



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

The next Elders Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 18th at 6:00 pm

There will be a Stewardship Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 16th following the Worship Service. Everyone is encouraged to attend – we need full attendance if possible.

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

<u>Elders Communion</u>	<u>Bread</u>	<u>Cup</u>
November 2	Becky Wilson	Ross Benton
November 9	Ken Ozzimo	Bill Wolcott
November 16	Becky Wilson	Brett Kofod
November 23	Jim Wokersien	Brett Kofod
November 30	Bob Link	Barb Wokersien

Deaconess Schedule - November (5 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined

OUTREACH & MISSION

You may have heard that the Board of Elders has approved our proposal to offer a new ministry to the community: the *Church Family to Your Family* food pantry. We plan to provide food and other essentials to low-income families who can't get to other pantries during "normal" business hours because of their work schedule.

As the cold weather season arrives, we will be collecting items for the children assisted by Rainie's Foster Closet. Heather Ozzimo will be coordinating our support of this ministry which recently moved to 100 Ridge St (adjacent to the North Tonawanda Interchurch Food Pantry).

All these initiatives need our support, so please keep them in mind as you are out shopping this month. Each contribution you make will be blessed to help God's people in need.

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Golba, Coordinator

Update: Nancy Mueller is in the process to become a volunteer at the Vive Shelter in Buffalo. She participated with the online training in October. <https://jrhc.org/contact-vive-shelter/>

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!



*Secretary/Financial Clerk: Espy Altamar
NEW office hours: Wed – Friday, 9 am – 1 pm*

Annual Meeting - Sunday, Nov. 16th

Stewardship Sunday

Church Potluck - Please sign up

The Board Meeting that was held Oct 12th did not have enough in attendance to make a quorum. Please save the date to approve the Budget for 2026. We will be electing new officers whose terms have expired, so it is important that we have full attendance! Join us for potluck after the meeting.



**Celebration of
Raymond “Butch” Milliron
Nov. 16th**

Join us to honor Butch for his decades of service and dedication to planting trees, bushes, flowers and more. Let’s come together to celebrate this dear and faithful member of our church.

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



Presale tickets are available!! Help spread the word - lawn signs & flyers can be taken to place on your lawn or around town!! Signs will be at the main side entrance. People bring them back after the event. Pre-sale tickets will also be available.

Please call Brett @ 716-491-6205 to purchase tickets or for more info. Tickets are only \$16 and include ½ chicken plus sides!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS OUTREACH

The Elders will be collecting monetary donations towards Thanksgiving Baskets again this year. If anyone knows a family in need, please give the family name and contact information to Becky Wilson or Brett Kofod. We will also be asking Drake Elementary School for names of families in need. Becky and Brett will shop before Thanksgiving and buy all of the food for a complete Thanksgiving meal for each basket. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated, and can be given to Becky, Brett, or Brandon.

Prayer Vigil

On Wednesday, November 5, 2025 from 6:15 to 6:45pm
at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave.

Compassion Not Cruelty invites you to participate in a Prayer Vigil to pray publicly to stop the cruelty to immigrants committed by ICE agents of our federal administration.

- Raids that traumatically separate parents and children.
- People chased down by masked agents jumping out of unmarked cars.
- Inhumane conditions at Alligator Alcatraz.

This is not American. It does not reflect the life of Jesus, who taught us to help strangers and love our enemies. Join us to lift your voice and light a candle for compassion!



Then Stay at the Church for an Important Program!

At 7:00pm Investigative Post Reporter J. Dale Shoemaker will present his reporting on ICE raids, arrests and detentions of migrants in the region and the detention center in Batavia. Then a panel of speakers who work daily with immigrants and refugees will share their experiences and answer questions. These include Jennifer Connor, ED of Justice for Migrant Families, Pamela Bos Kefi, CEO of Journey's End Refugee Services, Brittany Triggs, immigration attorney for the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project, and Ba Zan Lin, an asylum seeker-turned U.S. citizen from Burma. Both the vigil and the program are free and open to the public.

Let's Pray and Learn Together!

CHRISTMAS 2025



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO DECORATE THE ALTAR OF PACC FOR CHRISTMAS WITH A VARIETY OF LIVE POINSETTIA PLANTS (6 & 1/2" POTS) IN YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR (RED, WHITE, PINK OR MARBLE). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE AND SHARE YOUR PLANTS WITH THE CONGREGATION IN THIS WAY,

PLEASE FILL IN THE REQUEST SLIP AND BRING IT TO CHURCH. ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO ENCLOSE CASH OR A CHECK PAYABLE TO PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THESE WILL BE COLLECTED BY BECKY WILSON OR PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE. IF YOU ARE MAILING IN YOUR REQUEST, PLEASE SEND IT TO PACC @ 1459 PAYNE AVENUE, NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120. ATTENTION: BECKY WILSON. THE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE PLANS TO HAVE THEM ON THE ALTAR ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AND WILL BE THERE THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH. CONTRIBUTORS MAY PICK UP THEIR ORDERS AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ 10:00 AM. YOU CAN CALL ME WITH AN ORDER AND PAY BY SUNDAY THE 7TH @ 716-998-9052 (BECKY).

