

PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy catching up with current events and all the happenings Within our Church and Church Families!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service Hour.....10:00 a.m.

A quiet room is available for families with small children, which is located in the back of the church.

Visit us on the Web: <http://www.PayneAvenue.org/>

[Our web site is now up and running, be sure to look it over!](#)
[All upcoming Events are in the Newsletter which is always posted on the Website!](#)

E-Mail Address:

payneavechurch@gmail.com

WiFi is available in the church building and on the grounds; Password Peace2All

Find PACC Online

Like and share our

Church Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/payneavenuechurch

or

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1B8oXaPjG7/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Hope Douglas Harle-Mould, Interim Minister
Email Address: hopeharlemould@gmail.com
Home 716-868-5533

Kim Poffora
Music Director
kmpoffora@gmail.com
payneavechurch@gmail.com

Marcy DiPasquale
Secretary
Office: 716 – 260 – 1217
payneavechurch@gmail.com



“ANNOUNCEMENTS”

There will be an Elder’s Meeting on Tuesday, April 1st at 6:45 pm.

A very special Thank you to the Ortel’s for their offering of a wonderful luncheon that followed the Corporate Meeting. Thank you both it was very nice.



Don’t forget...Daylight Savings begins on Sunday, March 9th so be sure to change your clocks one hour forward before retiring for the evening on Saturday!

Deaconess Schedule

March (5 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – looking for volunteers

Please see Sandy Lange if you are able to assist with Communion

Elders at the Table

March 2	Bread – Ken Ozzimo	Cup – Brett Kofod
March 9	Bread – Becky Wilson	Cup – Bill Wolcott
March 16	Bread – Ross Benton	Cup – Leah Benton
March 23	Bread – Ross Benton	Cup – Barb Wokersien
March 30	Bread – Becky Wilson	Cup – Leah Benton

The Schoolgirl of Sierra Leone by Rev. Hope Harle-Mould
from Pastor Hope's sermon, November 2024, as background for a new
Outreach & Mission offering during Lent, March 2025
(see Nancy Golba's article)



There she was in her blue school uniform, ready to head off to school, eager to learn in the light of God's new day—Kamar Karim. Kamar was ten years old when I met her in Kenema, in the Kono District, of Sierra Leone, West Africa. Kamar was the niece of Phebian Abdulai, the mother of the refugee family whom our church in Buffalo, New York, had resettled from Sierra Leone six years earlier. Since then, Phebian had become a Registered Nurse, and—though now an American citizen—felt called to return to her homeland someday to offer medical care. As Phebian's pastor, I traveled to Sierra Leone ahead of her to meet her relatives and preach in her old church, to learn and serve in any way I could (made possible by a grant I had won for my sabbatical).

The night before, I had watched Kamar and other kids studying intently, writing in workbooks with silent resolve, huddled around one of the few lights powered by their home's gas generator, run for two hours each night, as the electricity was still down, years after the civil war. A day later, I noticed a whole line of blue-uniformed children heading off to school, balancing long bundles of branches on their heads as they walked—gifts for the teachers, I was told, to supplement the teachers' low pay with firewood for their home kitchens.

In another town I stayed next to an elementary school, and at dismissal dozens of curious kids came over, and despite the language barrier—through gestures, laughter, and a soccer-ball gift—we shared friendship's moment. In a different town children surrounded me as I star-gazed through binoculars, and they told me the constellations they knew. In another town, near the ruins of bombed-out houses, I met a 6th grade boy who loved math and wanted to be a chemical engineer, but there was no 6th grade this year, for there was no teacher.

But it was young Kamar who most touched my heart—so hopeful, so eager to go out and learn. Kamar's family had sacrificed to give her the gift of education, unlike so many families who were unable to pay the \$50 for uniform, tuition, books, and supplies: just \$4.16 per month, an amount I could toss away so unthinkingly—candy at a movie, a chance to win goldfish at the fair!

Six years later, Phebian told me news that broke my heart wide open. Kamar, now in high school, had suddenly died, falling through the dilapidated floorboards of the town latrine, impaled through the thigh. In America she wouldn't have died, but in Kenema? No antibiotics, no sterile bandages, no doctor on call, and the only area hospital—no surgical equipment and no surgeon.

