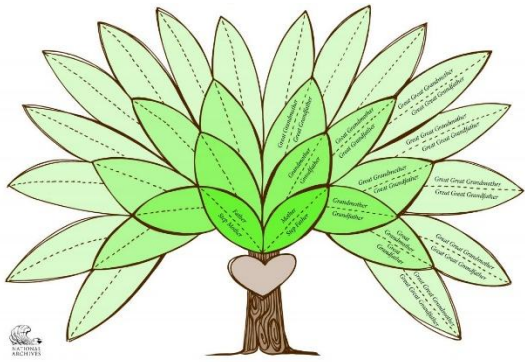


The Community Messenger-August 2025

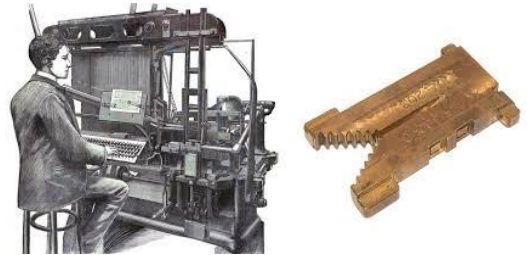


Erica Extemporaneous

Several years ago, a “long lost” second cousin contacted me on one of those family history websites. (In the interest of full disclosure, I just spent perhaps too much time googling the proper nomenclature of cousins, and I’m still not convinced I have it right!) We corresponded a bit here and there, but that was all. Then, at the beginning of the summer, Robin sent a text letting me know that she and her husband would be in Warren one day in July. When I offered to gather local relatives and then show Robin around, she was thrilled. She didn’t realize there were still Redmond relations in the area.

We met for breakfast, along with my mom’s first cousin and his wife, and shared stories and photos, not to mention lots of laughter and a few tears. We did a family tour of Warren, along with more stories and memories. Robin’s Uncle Marshall worked at the Sanitary Dairy one summer. He loved to walk the two blocks to my grandparent’s house for a quick lunch or dinner. Apparently, he was a fan of Gramma’s Navy Bean soup. Mom has fond memories of riding in her grandma’s car with Marshall at the wheel, careening down Tod Avenue.

Robin’s grandpa, my Great Uncle “Baldy,” taught me how to wink... an oddly specific tidbit since that was probably the only time I ever saw him... they lived all the way in California. Robin had made arrangements to meet with someone at the Tribune Chronicle, where our great grandpa once worked as a typesetter. She was able to see one of the original linotype printing machines, and got matrices, I believe they are called, for both of us with the letter “Q,” for Quincy. We met up later for dinner, closing down the restaurant. As an only child, I often feel as though my family is very small. Our all too brief visit enlarged a sense of connection for me and inspired me to try to cultivate more of a relationship with more local cousins.



Family ties can be fascinating. We are connected by strands of DNA quite literally on a cellular level. But we are also held together with hopes and dreams and memories that started long before we were but a twinkle in our parents’ eyes. We share ancestors and history that have shaped who we are, and who we are becoming.

We also fashion families for ourselves – dear friends with whom we share unshakable bonds. Colleagues and classmates, neighbors, happenstance acquaintances who miraculously become a part of the fabric of our being.

And, of course, I would hope you count your church family among this mix. We share a collective history as well, each of us with important insights to offer. We have been shaped by our experience of this place, Howland Community Church. Sometimes folks come and go. Sometimes they come back again. Babies are born. Folks move into the neighborhood. People discover we are the church home they have been looking for all along. The cloud of witnesses surrounding us increases, as death claims those we love. What a blessing, to be known, named, and claimed. God willing, our story grows every day, as we welcome one another and share not only our stories, but our hopes and dreams for what could be. Dream with me!

Take good care,

Erica

Greetings from Gabby!

I have a new friend. His name is John Howland, because that is where I discovered him. He was all by himself in the John Howland Room Kitchen. (If John Howland should happen to belong to you, let Pastor Erica know...) I invited him to come to Pastor Erica's office. It is impossible to be lonely there! John Howland is having fun meeting all the stuffed animals in the office, and looking at all of the books. So many books! We are both looking forward to seeing you at the Ice Cream Social. Do you have a friend you could invite? We would love to meet them, too!



