

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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 Office: secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May / June 2023

Singing and Serving together!

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

One of the small pleasures of my drives to Hiram over the last couple of weeks has been watching the grey/brown trees along the way begin to green up. It is always a delight to see the spring bulbs send up their flowers and know that warmer weather is ahead of us, even after a relatively mild winter. This is a time of new life and, even after only a short time at Hiram Christian Church, I sense a feeling of excitement and anticipation with what is before you as a congregation.

I share that excitement and anticipation as I join you for these next few months during Rev. McCreight's sabbatical. I pray that our time together will be fruitful for all of us and filled with moments of joy and delight, challenge, and opportunity, singing and clapping!

My plan is to be in Hiram for some part of the day most Tuesdays as well as on Sundays. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime via phone, text or email with any questions or concerns. And should you need to meet with me on another day, that is always a possibility. My cell phone is (216) 246-9179 and my email address is roger@hiramchristianchurch.org.

I continue to look forward to getting to know you and serving (and singing) with you.

Peace,
Rev. Roger Osgood

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

Sundays @ 10:00am – hybrid service – beginning June 4

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 or 216-246-9179.

COMING EVENTS:

May 23: Men Graciously Serving Breakfast, 6:30-9:30am in Fellowship Hall
See pages 2 and 3 for a complete list of events!

**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.



From our Moderator, Kristen Pool:

Opportunities to Be the Church!

Hiram Christian Church is a busy place, with many opportunities to get involved! I am so excited to see all of the activities that are coming up this spring and summer. 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.

Petition Drive (Margaret, Church in the World)

Sunday, April 30, after church until 2

Help set up and run a petition drive in the parking lot, collecting signatures to support the proposed constitutional amendment to protect reproductive rights. If enough signatures are gathered, the amendment would appear for vote on the August ballot. Read the Disciples of Christ statement on reproductive rights.

Food Bank Collection (Margaret, Church in the World)

Sunday, May 7 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!

Potluck (Jamie and Rick, Hospitality)

Sunday, May 7 after church

Bring a dish or dessert and your own plates and utensils if you'd like and enjoy a meal and conversation. All are welcome, whether they bring a dish to share or not. Feeling sudsy? Join Jaime and Rick in the kitchen afterward to help clean up!

Bike Course (Nancy, Spiritual Formation)

Sunday, May 7

Youth are invited to an afternoon of bike riding! Details to follow.

Coffee Hours (Jamie and Rick, Hospitality)

Sundays June - August

When the service moves to 10 am on June 4, we will start having simple "coffee hours" at the back of the church. Look for a sign up to "host" a Sunday--making coffee; bringing up plates and cups, and cleaning up afterwards. Also sign up to bring cookies, pastry, fruit, juice, etc. So we don't have too much or too little snackage each Sunday, we're asking people to bring something on different Sundays:

- o Last names beginning A - I: June
- o Last names beginning J - Q: July
- o Last names beginning R - Z: August

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

Tuesday, June 20, 9 - 4

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

4th of July Ice Cream Social (Kristen, Hospitality)

Tuesday, July 4, evening

It's back! We'll have a sign up for this fun event closer to the date--but the preparation starts when the strawberries ripen! When you're picking strawberries at your favorite patch, pick an extra quart or two (cont. on p. 3)

Hospitality (cont.):

Blessings and Celebrations:

Chris gives thanks for the generosity of care and fellowship here in our church. May it continue! * Thanks from Chris for the collection for East Palestine. * Thanks for the gathering of our youth at the rock-climbing event. * Blessings for the music at our church. * Blessings and prayers of thanks for the 2000+ gallons of sap collected for Growing Hope Globally. Grace and compassion for all of God's people.

Blessings for birthdays:

March Birthdays - Robin Shura, Alanna O'Bryant, Olivia Barker, Richard Masters, Beau Braden, Jean Brewer, Robin Neff, Jon Moody, Mary Wood, Braylon Pancost, Pam Braden, Barb Pancost brooks, Drew Hinkle, Evan Goodell.

April Birthdays -Giuliana Vines, Lorena Vines, Emliss Ricks, Kathy Muscari,Ella Moleski, Chris McCreight, Linden McCreight, Brady Neff, Marcia Grenig.

May Birthdays - John Boyle, Layla Boutros, Cora Hankinson, Rick Perkins, Nancy Schauer, Cathy Clavner.

June Birthdays- Margaret Green, Gabby Dormann, Sophia Hankinson, Ron Etling, Cathy Ricks, Sandy Coffman, Lea Lacivita, Julie Soukenik, Helene Merrin.

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 15th 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).

