

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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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

October 2023

Reflection:

The capacity to be oneself and be content within one's beauty and 'imperfection,' is often at the heart of a grateful and faithful existence; the inability to be is often at the root of a great division and suffering. We see this within the story of Jacob and Esau. Jacob emerges from the birth canal with his hand clenched upon Esau's heel - a symbol of what would become of a life forever grasping for that which is within reach and understood as "superior." The result is a life divided that soon divides the family and then is passed on to the next generation.

In his work, *Not in God's Name*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks dives into the story and elevates what is perhaps hidden within the conclusion of the narrative: that although Jacob stole Esau's blessing, Esau forgave him, Jacob returned the blessing to Esau, and then Jacob received the blessing that was for him all along. It was never the case that there was only one blessing to be given, just that there was only one that was desired. There is always a blessing that is particular to every one of God's beloved children - tailored to every gift and vulnerability; bestowed for grace and purpose. We may see and desire that of another, and perhaps we are somewhere on that path right now. But what is ever before us is the sense of, and reception of, and living of the blessing that is for each of us.

May you know and know so well,

That you are created in the image of God - exactly as you are.

That you are a beloved child of God - exactly as you are.

And that there is a particular blessing for you, that brings forth goodness and gift for you as you carry it, and for others as you share it.

Let us continue to encourage one another to be who God has created and calls us to be.

Peace,
Rev. Chris McCreight

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 is available for appointments most Wednesday afternoons. You may email secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org or call 330-569-7697 to schedule an appointment.

**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:

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As I shared in my Reflection on the day we welcomed Pastor Chris back from sabbatical, I was amazed and inspired by all that we accomplished together over the summer. I continue to give thanks to God for all those who stepped forward with generosity and creativity to be the church in our community.

I give thanks for those who have served for many years in different roles, sometimes several at once. As I admitted I experienced myself, after many years, many challenges, many meetings, it can also be exhausting to be a church leader. It can be a blessing to serve; but there is also blessing in taking a time to rest and regenerate.

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 12, we will elect Board members and Team Leaders. It is also the time when we identify those who will serve on those teams and serve as Elders and Deacons. Some who are currently serving are prayerfully considering whether to continue. For them, there would be reassurance in knowing that there are others willing to step in.

This summer, you may have already done the work of one of the Teams! Maybe you helped clean up after a coffee hour, introduced yourself and welcomed visitors, scooped ice cream, filled goody bags, did a deep dive into voting issues, set up for the blood drive, recycled plastic bags, lifted up prayer requests, sent cards or emails, offered someone help, cleaned up the garden, shared a stewardship and communion reflection, brought in flowers, put your whole heart into worship.

Maybe you just thought about doing those things, but didn't know if you should or could. Maybe you didn't know something was happening, or found out after it was too late. Maybe it just wasn't the right time.

Please know that you are welcome to get involved, and the church will be strengthened through your gift of service. There are opportunities to serve without officially taking on a role or joining a Team; but when people do volunteer to serve in specific ways, it improves planning and communication. It opens up what we can do as a church, fosters innovation, and spreads the work around.

If you feel called to serve with a particular Team or ministry next year, or to take a leadership role, please feel free to reach out to me or Pastor Chris for more information. And know that Pastor and I are also prayerfully thinking about some of you, and may be reaching out to YOU! Let's all be in prayer for God's guidance for next year, that we may all be listening for God's call to serve, and for God's blessing on the good work we will do.