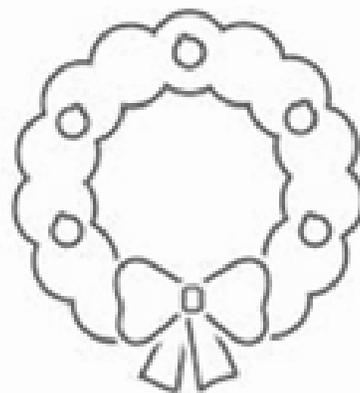
Payne Avenue Christian Church Wreath/Swag Sale is being chaired by Becky Wilson this year. We will be getting wreaths/swags from Charlie's Greenhouse in Clarence Center, where we get our poinsettias. Becky will take orders until Sunday, November 30th, and they will be able to be picked up at church on Sunday, December 7th, before or after church.

Wreaths are 22-24 inches wide and are made from locally grown trees which are cut just prior to making the wreaths (and swags). Wreaths will be full and decorated with a bow and pine cones and will cost \$25.00. Swags will be 2.5 – 3 feet long, decorated with a bow and will cost \$25.00

Checks should be made out to PACC and should be paid no later than pick-up date (12/6/25 or 12/7/25). **You can call me with an order by Monday, December 1st @ 716-998-9052.

Payment must be paid by pick-up on the December 7th!

WREATH / SWAG SALE



NEW: PACC HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS!!

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

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



Prayer Requests

Prayers of Gratefulness:

**A Thank You Letter to Us, from Lori, the Prayer Shawl Maker
In response to Pastor Hope's thank you to her and his invitation for her
to come and receive our thanks in person.**

Your text made me cry. No need to thank me, as God provides the money for the yarn. (He has sent me to garage sales where I normally wouldn't have gone to, and those people have donated some yarn.) God has given me the eyes, brain, and hands needed, he has given me your people, and [my sister] Julie and Mike to deliver them to you. As you know, this is God [at work]; I am just the tool.

I always feel honored and humbled when God trusts me with an assignment. I don't know how much Julie has told you, but due to [long] COVID and other health issues, I'm on permanent disability. The shawls benefit me because they give me purpose.

I'm glad you have enough for now. When you get low, please keep in mind it takes 2-3 days to make one, so hopefully we can plan this, so you don't run out. Also let me know the ratio of men to women, and if people prefer the straight long ones or triangular ones. If someone has specific colors they like, I will try to find them. I also hope to buy larger crosses to pin on them. It may be easier for people to see them.

Thank you for partnering with me. I think we make God smile. Have a blessed day.

***There will be copies of this list printed and located on the Deacons tables. Please be sure to take one home so you continue 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 add to the Prayer Chain call Jan Tooke 693-2848 (before 9pm).**

Memorials and Special Offerings:

Oct. 12 – Donations were made in honor of DOC Reconciliation Fund

Sept 28 - A donation by Janith Tooke in honor of the donor
who paid off the mortgage for PACC.

Sept. 7 – Anonymous donations were made in honor of Marcy DiPasquale's retirement

August 24 – A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Leah Benton

August 10 – A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Sue Hewitt

August 10 – A donation by Shelley Wilson was made in honor of Janet Rider's Birthday

August 3 - A anonymous donation was made in honor of Shirely Jayne

July 27 - A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Ken and Heather Ozzimo

July 20- A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Becky and Bob Wilson

July 13 – A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Brandon Kofod

July 6 – A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Jim Wokersien

June 29 – A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Mary Caldwell

June 22 – A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Brett Kofod

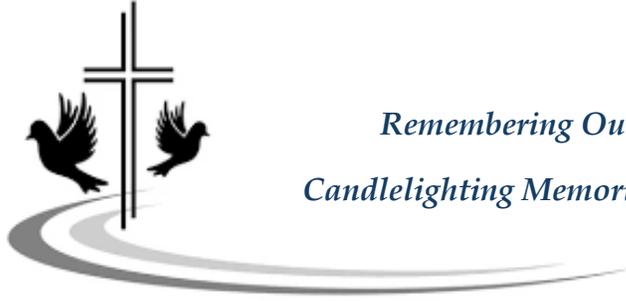
June 15- A mortgage fund donation was made in honor of Barb and Ed Wokersien

April 20 – A memorial donation was made in honor of Susan Benton

“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





Remembering Our Saints
Candlelighting Memorials & Prayer

Arletta D. (Moekel) Mueller

Passed October 1, 2024, Mother of Nancy Mueller.

