



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

The Board of Elders next meeting: Monday, March 16th at 6:15pm

| Elders Communion | Bread | Cup |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| February 1 | Ken Ozzimo | Jim Wokersien |
| February 8 | Becky Wilson | Brett Kofod |
| February 15 | Ross Benton | Bob Link |
| February 22 | Bob Link | Ross Benton |
| March 1 | Ken Ozzimo | Bob Link |
| March 8 | Becky Wilson | Brett Kofod |
| March 15 | Ross Benton | Barb Wokersien |
| March 22 | Ross Benton | Barb Wokersien |
| March 29 | Becky Wilson | Brett Kofod |



Deaconess Schedule - February (4 Sundays) and March (5 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined

Church Family to Your Family Food Pantry

by Nancy Golba, Chair, Outreach and Mission



Food Collection

You've probably heard about the Church Family to Your Family Food Pantry, a new outreach to our local community that is designed to assist low-income families whose parents can't get to other pantries while they are open.

In December we began working with three families of students who attend Drake Elementary School. The school's social worker identified parents who would appreciate help with purchasing food. (These are the same families that the Elders provided Thanksgiving baskets for.)

Every month we ask parents which groceries they need most, then shop for as many of those items as our \$60 budget will buy. Their lists are focused on nutritious food for the children - fresh fruit, vegetables, lean meats, low-fat milk, eggs & bread. These supplies are delivered to their homes, providing opportunity to meet family members & better understand the challenges they face each day.

Thanks to Kate McCormack's inspiration & the generosity of the YALT families she works with, our church now has a larder of non-perishable food for parents to select from. So far, they've come on Saturdays, but we are willing to meet them at other times, as well. During these visits we continue to build relationships & help them realize that we care about their well-being & that God loves them so very much!

Everyone in these families - parents & kids alike - have expressed gratitude for the assistance they've received. One mother said, "Your help couldn't have come at a better time. We're going through an especially rough patch this month."

This is such a heartwarming ministry! All are invited to participate, whether by shopping for food, welcoming families to the pantry, delivering groceries, or providing financial resources. Let us know, then watch your joy & blessings grow!

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!



***Our condolences to family and friends of Leah Ruth Benton
Obituary - A Life Well-Lived***

Early Life and Education

Leah Ruth (Schultz) Benton was born at home on September 26, 1933, in North Tonawanda, NY. Leah was the youngest of 2 children of the late Irving Schultz and Ruth Schultz-Jones. Attended North Tonawanda High School graduating ahead of her classmates. Leah was graduated from Buffalo State Teachers College with a BS degree in 1954 and her master's in education in 1959.

Career and Contributions

Dedicated her life teaching 4th and 5th grade at Barker, Williamsville and North Tonawanda Public Schools (Spruce School). Leah retired in 1991 after 30 years.

Family and Personal Life

Leah married Paul on June 29th, 1955, in North Tonawanda, NY and had a beautiful marriage for 59 years until his passing in 2014. Leah and Paul had 2 children, Ross and Ruth. They built and lived in their home in North Tonawanda for over 50 years until moving in with their daughter Ruth in Wheatfield, NY in 2014.

Leah and Paul were active members of Payne Avenue Christian Church in North Tonawanda where Leah was in the choir, handbell choir, Church Elder Emeritus, Pianist, church board clerk, worship chairman, and clerk of the board of elders. Leah was musically talented and played piano frequently for church and for family gatherings. Leah also took pride in her home and gardening with a beautiful elaborate garden.



Leah and Paul also enjoyed camping and traveling together. Leah was a voluntary reader at Ohio School after her retirement. Boating was a hobby they were enthusiastic about. Members of the LaSalle Yacht Club and the Swiftwater Power Squadron, Past President of the Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Teachers Sorority.

A Legacy of Love and Wisdom – Leah Ruth Benton

Leah Benton passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning, January 6, 2026, at home after a battle with cancer under the care of her daughter Ruth Benton-Misko. She is survived by her children Ross Benton and Ruth Benton-Misko, grandchildren Rebecca (Ryan) Lewis and Paul (Hoa) Benton, Sarah (Scott) Welker and Rachel (Rueben) Hand. Also, many great grandchildren Mason Lewis, Adrianna Lewis, Emelia Hand, Taryn Welker, Roscoe Welker, Rollie Welker as well as 2 foster children. Also, many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends who will miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband R. Paul Benton, Son in-law William "Bill" Misko, Daughter in-law Susan Benton, and her brother Donald Schultz (late Frances).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Payne Avenue Christian Church memorial fund.