With love, Kristen

Upcoming Board and Team Leader Meetings:
Sunday, October 8 after church: Team Meeting
Sunday, October 22 after church: Worship Team Meeting
Sunday, November 12 after church: Annual Congregational Meeting

Hospitality (cont.):

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Prayers for Students, Nations, and Churches:

A congregation in Cleveland lost their building in the storms. Prayers for them and all impacted locally. May we all look for ways to help. * Prayers for People's Community Church, our friends in Berea. * Prayers for Maui as they continue to struggle after the fires. * Prayers and blessings to our children and teachers who are returning to school. Prayers for safety, joy, friendship and learning. * Prayers for the re-elected General Minister and president of the Christian Church in the US and Canada is Terry Hord Owens. Prayers for all of the newly elected moderators. * Great to see Jack Rado, a recent graduate of James A. Garfield, and his family. Jack will be studying at Columbia University. * Prayers for the Mayfield Heights Disciples of Christ Church, the church that Jason Bricker Thompson serves. They were terrorized by hate speech. * Prayers for the United Auto Workers as they strike. May they have support and reach a resolution. * Prayers for our Congress. May they find consensus that is best for the country as they work to agree on a budget. * Jo asks us to celebrate the people who offer quiet support. * Prayers for justice and peace. * Prayers for our siblings in Libya and Morocco as they attempt to recover from devastation

Blessings and Celebrations:

Thankful for the blessing of having availability of wonderful medical care. * Damaris leads us in giving thanks for a wonderful social gathering at Robin Shura's home. * The Harnar family is grateful for the visit of Megan's dad, David Kincaid. * Prayers and gratitude for our harvest. * Blessings that Kweethai and Steve have completed two books. * Jon reminds us what a blessing Hiram Farm is. We celebrate their successes. * Blessings that Dale and Nancy Lacan are able to worship with us. Thanks to Dale for wonderful music. * Blessings and thanks to Sandy Coffman on making a difference in the lives of seniors. She will retire as director of Lunch Bunch after 38 years.

Birthdays: September - Betsy Siman 9/2, Dale Lacan 9/3, Toby Hankinson 9/8, Tim Mack 9/9, Chase Shwonek 9/13, Joyce Hunter 9/17, Kristen Pool 9/18, Doug Brewer 9/19, Maryann Pou 9/28, Jamie Taylor 9/29. October - Lizzie Dormann 10/3, Larry LaCivita 10/15, Tony Muscari 10/17, Daniel Boutros 10/24, Chase Pancost 10/27, Charlene Moss 10/28.

Anniversaries: Blessings for Lonnie and Eevee Haskel who are celebrating 10 years of marriage; Megan and Aaron celebrating their 20th; Cathy and Emliss celebrating 45th; Robin's parents will celebrated their 54th - blessings to them, and prayers as they deal with some health problems; Blessings for Dave and Rosanne Factor who are celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary; Jon's brother and sister-in-law are celebrating their 46th anniversary along with their daughter and her husband. Congratulations.

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 (cont.):

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* Prayers for the family Matt Tipton who passed away unexpectedly. His wife Libby and their 2 young boys and family need many prayers at this difficult time. * Prayers for Margaret's family as they had a memorial service to remember her cousins, Chuck and Nora Kegley. * Prayers for the family and friends of John Fiscus who passed. * Prayers for the family of Darlene Jackson, especially husband Bob, as they continue to mourn her passing one year ago. * Prayers for the family and friends of Janet Fink. * Prayers for Betsy and family as they mourn the loss of her sister. Safe travels for her family as they journey to gather for a memorial. * Prayers for family and friends of Pat Tulloch (cousin of Jan and Nancy) at her passing.

Prayers for Healing and Strength:

