



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

The next Elders Meeting is scheduled for January.

Music Report: Handbell rehearsal will be at 9:15AM on December 7th, 14th, and 21st

The choir will be rehearsing after church service on those same dates.

All are welcome to join in (for both bells and vocal choir)



Elders Communion	Bread	Cup
December 7	Becky Wilson	Brett Kofod
December 14	Brett Kofod	Bill Wolcott
December 21	Jim Wokersien	Ken Ozzimo
<i>December 24 at 7pm</i>	<i>Jim Wokersien</i>	<i>Ross Benton (Christmas Eve)</i>
December 28	Bob Link	Barb Wokersien

Deaconess Schedule - December (4 Sundays & Christmas Eve)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined

OUTREACH & MISSION Report 11/16/2025:

In 2025 we have been able to help many people in need through a variety of initiatives, including:

- Delivering 61 bags of groceries and personal care products to the North Tonawanda Interchurch Food Pantry. This number reflects donations through mid-November; we hope to collect more by the end of the year.
- Sending a gift of \$757.45 to Jericho Road to support the medical ministry of Phebian Abdulai in Sierra Leone. Phebian is a good friend of Pastor Hope and his previous church sponsored her family when they arrived in the U.S. as refugees over 20 years ago.
- Bringing dozens of hats, gloves, scarves and socks to the North Tonawanda Clothes Closet to help keep people with limited financial resources warm during the cold winter months. We also delivered 17 bags of women’s clothing and shoes to this organization from the estates of two families.
- Donating two large bags of supplies to the North Tonawanda City Schools for children of families with limited financial resources.

Heather Ozzimo and Nancy Mueller joined the Outreach and Mission team this year. Heather will be our primary contact at Rainie’s Foster Closet which recently moved to Ridge Road - in the same building as the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.

Nancy has worked at the Food Pantry and became a volunteer at Jericho Road’s Vive shelter for refugee families.

The Board of Elders has approved the Church Family to Your Family Food Pantry, a new ministry that will assist low-income working families. We plan to provide food and other essentials to parents who can't get to other pantries while they are open. Our volunteers will shop for groceries requested by families that the Drake Elementary School administration recommends to us.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to these efforts throughout the year and look forward to continuing to support these areas of outreach in 2026.

Respectfully submitted, 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!

REMINDER! This Saturday!!

**Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ – Sat. Dec. 6th
from Noon to 4:00pm**

Tickets are only \$16 and include ½ chicken plus sides & dessert treat!!



Please call Brett @ 716-491-6205 for more info.

Please return any lawn signs and posterboards after the event.

Christmas Eve Service

Come let us rejoice him – Please join us!

Wed., Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

*A celebration with Bell Choir and Joyful Noise
Voice Choir!!*



COME SEE THE POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AND WILL BE ON VIEW THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.

CONTRIBUTORS MAY PICK UP THEIR ORDERS AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE.

YOU CAN CALL 716-998-9052 (BECKY).



Prayers of Healing and Caring:

Leah Benton
Ross Benton and family
Kay (Sister of Mary Caldwell)
Devon Compton, (Nephew of Paul White & Nancy Mueller)
Summer Cook
Rev. Dr. Arthur Davis,
Nita Doucette
Mary Dzik
AshLynn Dzik
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
Matt Lipinczyk (Nephew of Paul White & Nancy Mueller)
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
Family of Heather Ozzimo – Carter
Sherry Ostwald
Kim Potfora
Cynthia Pullman

Luz Quinche and husband Luis Caiz
Heather Raggi (Family of Bob Link)
Joan Shamrock
Karen Smith (Friend of Marcy's)
Linda Staiger (Family of Jim Wokersien)
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

***There will be copies of this list printed and located on the Deacons tables. Please be sure to take one home to continue your prayers. *Please note, after a 6 week period names will be removed unless a special request is received in the office. To add to the Prayer Chain call Mary Caldwell 716-692-8108 (before 9pm).**

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 716-998-9052



Thinking of You!

Please remember our members that are unable to be in their homes any longer... send a card to help them know we care! Thank you!

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

Also, some members cannot attend weekly due to health and weather issues, send a card and show they are remembered: Jan Tooke, Karen Lawrence, and Janet Holt (all addresses are in our Church Directory).



Prayer Requests



Tidd, Gerald D.

With deep sorrow we honor the life of Mr. Gerald D. Tidd of North Tonawanda, NY.

