren First United Methodist Church sadly closed its doors several years ago. I am considerably older now. Aren't we all? I earned a Master of Divinity degree and have served as an ordained minister for very nearly twenty-five years. Truth be told, I still struggle with Ash Wednesday and its significance within our faith. How do we journey from the stark reminder of our mortality (with or without pie) to the glorious assurance of resurrection? We stumble. We stride. We wander and wobble. With each step we take, we know the solid ground beneath our feet and the sturdy shoulders of those who stand alongside us. We learn how to live, how to love. We learn what we are called to value – the community we know as dearly loved children of God.

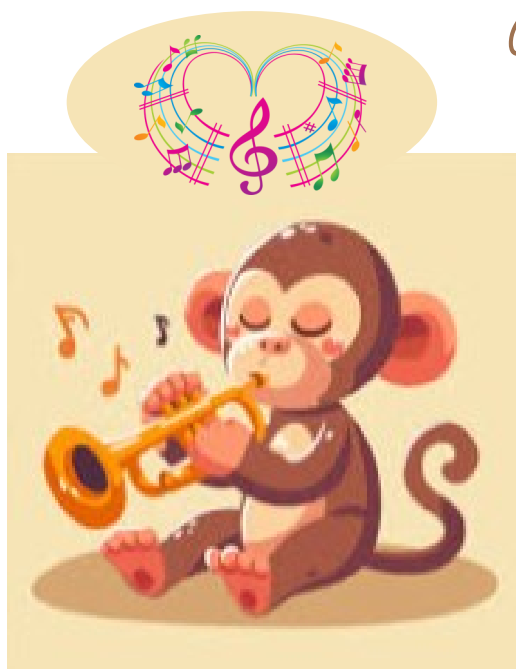


Take good care~Erica

Greetings from Gabby!

We are getting ready to get ready for Easter. Not so very long ago, we were getting ready to get ready for Christmas. One way we get ready is with special music on the Sunday before Lent begins. Lent is the name of the forty days before Easter. The music is lots of fun. Sometimes people even dance in the aisles! I will have to make sure to crawl into Erica's pocket on Sunday. I don't want to miss that! See you then!

~ Gabby



DISCIPLES ALL-CHURCH DISTRICT 4 SOUP EVENT FOR LENT!!!!

CELEBRATE LENT AND THE RETURN TO
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025, 4:30-6 PM

NILES FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS HOSTING!
33 N. ARLINGTON AVE,
NILES OH 44446

**EACH CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO BRING AT
LEAST 2 SOUPS TO SHARE! PRIZES AWARDED!**
FREWILL OFFERING TO BENEFIT OHIO REGION'S "IF NOT
NOW, WHEN; IF NOT YOU, WHO?" CAMPAIGN

Client Choice Pantry



Please mark your calendars for our March Food Pantry....Friday, March 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. A Thank You to you, our congregation, for your continued ongoing support of the outreach of this church.

Linda Hitmar

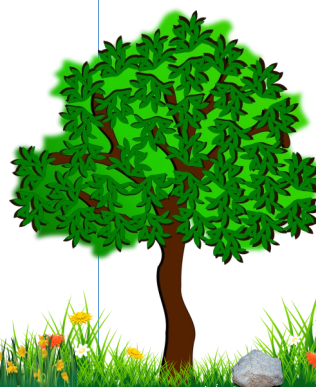


*"He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters, "*

Psalm 23:2

March Schedule

DATE	ELDER	DIACONATE SANCTUARY (All Month)	DIACONATE KITCHEN (All Month)
Mar. 2	Brooke Schubert	Natalie Sanders Captain	<u>Sanctuary</u> Karen Brown
Mar. 9	Alan Purdum	Amie Gazdik Matt Sanders	<u>JHR</u> Rita Bobco
Mar. 16	Kathy Purdum	Andrew Steele	
Mar. 23	Tom Hitmar		
Mar. 30	Katy Kell		



Lectionary for March

Mar. 2, 2025

1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43
Psalm 96:1-9
Galatians 1:1-12
Luke 7:1-10

Mar. 9, 2025

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Mar. 16, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35
Luke 9:28-36

Mar. 23, 2025

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Mar. 30, 2025

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

The Howland Community Church GAB (Garage/Attic/Basement) Sale will occur:

- Friday May 2nd from 9 am-1 pm, and
- Saturday May 3rd from 9 am-1 pm

We will be accepting GAB Sale donations in the North Hall of the church at the following times:

Saturday April 26th, 9 am-12 pm

Monday April 28th, 4 pm-6

Tuesday April 29, 4 pm-6

Wednesday April 30, 9 am-12 pm

Thursday May 1st 4 NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED!

