



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

The Board of Elders are having a dinner meeting on January 20th at 6:00pm at Pane's Restaurant



Elders Communion

Bread

Cup

January 4

Jim Wokersien

Brett Kofod

January 11

Becky Wilson

Barb Wokersien

January 18

Ken Ozzimo

Bill Wolcott

January 25

Becky Wilson

Bob Link

Deaconess Schedule - January (4 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined

OUTREACH & MISSION

Through the generosity of PACC members and friends, we were able to help many people in need during 2025. Here's a summary of what was accomplished:

- We donated 68 bags of groceries and personal care products to the North Tonawanda Interchurch Food Pantry.
- Over \$900 was raised to support Phebian Abdulai's medical ministry in Sierra Leone, which provides care for more than 1,500 patients each month.
- Dozens of hats, gloves, scarves and socks, as well as 17 bags of women's clothing and shoes were delivered to the North Tonawanda Clothes Closet.
- We brought two large bags of school supplies to the North Tonawanda City Schools for children of families with limited financial resources.
- Heather Ozzimo is coordinating our assistance to Rainie's Foster Closet. We donated some household goods and clothing to help families who are fostering children. In addition, the items on our Giving Tree are designated for this ministry.
- We provided Thanksgiving meals for seven families and will continue to work with three of those families through our new Church Family to Your Family Food Pantry.

In looking back over the past year, I am amazed and grateful by how each of us chose to devote a portion of the blessings with which we've been entrusted to help people in need. By pooling our resources, we found new and creative ways to serve our brothers and sisters. May we continue to grow in faithful obedience in the year ahead!

Grace and peace, 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!

MUSIC: The Bells of Joy handbell choir had a very busy Advent season with performances on December 7th, 14th, 21st, and Christmas Eve. We featured three pieces of music that our musicians put hours of practice into, including *Festive Celebration*, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, and *I Saw Three Ships*. In case you missed out, videos of our performances have been posted on the church's Facebook page.



We have a very talented and dedicated group of ringers: Becky Wilson, Nancy Golba, Heather Ozzimo, Sandy Lange, Brandon Kofod, Kate

McCormack, Ken Ozzimo, Brett Kofod, and Jaime Hodge who conducts and keeps time for us.

Thank you to each one of you, for your time, devotion, and willingness to make a joyful noise.

We are always looking for more handbell ringers. No prior experience is necessary, and you don't even have to know how to read music! If you are interested, please let Sam, Pastor Hope, or anyone in the bell choir know



Condolences to the family and friends of Lois Madrid, the sister-in-law of Janith Tooke, she passed away on December 20th while in Hospice Care.

Lois M. (Sones) Tooke-Madrid Obituary

Age 94 of the City of Tonawanda, passed away December 20, 2025 at her residence under the care of Hospice. Wife of Harry R. Madrid, and was the wife of the late Gerald A. Tooke who died in 2007 and was the former wife of Donald M. Fiester who passed away 2021. She was the mother of Janet (Thomas) Tower, Linda (Eugene) Lawrie and Lori (Gary) Schrader, 5 grandchildren, Brett (Amanda), Brian, Pamela (Eric), Megan (Allie) and Kevin and 2 great grandchildren, Wilder and Lowen. Lois was the daughter of the late Henry and Pearl Sones. Lois is also survived by her loving step-children Vicky (Larry), Dawn (David), Wayne (Jody) and Michele (David) plus many loving step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Janith Tooke. Lois was a member of Shalom Baptist Church in North Tonawanda. There will be no visitation or Funeral Service. A private burial will be held in Acacia Park Cemetery with Lois's family. Memorial donations in memory of Lois may be made to Hospice Buffalo. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.ROTHFUNERAL.com.



Condolences to the family and friends of Theresa Michalski, she passed away on December 27th and was known by many as the Mother-in-law of Pastor Bob Fleming.

Theresa A. (nee Szabo) Michalski



Entered into the heavenly arms of our Lord on Dec 27, 2025 at the age of 93. Born to James and Elizabeth Szabo, on June 13, 1932 and was the youngest of the siblings. Dearest mother of Suzanne (Rev. Robert) Fleming of Corfu and the late Marion; her grandchildren Craig (Veronika), Crystal (Dustin), and Christopher (Chanise); GiGi to Matthew, Eva, Taylor, Mason, Sabastian and the late Scarlett. She was the sister of the late Mary Pitts (Jim), Elizabeth Lekki (Bill) and brother James S. Szabo (Goldie); also survived by many nieces, nephews, family and friends. No prior visitation. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements by: CASTIGLIA FUNERAL HOME, INC., 873 Abbott Rd., South Buffalo, NY, 824-6435. Please share your condolences at: www.castigliafuneralhome.com



