



# PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 [payneavechurch@gmail.com](mailto:payneavechurch@gmail.com)

## AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

**The next Elders Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

Elders Communion	Bread	Cup
August 3	Becky Wilson	Bill Wolcott
August 10	Becky Wilson	TBA
August 17	TBA	Brett Kofod
August 24	Jim Wokersien	Barb Wokersien
August 31	Ken Ozzimo	TBA

### **Deaconess Schedule**

August (5 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – Nancy Mueller

***FOR A SONG AND A PRAYER,  
YOU CAN RECEIVE  
A PRAYER-SHAWL AND A SONG OF HEALING!***

Our new minister, Pastor Hope Douglas Harle-Mould, invites you to come any Sunday at 10:00 am and let him know who needs healing and hope in their lives, and he will give you a colorful crocheted prayer-shawl blessed by our prayers and songs of caring.

And come hear Sam Fesmire, our new music director, who has the sweetest, most soaring voice, inspiring us on guitar and keyboard with contemporary songs and favorite hymn requests. When Sam sings, you have to believe God's promises!

Also, Pastor Hope plays guitar, but his special gift is writing songs. Come hear him turn the story of someone's questions and struggles into a song of trust and joy: "We are held in holy hands, by a love that will not let us go." And watch for our next Joyful Noise Sunday when our bell choir, vocal choir, soloists, and trumpeters lift us all with sounds to soothe the soul.

Questions? Call the church office, Wednesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 12 noon: 260-1217 (or leave a message and he'll call you back). We are: Payne Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1459 Payne Ave., North Tonawanda, NY. We are held in holy hands.

**\*This thank you note was inserted in each bag that accompanied a BBQ Dinner**

## A Prayer Shawl for Anthony

By Paul White

The [prayer shawl](#) I received from Pastor Hope has gone to such good use and has had such a positive effect for my patient Anthony Stinson. Every day I work I put it on him early in the morning, as the sun comes up, and we say our prayers.

Anthony has not been doing that well for quite a long time and we didn't know what was wrong. He ended up getting worse, and he needed to go to the hospital for over a week. It took the doctors a long time to figure out what was going on and now he is doing much better, more awake and more alert than he has been for the last few years. I believe it was the prayer shawl and our prayers that helped Anthony come through this whole time and to be better now than he has been in a long time.

His mother is so happy.

Praise God and thank you Pastor Hope, and Payne Ave. Christian Church.

We are so happy to be new members here.

## ***Pastor Hope Gets Published in a National Devotional Magazine***

Pastor Hope was honored to have been asked to write fourteen devotionals for the devotional magazine ***These Days***, published by Presbyterian Publishing House for the United Church of Christ, the United Church of Canada, as well as the Presbyterian Church USA. They appeared in the current issue, July – September, specifically for the dates September 7th – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Copies of ***These Days*** are available in the office or at the sanctuary table. Let us share one devotional with you below:

### ***Go Ahead...Scare Them!***

#### ***A devotional by Hope Harle-Mould for These Days magazine***

**Parable of the Dishonest Steward:** "I have decided what to do this, so that when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes" (Luke 16:4).

*In the movie Dave, an ordinary, naïve man who looks strikingly like the sitting President is bamboozled into impersonating the President by the power-hungry White House Chief of Staff.*

*When Dave finally realizes this man's avarice and his threat to our democracy, Dave publicly exposes him. But not before using tricks-of-the-trade to accomplish some good: expanded job creation as well as services for homeless children—projects dear to the First Lady's heart!*

*We may not be crafty politicians, but we have one deployable lever of power: volunteer time. We can unleash our gift of time, attention and helping-hand caring into our community to make a difference for forgotten children of God.*

*Power-wielders will try to keep blindfolding you to your true potency to catalyze change. Why? Because they're threatened by your goodness! So go ahead. Scare them!*

*Give! Serve! Care! Dare! ... in the "name" of—meaning "in the power of"—Christ, who incarnated for us **Thy** kingdom come, **Thy** will be done.*

**God, help us overcome darkness with humor, audacity, and instruments of light. Amen.**

## Continued Prayers are being requested for the following:



Prayer Requests

Jan Tooke, Bill Wolcott, Kim Potfora, 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, Carol McBride, Karen Smith (Friends of Marcy's) Rev. Dr. Arthur Davis, Shirley Jayne, Ross Benton and family, 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).



