

# The Community Messenger May 2026



## Erica Extemporaneous



I have been thinking about the things we commit to memory. As small children, we learn important details like our address and phone number. I suppose memorizing phone numbers is likely a lost art. Couldn't prove it by me – I can still rattle off my grandparent's number, and quite possibly that of my childhood best friend as well.

Most of us learned the Pledge of Allegiance long before we had any real understanding of, or appreciation for, what exactly those words mean, or why they matter. You might say the same for the Preamble of the Constitution, which an entire generation remembers thanks to segments of School House Rock nestled among our Saturday morning cartoons. School House Rock also offered an assist with the multiplication tables. "Three is a magic number," after all.

In tenth grade English class, I had to memorize the opening paragraph of Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." If you put a trombone in my hands, I'm fairly confident I could regale you with my high school fight song – "Across the Field," if you're curious. There is also an inordinate amount of bandwidth devoted to Eighties music and show tunes, not necessarily in that order.

For those of us who claim the Christian faith, The Lord's Prayer and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm are embedded in our minds, and hopefully in our hearts as well. The Words of Institution which guide us as we celebrate together the Lord's Supper might be added to the mix as well.

Some things are memorized as a matter of convenience, or even necessity. It's not practical to use a safety pin to affix a tag to our lapel, "If found, please return to..." That is, unless you just so happen to be a stuffed bear dressed in a blue overcoat.

Some things are memorized because someone told us we needed to memorize them. It requires a high degree of concentration and attention to become so familiar with pieces of prose or a pattern of numbers or musical notes that it becomes second nature. I would imagine it also depends upon the complex inner workings of our brains.

Some things are memorized because they bring us joy. Sports statistics... technical specifications of classic cars... recipes passed down from generation to generation... those song lyrics I mentioned earlier.

By and large, those things we commit to memory are important. They mean something to us. They speak to who we are and what we value. They can be brought to mind when we most need them, with relative ease.

When the very ground beneath our feet is shifting... When we are no longer sure of things we once held secure... When feelings of overwhelming fear and anger and sadness all but paralyze us... We draw on those things that we know to be true, that are almost muscle memory. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...” Amen.



Take good care,

*Erica*



The Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) invites YOU to Dive into Tomorrow at Camp Christian in Marysville OH on Saturday, May 16, 2026.  
 Open House & Pool Construction Blessing  
 1:00–5:30 PM  
 Dinner & Talent Show  
 5:30–8:00 PM (RSVP required)

This is an opportunity to all ages to explore the campgrounds, reconnect with camp friends, and bless the next chapter of camp ministry—especially the exciting progress toward our new pool, being made possible through the generous support of those who have given to the "If Not Now, When? If Not You, Who?" financial campaign.

RSVP is required by May 7th. Contact Erica for information regarding how to RSVP.

## Greetings from Gabby!

Every year when it's time for the GAB Sale, I remember the very first time I came to Howland Community Church. The children who played with me were all grown up, and it wasn't a lot of fun being stuck in a box in the attic. Someone brought my friends and I to the sale, along with our circus train. Before I knew what was happening, someone took the others and left me behind. I suppose I do look a little bit worn out. It's just that I was loved a whole lot! Pastor Erica didn't want me to be all alone. She spent fifty cents and brought me to her office. She fixed a nice little home for me, right on her desk. Not too long ago, somebody left John Howland in the John Howland kitchen. Erica thought I might enjoy the company. Howland Community Church is a great place to make friends... But you already know that, don't you?



Your friends~

Gabby and John Howland

(with an assist from Pastor Erica!)



Thank you to everyone that helped with the fish fries this year. Your time, desserts, coming to eat, and/or prayers made for a successful season under the leadership of Jill and Terry Gardlock. We would like to thank Mr. Raptis for ordering the fish and coleslaw for us. We would not be able to be successful without all of you!