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS CHRISTMAS 2025

**Thank You to Everyone Who Purchased Poinsettia Plants
to Help Decorate the Altar for Christmas!**

Bill Wolcott

In Loving Memory of Shirley Wolcott

Shirley Jayne

In Loving Memory of Douglas Jayne & Kim Arellano

Ed Boyer

In Loving Memory of Edward & Janet Boyer

Brett Kofod

**In Loving Memory of Kathleen Kofod, Reginald & Janet Rider, Gertrude Proefrock, Lois Newman,
Winifred Schasel, Sue Knoll, Ruth Smith, Lucille Goldsworthy, Florence Janowsky, Richard Keil,
Bob Butler, Irma Bagdy, Rev. Jerry McGlone & Rev. Charles Lamb**

Brett Kofod

In honor of Pastor Hope Harle-Mould & Nancy Golba

The Wilson Family

In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones

Mary Caldwell

In Loving Memory of Richard S. Caldwell and Loved Ones

Brenda Doucette

**In Loving Memory of my husband, Jerry and our parents:
Edward and Geraldine Doucette & John and Vivian Papoi**

Heather and Ken Ozzimo

In Loving Memory of Christine Smith and Earl & Margaret Smith

Kate McCormack

In Loving Memory of Daniel McCormack

Paul Wright

In Honor of My Sister and My Dad

Jim Wokersien

In Memory of Loved Ones

The Board of Elders

In Honor of Elder Emeritus' Leah Benton, Karen Lawrence & Janith Tooke

The Board of Trustees

In loving Memory of our Trustee Emeritus' Jerry Doucette, John Painter & C. Raymond Schreiber

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 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

FROM THE PASTOR

"God will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. Because this service that you perform not only meets the needs of God's people,

but also produces an outpouring of gratitude [directly] to God."

—2 Corinthians 9:11-12



Winter 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This season of celebration, the Elders are launching a new Special Capital Funds Drive to help our church build a firmer foundation and reach out to attract more people to join our life and work together in Christ:

1: A BIG NEW CHURCH SIGN OUT FRONT & COMMUNITY PUBLICITY: \$5000

A very large, eye-catching, colorful sign on our lawn

to express our new spirit and warm welcome as Disciples of Christ people who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

2: A BUILDING-REPAIRS FUND FOR EMERGENCIES: \$10,000

A crisis fund only for unexpected and urgent building & grounds repairs.

To finally have a reserve fund to provide a rock-like foundation for our future.

*****TIMELINE FOR GIVING: 12 months, in addition to your regular weekly stewardship**

Can we do this? I believe we can! As we rallied together through last year's financial challenges 'til we reached the miracle of paying off our mortgage, we can challenge ourselves now to strengthen our church and stretch into the next stage of our life and ministry together in Christ's name.

What will you give? **What amount represents you? What amount shows that you truly believe in our church and its future?** What amount reveals that you truly trust our Gracious Lord to provide for your needs, as you provide for the Body of Christ in this place?

You can give to our Special Capital Funds Drive weekly, monthly, quarterly or even yearly, whatever works best for your budget. Just fill out your pledge card, put it in the offering plate or mail it in. Also, if you give each week through our STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES, you'll see you can designate how much of what you give is for Current Expenses and how much is for Capital Funds.

In this church we call ourselves **Disciples**. That is a high calling. To be faithful Disciples of the Risen Christ is to be creative in our caring for one another, devoted in our giving, and courageous in our mission in the world. May we grow into one who Christ calls, "**My disciple.**"

In Christ's love,

Pastor Hope Harle-Mould and all your Elders



IS PAYNE AVENUE CHURCH IN YOUR PLANS AND HEART?

What Our Church Needs Week to Week in Regular Stewardship Giving

by Brett Kofod, Treasurer and Elder

The annual budget for Payne Avenue Christian Church is \$72,650.00 in 2026. That means we have to take in about \$1,400.00 each week in order to pay our bills.

This amount pays our employee’s salaries, our insurance premiums, and our utilities and maintenance costs. It also covers our outreach and missions goals, office supplies, communion cups on Sunday mornings, and postage stamps.

We have our church basement occupied which brings in \$16,500 annually. Our chicken barbeque fundraisers bring in about \$7,000 annually. The rest comes from you!

Most people give a dedicated amount every week or once a month through their Stewardship Boxed Envelopes. (If you don’t have a box, please ask!) Others give a generous amount once a quarter or even annually.

Which method will most help you to be a faithful giver?

If Payne Avenue Christian Church is in your plans and in your heart—as it is for me and many others—please make a commitment to support your church financially. Thank you.

WHAT CAN YOU GIVE IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S GIVING TO YOU?

A percentage guide to finding the amount that represents you as a Disciple of Christ.