Leah Benton's memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing her. Her life was a shining example of what it means to live with purpose, passion, and love. Rest in peace, dear Leah; your legacy will continue to inspire us all.



From Leah Benton's Funeral January 31, 2026

Pastor Hope ended his eulogy by saying he imagined Leah might have prayed the words to this hymn to her Savior, as she tried her best to live these words as a teacher, musician, mother, and faithful disciple of Christ. May they inspire us still.

Lord, Speak to Me by Frances Ridley Havergal

*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thine erring children lost and lone.*

*O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.*

*O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.*

*O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.*

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



Mark your calendars - FELLOWSHIP MEALS!!

Look for sign-ups in church - All are invited - please join us!

- March 15th - sub luncheon
- April 19th - hot dog/hamburger roast.

FROM THE PASTOR

At a Small Church in Buffalo

*A winter poem by Paul White, inspired by our church
and shared by Pastor Hope in worship February 8th*

Because of the storm
Only a few people showed up
At a church on Sunday.
So they pulled up chairs
Around the altar
And had a party
To celebrate the victory
Of having arrived
Through white out conditions.
They drank a little wine,
They ate some little squares
Of bread,
And then they reveled
In the light
Of each other's faces,
Unified
In the heart of Jesus,
Their friend, who has come
Through quite a storm himself
To be here.
Then they all went out to shovel
And free the people
In cars with spinning tires.
The elders, the older people,
They made hot cocoa in the kitchen.
It became a very bright day.



Easter Flower Order

PACC - 2026

Name: _____ Phone: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Order Deadline to Charlie's is Monday, 03/23/26, so.....

Your **Deadline to Becky/church is Sunday, 03/22/26!!**

Flower type: size/colors: cost: # ordered & \$ total

Easter Lily 6" (4+blooms)- \$15.00 ea. X _____ = \$ _____

Chrysanthemum 6" Yellow___ White___ Lavender___

(Total Chrysanthemums) \$15.00 ea. X _____ = \$ _____

Tulips 6" Red___ Yellow___ Pink___ Lavender___

Two-toned_____

(Total Tulips) \$10.00 ea. X _____ = \$ _____

Daffodils 6" (Yellow) \$10.00 ea. X _____ = \$ _____

Hyacinth 6" (3 bulbs) White___ Pink___ Blue___

(Total Hyacinths) \$10.00 ea. X _____ = \$ _____

Total Plants: _____ = \$ _____

****All orders are due to Becky Wilson by: 03/22/26**

****Please Notice that Lilies & Mums have gone up in price!**

Questions call: (Becky) 716-998-9052

****Make Checks Payable to PACC**

Let's Celebrate! Birthdays and Anniversaries:



February Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|--------------|----|------------------------|
| 12 | Missy Weiser | 22 | Tammy Bradigan |
| 13 | David Krause | 22 | Zander Hodge |
| 19 | Ross Benton | 27 | Carla Wokersien Reeves |

March Birthdays

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Pastor Hope | 16 | Shelley Wilson |
| 1 | Hunter Kennedy | 19 | Susan Hewitt |
| 2 | Melissa Evans Lee | | |

March Anniversaries

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|--|
| 22 | Jaime and Erik Hodge | | |
|----|----------------------|--|--|

April Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|-------------|----|------------------|
| 9 | David Evans | 25 | Michael Rogan |
| 24 | Linda Ortel | 26 | Karen Lawrence |
| 24 | Jaime Hodge | 29 | Mason Paul Lewis |

April Anniversaries

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|--|
| 21 | Don and Nancy Golba | | |
|----|---------------------|--|--|

**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: Annual Contribution Statements for 2025 are ready please let me know if you did not receive your statement. Thank you.

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
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stfesmire@gmail.com

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

 We say we are
Disciples of Christ,
a movement for *wholeness*
in a *fragmented world*.

Let's be the church
we say we are.

**This
Church
Affirms
You**



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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

WiFi Password: Peace4all

WiFi is available in the church building and 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>