He passed away November 26, 2025. Survived by his children: Jerry Tidd, Katherine (Michael) Phinney, and Michael C. (Dawn) Tidd and their mother, Sharon Ward. Cherished grandfather of Walter, Michael, Benjamin, Tyler, Emilie, Nicholas, Madison, and Timothy-John. Great grandfather of Isaac, Savannah, and Kendall. Son of the late Thomas Tidd and the late Delores (Charles) Walker. Dear brother of Philip (Kimberly) Tidd and predeceased by siblings: Judy (Lester) Pearson, Larry (Joanne) Tidd, David (Cathy) Tidd, and Karen Ferguson.

Gerald was a passionate advocate for the homeless Veterans, a proud American and US Marine.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Women's Veteran's Program; checks may be made to the General Post Fund 1931 for Women's Wellness Center and mailed to the Buffalo VA Medical Center; 3495 Bailey Ave. Buffalo, NY 14215 or to the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program; checks may be mailed to: Buffalo VA Medical Center Volunteer Services, 3495 Bailey Ave. Buffalo, NY 14215.

Please share condolences online at www.febrownsons.com



Prayers of Gratefulness:.. THANKSGIVING OUTREACH

*The Board of Elders would like to say **thank you to our congregation** and the many generous givers who donated money towards this year's Thanksgiving basket giveaway. We were able to furnish 7 families with a complete thanksgiving meal, and because of your generosity, we were also able to include several additional items this year including roasting pans, butter, juice, cookies, hot chocolate mix, carrots, and macaroni and cheese.*

*A **special thank you** to Bob and Becky Wilson, Nancy Golba, and Brandon Kofod who provided delivery services. Also, a **special thank you** to Bob and Becky Wilson, Brett Kofod, Kate McCormack, and Kate's YALT crew from People Inc in Lockport who did the shopping! One additional **thank you** to Eric Maher from the YALT crew in Lockport who donated so many of the canned goods for our basket giveaway.*

New Decorations and Joy:

A special thank you to all of those who stayed after church on November 23rd to decorate the sanctuary for the season of advent and Christmas! Butch, Sandy, Brenda, Brandon, Jim, Kate, Kimmarie, Bill, Nancy, Lisa, and Brett. This would not be possible without volunteers like you.



A special thank you to the Ortel family who donated some new decorations this year. See if you can spot them around the sanctuary! - The Worship Department

NEW: PACC HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS!!

Payne Avenue Christian Church Christmas ornaments for 2025 are available for sale. Support this fundraiser and share holiday joy and memories with friends and family far and wide!! Each new ornament cost \$10, and supplies are limited

See Brett for other style ornaments for \$5 each.
Honor a loved one with a message to hang on the church tree.

Let's Celebrate!

Birthdays and Anniversaries:



December Birthdays

8th Vern Ortel
14th Sarah Ann Misko
16th Rebecca Wilson
17th Adam Ozzimo
18th Rachel Misko Hand
19th Andy Krull
21st Frank Akins
24th Mariah Spencer
25th Jesus
25th Bennett Shamrock
27th Paul Stuart Benton

December Anniversaries

Michael and Amanda Shamrock December 16th

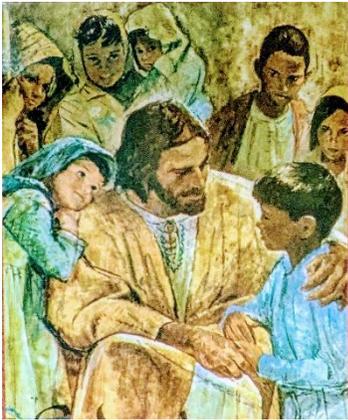
January Birthdays

4 th	Marisa Wokersien Tetzlaff
4 th	Janith Tooke
4 th	Espy Altamar
5 th	Mary Dzik
8 th	Heather Ozzimo
19 th	Paul White
21 st	Rhonda Lawrence
21 st	Jennifer McGlone
30 th	Michael Shamrock



*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 for families: Rainie's Foster Closet, by Heather Ozzimo, 11/23/20205



I stopped by Rainie's Foster Closet on Thursday to drop off my grandson's bassinette. I met with Jessica, who, along with her sister Alicia, founded the non-profit in 2019, inspired by their own journey through foster care. "Rainie" is the nickname that their grandfather gave their grandmother. They named the non-profit "Rainie's" in order to honor them both.

Rainie's provides aid to foster care and kinship families who are often scrambling to obtain supplies for their children, often at the time of placement. You can check out their full story at www.rainiesfostercloset.org. Rainie's is located at 100 Ridge Rd, NT, between the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.