Percentage Giving (Proportionate) (expressed in a dollar per week commitment)										
Annual Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$15,000	\$2.88	\$5.77	\$8.65	\$11.54	\$14.42	\$17.31	\$20.19	\$23.08	\$25.96	\$28.85
\$20,000	\$3.85	\$7.69	\$11.54	\$15.38	\$19.23	\$23.08	\$26.92	\$30.77	\$34.62	\$38.46
\$25,000	\$4.81	\$9.62	\$14.42	\$19.23	\$24.04	\$28.85	\$33.65	\$38.46	\$43.27	\$48.08
\$30,000	\$5.77	\$11.54	\$17.31	\$23.08	\$28.85	\$34.62	\$40.38	\$46.15	\$51.92	\$57.69
\$35,000	\$6.73	\$13.46	\$20.19	\$26.92	\$33.65	\$40.38	\$47.12	\$53.85	\$60.58	\$67.31
\$40,000	\$7.69	\$15.38	\$23.08	\$30.77	\$38.46	\$46.15	\$53.85	\$61.54	\$69.23	\$76.92
\$45,000	\$8.65	\$17.31	\$25.96	\$34.62	\$43.27	\$51.92	\$60.58	\$69.23	\$77.88	\$86.54
\$50,000	\$9.62	\$19.23	\$28.85	\$38.46	\$48.08	\$57.69	\$67.31	\$76.92	\$86.54	\$96.15
\$55,000	\$10.58	\$21.15	\$31.73	\$42.31	\$52.88	\$63.46	\$74.04	\$84.62	\$95.19	\$105.77
\$60,000	\$11.54	\$23.08	\$34.62	\$46.15	\$57.69	\$69.23	\$80.77	\$92.31	\$103.85	\$115.38
\$65,000	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$37.50	\$50.00	\$62.50	\$75.00	\$87.50	\$100.00	\$112.50	\$125.00
\$70,000	\$13.46	\$26.92	\$40.38	\$53.85	\$67.31	\$80.77	\$94.23	\$107.69	\$121.15	\$134.62
\$75,000	\$14.42	\$28.85	\$43.27	\$57.69	\$72.12	\$86.54	\$100.96	\$115.38	\$129.81	\$144.23
\$80,000	\$15.38	\$30.77	\$46.15	\$61.54	\$76.92	\$92.31	\$107.69	\$123.08	\$138.46	\$153.85
\$85,000	\$16.35	\$32.69	\$49.04	\$65.38	\$81.73	\$98.08	\$114.42	\$130.77	\$147.12	\$163.46
\$90,000	\$17.31	\$34.62	\$51.92	\$69.23	\$86.54	\$103.85	\$121.15	\$138.46	\$155.77	\$173.08
\$95,000	\$18.27	\$36.54	\$54.81	\$73.08	\$91.35	\$109.62	\$127.88	\$146.15	\$164.42	\$182.69
\$100,000	\$19.23	\$38.46	\$57.69	\$76.92	\$96.15	\$115.38	\$134.62	\$153.85	\$173.08	\$192.31

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ - UPDATE

On December 6th, we held our 3rd and final Chiavetta's chicken BBQ of the year. This was the 6th consecutive December that we have held this fundraiser, going back to 2020 when the world was slowly emerging from the covid pandemic.



The event was a success once again, despite the snow and ice that had accumulated in the days leading up to our BBQ. We sold 275 dinners during the 4-hour event, and another 25 dinners the next morning after our worship service. That put us up to 300 total dinners sold which was the same as our last December event. At this time, our profit from December 6th stands at **\$1,991.00**

That brings our total chicken BBQ fundraising profit to more than **\$6,400** for 2025!

There are many people to thank for the success of this event:

- Advertising and sign hanging crew
- Setup crew
- Dessert bakers
- Outdoor servers and runners
- Indoor servers and support
- All those who purchased dinners or donated towards the event
- Cleanup crew

Let's Celebrate! Birthdays and Anniversaries:

January Birthdays

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

February Birthdays

- 7th Darleen Papke
- 12th Missy Weiser
- 13th David Krause
- 14th Dylan Akins
- 19th Ross Benton
- 22nd Tammy Bradigan
- 27th Carla Wokersien Reeves
- 28th Kelly Akins



*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.



OFFICE UPDATES: Hooray - **CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** have been distributed, if you do not receive them but are interested - place a note in the offertory tray or contact the office.

Annual Contribution Statements for 2025 will be available by the end of January.

Church directories are almost complete - please let the office know if you have any new contact information. (we get a lot of emails that do not go through) thank you!!

PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Hope Douglas Harle-Mould

Pastor

Home 716-868-5533

hopeharlemould@gmail.com

Sam Fesmire

Music Director

716-423-3458

stfesmire@gmail.com



Let's be the church
we say we are.



Espy Altamar

Secretary / Financial Clerk

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**