Your friends,
Gabby and John Howland



News from the Official Board

The board has established the position of Office Coordinator which replaces the positions of Administrative Assistant, Office Assistant, and Financial Manager. Diane Andrews has been hired to fill this position. **Updated office hours are 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.** Phone messages received after 1:00 PM will be answered the next business day. In an emergency, please call Rev. Erica Brown directly.

Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – August

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
August 3	Alan Purdum	Barry Dunaway -Captain	Sanctuary Diane Hughes
August 10	Kathy Purdum	Leanna Dunaway	JHR
August 17	Tom Hitmar	Gary Arblaster	Susanne Shaulis & Naomi Foster
August 24	Katy Kell	Preston Thigpen	
August 31	Gretchen Hrusovsky	Bryson Thigpen	



Dear Howland Community Church Family,

Thank you so much for the love offering you sent to me. That was most generous of you! Your kindness and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated! I'm keeping you in my prayers as I begin this new chapter in my life.

*Sincerely,
Linda Mikula*



OPERATION SHOELEATHER



The month of August reminds us of the end of summer and thoughts of returning to school. During the 5 Sundays of August, we will be passing around our shoeboxes so that you may add your donations towards purchasing school shoes for families with children who need a little assistance in purchasing that all important pair of back-to-school shoes. As in the past, we plan to purchase \$25 gift certificates from Shoe Carnival, and donate these to the Salvation Army as that organization acts as a clearing house in our community for families in need. Thank you in advance for your support.

Linda Hitmar

Operating Fund

	June Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$18,955.69	\$142,177.34	\$135,974.00
Expenses	\$19,587.64	\$140,498.12	\$136,758.00
Difference	-\$631.95	\$1,679.22	-\$784.00

Mark Your Calendars!

On **Sunday, September 7th** the HCC Learning Center will join us as we celebrate Smokey's Autumn Festival and Grandparents Day! This year the after-service meal and game time will be carnival themed!

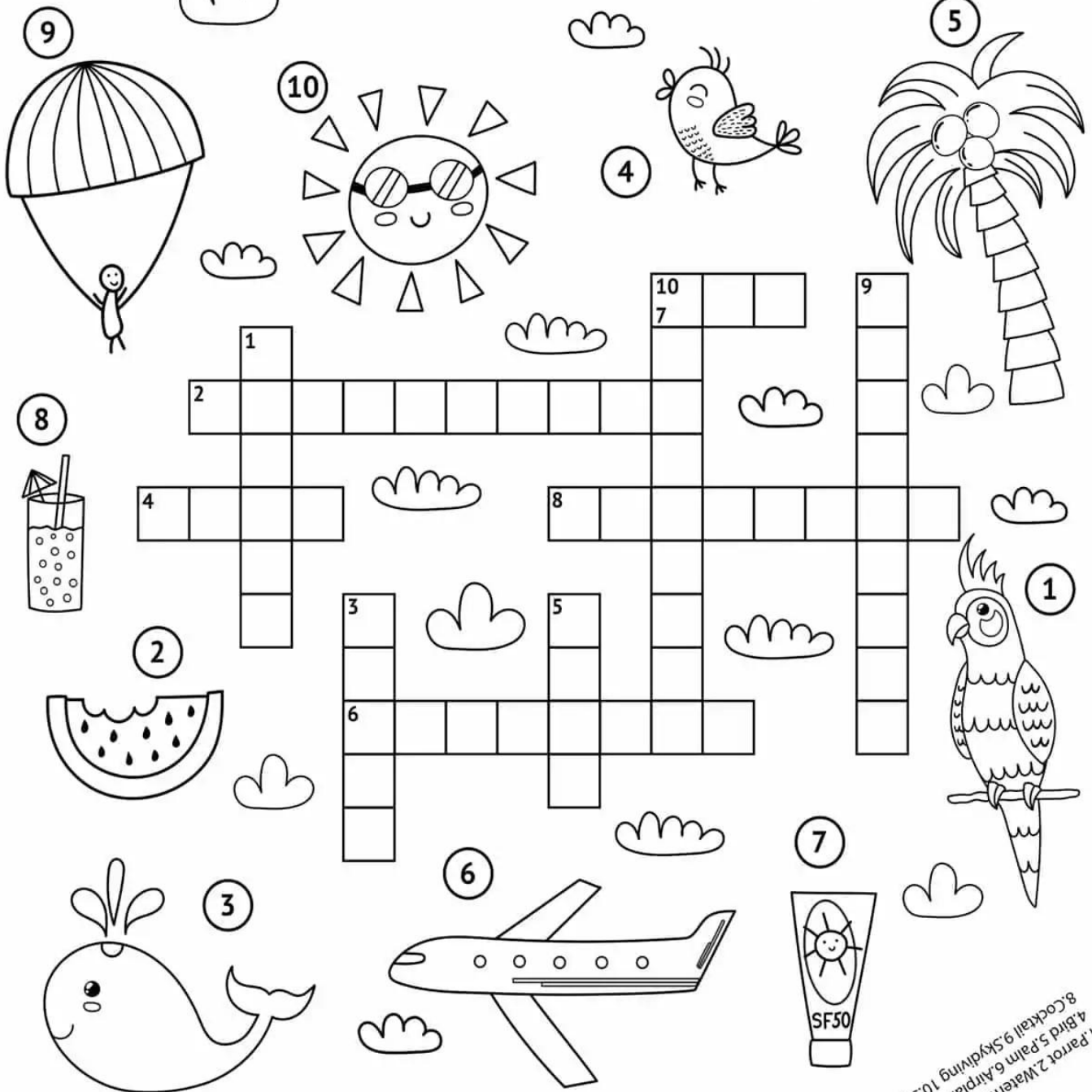
Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a covered dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you~Dawn Adgate





