



PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Elders meeting - Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30pm

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 Schedule - Please see bulletin

Deaconess Schedule - June (4 Sundays)

Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up – To be determined



Outreach and Mission

At our May 3rd worship service we heard powerful testimony from Pastor Hope's good friend, Phebian Abdulai. She told us how God kept her family safe during the brutal civil war in her native country, Sierra Leone. They were able to escape to a refugee camp in Gambia and lived in very primitive conditions for several years. The family finally received permission to resettle in the United States and were blessed to be sponsored by St. Peter's UCC, led by Pastor Hope.

Phebian completed her nursing studies and worked at Jericho Road Community Health Center. Despite her vow to never go back to the dangers of Sierra Leone, Phebian kept hearing God say she was needed to bring healthcare to the people of the Kono District where she had grown up.

After years of planning and with the wholehearted support of her church family and Jericho Road, Phebian returned with a dedicated group who worked tirelessly to build the Adama Martha Memorial health center. Major obstacles had to be overcome, but they trusted in God's providence each step of the way.

Currently her team treats thousands of patients at three clinics in Sierra Leone. They also established an orphanage and work with the community to educate children and adults. These essential services have blessed the lives of so many people who never before had access to modern medical care.

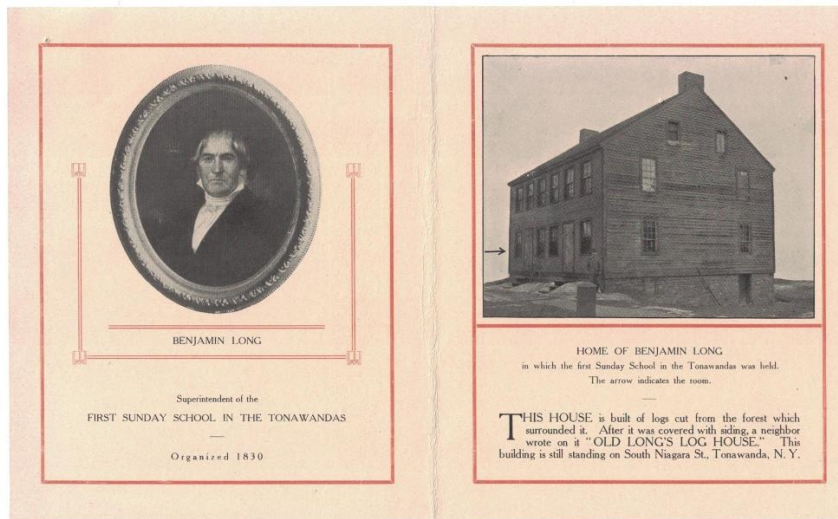
Of course it takes money to operate these facilities, but it costs just a small fraction of what we pay in our country. I love a bargain and am eager to provide financial support for the ministries that began when God showed Phebian a vision of what needed to be done to care for His children! I invite you to do the same.

During June our focus will be on supporting Phebian's work in Sierra Leone. If you would like to make a contribution, please indicate “Phebian” on the envelope and/or your check. I hope you will join us by investing in the well-being of our sisters and brothers across the world.

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Golba, Coordinator

Let's celebrate our history as the First Sunday School in the Tonawandas!
Organized 1830 at the home of Benjamin Long.



Juneteenth is a U.S. federal holiday that commemorates the day in 1865 when the final enforcement action of the Emancipation Proclamation occurred in Texas. The capture and kidnapping of people from Africa, and subsequent transporting of them by ship, mostly to the southern states in the U.S. is the typical and most applicable understanding of slavery as a practice in the U.S. Indigenous people and some other groups of people were also enslaved, and the practice extended some beyond the South.

Slavery and the subsequent systemic racism that followed, and continues in many ways today, is often referred to as "America's original sin." - <https://azdisciples.org/juneteenth/>

Juneteenth Excerpt from "July 4: An African-American perspective" July 1, 2020 By Rev. Dr. Timothy James



"So, if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8: 36 (NRSV)

This is except is "to highlight the observance of Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when the slaves in Texas were freed, two and one-half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Obviously, for me a minister, serving the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), I emphasize the importance of our initiative to truly be an Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling church.

