



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Thursday, May 7th at 6pm - Elders Meeting is scheduled

Sunday, June 21st Joyful Noise and Bells of Joy and it's Father's Day too, so invite neighbors and family to come celebrate and be inspired – to "serve the Lord with gladness, come into God's presence with singing!"

Elders Communion	Bread	Cup
May 3	Ken Ozzimo	Brett Kofod
May 10 (Mother's Day)	Becky Wilson	Bill Wolcott
May 17	Becky Wilson	Barb Wokersien
May 24 (Memorial Day Wknd)	Jim Wokersien	Bob Link
May 31	Bob Link	Bill Wolcott

Deaconess Schedule - May (5 Sundays) and June (4 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined

Outreach and Mission Let's celebrate our outreach partner organizations!

Yours in Christ, Coordinators – Nancy Golba, Nancy Mueller, Heather Ozzimo

Rainie's Foster Closet, Inc.
100 Ridge Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
A 501c3 Organization

**Rainie's
Foster Closet**

Helping to Clothe Foster and Kinship 1017 Families
www.facebook.com/rainiesfostercloset | www.rainiesfostercloset.org

Payne Avenue Christian Church
1459 Payne Avenue
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

It is with sincerest appreciation that we acknowledge your generous contribution to the North Tonawanda Inter- Church Food Pantry. As always, your contributions are invaluable in our continuing effort to distribute food and personal care to the less fortunate in our area.

November 2025 Contributions: 6 Bags of Food

December 2025 Contributions: 2 Bags of Food

Total 2025 Contributions: 82 Bags & Personal Care Products

Sincerely,

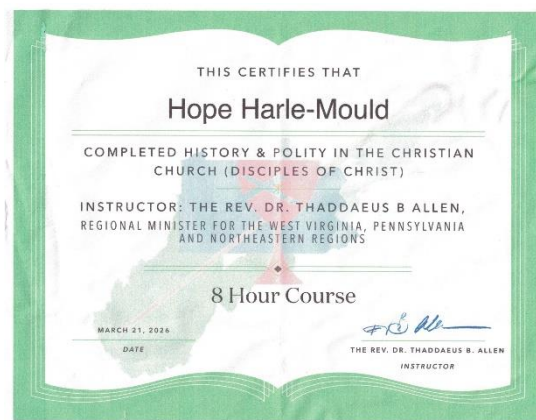
Bonnie J. Shaffer

Bonnie J. Shaffer
Co-Ordinator
NT Inter- Church Food Pantry

The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry
100 Ridge Street, North Tonawanda, New York 14120 (716) 692-8552
www.ntfoodpantry@verizon.net

From the Elders -Special message:

1. Thank you to **Vern & Jean Ortel** for putting on the Hot Dog/Hamburger roast on April 26th.
2. Thank you to **Brenda Doucette, Sandy Lange, and Butch Milliron** for their help in organizing and cleaning up during and the Hot Dog/Hamburger luncheon on April 26th.
3. Special thanks to **Keith Kofod** for being the grill master on April 26th.
4. **Congratulations Pastor Hope** for his completion of History & Polity in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5. Many thanks for all the donations with **EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!! We raised over \$800 to celebrate birthdays!!!** *What a wonderful way to honor another years journey around the sun!!*
6. Thank you for the many generous donations **made IN MEMORY of Leah Benton, Janith Tooke, and the Capital Campaign** – a donation summary and acknowledgments will be sent out soon.



Easter Flower Donations 2026



Bob & Becky Wilson

In Loving Memory of All Our Loved Ones

Brett Kofod

In Loving Memory of Rev. Jerry McGlone, Rev. Charles Lamb, Gertrude Proefrock, Lois Newman, Winifred Schasel, Sue Knoll, Florence Janowsky, Ruth Smith, Lucille Goldsworthy & C. Raymond Schreiber

Brett Kofod

In Loving Memory of Reginald & Janet Rider

Brett Kofod

In Honor of Becky Wilson, Nancy Golba, Sandy Lange & Butch Milliron

Kate McCormack

In Loving Memory of Daniel McCormack

Shirley Jayne

In Loving Memory of Doug Jayne & Kim Arellano

Bill Wolcott

In Loving Memory of Shirley Wolcott

Brandon Kofod

In Loving Memory of My Grandparents & Janith Tooke

Bob Link

In Loving Memory of Loved Ones

Ken & Heather Ozzimo

In Loving Memory of Sue Benton, Leah Benton & Christine Smith

Ed & Barb Wokersien

In Loving Memory Loved Ones

Raymond Milliron

In Loving Memory of Mom & Kelly

Brenda Doucette

In Loving Memory of My Husband, Jerry & Parents John & Vivian Papoi and Edward & Geraldine Doucette