SUMMER GAME



Name: _____

1. Parrot 2. Watermelon 3. Whale
4. Bird 5. Palm 6. Airplane 7. Sunscreen
8. Cocktail 9. Skydiving 10. Sun

Lectionary for August

August 3, 2025

Hosea 11:1-11

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

Psalms 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

August 10, 2025

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23

Psalms 33:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

August 17, 2025

Isaiah 5:1-7

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Psalms 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

August 24, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalms 71:1-6

Psalms 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

August 31, 2025

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Sirach 10:12-18

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

AUGUST CLIENT CHOICE

FOOD PANTRY

Friday, August 15th is set for our next food pantry. If you have some available time between 3-5 pm, we would appreciate your assistance in giving out food to our clients, and /or assisting them with carrying out their groceries to their vehicles. We had a large food truck delivery in July, and therefore will only be bringing in a small amount of additional food to be stocked and shelved in August. Come if you can....last pantry before school starts!

Linda Hitmar

P.S. - WE ARE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF EMPTY EGG CARTONS! You may place them in the basket near the office entrance. Many thanks!



Card/Game Club to meet Aug. 14

There is still time to join in the fun! The Card/Game Club will be meeting on **Thursday, August 14 at 7pm in the John Howland Room** for another evening of cards, games, and dessert! No prior registration necessary! All are welcome! Come share in the fun!



Howland Community Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
3 10 AM Worship	4 6 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	5	6 1 PM Women's Group (JHR) ICE CREAM SOCIAL 6-7:30pm SOUTH HALL	7	8	9 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
10 10 AM Worship Noisy Coins Offering	11 7 PM Elders 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	12	13 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	14 7 PM Card Club (JHR) 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	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	22 Sept. Newsletter Articles De	23 1 PM NA (NH) 6 PM AA (NH)
24 10 AM Worship	25 7 PM Boy Scouts (NH)	26	27 1 PM Women's Group (JHR)	28 6-8 PM Girl Scouts (NH)	29	30 11 AM – 12:30 PM Free Fellowship Meal (SH)
31 10 AM Worship Fifth Sunday Offering for Missions						

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dick Abruzzi	2	Jim Rollison	18	Ron Tarary	26
Jean Holinbaugh	12	Susanne Shaulis	19	Kate Montgomery	30
Alan & Kathy Purdum	14	Lori Stull	19	Haley Vandegrift	31
Melissa Bickerstaff	16	Carol Vencel	21		
Lew Christy	17	Karen Walters	21		
Tom & Linda Hitmar	17	Tom Hitmar	22		
Marilyn Lisby	18	Jim Harter	24		



HOWLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
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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