Thank you~Patty DiGiacobbe

### Operating Fund Update

	March Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
<b>Income</b>	\$25,266.28	\$75,238.64	\$66,460.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$27,906.60	\$80,953.50	\$67,763.00
<b>Difference</b>	-\$2,640.32	-\$5,714.86	-\$1,303.00

The first quarter of 2026 has seen our pledged income exceed what we had pledged. That is good news! That, along with other income, has put us about 10% ahead of our budget for the first quarter. We have had some unexpected repair expenses so far this year which has put us about 20% over our budgeted expenses. But with your continued support and upcoming fundraisers, we hope to continue to cover those differences. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Diane Andrews.

~Patty DiGiacobbe

## Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – May 2026

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
May 3	Dawn Adgate	Becky Philbin – Captain	Sanctuary Linda Raphoon
May 10	Sarah Sanders	Linda Raphoon	
May 17	Kathy Purdum	Krystal Moison	JHR Jane Walters
May 24	Barb Layfield	Daniel Moison	
May 31	Katy Kell		

### Lectionary for May 2026

#### May 3, 2026

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

#### May 10, 2026 - Mother's Day

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

#### May 17, 2026

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

#### May 24, 2026- Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21  
Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

#### May 31, 2026

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20



Trumbull Mobile Meals is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to homebound adults in the county. Meal delivery takes 1 to 1 1/2 hours to complete. Schedules are available for monthly, bi-weekly, weekly, or daily delivery. If you would like to become a volunteer, please call 330-394-2538 ext. 101, apply online, or email our Volunteer Coordinator at [tmmvolunteer@aol.com](mailto:tmmvolunteer@aol.com). Check out their website, <https://trumbullmobilemeals.org/volunteer>, for this and other volunteer opportunities.



## CLIENT CHOICE

## FOOD PANTRY



We had 50 families come in to pick up food in April, several of them were new groups with small children. Our May food pantry will be held on Friday, the 15th between the usual hours of 3-5 pm. We do plan to have a Second Harvest food delivery truck come in with a larger order on Thursday, the 14th, so please watch for the exact time for the unloading and stocking of shelves. And kudos to the Hayco Co. who donated several small tricycles again this year. We were able to give away the last of them to 4 families during the April food pantry, and the children rode them out the door!

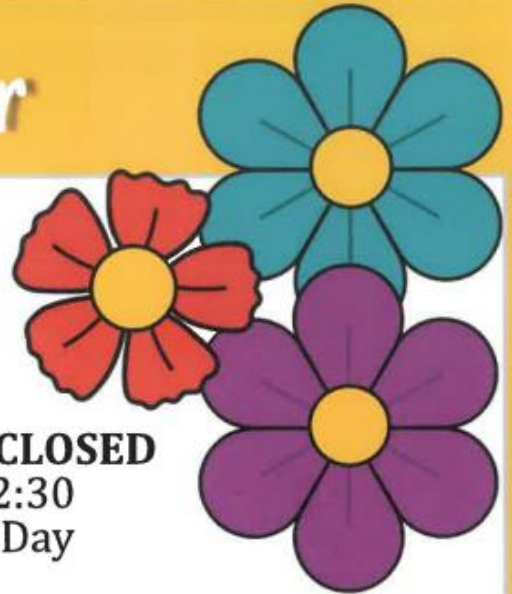
~Linda Hitmar

## HCC LEARNING CENTER – MAY NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS!

### May Newsletter

#### SPECIAL DATES

- **May 1-2** ~ HCC G.A.B Sale
- **May 4-8** ~ Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 5** ~ **CLOSED** for Election Day
- **May 6** ~ Howland Local Schools will be **CLOSED**
- **May 8** ~ Mother's Brunch from 11:00-12:30
- **May 25** ~ Center **CLOSED** for Memorial Day
- **June 5** ~ Pre-K Graduation @ 10:00am
  - We will be putting out a rehearsal schedule for those that may not be in attendance at the end of May / first week of June.



## MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS

The Outreach Committee is hoping to offer a small gift of toiletry items to the mothers who will be coming to our May 15<sup>th</sup> food pantry. We are asking for donations of full-size products of shampoo, bath/shower gel, bubble bath, and lotion. We will only have a few Sundays to bring in these items...May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>, and will need to receive all products for packaging before the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. You may place the items in the basket near the front door, or leave them in the church office. Thank you in advance for any contributions!

~Linda Hitmar

# Happy Mothers Day



## APPRECIATION

BEAUTIFUL  
BREAKFAST  
CANDY  
CHARMING  
COMFORT  
DEVOTED  
FLOWERS  
FORGIVING  
GIFTS

GUIDANCE  
HUGS  
JEWELRY  
JOY  
KISSES  
LAUGHTER  
LOVE  
MATERNAL

MOM  
MOTHER  
NURTURE  
PERFUME  
PROTECTIVE  
SHARE  
TELEPHONE  
TENDER

## THE BEST

WARM  
WISE

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

## Herman and Jane Crum Scholarship Application Now Available

Howland Community Church members and children of church members are eligible to submit an application. Eligible applicants must:

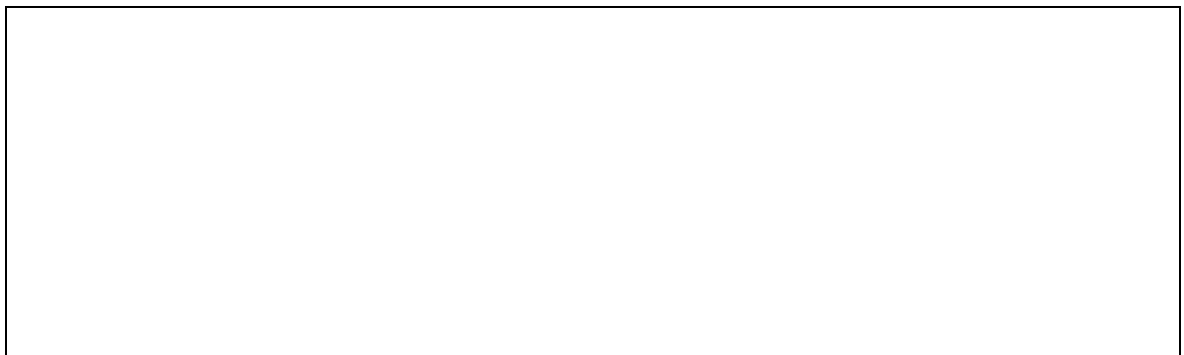
- be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at an institution of higher learning beyond high school (includes vocational schools)
- be a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio
- submit a completed application via email to [HCCCED@gmail.com](mailto:HCCCED@gmail.com) by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**To receive a copy of the Crum Scholarship application, please e-mail [HCCCED@gmail.com](mailto:HCCCED@gmail.com)** and one will be provided to you. 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!

~Alan Purdum

# May 2026 - HCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>GAB Sale</b>  <b>9 am – 1 pm</b> </div>	2
3 10 AM Worship	4 Red Cross Blood Drive 12 - 6 PM  6 PM Trustees 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	5 ELECTION DAY 	6 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	7  7 PM Game Night (JHR)  6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	8	9   1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
10 10 AM Worship- Noisy Coin Offering 	11  6 PM O & A 7 PM Elders 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	12	13 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	14	15 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry	16   1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
17 10 AM Worship	18 6:30 PM Finance 7 PM Official Board 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	19	20 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	21  7 PM Game Night (JHR)  6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	22	23   1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
24 10 AM Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED  7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	26	27 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	28	29	30 11 AM - 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH)  1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
31 10 AM Worship						



**HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 198 Niles Cortland Rd. S.E.  
 Warren, Ohio 44484



Non-Profit 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  
 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*