James Wokersien

In Loving Memory of Loved Ones

Sherry Ostwald

In Loving Memory of Dan Ostwald

Rev. Hope Harle-Mould

In Loving Memory of My Brother David Harle and a Nine-Year-old Friend, Anna Conte

Paul Wright

In Memory of Loved Ones

Mitsy Luciano

In Loving Memory of Dian Loucks & Miriam Santiago

Ed Boyer

In Loving Memory of Edward & Janet Boyer

Nancy Mueller

In Loving Memory of Dick & Arletta Mueller

ON BEHALF OF THE ELDERS

In Memory of Leah Benton & Janith Tooke, Elder Emeritus's

ON BEHALF OF THE ELDERS

In Honor of Karen Lawrence, Elder Emeritus



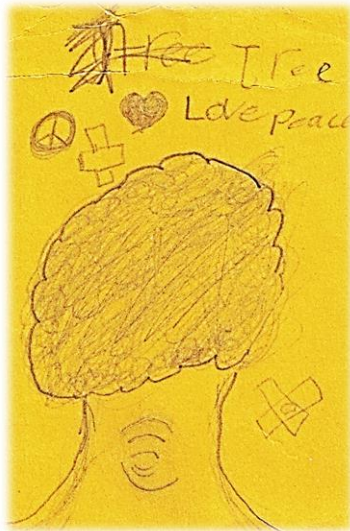
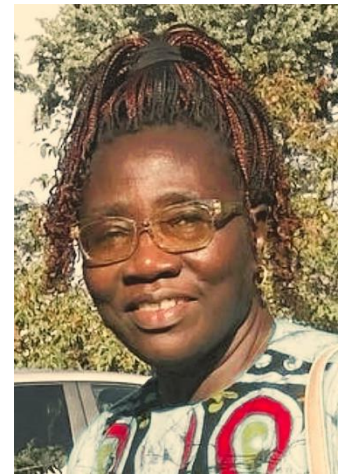
Please pick up your orders after the Easter Service

FROM THE PASTOR

Medical Missionary Phebian Abdulai is back from Sierra Leone for a couple of months. Phebian is a longtime friend of Pastor Hope, back when she and her family came as refugees to Buffalo and his church sponsored them. After Phebian graduated as an RN and began working at Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo, she had a vision of God calling her back to her homeland to start a medical clinic where there were none.

And with full support from Jericho Road and additional fundraising from Pastor Hope's church, she began that quest until it finally opened in 2015. Since then, she has started two more clinics and an orphanage,

where she is known as Mama Phebian! Bring a friend to come and hear and to see this woman whom Pastor Hope calls the greatest Christian he has ever met.



Amina Rose Altamar created this drawing for Earth Day 4/22/2026 to pray for healing, love, and peace.

"When our clinic first opened [in Kono, Sierra Leone, West Africa] it was like a lighthouse or a safe haven. Everybody was running toward it. In the first seven months we got a patient population of 8,000. And we had 40 baby deliveries and 200 hernia operations. I lived at the clinic in an apartment, so I was on call 24/7."

"And I believe I only came through because of God's grace, because of the many prayers offered up for my safety and for strength. And I believe God still has more work for us there, to His glory. Let us not lose hope. And let us not get weary. In due season we'll reap the reward."— Phebian Abdulai, RN, and Buffalo News Outstanding Citizen, 2015



"Displaced Persons" Stained glass window at Trinity Church in Buffalo, NY

Trusting God in Sierra Leone

Hope Douglas Harle-Mould

If I could introduce you to the greatest Christian I've ever met, who taught me how to hold Christ's hand through the darkness, who gave me a glimpse of



Buffalo,
New York

UNITED STATES

God's face, I would bring you to Phebian Abdulai, mother of the refugee family our church resettled from Sierra Leone.

When rebels attacked the capital city of Freetown, Phebian was pregnant, and she was forced to flee with her two little girls and a niece, leading them through the bush. After finally crossing into Guinea, she still felt threatened, so she kept her young ones walking until they reached a United Nations refugee camp in Gambia. There her little boy was born. She named him Emmanuel, for on many occasions she had trusted God-with-Us to deliver them from violence to refuge.

After three years in the camp, they were cleared to fly to Buffalo, New York, to meet their sponsor,

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, where I was pastor. The family expected to see only one person, Shirley Capell, our mission chairperson, who had signed the papers, but they saw 25 of us with signs, balloons, stuffed animals, and embraces of love.

Phebian enrolled in a nursing program and began to work at nursing homes, for hospice care, and then at the Jericho Road Community Health Center, serving the poor and immigrants of the city's West Side neighborhoods. Persevering, she graduated as a registered nurse and became an American citizen.

Then Phebian had a surprising vision of God calling her back to Sierra Leone to start a health clinic in the Kono District, serving villages with no medical facilities. She had vowed to herself never to return to where she had experienced such horror. But the vision kept coming.

