



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

The next Elders Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 23rd at 6:00 pm

There will be a Board Meeting on Sunday, October 12th following the Worship Service. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT CHIAVETTA'S BBQ – DECEMBER 6TH

Elders Communion	Bread	Cup
October 5	Becky Wilson	Jim Wokersien
October 12	Ken Ozzimo	Ross Benton
October 19	Bob Link	Bill Wolcott
October 26	Brett Kofod	Barb Wokersien

Deaconess Schedule - October (4 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined

OUTREACH & MISSION

During the summer we collected 23 bags of non-perishable food and personal care products for the North Tonawanda Interchurch Food Pantry. Our contributions were especially appreciated at this time of year when there are not many other food drives. The Food Pantry serves at least 200 families every month and that number is rapidly growing.

Two large bags of school supplies were donated to the North Tonawanda City Schools for children of families with limited financial resources.

Nancy Mueller worked at the Food Pantry and has become a volunteer at Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo. Heather Ozzimo and Pastor Hope will soon be visiting Rainie's Foster Closet at St. Peter's UCC on Oliver Street to learn how we can help with their mission.

We are also beginning a new ministry designed to assist low-income working families: the *Church Family to Your Family* Food Pantry. The idea is to provide food and other essentials to parents who can't get to other pantries during the hours they are open. Our volunteers will shop for grocery items identified by families referred to us by the North Tonawanda School administration. Details to follow.

We are grateful to everyone who has been contributing to these initiatives. Once again, you've shown that Payne Avenue Christian Church may be small in size but can have a **big impact** in the life of our community!

Yours in Christ, Nancy Golba, Coordinator

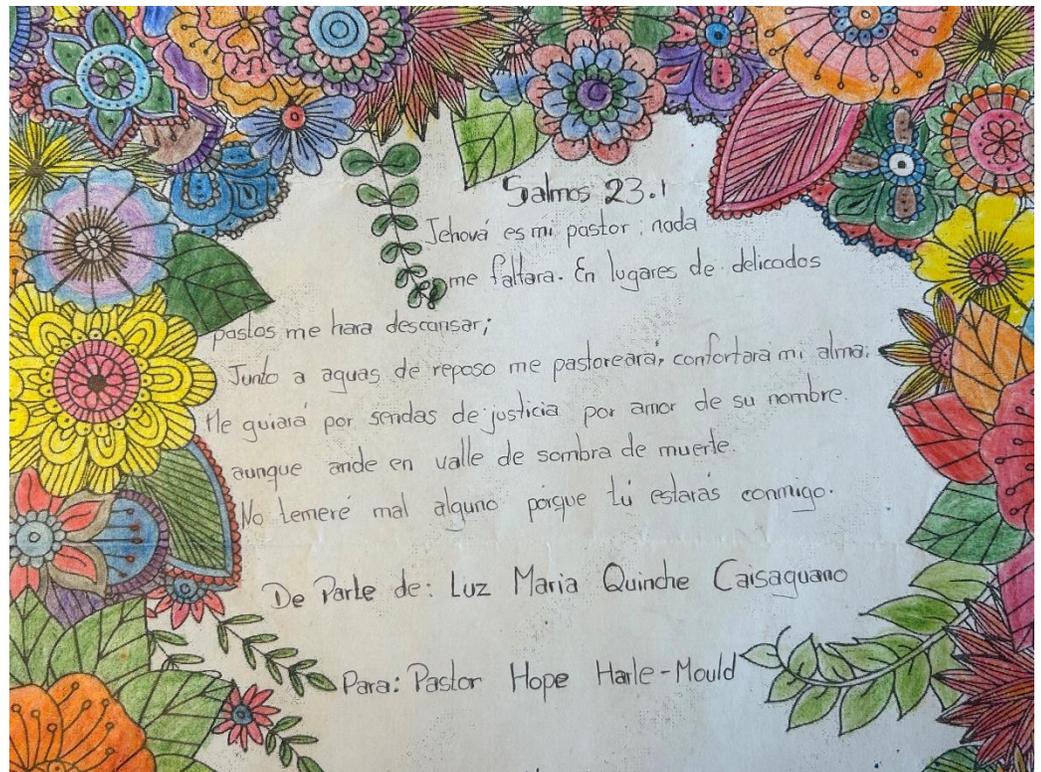
OUTREACH: The food pantry is running low on some supplies, especially tea, salad dressing, sauces and condiments. Please consider picking up even one item when doing your regular shopping!

*Since the summer, PACC contributed 23 bags of food & personal care products!

Thank you all! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

A Letter from Luz, Our Ecuadorian Sister in Christ - Written from El Valle (ICE) Detention Center, Raymondville, Texas, after receiving the card and letter from Pastor Hope and our church.

