

The Community Messenger October 2026

Erica Extemporaneous

Hands folded, fingers laced inside, the familiar verse begins: “This is the church.” At this point, index fingers are untucked and fingertips are pressed together: “This is the steeple.” Thumbs, side by side, pull apart: “Open the doors.” Fingers wiggle free: “See all the people.”

I dare say this rhyme just might unlock a core memory for many of us... whether we remember sharing it with children or grandchildren or learning it as little ones ourselves. It is simple, but at the same time of substance. Beautiful churches are little more than beautiful buildings unless they are filled with people ready and willing to be about the business of building God’s kingdom, serving God’s people.

Many of us caught up in the business of church are wringing our hands rather than indulging in finger play. Where are all the people? Where are all the young people? These are certainly questions worthy of consideration, perhaps with a little less consternation.

Several weeks ago, I heard an unfamiliar song that caught my attention, “My Best Guess,” by Lucy Dacus. The lyrics to the first part of the bridge really struck a chord: “Here is the church. Here is the steeple. You were looking for saints. But you found only people.” Indeed. People. Ordinary, extraordinary, curious, courageous, fascinating, flawed, broken, blessed people.

Hebrews 12.1 reminds us “we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...” We can certainly name those folks who have shaped our lives, who have guided our steps. If we are fortunate, we return the favor, setting the tone for others.

Take good care, *Erica*



Greetings from Gabby!

John Howland and I are excited! One of the Boy Scouts in Troop 28, that meets here at HCC, is working on his Eagle Scout project. Michael Gianoutsos is installing solar panels on the pavilion, along with lights. He also refinished the picnic tables. I think he is almost finished. What a wonderful thing to do for the church! Maybe we can use the pavilion for Trunk or Treat this year!



Your friends~
Gabby and John Howland



Interested in
participating in Trunk
or Treat?

You are welcome to
decorate your trunk...

...or donate nut-free
candy!

Please let the church
office know how you'd
like to help!

Thanks in advance,
you BOO-tiful people,
for making this event
SPOOK-tacular!



OCTOBER FOOD PANTRY



First of all, I want to give a big **Thank You** to our faithful volunteers for giving of their time and physical effort to the food pantry! Secondly, another round of thanks to Gary Lehman of the Howland Rotary and the Howland Giant Eagle! Through the collaboration of these two organizations, Giant Eagle will be donating 20 dozen eggs monthly to our food pantry.

Our October pantry is scheduled for Friday the 16th, between 3-5 pm. On Thursday morning, the 15th, we will be bringing in a food order from Second Harvest, and unloading and stocking and the shelves. The exact time to be announced later.

And, as a reminder, we will be happy to continue to accept plastic grocery bags!

~Thank you so very much, Linda Hitmar

Helping Hands Craft Show

Saturday, November 14th

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

It's a day full of creativity, community, and fun, all while supporting the **mission work of our church.**



What to look forward to:

-  Unique vendors (spots still available!)
-  A full kitchen open for tasty food
-  A delicious bake sale
-  Exciting raffle prizes

And here's where **YOU** come in: we'll need volunteers to help make this event a huge success! Keep an eye out for the **sign-up sheet on Sundays**, and jump in where you can.



Want to reserve a vendor spot or sign up early to volunteer? Contact **Patty DiGiacobbe at 330-448-1700.** Come be part of the fun!

Lectionary for October 2026

October 4, 2026

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11, 2026

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 06:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-14
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18, 2026

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, 2026

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Diaconate and Elders' Schedules – October 2026

Date	Elder	Diaconate Sanctuary (All Month)	Diaconate Kitchen (All Month)
October 4	Dawn Adgate	Haylee Adgate – Captain	Sanctuary Dawn Adgate
October 11	Sarah Sanders	Emma Adgate	
October 18	Kathy Purdum	Brandy Pauline	JHR Dawn Adgate
October 25	Barb Layfield	John Layfield	

Stewardship Season

Stewardship is about more than finances. It is about sharing **our time, talents, and treasures** so that, together, we may faithfully share what we have been given and continue to be a blessing to others.

In the coming weeks, we invite you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to contribute in the year ahead. Every commitment helps strengthen our church family and enables us to continue serving our neighbors and our community.

Let us enter this season with **hope, gratitude, and trust**, remembering that God provides through the generosity, faithfulness, and love of His people. ~Diane Andrews



Operating Fund Update

	August Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
Income	\$20,532.10	\$175,152.27	\$177,278.00
Expenses	\$20,010.57	\$181,535.57	\$179,484.00
Difference	\$521.53	-\$6383.30	-\$2,206.00





Look Who's Cookin'!



Thank you to all the volunteers that make our spaghetti dinners possible! And to our guests, who make it a success! Remember, we will be serving every Thursday in October!

From the Official Board:

Please remain in the Sanctuary following worship on Sunday, October 4th. There will be a congregational meeting to vote on the following issues:

1. A motion to approve out-of-budget expenses for bat removal.
2. A motion to approve the Open and Affirming Welcoming Statement; thereby becoming an Open and Affirming congregation.

All attendees are welcome to vote. Hope to see you there!

~Alan Purdum

October 2026 - HCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 – 6:30 pm 6-8 pm Girl Scouts (NH)	2	3 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
4 10 am Worship Congregational Meeting after worship	5 6 pm Trustees 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	6	7 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	8 Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 – 6:30 pm 7 pm Game Night(JHR)	9	10 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
11 10 am Worship -Noisy Coin Blessing of the Animals – 3 pm in the Pavillion	12 6 pm O & A 7 pm Elders 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	13	14 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	15 Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 – 6:30 pm 6-8 pm Girl Scouts (NH)	16 3-5 PM Client Choice Food Pantry	17 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
18 10 am Worship	19 6:30 pm Finance 7 pm Official Board 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	20	21 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	22 Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 – 6:30 pm 7 pm Game Night(JHR)	23 Trunk or Treat 6 – 7:30 pm	24 11 am – 12:30 pm Free Fellowship Meal (SH) 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH)
25 10 am Worship	26 7 pm Boy Scouts (NH)	27	28 1 pm Women's Group (JHR)	29 Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 – 6:30 pm	30	31 1 pm NA (NH) 6 pm AA (NH) 

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

October

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT No. 163
 Youngstown, OH

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
 HOWLANDCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

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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

