

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

Reverend Chris McCreight

secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org

chris@hiramchristianchurch.org

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March / April 2023



Week of Compassion Celebration:

Thank you for the generous gifts to our special offering within February. This is the time when churches from all over the United States and Canada give to Week of Compassion, which offers aid in response to natural disasters all around the world. We have been moved recently by the news coming out of Syria and Turkey. Week of Compassion is supporting our siblings there and they continue to offer support to our siblings in Ukraine and exiting Ukraine. There is suffering in the world, and because of your generosity and the generous compassion of so many of God's children, there is a gracious response. Let us celebrate the gifts and the compassionate hearts.

Collection Drive for East Palestine:

Ed Pancost is coordinating with the HFD to run a collection drive for our neighbors in East Palestine. Water, non-perishable foods, and children's clothes and toys are the priority. Items can be dropped off at the HFD station weekdays between 9-5.

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.wkyc.com and on news radio WTAM 1100.

Worship Schedule: Sundays @ 11:00am – 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: Rev. Chris has resumed appointment times available until April 15. Please connect with him at Chris@HiramChristianChurch.org or 330-977-7834.

COMING EVENTS:

Mar. 5 & April 2: Potluck after worship, and Food Collection for the 4C's / NGCC

Mar. 11: St. Joseph's in Mantua – free clothing giveaway 9am – 12pm

Mar. 28 & Apr. 25: Men serving breakfast, 6:30-9:30am in Fellowship Hall

**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.

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) or you can set regular contributions using BillPay from your bank. Thank you for being a part of Hiram Christian Church.



Holy Week Schedule:

- April 2: Palm Sunday @ 11am
- April 6: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service @ 7pm (Hiram)
- April 7: Good Friday Prayer Service @ 12pm (Hiram)
- April 7-8: Prayer Vigil @ end of Good Friday Service until noon Saturday (Hiram)
- April 9: Easter
 - Sunrise Celebration @ 6:45am (Derthick's Farm)
 - Celebration Worship @ 11am (Hiram)

Dear Hiram Christian Church,

I am so looking forward to returning to Hiram some 46 years after graduating from Hiram College. I thank you in advance for the opportunity to serve with you as Rev. McCreight enjoys a much-deserved sabbatical. I am excited by the visioning work you have done and pray that I can be helpful as we worship, pray, study, and serve the Hiram community together over the next few months.

Peace and blessings to you all, Pastor Roger

Last month the Sabbatical Team recommended calling Rev. Roger D. Osgood to serve as our Minister while Pastor Chris is on Sabbatical, and the Board officers gave their approval. Pastor Roger accepted our call and will serve from April 16 to August 15.

Pastor Roger will lead our worship services and support our Elders in providing congregational care. He will advise our Ministry Teams and help plan activities that further our Vision of being partners in God's healing work through a wide welcome of all, through cultivating relationship and beloved community, and by following Christ in the way of Love.

Pastor Roger served as Minister at Heights CC for almost 16 years before retiring in June 2022. He and his wife, Debbie, were members at Disciples Christian Church (formerly known as Euclid Avenue CC) for over 20 years while Rev. Houston Bowers was the senior minister. Roger served as Assistant Minister there while in seminary. Roger is a lifelong Disciple; his father was a Disciples minister and his grandfather was a medical missionary in China.

He has a B.A. from Hiram College, and a M.Div. from Ashland Theological Seminary. Roger and Debbie have two grown sons (Alex and Mark) and three grandsons (Liam and twins, Owen and Max). They enjoy biking, traveling, theater/film and gardening (Debbie is a Master Gardener volunteer). Roger is also an avid Pickleball player and has competed in the last two National Senior Games.

Pastor Chris, the Elders, and the Sabbatical Team are working together to prepare for this transition. On Sunday, April 16, Regional Elder Terry Bartlett will lead a service during which we will commission and say goodbye to Pastor Chris as he leaves for Sabbatical and commission and welcome Pastor Roger. We will celebrate both Pastors and their caring service to our church and community.

In Love, Kristen

Happy Birthday HCC!

Founded March 1, 1835



Hospitality (cont.):

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

Prayers, also, for Kristen's home church, Christ Covenant, as they are in crisis, and need to make some tough decisions about their future. Prayers that they may continue to focus on the work of God. Prayers for our siblings in law enforcement as they serve during tough times. May they refocus and emphasize goodness. Prayers for the peoples of Ukraine and Russia. Prayers for peace and calm. Prayers for our legislators in Columbus as they discern wisdom and learn to not be entrapped in corrupt policies.