"Blessings to you Pastor, I hope this finds you well. I am sending warm greetings to you and all our brothers and sisters at the church. On Sept 3rd, I received the letter you sent. I really appreciate all your support and for all the prayers that all of you have said for us. Thank you so much for helping me in so many ways. May God bless you always and in every moment of your life.



When I received your letter, I felt so very happy and it gave me strength and fortitude. I am feeling very peaceful and glad, and thank God that I am doing well.

For the time being, I am waiting for my departure to my country. I feel sad that I will no longer be with you to share in congregation and I carry you in my heart and will continue to do so. I very much appreciate how you shared the word of God for me and my husband. It was a great blessing to have met all of you. I greatly appreciate with all of my heart your support when my husband was sick. From my husband and I, we pray that God will always multiply your blessings.

I feel very sad that I have to return to my country, it is not possible for me to stay since the judge confirmed my deportation, only God knows his plans for my life.

Many blessings to sister Nancy. Thank you for helping me in so many ways. May God multiply his blessings for you and your family. I will always remember you with much love and thank you for always taking me to church. I am sending you a strong hug.

I am sending a strong hug to everyone and wish you many blessings. May the holy spirit always stay by your side in the name of Jesus Christ.

I am sending you this praise and illustrated verse for our brothers and sisters at the church, please receive it with much love from Luz Maria Quinche Caisaguano

*Recognizing Marcy DiPasquale,
The most awesome retiring Church Secretary of 16 years:*



September 7, 2025

Dear Marcy -

We here at Payne Avenue Christian Church have been so very honored and lucky to have you as our church Secretary. We all know that a Secretary is so much more, they are the integral force that keeps everything going!! You have done that very well through all the trials and tribulations we have been through in these past few years!

We wish you and Tony the very best in your retirement! ENJOY!!
Blessings and Peace to you and yours as always. Much Love and Appreciation,
Becky Wilson and Your PACC Church Family
PEACE

From the first day I walked into the office, Marcy extended such a warm welcome to me as a visitor. Her genuine interest and caring for everyone is a major reason why I've chosen to become a member of our PACC family. Marcy always seems to be in good spirits, no matter how challenging the circumstances (usually problems with the computer or printers) and often anticipates our needs before we even ask. She's been an important part of the "glue" that binds our church together. I'll miss her a LOT, but hope to maintain the friendship we developed these past two years. By Nancy Golba.



Dear Members of Payne Avenue Christian Church,
I would like to thank everyone for the kindness you all showed me over the last 16 years. I was so fortunate to find the help wanted ad so many years ago and I never regretted a single day and for accepting me as a family member of your church.
I have made many dear friends during my time here and will never forget anyone. I hope to stay in touch for years to come.
Thank you for the wonderful luncheon, cards and generous gifts, all very appreciated.
With much love, Marcy



New Office Secretary/Financial Clerk:

Espy Altamar

Regular office hours: Wed – Friday, 9 am – 12 pm

Espy has many years of arts education and professional administrative experience and a knack for finding the humor in most situations. She has clearances with NYS and Erie County as a foster mom and Sunday education teacher at PSL UCC. With a certification in Social Work from Temple University, she lived creative chapters in the arts and non-profit work in NJ, Philadelphia, The Netherlands, New York City, and Buffalo, NY.

With gratitude for family and friends, she is currently training for her 3rd year of a run/walk YMCA Turkey Trot with a personal best for costume and finish time.

MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION POTLUCK SUNDAY, OCT 5TH AFTER WORSHIP



After a substantial gift from an anonymous donor was received, the church is able to pay off its mortgage in full.

PACC is debt free in 2025!

Praise be to God and a heartfelt thank you to all of our generous donors over the years!

Prayers of Healing and Caring:

Leah Benton
Ross Benton and family
Kay (Sister of Mary Caldwell)
Devon Compton, nephew of
Paul White and Nancy
Mueller
Rev. Dr. Arthur Davis,
Nita Doucette
Deborah Evans
Lisa Geraci
Don Golba
Jaime Hodge
Shirley Jayne
Brandon Kofod
Karen Lawrence and her
daughter Rhonda

Bob Link's Daughter Shelly
and Grandson William
Autumn Lee
Harry and Lois Madrid
Carol McBride
Burton Merriam
Ken Miller, (Brian Wilson's
father-in-Law)
Ruth Misko, daughter of Leah
Benton
Diane Misner (Bob Link's
daughter)
David Misner (Son-in-law of
Bob Link)
Madeline Mock
Sherry Ostwald

Kim Potfora
Cynthia Pullman
Luz Quinche and husband
Luis Caiz
Joan Shamrock
Karen Smith (Friend of
Marcy's)
Janith Tooke and her Sister-
in-law Ronni
Sharon Weiss (friend of Karen
Lawrence)
Bob and Becky Wilson and
nephew Billy Wilson
Bill Wolcott
Jim Wokersien



Prayer Requests

Prayers of Gratefulness: Letter of Prayer from Luz Maria Quinche Caisaguano from a detention center in Texas.

