

Hiram Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
6868 Wakefield Rd, PO Box 937  
Hiram, OH 44234  
330-569-7697

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT No. 7  
Hiram, OH 44234



## Hiram Christian Church

P.O. Box 937, 6868 Wakefield Rd., Hiram, Ohio 44234

330-569-7697

HiramChristianChurch.org

Ministers: All Who Serve Here

Reverends: Roger Osgood; Chris McCreight (on Sabbatical)

Contact: [roger@hiramchristianchurch.org](mailto:roger@hiramchristianchurch.org) Office: [secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org](mailto:secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org)

*Hiram Christian Church is a spiritual and social center for the Hiram community.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## July / August 2023

As I write this I am within a few days of several time-related happenings: the one-year anniversary of my retirement from full time ministry, the halfway point of my time here at Hiram CC, and 6 months from my 70th birthday. It is also just a few days after the summer solstice and halfway through a weeklong visit by our three grandsons for “Camp Cleveland”.

For many of us summer is a quieter, more relaxed time of year. It is a time of vacations and weekend picnics and barbeques, a time to rest and recuperate. In our neck of the woods, a time to get out and enjoy long, warm, sunny days.

I appreciate both the change of seasons and the anniversaries of life events because they are both reminders that life is not static. One of the things we humans crave is stability and we often live our lives as if people, places, and situations will always remain the same. This can be especially true of institutions like the church, which often does provide at least a veneer of stability amid all of life’s changes.

But the reality is that even the institutional church changes – or needs to change if it is to stay relevant in a changing world. So where do we find the stability we crave? Certainly in God, though we often crave more. But we also find stability in community, especially the kind of community that Jesus created among his disciples – a community of welcome, a community of care and love, a community of servanthood. That kind of community strengthens the relationships that exist, allows new relationships to form and grow, and allows us to both celebrate and grieve the relationships that time and life bring to an end.

Hiram Christian Church is and can continue to be that place of stable change amid all of life’s challenges and difficulties. A place of love and care for all who are here and all who come looking for a place of welcome and hope.

Peace,  
Pastor Roger

**iALERT...** If the weather is bad on Sunday mornings, please remember to check for church cancellations through the iALERT system. Find cancellations on Channel 3, at [www.wky.com](http://www.wky.com) and on news radio WTAM 1100.

### Worship Schedule: Sundays @ 10:00am – hybrid service

Bulletins and the newsletter are available on our website.  
See the site’s calendar page for up-to-date events and zoom links to events.

**The Minister’s schedule:** Pastor Roger will be available in the minister’s office most Tuesday afternoons. You may call the church office to schedule an appointment, or contact Pastor Roger directly at [Roger@HiramChristianChurch.org](mailto:Roger@HiramChristianChurch.org) or 216-246-9179.

**\*\*Please note:** Anyone wishing a hard copy of any of the board minutes should contact the church office at 330-569-7697 or [secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org](mailto:secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org).

**Stewardship:** If you would like to financially support the ministries of Hiram Christian Church, please know that you can donate online from our website ([HiramChristianChurch.org](http://HiramChristianChurch.org)) or you can set regular contributions using BillPay from your bank. Thank you for being a part of Hiram Christian Church.



**From our Moderator, Kristen Pool:**

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Opportunities to Be the Church!

Hiram Christian Church is a busy place, with many opportunities to get involved! No matter what your skills and interests are, there's a way for you to join in! For more information about any of these opportunities, please feel free to contact me or the Team Leader listed.

Food Bank Collection (Margaret, Church in the World)

Sunday, August 6 (and every 1st Sunday) during church

Bring some staples or some cash to hand off to the kids during the children's sermon! This collection goes to Four C's Food Pantry or Nelson-Garrettsville Community Cupboard to help our brothers and sisters in the neighborhood. These independent, local agencies also have volunteer opportunities!

Community Gatherings:

Friday, August 4 - 5-8 pm

Everyone is invited to Robin Shura's house for an evening of conversation and good food!

Coffee Hours (Jamie and Rick, Hospitality)

Sundays June - August

Gather for a simple "coffee hour" at the back of the church on August 6. If your last name begins with R - Z, look for a sign up to bring cookies, pastry, fruit, juice, etc.