In my contemplation ..., I read the works one of our ancestors, Frederick Douglass, escaped slave, fiery abolitionist and preacher. He was asked to deliver an oration to an august crowd on "What, to the Slave, is the Fourth of July". This speech was given July 5, 1852, slavery was nationalized, and fugitive slave laws were enforced in the north and the south. Douglass was clear to point out the *Star Spangled Banner* and American Christianity shared the same spirit of oppression of the slave. He strongly articulated, "For black men there are neither law, justice, humanity nor religion." This mindset of white supremacy and black inferiority was a part of America's legislation and America's religion. He went on to say, "The American church is guilty, when viewed in connection with what it is doing to uphold slavery; but it is superlatively guilty when viewed in connection with its ability to abolish slavery." Preston Taylor, founder of the National Christian Missionary Convention, sought to end the heresy looming over the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a segregated church. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his "Letter from the Birmingham Jail", admonished

white preachers and white Christians not to condemn his actions while they sat silent and complicit with the systems that denied civil rights and human rights to African Americans. I thank God for the circumstances that have brought us to this place. Although they are not the prettiest and most pleasant, these circumstances have created so many perfect storms for resistance, advocacy and change. When the marching stops the work does not. Let us be fully committed to be a model church endeavoring to be Anti-Racist and Pro-Reconciling. Francis Scott Key's words, "the land of the free and the home of the brave" did not apply to Black people. But Jesus said, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8: 36). Let us be about the work to expose and dismantle racism in its many forms and manifestations. We can make America and the world a better place to live for our children. I will celebrate July 4, in the spirit of anticipation and hope of what America may become. I will **celebrate with faith in God, hope in Jesus Christ and with the love of the Holy Spirit working in me and through me. May we be the movement for wholeness in this fragmented world? My faith tells me that the best is yet to come.**"

<https://disciples.org/general/july-4-an-african-american-perspective> (Simmons and Thomas, editors; **PREACHING WITH SACRED FIRE**, An Anthology of African Sermons 1750 – to the Present; Frederick Douglass, "What, to the Slave, is the Fourth of July", p.137-160; W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2010.)

FROM THE PASTOR

On Pentecost, the Spirit did not stay in one place. It moved outward — across languages, cultures, and every barrier people believed separated them. In that moment, a new kind of community was born, shaped by courage, generosity, and love.

That same Spirit is still moving today.



In a world where many people feel uncertain, divided, or disconnected from one another, the Church is called to be a different kind of presence — one that reflects Christ's compassion, humility, and grace.

The Prophet Micah reminds us what God asks of us:

"To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8

Not just believe.

Not just gather.

But to live in ways that bring healing and hope.

Because faith without justice is empty — and justice, at its heart, is love in action.

The Pentecost Offering helps support New Church Ministry and your Regional ministry to nurture emerging communities of faith. Through these ministries, new spaces are created where people can encounter God, build meaningful relationships, and serve their neighbors with compassion.

Your gift helps these communities grow in neighborhoods seeking connection and hope. **Thank you for giving, praying, and helping the Spirit continue its work among us.**

For Times Such as These

Please give generously to this Special Day Offering.

Special days in the life of the church often allow us to focus our worship, celebrations and fellowship around moments that are central to our faith.





Prayer Requests

Prayers of Healing and Caring:

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, Sherry Ostwald, and Janet Holt (all addresses in Church Directory).



Join us to give many thanks:

- 1. Thank you to Brandon Kofod for mopping the sanctuary floor!*
- 2. Special thanks for the shed window that has been replaced by Brett Kofod!!*
- 3. Many thanks to all who volunteer with events & upkeep at PACC!*

OFFICE UPDATES: Thank you everyone for your contributions and giving 100%!!
Website: <https://www.northeasternccdoc.com/>



Western New York Area
Churches In Covenant
gives thanks to the members of



Payne Avenue Christian Church

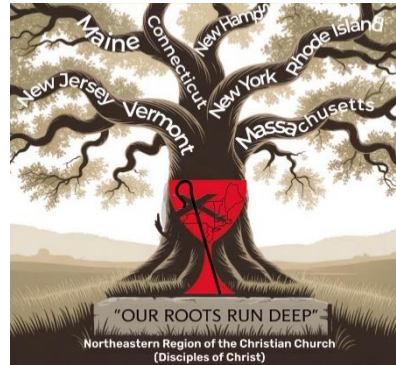
for giving

100 Percent

of your 2025 Covenantal Share.



April 25, 2026



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!

CHIAVETTA'S BBQ dates for 2026:

July 11th, September 26th, and December 5th!

Saturday

JULY 11TH

12 - 4 PM



**Tickets are only \$17 includes ½ chicken plus sides
& dessert treat!!**

Please call Brett @ 716-491-6205 or

email: payneavechurch@gmail.com for more info.

We accept Cash and Venmo

Let's Celebrate! Birthdays and Anniversaries:

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



July Birthdays	
4	Adam Krull 15 Suzanne Krull
5	Jim Wokersein 16 Janet Holt
6	Shirley Jayne 16 Martha Scheda
8	Michael Scherirer 18 KimMarie Brown
11	Kingston Altamar 20 Nancy Golba
13	Lily Kennedy



July Anniversaries

24	Ken and Heather Ozzimo
26	Vern and Jean Ortel

**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

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Espy Altamar
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**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>