***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.

Building a Good Pastor-Church Relationship Workshop
DATE: OCTOBER 21st, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

September 4, 2025

Dear Payne Ave. Christian Church Family,

I truly believe our time together will be a blessing to each of us and I can't wait to see you there and share in conversation.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Jan Mahle, Pastor of East Aurora Christian Church

Moderator of the Northeast Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Let's Celebrate!

October Birthdays

8 Barbara Wokersien
16 Philip Ozzimo
18 Kate McCormack
22 Brenda Sass
24 Edward Wokersien
25 Alex Krull
27 Ken Ozzimo
28 Linda Harle-Mould



November Birthdays

1 Jeff Rider
3 Sonya DiNardo
4 Amanda Shamrock
4 Marcy DiPasquale
5 Jody Busch
11 Brenda Doucette
12 Julie Papke Smith
13 Ruth Misko
16 Butch Milliron
26 Bob Link
26 Brandon Kofod
29 Brian Wilson
30 Debbie Evans

October Anniversaries

Edward & Barbara Wokersien October 20th
Andy & Suzanne Krull October 22nd

November Anniversaries

Dave & Debbie Evans November 15th

***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.**



A Parade of Misfits

*A story by Rev. Hope Harle-Mould from his sermon,
September 14, 2025,*

"Bad Reputation: A Church Aspiring to Christlike-ness"

"Look at that parade of misfits!" I heard my neighbors sneer, as we watched the first bunch of that rag-tag mob trudge into our town up the main road.

They were an odd-looking bunch. Their clothes looked like Salvation Army issue, and there were so many wheelchairs it looked like a flotilla of armored ships. The rest of the misfits were walking, but no vaster than their slowest members. There were too many children and too many older people; they weren't going to get anywhere that way.

The troupe looked completely disorganized—probably because they had no leader to organize them. They seemed to be headed more or less in one direction, but all the while children were running off every which way, peering into old barns, jumping over creeks, or rushing over to confused onlookers with handfuls of wildflowers or pebbles of sandstone and quartz they had collected. But somehow the children always made it back before the troupe got too far down the road.

Some of the misfits had the obvious look of mental retardation. Others looked quite sick and were being cared for as they lay in carts pulled by others. Some might have once been convicts, and others high-priced ladies of the evening. Some could have been corporate executives and others, elementary school teachers. I couldn't imagine what had brought this mix-up of people together.

Finally, when one of the children darted over to me with a huge bouquet of dandelions, I asked, *‘Where are you going?’*

She answered, ***“Wherever we are led.”***

“But who is leading you?” I wondered.

“The One Who Embraces All.”

I wasn’t learning much, so I tried another line of questioning. *“What is it you try to do whenever you go somewhere?”*

“Find people.”

“What people?”

“Anyone who needs to be found.”

“And what do you do when you find them?” I had to ask.

“We invite them to join us.”

“To become a misfit?”

“No, they’re already misfits. What they need is the parade.”

“What in the world is a parade of misfits good for, anyway?”

“It’s the only place in the world where every person is important and needed. And it’s the one place where the world can look...to find all it needs to blossom and grow.”

I shook my head, unable to believe what she said, wondering how so many people could have joined a parade that had no purpose, no direction, no end.

I heard my neighbors laughing and cursing and calling names as we watched the last of the misfits trying awkwardly to catch up with the rear of the parade. **“Thank God those people are gone,”** one of them said. **“Glad they don’t live here. We’ve never had any trouble with our misfits.”**

I looked away from my neighbors and down at the dark skin of my paralyzed legs. Then I looked back at the disappearing parade. My wheelchair could not go fast enough. I had been found.



***Our Resident Watercolorist, Becky Wilson,
Brightens Our Bulletins with Inspiring Landscapes
by Pastor Hope***

I want to offer a big thank you to Becky Wilson for joyfully allowing us to feature some of her paintings on the cover of our Sunday bulletins. (And for sharing some of your comments as to why a scene touched you so much that you had to share it with us in watercolor.)

When I first came to PACC, one of the first things I wanted to bring you was to add more visual and inspiring artwork in our worship bulletin, to deepen and accentuate the theme and message of each particular Sunday’s worship experience. So instead of every Sunday’s bulletin cover featuring a drawing of the church building, I wanted to find either biblical art that depicted the scriptural story of the day, or else to find beautiful artwork that could help us be open to the moving of the Spirit, as we learned and were uplifted together that day.

Becky’s watercolors have become one of the primary sources I turn to, to find wonder-filled scenes from the natural world our Creator gives us, if we but pause and allow ourselves to receive the awe.

So thank you, Becky, for being a channel of God’s beauty, and for helping us to connect with God’s presence as a community of faith.

PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Hope Douglas Harle-Mould
Pastor

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Sam Fesmire
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Espy Altamar
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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

****NEW** WIFI Password: Peace4all**

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**