Donated items **MUST** be clean and usable. We will accept your usual garage sale items - furniture, clothing, toys, shoes, kids items, kitchen and housewares, decorative items, books/movies, tools, sportswear and gear, electronics, etc.

Please **do not** bring bins of miscellaneous items that you're not sure what's in the container - it helps us tremendously if items are organized and boxed appropriately in drop-off. We also **do not** accept any cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs or computer monitors.

Sarah will have signup sheets at the back of the sanctuary for volunteer times beginning Sunday, April 6th - this event is not possible without the gracious hearts and hands of our volunteers! If you have any questions, please call Sarah at 330-322-8162.



Bake Sale
Both Days




GAB Sale May 2nd and 3rd




Please note donations are accepted from HCC church members, attendees, family, and friends only.


We do not accept bulk leftover items unsold from residential garage sales.



3
MAR



Monday, March 3, 2025
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN NORTH HALL
 Donors may report to the North Hall from 12:00-6:00 p.m.
 Call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment



FINANCE	January Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$14,311.57	\$14,311.57	\$22,579.00
Expenses	\$23,866.12	\$23,866.12	\$21,976.00
Difference	-\$9,554.55	-\$9,554.55	\$603.00



Please direct questions and comments to Patty DiGiacobbe.

PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



It's Fish Fry Time

\$15.00 Per Person

\$7 Per Child



It's Fish Fry Time!!! We are planning to have 7 Fish Fries this year: March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11 and 18 from 4:30—6:30 p.m. Much help is needed to make them successful. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary weekly for helpers. There is also a dessert sign up sheet. We average 250 to 300 dinners per night. That's a lot of dessert!

Thank you!
Patty DiGiacobbe





CLOSET
COOKER
CUP
FORK
FRIDGE
KITCHEN
KNIFE
LADLE
LUNCH
OVEN
POT
SPOON
TABLE

C	N	E	H	C	T	I	K
O	F	O	R	K	B	H	N
O	E	R	V	R	T	C	I
K	L	E	I	E	A	N	F
E	D	P	S	D	N	U	E
R	A	O	K	F	G	L	A
S	L	T	A	B	L	E	T
C	U	P	N	O	O	P	S

S	P	O	O	N	P	U	P
T	E	L	A	S	T	S	
V	E	L	K	F	A	R	
E	N	S	B	N	S	E	
N	E	A	T	E	K	E	
I	C	R	V	R	S	O	
N	H	B	K	R	O	O	
K	N	E	H	C	T	I	

SOLUTION: BREAKFAST

MYSTERIOUS WORD: _____



Cookbooks Are Still Available \$15.00 each

They make wonderful gifts!



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.

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

St. Patrick's Day

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</p> <p>March 9th</p>				<p>1</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg--NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>2</p> <p>10A-Worship</p> <p>CELEBRATION BAND</p> <p> Barbara Layfield</p>	<p>3</p> <p></p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6P (NH)</p> <p>6P—Trustees</p> <p> Barb Turvey 7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>12 Noon Service with light lunch 7P Service</p> <p> Mari-Lee Yeropoli</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6-8P Girl Scouts (NH)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fish Fry (SH) 4:30-6:30P</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>9 10A Worship</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time NOISY COIN OFFERING</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7P Elders</p> <p> Mary Stiver</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>♥ John & Barbara Layfield</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14 Fish Fry (SH) 4:30-6:30P</p> <p>3-5 P Client Choice Food Pantry</p> <p>♥ Chuck & Dawn Adgate</p>	<p>15</p> <p> Suzanne Baker  Erica Brown  Keith Walker</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10A-Worship</p> <p> Alan Purdum</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30P Finance 7P Official Board</p> <p></p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>18</p> <p> Brian Guy</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p> <p> Eli Becker</p>	<p>20</p> <p> Tom Caldron  Anna Marie Ottney</p> <p><i>March Newsletter Articles Due</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Fish Fry (SH) 4:30-6:30P</p>	<p>22</p> <p></p> <p>FFM 11A—12:30P</p> <p> John DiGiacobbe  Steve Lewis</p> <p>1P—NA Mtg-NH 6P—AA Mtg-NH</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10A-Worship</p> <p> Bob Tucker</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>1 P Women's Group</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Fish Fry (SH) 4:30-6:30P</p> <p>♥ Joe & Lorada Bezilla</p>	<p>29</p> 
<p>30</p> <p>10A-Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7P Boy Scouts-NH</p>					

HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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Fax: 330-856-4496



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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
Mar. 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

Alan Purdum, Chairman of the Congregation

Sarah Sanders, Vice-Chairman of the Congregation