PAYNE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
1459 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 260-1217 payneavechurch@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Elders Communion	Bread	Cup
Nov. 1	Ed Wokersien	Barb Wokersien
Nov. 8	Bob Link	Ross Benton
Nov. 15	Ken Ozzimo	Nancy Golba
Nov. 22	Becky Wilson	Brett Kofod
Nov. 29	Jim Wokersien	Bill Wolcott

Deaconess Schedule – November (5 Sundays)
Prepare – Nancy Golba Clean Up - TBA
***Please see Sandy Lange to sign up or use the clipboard in the back of the church.*



OUTREACH AND MISSION:

As Thanksgiving approaches our hearts fill with gratitude for the countless blessings God sends our way every day. In response we are called to share our resources with our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to make ends meet.

The North Tonawanda Interchurch Food Pantry serves an average of 238 families per month, nearly 20% more than last year. Lately it's been a struggle to keep enough food on the shelves for those who need assistance in providing nutritious meals. Rainie's Foster Closet, located in the same building as the food pantry, provides clothing, furniture and other essentials to families who are fostering children, sometimes on very short notice.

Nancy Mueller recently met with the leaders of the Northtown Care Connection on Bonnet Ave in Tonawanda. She was impressed by how many people come to shop for clothing and household items priced at only a few dollars each. This ministry is a huge help to families living on very tight budgets. They need donations of gently used clothing for adults and children, as well as volunteers to sort and display merchandise and assist shoppers. They are open two days per month: on the second Saturday morning and fourth Friday evening.

During November, our Elders will put together Thanksgiving baskets for needy families, both from our congregation and several recommended by the staff of Drake Elementary. If you'd like to contribute to this effort, please see Becky or Brett to learn how you can help.

In summary, there are many ways you can be part of Payne Avenue Christian Church's mission to show compassion and bring hope to God's people. We may be small in numbers, but we can have a big impact on the life of our community!

Yours in Christ,
Nancy Golba, Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS:



BIBLE STUDY: **Saturday, November 14 at 10:45 am** - Join us for Bible Study, Gospel of Luke, Get the Word out of the Book & into your bones!

ANNUAL MEETING **- Sunday, Nov. 22nd at 11:00 am**

INSTALLATION AS PASTOR - of Rev. Hope Douglas Harle-Mould
Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 4:00 pm – ***Please Join us!***
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Thaddaeus Allen, Northeastern Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The people of Payne Avenue Christian Church (DOC) warmly invite you to join us as we celebrate a new chapter in our congregation's life and work in Christ by installing Pastor Hope (affectionately nicknamed "PH") as our new Pastor.

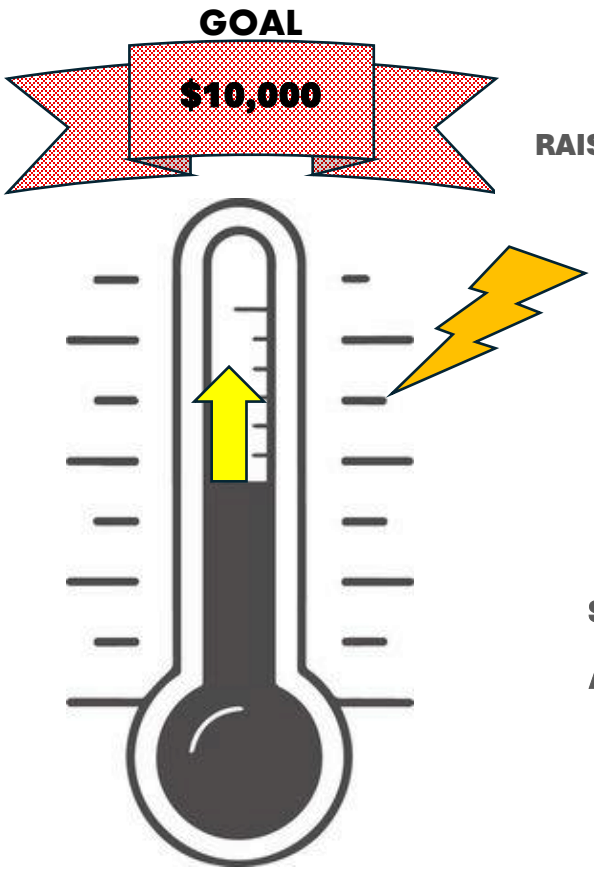
4:00 pm Service of Installation with special music
5:15 pm Fellowship Time (with finger food and desserts)
Please RSVP: (716) 260-1217 (RSVPs not required. Come anyway!)

THANKSGIVING BASKET SHOPPING FOR FAMILIES IN NEED! Please donate so that the Elders can shop for the meal and all the fixings. Please give names of families and money to Brandon or Becky.

CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ: **Saturday, Dec. 5th from 12 – 4 pm**
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **Please use sign up sheets in the back of the church or call the office at 716-260-1217 to volunteer for making desserts or helping on 12/5 for the BBQ or BOTH** 😊

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK - Sunday, December 13th after service - Join us for fellowship and yummy food!

SIGNAGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: $10,000 (Original Goal) .



RAISED TO DATE:

$ 6060

SIGN 8' X 4' COST:

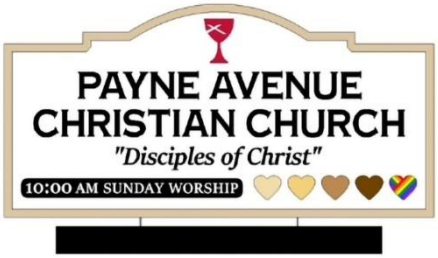
$8,000

+

SPECIAL EVENT

ADD-ON SIGNS

$750



The Silence of the Asonu

From Pastor Hope's sermon of September 20, 2026 on the spirituality of silence and God's "still, small voice"

A few years back, after a performance of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, I had a chance to meet its Conductor, Joann Falleta. I remarked, "You have such control. I was deeply moved by that one moment during the symphony when, after a loud crescendo, you paused and held the orchestra in utter quiet before going on, and all of us were riveted." She responded, "Yes, there is often more music between the notes, in the silence of an unexpected long rest, than in the multitude of sounds."

Award-winning fantasy and science fiction author Ursula LeGuin, in her book *Changing* Planes, gives us an intriguing story titled, "The Silence of the Asonu."

It takes place on a planet like ours, with many cities. But in one very remote region, there was a group of nomadic, shepherding people called the Asonu. When travelers first encountered these unusual people, it was believed that all the Asonu were mute, incapable of speech, because the adults never spoke. But eventually it was discovered that children talked all the time, so it was believed that adults spoke only in private, hidden from visitors. Finally it was discovered that adults *never* spoke, *never* wrote, *never* made gestures of communication of any kind to one another—unless a child was in danger, when they would utter a single word of warning, such as "Hot!" or "Stop!"

From observation, it was clear that the bonds between parents and children were close and affectionate. But how did infants and toddlers learn the language? Finally it was determined that they learned slightly older children and teenagers. But as these older children approached the end of adolescence, they spoke less and less, until finally they, too, became as silent as adults.

Nevertheless, the Asonu were renowned for their warm hospitality to strangers. Some tourists would come and spend two or three weeks in restorative silence with these gentle people, then return year after year to board with the same families. Others would come and speak endlessly, confiding in someone who would listen so intently between the words.

But the mystery remained. Why? Why do the Asonu descend into silence, never to emerge? What do they sense they we do not sense?

LeGuin gives us a hint, when one of the visitors to the Asonu has an insight: *"As [the Asonu] grow up, it seems, they cease to speak because they are listening to something we do not hear, a secret which their silence hides…a spiritual treasure, a speech beyond speech, possibly even that ultimate revelation promised by so many religions…The transcendent knowledge of the mystic cannot be expressed in language. It may be that the Asonu avoid language for this very reason."*

When Maya Angelou was only eight years old, she was sexually assaulted. So traumatized was she that she refused to speak to anyone except her little brother Bailey. This went on for months and then years. She never spoke another word until she turned twelve, until her teacher, Mrs. Bertha Flowers, invited her into speaking poetry—*the only way to make it live*. From that moment on, and through the years that followed, she began to sing, perform on stage, and compose such poetry as "Still I Rise":

You may write me down in history/ With your bitter, twisted lies,/ You may trod me in the very dirt/ But still, like dust, I'll rise…You may shoot me with your words,/ You may cut me with your eyes,/ You may kill me with your hatefulness,/ But still, like air, I'll rise…



Get the Words of the Word out of the Book and into Your Bones

A Bible Study Prayer by Rev. Hope Harle-Mould

Yahweh God, as we open the covers of our Bibles this day, may you open our minds and uncover our sight to see the new truths waiting to be unearthed in your Word.

Holy God, as we turn to the chapter and verse of today's passage, may we treasure the sacred stories that were remembered and passed down by ordinary people of extraordinary faith until these *became* scripture.

Redeemer God, as Jesus unrolled the scroll of Isaiah and read, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,"* may we not only read of your acts of the past but experience your presence here, in our present.

Living God, as a burning lamp of olive oil lights a path through darkest shadows, may you ignite within us new embers of faith, so that long after we depart this place many will be warmed by our glow.

In the name of the Anointed One we pray and live. Amen.