Partners in Ministry:

4Cs' Needs: For May – regular ground coffee, noodles, paper towels.
Monetary donations can be sent to: The 4C's, P.O. Box 227, Mantua, OH 44255

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Hospitality:

In the Life of the Congregation:

Prayers of comfort:

Prayers for family and friends of Carol Donnelly, who passed. * Continued prayers for Drew Hinkle and all those who are grieving Karen. Karen's memorial will be held in August. * Prayers for the families and friends of Jaci Swanda who passed. * Prayers for the family of Wilda Williams in Georgia. She lost her husband Nick to lung/ brain cancer. * Jenny Wepher passed. She was a member of the community. Prayers for family and friends. * Prayers for the family of Luz Maria Mateo, from Santo Domingo. * Prayers for the family of Janet Coffman who passed unexpectedly. * Prayers for family and friends of Beatrice Bossow at her passing.

Prayers for Healing and Strength:

Prayers for Joe's friend, Wayne, as he undergoes esophagus surgery. * Prayers for Andy and family (friend of Pancosts) as he has brain surgery. * Emliss's brother Kevin has had surgery for a fractured spine and cancer. He is in good spirits. All are thankful for the use of supplies from our medical closet. * Ken and Damaris and daughter, Carrie, will be traveling to Florida for a family gathering. Prayers for safety and good fellowship. * Ginny, friend of Shari Keefe, is recovering from surgery. * Betsy's sister, Marge, is in year 4/5 of Alzheimer's and being cared for by various family members. Prayers for all of them. * Beau asks for prayers for his friends Johnny and Ann who are struggling. * Prayers for Doug Brewer who continues chemotherapy. Prayers also for Jean. * Natalie Goodell continues to recover from kidney and UTI infections requiring hospitalization. * Prayers for Hazel and her recovery. * Bob Jackson asks for prayers. He fell and broke ribs, hospital visit and home now with daughter helping. * Dawn's and Missy's grandmother was in the hospital. Prayers for healing. * Hilda thanks us for prayers for her brother, Rafael. He is still at the hospital with stage 4 colon cancer. He had recent liver surgery. His recovery will be long. * Ann asks us to pray for Houston and Mary Bowers; healing for Houston and peace in their home amidst the yard and house issues. * Continued prayers for Debbie Haylett as she undergoes cancer treatment/surgery. Prayers for peace and recovery. * Robin asks for prayers for her Uncle Ken who is home from the hospital after one month. Continued prayers for his recovery at home. * Please pray for Mary Ellon Boyle, John's mom, as she recovers from surgery. * Jamie's friend's brother, Timothy Kukla, has been taken to the hospital. * Tyson asks for prayers for Bob H of Garrettsville as he awaits results of a biopsy. * Ginny Factor's friend, Sylvia, is still experiencing breast cancer treatments. * Prayers continue for Kristen's cousin Allan as he recovers from a heart attack with complications.

Prayers for Students, Nations, and Churches:

Ed thanks all who donated to East Palestine; he and others brought the donations there recently, and it was all appreciated. Prayers continue for the people of East Palestine. May donations continue with vision. Prayers for advocacy for the well-being of all involved. * Continued prayers for Nashville - one of the children is from a DOC church. Prayers for the community and for legislation to enact change. * Prayers for those fighting and suffering in Ukraine through their second Easter. * Chris asks for prayers for the world and for each other. * Prayers for those hit by tornadoes in the south- Mississippi and Alabama. * Prayers for the people of New Zealand. There are 10,000 homeless people. * Prayers for the Covenant Presbyterian church in Nashville. * Pray for peace in Akron and that questions are answered for the Jayland Walker family. Prayers for the family, for the Akron community, government officials and protestors as they deal with his passing and the grand jury decision.

(from p. 2)

to donate. Clean, slice, and lightly sugar them and freeze them in a sealable clear plastic baggie. We'll use the strawberries to top the sundaes! All proceeds from the social go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

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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.

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.

Community Gatherings:

Black Dog Acres Farm
Friday, May 26 from 5-8 pm

Kristen invites everyone (including well behaved dogs) to her home at 9519 Nichols Rd in Freedom Township (use Windham for GPS)! Bring your fishing pole and see if anything's biting in the pond. Walk around 20 acres of fields and woods. See how the garden is growing. Say hi to Jasper the black dog, ChiQui the fluffy manx, the chickens and Trotwood the mischievous goose (don't worry, he'll be penned up!). Kristen will provide hot dogs, not dogs, and beverages. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

The Musters'

Friday, June 23 from 5-8pm

Marcia and Ken invite everyone to their lovely house in the woods at 5841 State Rt 82 in Hiram. Enjoy strolling through their lovely hosta gardens. Musters will provide sloppy joes. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

Upcoming Board and Team Leader Meetings:

Sunday, May 14 after church: Board Meeting

Sunday, June 18 after church: Team Leader Meeting

Easter Offering

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Easter Offering! This offering supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church, including college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more. Our congregation raised \$478 for these worthy causes!