Phebian shared her vision with Dr. Myron Glick, founder of Jericho Road, who said that he too had a vision: of commissioning former refugees to return to their homelands to build clinics as an extension of the healing ministry of Jericho Road. She would be perfect to be the first.

Our church members gave sacrificially, and Jericho Road held grand fundraisers. After many trips to Koidu Town to gather support from community leaders and people, Phebian and Dr. Glick joined many in the groundbreaking ceremonies.

But disaster struck. As the walls were going up, Sierra Leone's vice president suddenly forced construction to stop, as the clinic was located next to his summer home. Outraged, Phebian traveled to Freetown and met with the president. He too was outraged, saying her clinic was exactly what the country needed. He even put the deed in her name so the clinic's construction could not be stopped again.

Finally the clinic held its grand opening, and when the first baby was born there by cesarean section, the parents named her Phebian. When some former rebel soldiers came seeking help and some of the staff wanted to turn them away, Phebian was adamant: *These gates are open to all God's children.*

That spring, disaster struck again: the Ebola epidemic. Since the clinic provided only primary care, it was not allowed to function until the virus was contained. Many were dying, even doctors and nurses. Phebian could have returned to safety in America, but she chose to stay. She brought

emergency food to hundreds of quarantined families so they wouldn't leave their homes during the 21-day seclusion. Many parents had already died, leaving children orphaned, so Phebian started an orphanage, and the children began calling her Mama.

Phebian's medical miracles continue to this day, and she lives and works at the clinic nine months of the year and returns to her family in Buffalo for three.

When Phebian finally returned after the Ebola crisis, she said: "When our clinic was opened, it was like a lighthouse or safe haven. Everybody was running toward that clinic . . . I live right at the clinic, and I don't know how I did it, but I know it was by God's grace and the prayers offered which keeps us going, to do extra, out of our limit. And I believe God still has more work for us there. To his glory."

HOPE DOUGLAS HARLE-MOULD has preached in and traveled throughout Sierra Leone. He now works with asylum seekers from Latin America.



Prayers of Healing and Caring:



Prayer Requests

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
Linda Harle-Mould
Jaime Hodge
Shirley Jayne
Brandon Kofod
Karen Lawrence and her daughter Ronda

Bob Link's Daughter Shelly and Grandson William
Autumn Lee
Matt Lipinczyk (Nephew of Paul White & Nancy Mueller)
Harry Madrid
Carol McBride
Burton Merriam
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
Cynthia Pullman

Heather Raggi (Family of Bob Link)
Joan Shamrock
Karen Smith (Friend of Marcy's)
Linda Staiger (Family of Jim Wokersien)
Janith Tooke's 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 **Sherry Ostwald 716-471-6842** (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, send a card and show they are remembered: Karen Lawrence, Sharon Ostwald, and Janet Holt (all addresses in Church Directory).

In Loving Memory



Join us to remember:

The flowers on the communion table were given in loving memory of **Janet Rider**, who passed away 2 years ago on April 30th, 2024



OFFICE UPDATES: Thank you everyone for your welcoming notes, kind words, yummy treats, and gifts for my kids – they are very heart-warming.



Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars

CHIAVETTA'S BBQ dates for 2026 set: July 11th, September 26th, and December 5th!

Prices and sides TBD at this time. "If anyone feels it is time for a change in the sides that are offered with the dinners, please speak with Brett. He is reviewing options with Chiavettas. If you love the sides just the way they are, mention that too! "



Special Invitation:

**Baptism of Summer Ann Cook
Saturday, May 9th at 11:00
Grove Street Christian Church
85 Grove Street
Tonawanda, NY**

This a full-immersion baptism officiated by Pastor Hope. It is part of her joining Jesus as an ongoing member at Payne Ave Christian Church, and she is inviting all of us at PACC to come be witnesses and celebrate it together!

Other news:

PACC First Quarter Financial Statements are available on the Deacon's Table or call the office if anyone is interested.



COFFEE HOUR: For our regular coffee crew – there are PACC coffee mugs available and hooks to hang them. Yay! You can put your name on a mug instead of using a disposable cup each week.

The environment will thank you - Enjoy!

Let's Celebrate! Birthdays and Anniversaries:

May Birthdays			
4	Erik Hodge	11	Brett Kofod
5	Amina Altamar	16	Jason Wokersien
10	Kathy Koza	23	Jean Ortel
		29	Dorothea Knoell
May Anniversaries			
30	Gabriel and Beverly DiBernardo		
June Birthdays			
2	Cecil "Bill" Wolcott	15	Rebecca Benton
3	Summer Cook	23	Nancy Mueller
June Anniversaries			
23	Pastor Hope and Linda Harle-Mould		
28	Tony and Marcy DiPasquale		



**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
hopeharlemould@gmail.com

Sam Fesmire
 Music Director
 716-423-3458
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>