Quotes for Bible Study

"Christians don't simply learn or study or use Scripture; we assimilate it, take it into our lives in such a way that it gets metabolized into acts of love, cups of cold water, missions into all the world, healing and evangelism and justice in Jesus' name, hands raised in adoration of the Father, feet washed in company with the Son."

***—Eugene Peterson, author of* The Message**

*"The Bible provides us with an alternative identity, an alternative way of understanding ourselves, an alternative way of relating to the world. It offers a radical and uncompromising challenge to our ordinary ways of self-understanding. It invites us to join in and to participate in the ongoing pilgrimage of those who live in the shattering of history, caring in ways which matter, secured by the covenanting God who is likewise on pilgrimage in history. This way of understanding our lives lets us be open to hurts (crucifixions) but also to healing surprises of new life (resurrections) which emerge in our common life."—**Walter Brueggemann, The Bible Makes Sense***

"Every one who opens the Book of God, with one aim, with one ardent desire—intent only to know the will of God—to such a person the knowledge of God is easy; for the Bible is framed to illuminate such, and only such, with the salutary knowledge of things celestial and divine.

"Humility of mind, or what is in effect the same, contempt for all earth-born pre-eminence, prepares the mind for the reception of this light; or, what is virtually the same, opens the ears to hear the voice of God."

—Alexander Campbell, 19th century Disciples of Christ forbear

Remembering Our Saints

Candle Lighting Memorials & Prayer

Leah Benton
Passed on January 6, 2026, mother of Ross Benton & Ruth Misko,
grandmother of Rebecca & Paul Benton

Janith Tooke
Passed on March 30, 2026, aunt of Jeff Tooke and Howard Licht

Patricia Lange
Passed on May 1, 2026, sister of Sandy Lange, mother of Maria Lange, aunt of Glenda Christian,
grandmother of Heather Perkins & Felicia Gane

Heather Raggi
Passed on July 10. 2026, granddaughter of Bob Link

Beverly DiBernardo
Passed on August 10, 2026, wife of Gabe DiBernardo

Also We Remember Other Loved Ones
Who've Died in the Past and Are Not Forgotten…

Baby Ronan, still-born child of Shelby and Michael - nephew of Ken and Heather Ozzimo

Rev. Marjorie Neal, wife of former interim pastor, Ken Neal

Carol Yaiser, friend of Becky Wilson

Martha Castañeda, family friend of Jean and Vern Ortel

Bruce Wahl, family friend of Jean and Vern Ortel

Chairat Butsunturn, family friend of Marcy DiPasquale

Delores Grom, family friend of Marcy DiPasquale

Madeline Mock, family friend of Marcy DiPasquale

Karen Smith, family friend of Marcy DiPasquale

Evelyn Shock, family friend of Marcy DiPasquale



Prayers of Healing and Caring:



Hayley Brown (Kimmarie's Daughter
Kay (Sister of Mary Caldwell)
Devon Compton, (Nephew of Paul White & Nancy Mueller)
Donna Cook
Rev. Dr. Arthur Davis,
Nita Doucette
Mary Dzik
AshLynn Dzik
Deborah Evans
Lisa Geraci
Don Golba
Jaime Hodge
Ann Hummel, friend of Barb and Ed Wokersien
Shirley Jayne
Brandon Kofod
Karen Lawrence and her daughter Ronda and Grandson: Steve
Bob Link's Daughter Shelly and Grandson William
Autum Lee
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)
Sherry Ostwald
Family of Heather Ozzimo
Cynthia Pullman
Patricia Richards, friend of Brandon
Joan Shamrock
Family of Madeline Mock (Friends of Marcy's)
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.**

Communion for the Homebound

"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 Gabe DiBernardo) 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).

Let's Celebrate! Birthdays and Anniversaries:

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Sonya DiNardo
4	Marcy DiPasquale
9	Paul Wright
11	Brenda Doucette
16	Butch Milliron
26	Bob Link
26	Brandon Kofod
27	Mitch Valente
29	Brian Wilson
29	Debbie Evans



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

15	Dave and Debbie Evans
20	Mitch and Debbie Valente

December Birthdays

1	AshLynn Dzik
1	Debbie Valente
8	Vern Ortel
16	Becky Wilson
17	Adam Ozzimo
18	Natalie Kennedy
19	Andy Krull
24	Mariah Peterson
25	JESUS
27	Paul Stuart Benton



**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

****New office hours:***
Church Office Hours: Wed., Thurs., & Friday *10:00 am to 2 pm

SECRETARY: Espy (Esperanza) Altamar - Office: (716) 260-1217
Email: payneavechurch@gmail.com

PASTOR: Rev. Hope Douglas Harle-Mould cell: (716) 868-5533
Email: hopeharlemould@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Kelly Salas cell: (716) 430-3530
Email: Kelly.Lynn.Salas@gmail.com



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 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