In love, Kristen

Stewardship:

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Financial Notes from Ann Patella, Treasurer

At 25% of the year, our donations to go toward general expenses stood at 32% of budget. A few of these were intended as full-year gifts. We will of course need your continued generosity throughout the year.

We have been collecting food donations during worship and have sent over \$200 to local food banks since January.

Our Week of Compassion donations so far this year have been \$1480, and Easter special offering donations for Disciples' General Ministries were \$478.

Our expenses have been kept in check for the first months of 2023. We were able to offset most of the cost for organ tuning by using Memorial Funds from Elizabeth Allyn Hendricks' bequest, and our balance from closing Little Village (placed in the Youth Fund) helped to pay for a family outing at Shaker Rocks. Improvements to the Sugarbush (new gravel) were funded by our Sugarbush Improvement Savings.

Our utility costs so far this year have been within budget, and Colorbar (our tenant in the Administrative Building) now pays \$75 per month toward utility costs.

Repair bills have been running high, due to furnace and plumbing maintenance bills.

If you have received an income tax refund, perhaps you could use part of it as a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which currently stands at a relatively low \$1200. This fund is used throughout the Hiram community to help those in need.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Hiram Christian Church.

Spiritual Formation:

We are enjoying the young teachers, Sadie Qualls and Cody Johnson. Thanks to them for continuing to make learning fun and meaningful. Sunday school will continue through May.

Our youth and adults enjoyed a fun afternoon evening at Shaker Rocks. Many brave and athletic attendees climbed the Rock walls. Our next experience is on May 7 at Cliffs Bike Park, which has some motocross and mountain bike courses with parking across the road. Enjoy the potluck and then head over to the park, about a 40-minute drive from church.

Take Me Out to The Ballgame!

Let's watch the Mahoning Valley Scrappers play ball on Thursday, July 13. This is "Buck Night," so General admission tickets are \$1 (plus a fee), hot dogs and soft drinks are \$1 each. Parking is \$3 unless you drive a Toyota (that is free). If you prefer to not sit in bleachers, I suggest section 211 or 116 so you will be close. Game starts at 7:05, but I believe the gates open at 6:00, and kids love to stand along the rail and get autographs from the players. The field is in Niles, Ohio, by Eastwood Mall.

You may purchase tickets on your own, or let Nancy Schauer know by June 4, and I will be happy to purchase.

Church in the World:

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Maple Syrup:

We bottled and tagged recently after church; our much-anticipated 2023 syrup is now on sale! \$11.00 per pint. \$20.00 per quart. Syrup is available in the back of the church and in the church office. Our yield this year = 120 quarts and 125 pints.

So many hands made this project possible: preparing bags, collecting sap, bottling syrup, and tagging and labeling bottles for sale. If you were not able to help so far, now is your turn. Heat up those skilletts for pancakes or gift some syrup for your friends! Thank you all for your dedication to this mission project.



Our proceeds this year will support a farmer program in East Timor where 46% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition. Through education and training, families are improving both the quality and yield of their crops, resulting in healthier children. This is our 10th year. We have sent a total of \$24,545.00 so far to Growing Hope Globally, helping to create lasting solutions to hunger.

Mission Trip:

Youth from our church and area churches will travel to Charleston, WV, from June 11 to June 17. Thanks to those who will be repairing homes of veterans and other needy community members. Thanks to the leaders who have organized this outreach. Those attending from our church are Sophia Hankinson, Lizzie Dormann, and Olivia O'Bryant. There may be others- thanks to them too. Part of the trip will be financed by our youth fund, but fundraising is ongoing- stay tuned.

Camp Christian:

If your summer plans include time at Camp Christian, that would be awesome. Forms are available at ccinoh.com.

Registration is available until 10 days prior to the start date of each program. Parents are encouraged to pay half, and we will gladly pay the other half. Submit your forms and your check made out to Hiram Christian Church to the office and we will forward everything to Camp Christian.

So exciting that Sammy Harnar will be representing our church at Ribbit Camp!

Congratulations to Kristen Pool who has received an award for Environmental Stewardship from the Portage Park District Foundation! Kristen created and has stewarded the seed library program at the Kent Free Library.

