



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



The office will be closed on Friday, July 4th Independence Day!
Happy Fourth of July!

<u>Elders Communion</u>	<u>Bread</u>	<u>Cup</u>
July 6	Bob Link	Jim Wokersien
July 13	Becky Wilson	Bill Wolcott
July 20	Ken Ozzimo	Brett Kofod
July 27	Jim Wokersien	Barb Wokersien

Deaconess Schedule

July (4 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – to be announced

Please see Sandy Lange if you can assist with Communion



**Watercolor by Becky Wilson: “The raging wildfires of war,
dissolving by way of the Milky Way, up to the peaceful Heavens!”
*from our Sunday, June 22nd bulletin cover**

Continued Prayers are being requested for the following:



Prayer Requests

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.

Informal Coffee & Conversation

Every Sunday at 9:15 am



This is informally and warmly hosted by Shirley Jayne and Brenda Doucette. You are welcome to join the regulars who come in early before worship and enjoy each other's company, sharing true caring and laughter.

After-Church Fellowship Time with Treats

Every first and third Sunday of the month at 11:15 am

On first Sundays of the month, many of you have taken turns to bake or bring a treat, including Brett's famous pies. Brenda seems to know who is bringing things. But there is a sign-up list!

Pastor Hope has recently been trying to encourage a third-Sunday of month Fellowship Time with Treats. He thanks those who are starting to bring things in then.

In both of these ways, we pray that our congregation may continue to grow in closeness, caring, and faithfulness to Christ.

A Franciscan Prayer

May God bless with you discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationship, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

Congratulations to our newest permanent Settled Pastor of Payne Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Reverend Hope Harle-Mould

I am delighted that the Board of Elders decided on May 18th to ask Pastor Hope to serve as our permanent minister — and even happier that he has embraced this opportunity with such enthusiasm!

I've been thinking about what makes Pastor Hope so special and why people have responded to his invitation to join our community of faith – or *Koinonia* – as we are welcomed each Sunday morning. You've undoubtedly noticed that one of his missions is getting to really know each parishioner.

Pastor Hope listens intently as we share our hopes and aspirations; our relationships with family and friends; history of pain or trauma; even things we like and dislike. And not only does he remember all of this, he taps into creative resources (often poetic!) to offer a unique blend of compassion, hope and joy to meet our spiritual needs for that moment.

I hope you are also celebrating the additional time we've been given to have Pastor Hope lead our worship services, deliver inspiring messages, and be a wonderful counselor and friend. I see God's love and mercy shining through his life and I intend to soak it up and pass it on!

Yours in Christ,
Nancy Golba

Let's Celebrate!

July Birthdays

1	Elijah DiNardo	16	Janet Holt
4	Adam Krull	16	Martha Scheda
5	Jim Wokersein	20	Nancy Golba
6	Shirley Jayne		
6	Kim Potfora		
8	Michael Scherirer		
15	Suzanne Krull		



August Birthdays

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

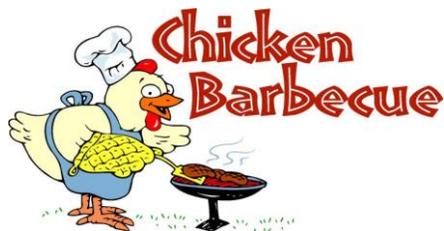
July Anniversaries

Ken and Heather Ozzimo July 24th
Vern and Jean Ortel July 26th

August Anniversaries

Butch Milliron and Sandy Lange – August 8th

***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.**



SAVE THE DATE!

Our next Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ Drive-through will be held on
Saturday, July 12th from Noon to 4:00pm

Please be sure to tell your family and friends.
Dinners will be \$15.00 and include baked beans, tuna macaroni
salad and a roll with butter and dessert! If interested, there are
advanced tickets available.

Sign up sheet for volunteers is on the easel in the center of the church, be sure to let us know
what service you are able to offer. Thank you!

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!

Singing in Prison at Midnight

based on Acts 16:16-40

A poem-story by Pastor Hope Harle-Mould, for "Joyful Noise Sunday," June 15th

No good deed goes unpunished.
So it was with the apostle Paul in Philippi
just after he freed a psychic girl from her controllers.
Deprived of their profiteering from this vulnerable girl,
these men accosted Paul and Silas with words and assaulted them with fists,
drew a crowd which joined the melee, dragged them to court,
where authorities stripped them naked, beat them with rods,
flogged them with whips, and cast them into an underground jail.

Now it is midnight, darker than dark.
Hungry and alone in a strange city, bleeding from open wounds,
uncertain of what the future holds, what do Paul and Silas do?
They start singing!
Praying to God with conviction.
Praising the Lord for the honor of suffering for Christ.
Not downcast or discouraged, but *upcast* and *courage-filled*,
their voices giving voice to their utter trust, confidence, and hope in God.