## 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)

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.

## “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.***



You may be aware that Kate McCormack works at People, Inc. in Lockport. She leads their Young Adult Life Transitions program which provides participants with the training and experience needed to enter the workforce. In June, Kate brought six members of YALT to our church and they spent the morning weeding and trimming our landscape.

Then on July 11th I was privileged to be with another YALT group who formed two assembly lines and filled 400 bags with desserts, cutlery/condiment packets, as well as Pastor Hope's special message to our Chicken BBQ customers. I was impressed by the enthusiasm, diligence and cooperation with which they tackled this task. There was a real spirit of camaraderie around the table, and plenty of good humor, too! I very much enjoyed being with these remarkable young people and look forward to working with them again. Thank you, Kate, for providing this great opportunity for everyone involved!

Gratefully,  
Nancy Golba, Chair of Outreach and Mission

### ***A quotation from Pastor Hope's sermon of July 27th***

*From the TV show "House," (Season 3, Episode 12: "One Day, One Room):*

Note: Pastor Hope shared the drama and conversation between two people: the insensitive, irascible Dr. House and Tessa, a young woman patient who had suffered rape one week prior and had told no one in the world until she was in an ER room with Dr. House and told him. Why? Why him of all people? Because she sensed that he, too, had suffered something and had never talked about it. Here is the climax of their conversation:

*Dr. House: Why do you care what happened to me in the past?*

*Tessa: **Because you are in this room.***

*Dr. House: Are you going to base your whole life on who you got stuck in a room with?*

*Tessa: **I'm going to base this moment on who I'm stuck in a room with. It's what life is. It's a series of rooms. And who we get stuck in those rooms with ... adds up to what our lives are.***

## The Least of These

By Paul White

A poem about Anthony (the one given a prayer shawl)

I render what care I can  
To a sixteen year old young man  
Nailed to the cross  
Of an unknown condition.

Sometimes when I turn him  
He shows me the face of his agony.  
At other times he smiles  
As if a dove were above his head  
To light up his face like the sun.

The doctors don't know why  
He has so many seizures  
And he's paralyzed.  
No one can unfix him  
From the cross of his contractures  
But God in his own good time.

So few people know  
What a blessing he is  
Because it hurts so much  
To know him and his joy  
Is so special and rare.  
It makes me a better man  
Doing my best to care for him.



# Let's Celebrate!

## August Birthdays

2	Marilyn Blockus	16	Lisa Geraci
5	Janet McGlone	17	Colton Thompson
7	Mary Caldwell	22	Sharon Ostwald
8	James Evans	23	Gabriel DiBernardo
8	Sandy Lange	26	Robert Wilson
12	Jeff Miller		



## September Birthdays

14	Beverly DiBernardo	26	Susan Lyon
18	Ian McGlone	26	Leah Benton

## August Anniversaries

Butch Milliron and Sandy Lange – August 8<sup>th</sup>

## September Anniversaries

Paul White and Nancy Mueller September 14

Robert and Becky Wilson September 20<sup>th</sup>

**\*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.**

## OUTREACH

**The food pantry is running low on some supplies, especially tea, salad dressing, sauces and condiments. Please consider picking up even one item when doing your regular shopping!**

## “YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT!”

My Visit to Our NT Food Pantry

by Nancy Mueller

My first visit to the Food Pantry was July 3. I was given a tour by our very own Nancy Golba. I was amazed how organized it is and how all volunteers have their own assignments. It's been in operation since Oct 1981. They serve NT, Wheatfield, Bergholtz, Sanborn, Pendleton, Cambria and Tonawanda. As you may know hours of operation are M-F 10 am to 1230 pm. They have over 50 volunteers so I hope I am able to join them! Their major needs change but right now they are in need of tea, salad dressing, sauces, canned fruit and condiments. There is a great need for this service and I'm sure an even greater need down the road.