Many Sierra Leonean families pray even now for their Kamars, sick or injured or too poor for school, and they pray that God will send a miracle. They have no idea how God could reach them, how God could answer their cries. But I know. God's answer is on the way. And very soon. For as I write this, Phebian, is preparing to go and give medical care in Kono for the next eight months, as she continues to build a new community medical clinic there—funded by Jericho Road and the good people of Buffalo. And the people of Kenema and area villages will hear that someone has come. And they will walk long distances to see her. And in Phebian's face, they will see God's face, and in her touch, feel Christ's touch. But as these families come in hope of medical help, they will not know that Phebian will also have \$50 from me, and \$50 from many church members, so whenever she meets a girl in great need of God's blessings, she can whisper to her parents: *"Your daughter's education has just been paid for, for the next year of her life."*

And from that moment on, that family's life will change. And one day those parents will see their little girl in her bright blue uniform preparing to go to school. They will see her hold her books to her heart, balance a stick-bundle on her head, and head off down the road—into the new light of God's new day.

OUTREACH & MISSION *by Nancy Golba*

As I recently explained to Pastor Hope, I've been asking God's guidance about additional ways PACC can help care for His people. This week I read the newsletter of Jericho Road Community Health Center (Buffalo) which features Phebian Abdulai's medical ministry in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

You may remember Pastor Hope telling us about Phebian, who fled Sierra Leone in 1998 to escape the civil war violence. After three years in a UN refugee camp, her family was sponsored by Pastor Hope's former parish to come to America for resettlement.

Phebian soon put her nursing skills to work at the Jericho Road clinic in Buffalo. But then in 2009 she felt called to return to Sierra Leone to care for people who live on just a few dollars a day. With the support of Jericho Road, Phebian leads a health center that has been providing medical care and other services since 2015.

"Mama Phebian" will visit PACC later this year to share her experiences while providing compassionate care for God's people in Sierra Leone. Wouldn't it be great to support her work **before** she arrives?

I invite you to join me during the Lenten Sundays in March in contributing to this vital ministry that brings hope and healing to so many in need. Please designate your donation as "Phebian" and it will become part of a wonderful Easter gift for her and all those she serves.

Continued Prayers are being requested for the following:



Prayer Requests

Kim Potfora, Bill Wolcott's sister Barbara, Deborah Evans, Bob and Becky Wilson, Burton Merrian and Devon Compton, nephew of Paul White and Nancy Mueller, Ken Miller, Brian's father-in-Law, Billy Wilson a nephew, Jan Tooke and her Sister-in-law Ronni, Diane Misner (Bob Link's daughter) Harry and Lois Madrid (requested by Jan Tooke) Cynthia Pullman, Madeline Mock, Karen Smith and Vince Perfetto (Friends of Marcy's) Autum Lee, Rev. Dr. Arthur Davis, Shirley Jayne, Sue and Ross Benton, Leah Benton and daughter Ruth, Bob Link's Daughter Shelly and Grandson William and Son-in-law David Misner, Karen Lawrence and her daughter Rhonda and her friend Sharon Weiss.

***There will be copies of this list printed and located on the Deacons tables. Please be sure to take one home so you continue to keep them in your prayers. *Please note, after a 6 week period names will be removed unless a special request is received in the office. Thank you.**

To be added to the Prayer Chain call Jan Tooke 693-2848 (before 9pm).



RECYCLE

For many who do not know or may have forgotten...here at PACC we accept clean returnable drink bottles and cans that are taken to the redemption center and the money received is part of our fundraising. Please consider donating your returnables and place them in the large bins at the entrances of the church! Thank you!

"IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT"

If anyone needs to be placed on the Communion to Shut-Ins list please be sure to contact Becky Wilson at 998-9052.



Thinking of You!

Please remember our members that are unable to be in their homes any longer....they would love to hear from you...send a card it will help them knowing we care! Thank you!

Cynthia D. Pullman,
Comfort Care @ Our Lady of Peace Skilled Nursing
5285 Lewiston Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
Room 254
(daughter of the DiBernardo's)

Susan Benton
c/o Elderwood Room 214D
2850 Grand Island Blvd.
Grand Island, NY 14072

Also, some members who are not able to attend weekly due to health and weather issues, a card would be a wonderful reminder that they are being remembered...Jan Tooke, Karen Lawrence and Janet Holt – all addresses are in our Church Directory.

Let's Celebrate!