But God is not the audience.
Someone else is listening and watching and wondering:
the other prisoners.
They see the fearlessness in Paul's face,
the faith in Silas' songs.
But they detect something else, something more,
a presence, palpable and powerful,
a spirit mightier than iron manacles,
a purpose that seems to connect Paul and Silas
to some distant place of freedom.

Then there is an earthquake,
And the doors break open, and the shackles fall free,
but Paul and Silas do not rush out in escape.
Choosing to remain, they save the guard's life
who was going to commit suicide,
then they save the guard's soul
as they tell him of a man killed by Roman soldiers
who forgave Roman soldiers
who rose from a grave guarded by Roman soldiers
who now gives new life to all Roman soldiers
as they put down Caesar's sword
and pick up love's cross.



(Singing in Prison at Midnight continued)

What happened to those other prisoners?

We don't know, but we know this:

they would not soon forget the men

who freed a girl and freed a guard,

who sang with conviction when the dungeon was darkest,

who sang with courage when the powerful seemed invincible,

who sang with hope when hope seemed hallucination.

But perhaps those prisoners remembered one of those songs

and in the darkness of their own lives

learned to sing it and kept on singing it

until the dawn.

In our world,

when we are treated unjustly, suffer abuse,

are wounded by words,

when it's midnight in our life

and the way ahead seems walled in,

do we dare to sing?

Do we dare to praise God for the promise

even when we see it not?

Do we dare to thank God for the presence

even when we feel it not?

Do we dare to hold onto God's mysterious purposes—

like an infant to her mother, holding on for dear life,

trusting that somehow

goodness and mercy shall follow us—

despite, or perhaps even through, our personal agony and tragedy?

Maybe it's hard for us to sing for ourselves,

but we must find the courage to sing for others.

Because someone else is listening.

Someone else is always listening—

and watching and wondering—

someone whose agony and tragedy may be as great as our own,

but whose faltering flame of faith

may already

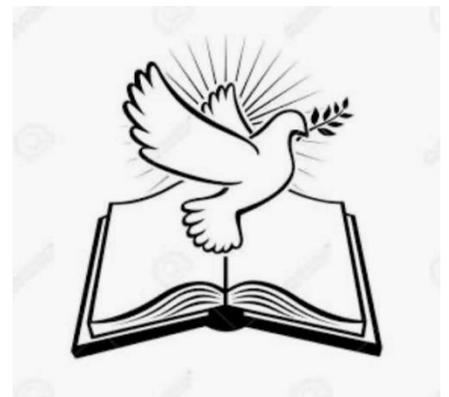
have gone out.

Sing for them.

Please.

Sing for them!

I'll sing for you.



We Cannot Merely Pray to You, O God

***A responsive prayer from the UCC Women's journal,
Common Lot***

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;
for we know that you have made the world in such a way that we
must find our own path to peace within the self and with our neighbors.

**We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation;
for you have already given us the resources with which to feed
the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.**

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root out prejudice;
for you have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all,
if we would only use them rightly.

**We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end despair;
for you have already given us the power to clear away slums
and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.**

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end disease;
for you have already given us great minds with which to search out
cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

**Therefore we pray to you instead, O God,
for *strength, determination, and will power*,
to *do* instead of just pray, to *become* instead of merely wish...**

...For your sake and for ours, speedily and soon,
that our land may be safe, and that our lives may be blessed.

**May the words that we pray, and the deeds that we do
both be acceptable before you, O God. Amen.**



**Thank you to Kate McCormack and her team for creating the
"Joyful Noise" banner.**

Thank you to Kate and her participants at Lockport YALT, People Inc. (Young Adult Life Transition) All 30 participants worked hard painting the new Joyful Noise banner that now hangs in the sanctuary. This was a project they worked on during art club and they were all so happy to be able to contribute something beautiful to the church. Kate will be back with a small group on July 11th to help prepare for the BBQ.

In other news, the YALT percussion group, Blue Ink Butterfly, will be having their debut performance the evening of July 11th from 6:30 - 7:00 pm at the Kenan Center in Lockport for their Music in the Garden series. Blue Ink Butterfly will be opening for All Star Band. Kate will be performing with the group, led by her colleague, Matt Knott, and would like to invite anyone who wants to come and enjoy some Joyful Noise!!



Hope Douglas Harle-Mould

Pastor

Home 716-868-5533

hopeharlemould@gmail.com

Sam Fesmire

Music Director

716-423-3458

payneavechurch@gmail.com

Marcy DiPasquale

Secretary

Office: 716-260-1217

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/payneavechurch

or

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

**This
Church
Affirms
You**