Red Cross Blood Drive (Margaret, Church in the World)

Tuesday, August 22, 9 – 4

Help set up for the blood drive in the morning and take down in the afternoon. If you can donate, please do!

Other Opportunities:

The Stewards Team identifies issues with our buildings and property, and either takes care of them or works with contractors to get the job done. Stewards don't have to be handy—sometimes the job is making phone calls or unlocking the church for and being on hand during a repair. Contact David Dade or Lisa if you're interested.

The Finance Team takes a big picture focus on the church's financial well-being, while keeping records organized, finding ways to cut costs, and making sure our investments are sound. If you have an interest in advising on these matters, contact Jane at [finance@hiramchristianchurch.org](mailto:finance@hiramchristianchurch.org).

One of the unique practices at Hiram Christian Church is including lay members in the service. We've all been moved to reflection or inspiration by members sharing their thoughts about Stewardship and Communion each Sunday. It's wonderful to hear different voices sharing their commitment to Jesus Christ and the church community. If you would like to share your thoughts during the service, contact Jon Moody [jandjmoody@msn.com](mailto:jandjmoody@msn.com).

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**Hospitality (cont.):**

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**Prayers for Students, Nations, and Churches (cont.):**

Alex (counselor from Camp Asbury) asks for prayers for Youngstown as they continue to deal with gun violence. \* Prayers for the people in India after the devastating train collision. \* Prayers for kids and teachers as they begin their summer vacation. \* Prayers for our first responders and legislators as they deal with mass shootings and so much violence.

**Blessings and Celebrations:**

Margaret's sister, Dorothy, welcomes twin grandsons. \* Jen McCreight expressed thanks from herself, Chris, and Linden for the opportunity of a sabbatical. All are doing well. \* Lucy expresses joy that her granddaughter graduated and is traveling through Montana. \* We are asking for prayers of thanksgiving that Lola Marie Mateo was born Wednesday, May 24th, to Eduardo and Amanda Mateo. Mother and baby are healthy, father and big sister, Carmen, are "over the moon." Lola is the granddaughter of Gilda Mateo and niece of Ginny & Dan Factor. \* Blessings for visitors. Barb Pancost Brooks and her husband, Dick, joined us for worship. She and her family are celebrating her granddaughter's graduation. Alanna is daughter of Louann and Tim Mack. \* Blessings for visitors from Camp Asbury. Cody invited counselors, Alex and Pablo to join in worship (and they even helped with food collection!). \* Margaret's brother-in-law, Jeff, is retiring after 37 years at the post office. May he enjoy his retirement. Prayers for Cindy, his wife, for living for 37 years with Jeff's third shift job. \* From Janet - thanks to Amy Biler, for the help. \* Joy on June 18, celebrating fathers. \* Congratulations, Jillian, on the birth of a baby boy, Stylus. Marcia Grenig is Grandma, Drew is a friend. \* Houston gives thanks for prayers, cards and recovery. \* Happy Birthday to John Boyle's mom, Mary Ellon who celebrated her 97th birthday. \* Blessings of birthdays- Helene Merrin, Aaron Harnar, and Megan's sister.

Happy July Birthdays: 5- Lily Shwonek; 19-Sue Grajek; 22- Roberta Zuver; 24- Joe Soukenik; 26- Lilly and Chad O'Bryant; 29- Nancy Lacan.

Happy August Birthdays: 6- Jessica O'Bryant; 7- Paul Molnar, Louann Mack, Janet Pancost; 15- Nathan Goodell; 16- Grant Harnar, Rebecca Goodell; 21- Olivia O'Bryant; 22- Jen McCreight; 27- Emma Pancost; 30- Jane Moody.

**Cards and Caring Team has published a list of names and addresses for our friends who are unable to attend regularly or who "head south" for the winter. Please remember to send cards or call our friends and keep them in your prayers.**

**We Will Pray for You and Yours:** Our prayer chain goes out to 40+ people over email. If you have a request, please contact Nancy Schauer ([dnsofhiram@gmail.com](mailto:dnsofhiram@gmail.com) or 330-569-7416). If you'd like to receive emails, we'd be happy to add you to the group (also, if you want to discontinue receiving, let us know).