Blessings and Celebrations:

Gilda and Rafael Ferreras, parents of Ginny Factor, celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. Meghan Harnar expresses joy that Sammy turns 11, and her dad is here to celebrate. Thanks for Roger Osgood, who will serve as interim minister here during Chris's sabbatical; thanks for the sabbatical team. Thanks for our sap collectors. Don Swift celebrated his 92nd birthday. It was great to see him in church.

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	Dennis and Jean Hunt 530-29 Russett Woods Ln Aurora, OH 44202
Richard Masters 6002 Farnsworth Dr. Cleveland, OH 44129-4614	Kay McCollum 12015 Alpha Road Hiram, OH 44234	Charlene Moss 151 Xenia Ct Monroe, OH 45050
Maryann Pou 800 South 15 th St. Apt 4319 Sebring, OH 44672	Jaci Swanda PO Box 166 Hiram, OH 44234	Don Swift 18060 Fallen Oaks Trail Hiram, OH 44234

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 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:

Prayers for the Hiram College community and family of Girardo Carrillo Ramirez, a senior nursing student who was killed in a fatal car crash. A community memorial service was held at our church.

Prayers for Sherrie, who lost her brother.

Prayers for the family and friends of Tyre Niccolls after his tragic death. Prayers for our siblings in Memphis.

Aaron asks for prayers for friends and family of 7th grader, Danny Kipler, who passed recentl.

Prayers for Healing and Strength:

Bill Hathaway, Sandy's brother, fell and broke his hip. He has had surgery and is still recovering.

Karen gives thanks to the church for praying for friend, Sheryl, who has been released from ICU and is recovering.

Kristen reports that her mom, Connie, continues to get better each day. She is home: please keep praying for her.

Prayers for Kristen's cousin, Allen, after a severe heart attack, and now has pneumonia.

Kathy's brother, Chris, has transverse myelitis, very slow recovery brings frustration; He is now home from the hospital with all this; and is doing therapy.

Prayers for Houston as he recovers from a fall.

Jamie asks us to keep the family of Tom Allen (her daughter's ex-husband) in prayers, he passed away last Sunday; was only 36 and had cancer.

Emliss's brother, Kevin, has been struggling for 4-5 years with sarcoma. Prayers for him and his wife, kids, family as more treatment is likely.

Joe and Julie Soukenik ask for prayers for friends Camille (with ALS) and Wayne (cancer diagnosis).

Prayers for Jimmy Carter who has entered hospice care.

Rafael Ferreras, brother of Gilda Mateo, is facing cancer surgery on Monday, February 27th.

Please keep Johns Boyle's mom, Mary Ellon Boyle in your prayers. She is not well since she fractured her hip. She is being moved to skilled nursing at Anna Maria on Thursday. She will be 97 in May, God willing.

Also, prayers for Dave Kilroy who was in the hospital and is now home healing. Dave & Carol attended the Lunch Bunch.

Richard Masters pulled a muscle in his legs (no details) and is hurting due to that. Prayers for his recovery.

Many thanks for all the prayers for my improved sight, still not 100% but better - Sandy Coffman.

Sandy's daughter Sheryl's friend Kim was in the hospital and is home now. Prayers for healing.

Cody asks for prayers for family friends, the Beckleys.

Prayers for Denny Ursick and family. Denny is the brother-in-law of Nancy's and Jan's sister. He has leukemia and is hospitalized having had a bone marrow transplant.

Prayers for Students, Nations, and Churches:

Betsy asks for prayers for her New Zealand friends on North Island; where her son in law and granddaughter are. The area has experienced flooding.

Prayers for those in East Palestine, Ohio, after the devastating train derailment.

Chris gives thanks for the coordination our community for those in East Palestine.

Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria. Prayers for all those grieving over the missing and dead, and those helping with recovery.

Prayers for California communities ravaged by recent mass shootings.

Partners in Ministry:

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4Cs' Needs: For March - Coffee (any kind), bar hand soap, Jell-O.

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

Stewardship:

How Are We Doing? (A Seven-week Report)

Thank you for your generous donations to Hiram Christian Church!

As of mid-February, our weekly offerings stood at about 20% of budget—significantly ahead for 13% of the year.



We also received \$260 in new donations for pew Bibles and \$116 for local food bank support. Total Week of Compassion figures are not yet complete, but totaled \$145 in the first week of the current special offering period. We even sold the last of our 2022 maple syrup, just in time to await eagerly our new 2023 syrup sales.

Our budgeted expenses are running nearly as expected (although we did pay a large bill for furnace maintenance in early February).

We expect approval of our "final" 2023 budget at the Board meeting in March. Meanwhile, thank you again for your generosity, and let's continue to support our church through generous financial gifts.

Ann Patella, Treasurer

Worship:

Make a Joyful Noise

Like to sing? Want to help the church celebrate Easter? Come join our pop-up choir to sing on Easter Sunday.