Jessica began my tour at "Ollie's Corner". It is a beautiful room full of toys, games, puzzles, books, and stuffed animals. All of these were donated by the family of Ollie, who sadly passed away from RSV at just 3 years old. Jessica then showed me the cupboards where they store hygiene supplies for both children and adults. One of their top priority needs currently is obtaining hygiene supplies- especially for adults, also infants baby-wipes, and diapers, mainly in sized 3 through 6.

Rainie's accepts donations of new and used clothing including pajamas, socks, and underwear. All the clothing is sorted by size and gender. I was truly impressed with the organization of all the clothing, making it easy for families to find what they need. They also collect shoes, boots, coats, winter gear, swimming suits, and supplies and sports equipment. I saw a huge pile of blankets, something the children love to receive.

Jessica showed me boxes of brand-new duffel bags in a variety of colors. She stressed the importance of giving each child their own duffel bag, as they should never have to put their belongings in a trash bag! They accept donations of reusable bags and suitcases as well.

They have a section with new and used highchairs, strollers, and baby equipment of all shapes and sizes. *Rainie's currently receives a grant from NYS to purchase new car seats for families. Any bottles or pacifiers donated must be new as well.* However, they accept new or used children's dishware and cutlery.

Rainie's is a wonderful ministry providing not only material goods but also a sense of community and much needed support for foster care and kinship families. They greatly appreciate any help, whether in the form of donation of items, or monetary. I'm so glad that I had the chance to visit. If anyone has questions, I'd be happy to give you more information.

FROM THE PASTOR

A Rhoda Moment: Joy Forgetting to Open the Door

Excerpt from Pastor Hope's sermon on October 26, 2025

*"There are times in life when a person has to rush off in pursuit of hopefulness."—Jean Giono, author, **The Man Who Planted Trees***



I offer you one of the greatest spiritual gifts I can offer, a shard of scripture, one fragment of one sacred story, one shining moment to reveal who **you** are called to

be. The shard I give you is **Acts 12:1-19**. It is when the apostle Peter was arrested by King Herod Agrippa II—who had just killed the apostle James by the sword—and planned to put Peter on trial after the holy days. But at 3:00 am, an angel breaks Peter out of prison, opening his shackles, past four guards, through the gates, and leads him out onto the street, disappearing there, leaving him alone, baffled, and wondering, Is this a dream?

Knowing that the believers have probably gathered at the home of John Mark's mother Mary for an all-night prayer vigil—as they were fearing for Peter's life and were still grieving James' death—so, Peter walks there.

He knocks on the outer door, the gate to the courtyard of the house. The young maid Rhoda goes out to answer the baffling knock. "Who is it?" "It's Peter." Immediately she recognizes his voice. She knew that voice, for she helped serve Jesus' Last Supper in that home's Upper Room, and she had heard all about the resurrection appearances that Sunday evening. She **knew** Peter's voice. She thought: *He is alive. He is free. He is here!*

She is so elated, so exuberant with joy that she rushes back into the house to tell everyone the miraculous news, that their fears have been banished, their prayers have been answered, and their hope is now here.

At that moment she is the only one who knows. And just before she tells them, she realizes that in the next moment their whole lives will change and be blessed, and they don't know it.

"He's here!" "Who?" "Peter." "Peter who?" "Simon Peter." "No, he's in jail." "No, he's here." "Where?" "Here." "Where?" "Oh, no. I left him outside the gate!" "You're crazy, Rhoda; it must be his angel." "No, I know that voice. It is Peter. Come on, I'll show you."

And as the scripture says, "Meanwhile, Peter kept knocking." And so my gift to you is a Rhoda moment, not a senior moment of hearing a voice and not placing the name, but a Rhoda moment, of recognizing a voice before you see, and believing it to be true when it can't possibly be true, and then in utter joy and unabashed spirit rushing off to share this sweet moment of divine deliverance.

I pray you have many astonishing Rhoda moments: when God saves you when you think all is lost, when God bears you up when you can bear no more, especially at 3:00 in the morning.

And when the miraculous moment comes, may you always rush off with utter joy to spill the beans and share the news that Jesus, your Crucified and Risen Savior, is on the loose again in your life and world:

Tell everyone:

He is alive and free. He loves us and he is here, just as he said he always would be. So if I were you, I'd open that door.

PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Music Director
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Let's be the church
we say we are.



Espy Altamar
Secretary
Office: 716-260-1217
payneavechurch@gmail.com

WIFI Password: Peace4all

WiFi is available in the church building and grounds.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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

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

or

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

**This
Church
Affirms
You**