Marsha Schreiber Wagner

Passed December 26, 2024. Former member and daughter of Charles and Arleta Schreiber, sister of Lois Philbrick.

Barbara Bucholtz

Passed March 6, 2025, Sister of Bill Wolcott, Beloved wife of the late Frank L. Bucholtz.

Susan H. Benton

Passed March 23, 2025. Wife of Ross Benton, and daughter-in-law of Leah Benton.

Alfred Pease

Passed August 12, 2025, Husband of Rola Pease, daughter of longtime PACC members, Ralph and Florence Janowsky.

Debbie Niemi

Passed October 15, 2025, Aunt of Summer Cook, Sister of Linda (Steve) Pierce, Donna (Bill) Cook, and Donald Wood Jr.

Regin "Bart" B. Taggart, IV

Passed on October 18, 2025, Husband of the late Gloria Licht Taggart, Brother-in-law of Janith Tooke.



Thinking of You!



Please remember our members that are unable to be in their homes any longer..send a card it will help them knowing 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).

FROM THE PASTOR



Pastor Hope's Report to the Board, Oct. 12, 2025

HIRING OUR NEW SECRETARY, **ESPERANZA "ESPY" ALTAMAR**. First a thank you to **Jaime Hodge**, who knew Espy was looking for a new job and invited her to apply! Both Jaime and I have been friends with Espy for 9 years, from the previous church where we belonged, Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC in Buffalo. Secondly, thanks to **Sandy Lange** who joined me in interviewing her and calling her references. Thirdly, thanks to **Marcy** for training her, as well as **Brett**. Thanks to **Jim and Jason Wokersien** for computer guidance and camera installations to improve security. And thanks to all of you who have welcomed and embraced Espy and her children, Amina and King, who came to our September 6th BBQ and were formally celebrated in worship on September 14.

IMPROVING THE BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER. I've worked with Espy and she's added her expertise to make the front of the bulletin have much more space for inspirational art and a caption, to condense other church info on the back cover, and to add more graphics, especially on inserts. **Good job, Espy!** And we have decided to always print the bulletin on white from now on in order for us to choose bright, colorful and meaningful art for the front, tying into the theme of the day. I am especially grateful to **Becky Wilson** who has chosen some of her lovely watercolors to be featured on many bulletin covers to enhance the theme.

OTHER SPECIAL SUNDAYS. On September 7 we celebrated **Marcy DiPisquale's 16 years of devoted service as secretary,** with gifts, cake and subs. Thanks to **Becky** who always orders the special cakes and makes the most beautiful certificates of appreciation. And I had called **Jan Tooke** to help us recognize Marcy by asking her to give me words to describe what she saw in Marcy when she originally hired her, as well as throughout her 16 years with us. Also present that day were **Beverly and Gabe DiBernarado**, who both had birthdays we recognized.

FINDING WAYS TO INVOLVE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP. Thanks to **Mariah Spencer and Zander Hodge** coming every Sunday, I've often been able to add a special visual or symbolic message in the sermon with their participation. Thanks to **Jaydon Cook (7)** and **Carter Truty (4)**, my grandson, coming recently, I've been able to involve them in prayer shawl dedications and acting out Young People's Parables. I've made special efforts to invite additional kids, so that sometimes we have had a group! I made honoring **Austin Evans's** high school graduation a special Sunday. And I welcomed to church my Kenmore neighbor **Marie Vargo—and her daughter Annabelle—who leads an inclusive Girl Scout troop, and is seeking a church to have an informal partnership of support.**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY. One day I bought 10 knitted "pet blankets" at a Kenmore church yard sale from Julie—made by her sister Lori in Lockport—and told her I would re-purpose and re-dedicate them as prayer shawls. This has led to an ongoing ministry of lifting up our members and our church friends in prayer—and holding them close in our hearts. Lori, who suffers major health struggles, is so thankful to be a part of this holy work that she continues to make large numbers of colorful prayer shawls for our church to give in the months ahead!

PASTORAL VISITS & CONNECTING. I've had many visits with **Jan Tooke** during her hospitalization and then at her home. She has shown me her study Bible that is remarkably covered in comments and learnings of hers in all the book and chapter openings, as well as in the margins. I've visited and stayed in touch with **Leah Benton** and **Debbie Evans** after their surgeries. I stay in texting touch with **Mary Dzik** and **Ash Lynn Dzik**. I have called various members for some birthdays or special events.