## Hospitality:

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### **In the Life of the Congregation:**

#### **Prayers of comfort:**

Dawn lost her grandmother. Please pray for Dawn. \* Prayers for the family of Bob Moeller who passed. \* Prayers for the family of Richard Masters at the passing of his former wife. Special prayers for their son, Mark and Mark's three children, Anne's grandchildren. \* Prayers for the Margaret's family as they share memories of a sister who passed two years ago. \* Prayers for the Moody's cousin, Allison, who lost a son a year ago. \* Jon lost a dear friend, Ruth. Prayers for her family and friends and especially her husband, Steve. \* Prayers for the Osgoods' friend, Beebee, on the anniversary of her husband's passing.

#### **Prayers for Healing and Strength:**

Emliss asks for prayers for his brother, Barry, as he recovers from blood clots. \* Prayers for Mary Bittance as she faces end of life liver cancer. She is grateful for family. She is very thankful that hospice is helping her so much. Prayers for peace and comfort. \* Robin's friend, Virginia, has continuing health problems and will move to assisted living. Prayers for her as this came quickly and unexpectedly. Prayers for comfort and peace. \* Prayers for Isaiah, a young man who has been attending our church. He is coping with a heavy heart. \* Gilda asks for prayers for her cousin Frank's daughter, Nina. Nina is 22 and a recent college graduate and has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. \* Betsy asks for prayers for her children's stepmother who is ill. \* Prayers for Sheryl (Coffman) Duffey who was hospitalized, and is recovering from heart surgery Prayers for comfort and recovery. \* Prayers continue for Ken and Damaris. \* Prayers for Shirley Oshinsky. She is Brett Kaiser's grandmother, and has been admitted to Hillcrest Hospital with congestive heart disease. \* Prayers for Houston Bowers. After two months of evaluation, he had heart valve replacement. Prayers for comfort and recovery. Prayers, also, for Mary, as she stays by his side. \* Houston and Mary's daughter, Rachel had kidney surgery. She has a trip to Costa Rica scheduled. Prayers that she heals and enjoys the trip. \* Houston and Mary's son continues with chemotherapy. Prayers for him, for strength and healing. \* Prayers for Nicholas Pancost. \* Robin Shura's dad, Tad Shura, is doing well after knee surgery. He has less pain and more mobility. Thank you for all your prayers. \* Prayers for Margaret's brother, Ralph, who tore muscles doing outside work. \* Steve Pancost's brother, John, needs prayers for some medical issues. \* Joe thanks us for prayers for his friend, Wayne- his surgery went well. \* Emliss gives thanks for prayers for his brother, Kevin, who is recovering from back surgery. \* Prayers for a friend - tough time for injustice. \* Peg and John Ehrlinger's grandson, Apollo, is struggling emotionally with a broken leg and a broken arm- tough for a 3-year-old with frequent problems. His mom, Luci, has been hospitalized recently with respiratory issues. \* Peg's dad, Joe, also needs prayers. Prayers for all. May God give them strength as they face multiple challenges. \* Megan Harner asks for prayers for her cousin, Lenise, who is beginning chemo.

#### **Prayers for Students, Nations, and Churches:**

Prayers and blessings to our youth who are traveling this summer. Linden McCreight traveled to Camp Christian. Olivia O'Bryant, Sophia Hankinson, and Lizzie Dormann traveled with high school youth on the mission trip. Blessings to all. Sam Harnar will be attending Camp Christian in July.

## Upcoming Opportunity:

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If you are good at organizing, can get people involved, and like to walk, HCC is looking for someone to organize our 2023 CROP Hunger Walk in October!

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

The organizer would need to register our walk on the CROP website and gather some volunteers to help engage community members to join the walk, let church members know about donating, plan a route, get snacks and drinks for walkers, and collect and turn donations in to the Financial Secretary. For more information, contact Margaret at churchintheworld@hramchristianchurch.org or Kristen at moderator@hramchristianchurch.org.

## Upcoming Board and Team Leader Meetings:

Sunday, July 16 after church: Board Meeting

In love, Kristen

## Partners in Ministry:

**4Cs' Needs:** For July – canned fruit, coffee, and dish soap.

Please be sure to check the expiration dates on items before donating!

Monetary donations can be sent to: The 4C's, P.O. Box 227, Mantua, OH 44255

## **Girls on the Run is coming to HCC this Fall:**

Role Models Needed! You can help young girls gain a stronger sense of identity, greater self-acceptance, a healthier body, and an understanding of what it means to be part of a team in just a couple hours a week!