March Birthdays

1	Pastor Hope	19	Susan Hewitt
16	Shelley Wilson	28	Everly Shamrock

April Birthdays

9	David Evans	25	Michael Rogan
9	Marcia Evans	26	Karen Lawrence
24	Linda Ortel	29	Mason Paul Lewis

April Anniversaries

Don and Nancy Golba April 21st



***I would like to update the birthdays and anniversary dates so please be sure I have this information for all members of your family so they can be included each month.**



COFFEE HOUR

COFFEE HOUR Coffee is available every Sunday morning at 9:15am. On the first Sunday of each month, the coffee hour includes sweet treats! Also, introducing an additional Coffee Hour and Fellowship Sunday on the first and third Sunday of the month following the Worship Service.



The new directories have been issued, if you have not gotten one, please check on the tables where the signup sheets are located.

Also, please add to your directory the following additions:

DZIK, Mary, Ashley and William
75 Raintree Island Apt. #5
Tonawanda, NY 14150
716-261-7468

Mark "Mitch" Valente
33 Cherry Laurel Lane
Amherst, NY 14228
716-253-0435
Email: wordpeace8@live.com

New Substitute Music Director
Sam Fesmire
2135 Bedell Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
716-423-3458

WHY DO WE ASK EVERYONE TO SIGN IN EVERY WEEK?

This started due to COVID as a health precaution, in case someone developed COVID during the week and was in contact with other members, so we can let everyone know if they were not feeling well they should be careful. Well thankfully for the most part COVID is no longer the threat it was...but we will still use this if it should happen.

But another important reason we use this form is to keep track of our members. If we notice someone has been missing it allows the Minister or an Elder to contact that person. They may be ill and in need of pastoral care or may have other issues. We do not want them to feel alone and that no one even notices they are missing. So please, we know it seems unnecessary to some, but it may end up being very important to others! Thank you all for understanding.

Welcome to Sam Fesmire as he will be our new Substitute Music Director for March and April

Sam Fesmire is an experienced actor, animator, and musician currently living in WNY. He has performed in shows with Shea's 710, Irish Classical, the Lockport Palace Theater, and more. He is a graduated member of the Matt's Music Vocal Performance team and trains voice under Zach Carr. He graduated from Daemen University in 2023 with his BFA in Animation and works as a freelance illustrator. So please be sure to welcome him and make him aware of your musical talents!

We celebrated Kim Poffora last Sunday as we had to say good-bye. We wish her a happy and healthy future and the very best in all her future endeavors!



Payne Avenue Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)
North Tonawanda, New York*

To Our Sister and Friend

Kim Potfora

A Certificate of Appreciation

*In recognition of your long and dedicated service
To Payne Avenue Christian Church
as*

Music Director

Your skill and expertise in adding such beautiful music to our services as our Vocal Choir Director, Bell Choir Director and Soloist Guide and accompanist has been truly appreciated and loved!

The love for your church has touched the lives of countless people who have been greatly blessed for having had the opportunity to know you and to have worked with you in the life of the church.

*Payne Avenue Christian Church,
its congregation, and the community
are better and wiser because of
God's servant,*

Kim Potfora

*We wish you the very best always and forever!
February 23rd, 2025*

*Pastor Hope Harle-Mould
Interim Pastor*

*James Wokersien
Moderator*

*Rebecca L. Wilson
Elder Chair*



The North Tonawanda Clothes Closet has sent a beautiful thank note to the members of PACC for our donation of clothes, knitted hats, gloves and scarves that we received from the NT Knitters. Their community greatly appreciates all we do! Thank you!



The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry
Sent the following letter...

It is with Sincerest appreciation that we acknowledge your generous contributions to the Food Pantry. As always, your contributions are invaluable in our continuing effort to distribute food and personal care and toy items to the less fortunate in our area.

In December 2024 you donated 2 large bags of food

Total 2024 Contribution was 28 bags/boxes of food/ Cereal and personal care items.

January 2025 your contribution consisted of 13 bags of various groceries and personal care items!

Sincerely,
Bonnie Shaffer
Co-Ordinator
NT Inter-Church Food Pantry

As a special Valentine's Day Surprise
Nancy Golba delivered flowers and a treat to several PACC Members.



Thank you, Nancy

From,
Karen Lawrence and her daughter Rhonda
Janith Tooke
Janet Holt

Recognition Sunday March 30th following
the Worship Service
Join us as we celebrate our dedicated staff for
all they do for the Members of
Payne Avenue Christian Church!
Please plan to attend!