As Jesus said in Matthew 14:16

"Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry Inc,

100 Ridge St, NT. 716-692-8552

**\*During the month of June PACC contributed 7 bags of food & personal care products!**

**Thank you all! Your donations are greatly appreciated!**

***The Spirit of the Sojourner***      ***(Pentecost: June 8, 2025)***  
***by guest preacher Roberta Farkas-Huezo, Pastor Hope's dear friend***

...My husband, Oscar, is from El Salvador, and next month we will celebrate 37 years of marriage. We have two grown children, both of whom were confirmed by Pastor Hope as high schoolers, and we have one grandchild – a nine-year-old granddaughter. Our children and their families are the apple of our eye, as are the three “bonus children” we picked up along the way, when we helped to get a young Salvadoran woman and two young Honduran men released from immigration detention and subsequently accompanied them through their thankfully successful asylum bids. These three young people, whom we refer to simply as “the kids,” and they’ve become unofficial members of our family and official members of our hearts.

...After college, I chose to do what was supposed to be one year of volunteer service at Casa Juan Diego, a Catholic Worker House serving Central American refugees in Houston, TX. That experience turned into more than a dozen years of working with refugees in a professional capacity at the Vive Refugee Shelter in Buffalo, followed by many more years of volunteer service with immigrants and refugees, both in Canada and the United States...

...I think of the young man from Latin America who had suffered extensive discrimination in his home country due to his sexual orientation, but who faithfully attended Mass every week, knowing that God had not abandoned him, even when many of his compatriots and at times his church had done so. He built a new life for himself in the United States after being granted asylum, and he attends Mass to this day.

I think of Phebian Abdulai, a woman from Sierra Leone who came to the United States with her family as resettled refugees sponsored by my former church, St. Peter's UCC. Phebian studied nursing and went to work for Jericho Road Community Health Centers. But working in Buffalo was not enough for Phebian, who had a vision of starting a health clinic in her hometown in Sierra Leone. Backed by the love of her family and her church, and in partnership with Jericho Road, Phebian fulfilled that dream, opening her Health Center in Sierra Leone in 2015. I believe your congregation knows about Phebian, as Pastor Hope has spoken of her, and you have raised an impressive amount of money to support her clinic.

But the person I think about most on this Spirit-filled, language-laden Pentecost day is María. María was a young peasant woman from El Salvador, and during the time of the Salvadoran civil war... When I first saw María's narrative, I felt intense pity for her. “This poor woman,” I thought to myself. “She's had almost no formal education and has come from a village where she probably grew up with next to nothing. It's a miracle she was able to make this journey. Look at how she writes – syllable by syllable. It must have taken her forever to write her narrative.” But God, my friends, – no... God *and* María – taught me a great deal that day. María may have been poor in monetary terms, but she was rich – so rich! – in faith and spirit and dignity. This is the story that the syllables, once decoded, revealed:

María had gone down to the river from her village to wash clothes. While she was on the shores of the river, a group of Salvadoran soldiers came upon her. They were searching for guerrillas or guerrilla sympathizers, and since María lived in an area controlled by the guerrillas, she and her fellow villagers were automatically presumed to be guerrilla supporters. The soldiers spoke harshly and in vulgarities to María, questioning her about guerrilla activity in the area. When she told them that she had no involvement with such activity and had no information to offer them, one of the soldiers replied, “Since you can’t serve us in this way (that is, with information), you will serve us in another.”

My blood ran cold when I pieced those syllables together. “Oh, no,” I thought. They’re going to violate her.” Sexual violence, unfortunately, was a very common tactic of the Salvadoran military during the civil war. But then came María’s response: “No, sirs, no. God and the Virgin are with me. You can take my life but you cannot take my dignity.”

[Pause, then repeat slowly] “You can take my life but you cannot take my dignity.” My friends, I felt so ashamed when I read those syllables. I had pitied María, had felt sorry for her, had seen a poor, uneducated young woman with few prospects. But the syllables revealed the true María – a giantess of faith and spirit and dignity! In a showdown with a group of armed soldiers, this petite, young woman – bolstered by her faith in God and the example of her beloved Virgin Mary – had stood up for herself and her innate dignity. And in so doing, she was victorious, for the soldiers laughed at her, told her she wasn’t worth their time, and continued on their patrol.