A PRIVATE POETRY SHARING GROUP. I meet privately with **Paul White and Mitch Valente** at the church monthly for sharing through poetry about our families and lives, our spirituality and world.

NEW VISITORS. **1: Mitch Valente** has been coming twice a month. (He's still a member at Grove Street Christian, where he had joined when I was interim there.) His wife **Debbie** has come to one BBQ and one service, when Mitch performed an original guitar song. Also Debbie organized a table of 10 at the **Jericho Road fundraiser Gala** October 2, which included she and Mitch as well as **Nancy Golba, KimMarie Brown, Espy and me.**

2: Summer Cook and her son Jaydon (7) have been coming regularly (after I visited her and Jaydon at their home). She now wants to join the church and be baptized by immersion. But she wants to learn more about what it means to be in a church and more of who Jesus is and what he calls and teaches us to be. So one Saturday morning **Nancy Golba and I** met with her about our spiritual journeys and our church. I will meet with her two more times with other church leaders.

3: KimMarie Brown has been coming regularly. She came the first time August 31 and then volunteered to help at our BBQ that next Saturday! She had been looking for a Disciples church and wants to volunteer in mission.

NEW PACC FOOD PANTRY.

KimMarie Brown, Nancy Golba, and I have proposed to Elders that our church create a Church Family to Your Family Food Pantry that would reach people who are recommended to us (by school counselors or others), and that we would shop for their specific needs. One closet near the front door will be dedicated to this purpose, as well as part of Nancy Golba's basement if need be.

PRAYING FOR OUR ECUADORIAN FRIENDS IN CHRIST. I have stayed in texting touch with **Luis**, who was deported to Ecuador. I have written inspirational letters to **Luz**, who was detained and sent to the El Valle Detention Center in Texas, and **Nancy Mueller** helped me locate a UCC minister an hour away to visit her. Luz's letter and colorful drawing with Psalm 23 in Spanish are displayed on a poster in our sanctuary.



Watercolor painting by Becky Wilson

BBQ OUTREACH. I continue to write an inviting, amusing, and inspiring small flyer to put in all the bags to let people know what we have to offer and how special Sundays or ways to connect with us. I have begun to briefly meet or thank the drive-thru people. And I want you to know—you still amaze me at how many of you are involved in pulling off the BBQ, and the joy with which you work with each other as a congregation of Christ!

WORSHIP. To add new voices to worship leadership, I have invited **Ed Wokersien** to regularly help lead the Call to Celebration and responsive Prayer of Approach, with **Heather Ozzimo** filling in when he can't. And I've welcomed **Nancy Mueller** and **Ross Benton** to read scripture sometimes, but we are thankful that **Bill Wolcott** is back and able to read after his serious eye problems; what a faithful servant! Also, Nancy Mueller has continued to share the communion invitation in Spanish, as one way for us to pray and care for **Luz and Luis**.

WORKING WITH OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR, **SAM FESMIRE**. We are blessed to have Sam's lovely voice and guitar, which I have wanted to feature during the Offertory to climax each service. I have worked with Sam to design a good flow in the service and to end with a strong celebratory postlude! We seek to enhance our congregational singing by focusing on the same 3 hymns 3 weeks in a row and having one of us lead the hymns next to him.

MIRACLE OF THE MORTGAGE. I had proposed a mini-challenge to raise one monthly mortgage payment of \$3400 as quickly as we could, from May into summer, to help us catch up on the four months we had to postpone. To my amazement, you raised it almost immediately! And you kept giving so that we were totally caught up to our monthly schedule by August. Then suddenly, out of nowhere, an anonymous donor contributed the rest to free our church from debt. A miracle of generosity.

At our Mortgage Burning Celebration October 5, I said this:

It's been a long journey! A long journey. But our church has been faithful, through good times and bad. You've all kept giving. You've all kept together. And you've kept together in love. Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for this beautiful day in the life of this church, a day we thought we'd never see. But now we have seen! You have been faithful to us, and we have tried to be faithful to you—and most of all to one another, in Christ. We've been stewards of all you've given us. May we continue to be a witness [for you], a light in the darkness. May we be a place of hope and healing. May we be a place that people come and find a family, in Christ. May we always follow your path, in your footsteps. For it is in your name that we pray and live—forever. Amen.

Let's Celebrate!

November Birthdays

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



November Anniversaries

Dave & Debbie Evans

November 15th

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

*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.

PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Hope Douglas Harle-Mould
Pastor

Home 716-868-5533
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Sam Fesmire
Music Director
716-423-3458
payneavechurch@gmail.com

Espy Altamar
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.

****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/payneavenuechurch

or

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

**This
Church
Affirms
You**