Girls on the Run is all about girl-empowerment! Our program inspires participants to be joyful, healthy, and confident. Lessons involve relationship building, community strengthening, goal setting with physical movement, and so much more! No running experience is needed - we're not a running program. Volunteers only need to be enthusiastic and committed to the healthy development of young girls.

Groups meet twice a week for 85-90 minutes. Coaches receive FREE training and all of the tools and materials needed to deliver 20 fun and uplifting lessons during the 10-week season, an official GOTR Coach t-shirt and free registration for the season-ending 5K celebration!

Learn more by visiting our website at [www.gotrneo.org](http://www.gotrneo.org) or contact our Program Director, Tricia Miller via phone at 234-206-0786 or via email at [tricia.miller@girlsontherun.org](mailto:tricia.miller@girlsontherun.org)

## Gather at the Mahoning Valley Scrappers Game!

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Enjoy a night of baseball with your church friends on Thursday, July 13! It's Buck Night, so general admission tickets, hot dogs, and drinks are all just \$1! (Admission tickets are \$1 each plus a \$2 service fee- so \$3 apiece). The Scrappers play at Eastwood Field, 111 Eastwood Mall Blvd in Niles, about 30 minutes away from Hiram. This is a "draft" team, and they are so much fun to watch! We'll gather at the ballfield at 6 pm (the game starts at 7) so we can find seats together and maybe get autographs.

If interested, please contact Nancy Schauer at 330.569.8729 or dnsophiram@gmail.com by July 12 so we know to look for you at the game and can also coordinate riding together (parking is \$3; Toyotas are free!).

Tickets can also be purchased online if you'd like: [mlbdraftleague.com/mahoning-valley/tickets/single-game-tickets](http://mlbdraftleague.com/mahoning-valley/tickets/single-game-tickets)



### HIRAM CHURCH FRIENDS

Lois Andress (please phone)  
302 Park Ave  
Beckley, WV 25801  
304-207-4598

Barb and Dick Brooks  
106 Bellingdon Dr  
Gallatin, TN 37066

Phyllis Brosius  
7575 Hankee Rd  
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Dwayne Brown  
7116 Camden Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44102

Larry Cates  
PO Box 218  
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Hope Cisney  
Alpine House Rm #2  
7000 St. Rte. 88  
Ravenna, OH 44266

Lowell and Mary Evans  
10498 Elderberry Dr  
Plain City, OH 43064

Ken and Yvonne Fox  
7818 Wrenwood Dr  
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Bob Jackson  
7872 Shawnee Tr  
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Richard Masters  
6002 Farnsworth Dr.  
Cleveland, OH 44129

Kay McCollum  
12015 Alpha Road  
Hiram, OH 44234

Charlene Moss  
151 Xenia Ct  
Monroe, OH 45050

Ken Pike  
1577 Santa Barbara Dr  
Dunedin, FL 34698

Maryann Pou  
800 South 15<sup>th</sup> St  
Apt 4319  
Sebring, OH 44672

Don Swift  
18060 Fallen Oaks Trail  
Hiram, OH 44234

## Church in the World:

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### Tracing the Syrup:

The Growing Hope Globally annual report shows income of \$3.1 million, with 69% coming from growing projects, one of which is our syrup project. Expenses are shown at \$2.7 million, with 74% going to overseas agriculture development programs.

Of those programs, we have been supporting work in Guatemala, of which the president's report has this to say:

"In Central America, I was thrilled to have many of our board directors travel to meet Marta and her fellow Guatemalan farmers. Thanks to their vegetables and chickens and bees, they are building a future where their children are now well-nourished.

"While the current situation does not look good as hunger increases and famine threatens once again, the people we are able to reach are doing better – thanks to your generosity. We have kept our promises to them through the years and their children's lives have improved. Your contributions have made it possible for them to eat, drink, be clothed, be healthy and not have to be a stranger or a prisoner."

It is nice to be able to pour syrup over our pancakes and know that someone else benefits from our pleasure as well.



### Blood Drive Hiram Christian Church

Fellowship Hall  
6868 Wakefield Rd.  
Hiram, OH 44234

**Tuesday, August 22, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or log onto [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Sponsor Key ord: HIRAM

Do good this summer! Come give in June for a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of your choice.

**Be part of something big. Make an appointment.**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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