María is but one of many exceedingly courageous people I have had the honor of knowing and serving in my refugee work, but hers is a story that affected me profoundly. I have always loved God deeply, but to have a faith like María’s – a faith that *bold*, that *rock solid*, that *immense* – how my heart burns for such a faith! I have thought of María many times over the years, and I wish I had a way of letting her know how much she has inspired me. She has become, in a way, a patron saint of mine... Santa María de las Sílabas – Saint María of the Syllables.

I think we’ve all heard the news this week... that our nation has instituted a complete travel ban against individuals from 12 countries, and travel restrictions against individuals from 7 additional countries. This ban, which takes effect tomorrow, includes countries whose citizens are in very precarious situations. How many Marías are in that group, my friends? How many Spirit-filled hearts of courage, of resilience, of rock solid faith? And how much strength would they bring to our nation? Santa María of the Syllables, pray for us. Amen.



---

Let's be the church  
we say we are.

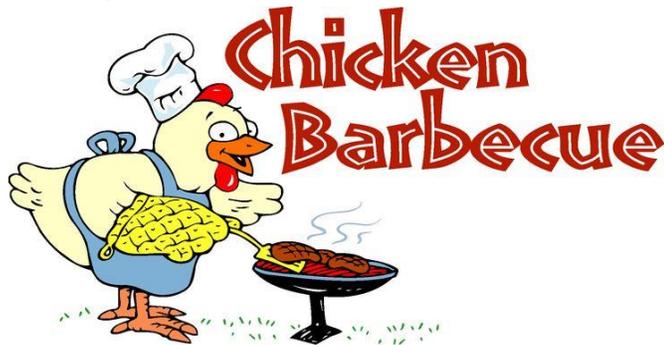
**Thank  
You** 



**To My Family and Friends at Payne Avenue Christian Church,**

My last day of work will be August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and my long-awaited retirement will begin. Truth is, I hardly ever looked at this job as work, I loved coming into the office, even back in the day when it was upstairs in that crazy room on Ruie Road back in 2009. Over the years I have met so many wonderful people, many I consider friends, sadly I have also lost many good people. Also, over the years I have worked with 6 different Ministers, some very unforgettable too. And we all remember COVID. So, thank you all for the memories and I promise to stay in touch.

God Bless you all,  
Love, Marcy



Our Chiavetta's chicken BBQ that was held on July 12<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success. A huge thank you is owed to our many dedicated volunteers and everyone who came out to take part in and support the event. We sold 360 dinners in 4 hours and made a profit of \$2,242.36. PACC is so grateful to have such a wonderful crew to pull these events off, and we couldn't do it without the support of the community so thank you all!



***MORTGAGE FUND***

An update on our mortgage fund challenge that we kicked off at the end of May. The goal of the challenge was to raise enough money to make one additional mortgage payment of \$3,423.00. To date, we have raised over \$4,000.00 earmarked for this challenge. We are truly blessed with so many generous and joyful givers and gifts. For anyone still looking to contribute, please designate your gift as 'mortgage fund'



Hope Douglas Harle-Mould

Pastor

Home 716-868-5533

[hopeharlemould@gmail.com](mailto:hopeharlemould@gmail.com)

Sam Fesmire

Music Director

716-423-3458

[payneavechurch@gmail.com](mailto:payneavechurch@gmail.com)

Marcy DiPasquale

Secretary

Office: 716-260-1217

[payneavechurch@gmail.com](mailto:payneavechurch@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship...10:00 a.m.

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

Password Peace2All

WiFi is available in the church building and on the grounds.

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

All upcoming Events are in the Newsletter which is always posted on the website!

Like and share our Church Facebook page!

[www.facebook.com/payneavenuechurch](http://www.facebook.com/payneavenuechurch)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BoXaPjG7/?mibextid=wwXtfr>

**This  
Church  
Affirms  
You**