Rehearsals will be after church March 12, 19 and 26 for about a half hour each time. No previous choir experience necessary. Nor do you have to be able to read music. Everyone welcome: young and old, parents, grandparents, children.

If interested contact Jane Moody: jandjmoody@msn.com

Come, help us celebrate Easter in song!



Sabbatical Update:

The Sabbatical Team has been working in coordination with the Board and the Region to interview candidates for the interim minister position. They are thrilled to announce that Rev. Roger Osgood has been hired and will serve Hiram Christian Church during the sabbatical from mid-April to mid-August (exact dates will soon be announced).

Rev. Roger D. Osgood most recently served Heights Christian Church (Shaker Heights), where he led the congregation from 2006 until retiring in June of last year. He and his wife, Debbie, have two grown sons (Alex and Mark) and three grandsons (Liam and, twins, Owen and Max). Pastor Roger and Debbie now enjoy biking, traveling, gardening, and the theater full time!

Worship (cont.):

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Sabbatical: April 17 - August 13

Our sabbatical season will occur between April 17th and August 13th of this year. This will be a time of renewal that is to be edifying to the church and the clergy who serve. We have been planning this since the call of Rev. McCreight - budgeting and making arrangements for continued ministry within this season through the hiring of Rev. Roger Osgood.

During the sabbatical, Chris will be utilizing the time to learn a contemplative practice, explore worship services from a variety of congregations, read, and rest. Chris has signed up for a contemplative leadership program, a class from the Center for Action and Contemplation, and will also plan to take retreat at the Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky. He also has plans to attend the worship services at neighboring Mosques, Synagogues, and Churches. Finally, he *still* has a shelf full of books acquired through his five years of service that have yet to be read. This, along with a good portion of rest, will provide a renewing practice that will carry on after the sabbatical and bless him and the congregation in their shared ministry.

In this time, the Church will continue to serve with the blessings of presence and faithfulness from Rev. Roger Osgood. The Board has identified wonderful goals of strengthening the relationships within this congregation and plans to arrange a host of potlucks and barbecues that we may continue to welcome one another into the fabric of this community. There will also be continued ministries and service led by our teams (Church in the World, Spiritual Formation, Stewards, Hospitality, Worship) that will work with Rev. Osgood to explore additional ways of service. This will be a season to step into relationship and service with one another.



Welcome Rev. Roger Osgood!

Sabbatical is a gift of renewal for everyone. More will be shared as we approach this time, and if you have any questions, please direct them to Rev. Chris or our moderator, Kristen Pool.

Easter Flowers:

Enclosed is an order form for Easter Flowers. **Please get your orders in by March 8.** We are placing our order early to ensure the best selection of plants. Thank you.

Spiritual Formation:

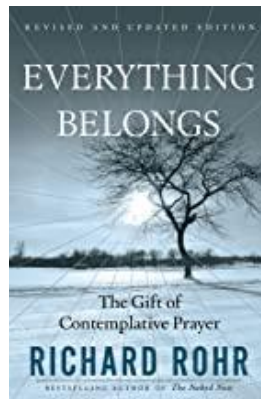
***Everything Belongs* book study and conversation groups:**

Conversations are taking place Sunday mornings @ 9:45am and Wednesdays @ 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

You're invited to join the conversation at one particular time, or attend both meetings to share and listen as we move together through Fr. Richard Rohr's work and consider what it means to our vision of creating a community of belonging.

Bible Study:

We will be beginning a new bible study during Lent. Wednesdays @ 12:30pm, we'll gather in the fellowship hall to engage the lectionary text from the Sunday prior and look ahead to the lectionary text tied to the upcoming Sunday.



Church in the World:

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Maple Syrup:

Our season is underway. So far, we have collected 1,200 gallons of sap. Over halfway to our goal! There are still opportunities to help. Gathering syrup, bottling at the sugar house, tagging, and labeling for sale. Email Jon/Jane Moody jandjmoody@msn.com if you wish to be on the contact list for updates on opportunities to participate.



Youth Events:

Chi-Rho/CYF Tour of the Cleveland Museum of Art: March 12

Rev Chris will be leading the next youth event, which will be a tour of the Cleveland Museum of Art. This will be a great opportunity for the young adults to engage our amazing museum and also encounter exhibits featuring Christian artwork.

Kids Rock-Climbing: Sunday, March 19th

Families are invited to attend a climbing session at Shaker Rocks from 4-6pm. This will be a great opportunity to invite the children and young adults to embrace challenge and support each other throughout. We'll then head across the street for dinner at the market.

The cost of climbing will be covered by the church's youth fund. Each family can then be responsible for the cost of their dinner.