Prayers for Katy Schauer and family as she goes through chemotherapy. * Jen asks for prayers for Aunt Susie. While she was recovering from back surgery, she fell and broke her knee. Prayer for strength, comfort, and recovery. * Prayers for Janet Pancost's mom as they seek to find new services for Physicians home health care. * Prayers continue for Ken Pike as he transitions to a care facility. * Marcia's friend as she recovers from a kidney transplant. * Prayers for Adam and Amanda Swine. While Amanda goes through tough medical procedures, Adam is working long hours at his job to pay bills. * Please pray for Dave Kilroy who was in the hospital. * From Dave Peters--Prayers for my Aunt Penny - heart and jaw issues. Damaris's sister. * Prayers for Bob Jackson who was hospitalized with pneumonia. * Prayers for Emliss's brother, Kevin. * Continued prayers for Beau Braden as he is having difficulty walking. * Prayers for Helene's dog, Eddy. * Prayers continue for Emliss as he recovers from surgery. * Prayers continue for Betsy as she recovers from surgery. * Prayers for Beau as he listens to the direction of our loving God and realizes how special every day is. * Charlene Moss asks for prayers for her grandson, Tyler, who had surgery. Prayers for his recovery and comfort. * Kristen's mom had a great week with no treatments for her Multiple Myeloma. Prayers for continued recovery. * Cindy Massey, a member of Heights Christian Church has traveled to Chicago to be with her mom who is at the end of life. Prayers for Cindy and family. * Kristen's cousin, Allan, as he recovers from a heart attack and medical issues. * Emliss asks for prayers for Jim Tolin and family as they travel to Michigan for a new job. * Prayers for Dale Lacan and Nancy. Dale continues to have irregular heart rate issues. * Prayers for Danny who will be having surgery. Danny is the brother of Matt (Marcia and Ken's son-in-law). Prayers for a successful surgery and recuperation. * Prayers for Margaret's family friend, George, having a heart procedure. * Jimmy Buchanan has moved to Arden Courts, a memory assisted care facility in Bainbridge Prayers for both John and Jimmy. * Safe travels for Jen McCreight who is coming home from D.C. * Prayers from Dave Peters for Ken and Damaris. * Prayers for Sue Grajek who will be traveling. * Safe travels for Gilda Matteo. She is heading to the Dominican Republic to celebrate her dad's birthday with family and then to Spain for a pilgrimage. * Margaret's sister-in-law, Margaret in NC, will be having some tests on lungs as has COPD. * Please add my neighbor, Ginny, to the list. She is having a melanoma removed tomorrow. (Kristen). * Allison Courtney, friend of Lorena and Tyson, had a difficult neurosurgery, with complications. Prayers for her recovery. Prayers, also for husband Jake and their baby.

Worship:

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Deacon's Needed!!

We need volunteers to serve as Deacons this fall! This a wonderful opportunity to serve during our Sunday service – giving of yourself to enhance a part of our worship in a very meaningful way. Your commitment would be to greet at the door and pass out bulletins at 10:45, pass the offering plates and serve the communion elements. Everything will be set up before you come and there is no need to stay afterward. All members and friends of Hiram Christian Church are welcome to volunteer to serve. There is a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board above the table as you enter the church. Contact Sue Grajek (330-607-5573 or susantgrajek@gmail.com) with questions.

They Work!

Have you ever wondered about the devices in our sanctuary pews that look like old-fashioned telephone receivers? There are two on the east side and two on the west side, about two-thirds of the way down toward the communion table. And they work!

No, these are not telephone receivers. They are connected to the sound system and they amplify the sound. If you are one of us who struggles to hear during worship services, try one of these handy receivers!

Do you know about “Dead Space” in our sanctuary? It is especially difficult to hear if you sit in the “dead space” in our sanctuary—under the balcony. Come on down front. You will be able to hear far better there—either with or without one of the telephone-like receivers.



Spiritual Formation:

Children's Church has begun during the church hour under the leadership of our teachers, Sadie Qualls and Cody Johnson. We joined together on September 10 for a pancake breakfast to kick off the fall season. Our lessons this semester follow the Narrative Lectionary used in worship. We will be studying the Old Testament.

Beginning October 1, at 10:30, youth are invited to join the chime choir. We will meet in the Sunday school room. It seems we have several musicians in our group, so we are looking forward to sharing our talents.

We will visit the Corn Maze on October 15 and will have a November get-together at the Field Station.

Adult elective is meeting before church, at 9:45. We are reading and discussing the book, Dancing in the Darkness. Join us in the Fireside room!

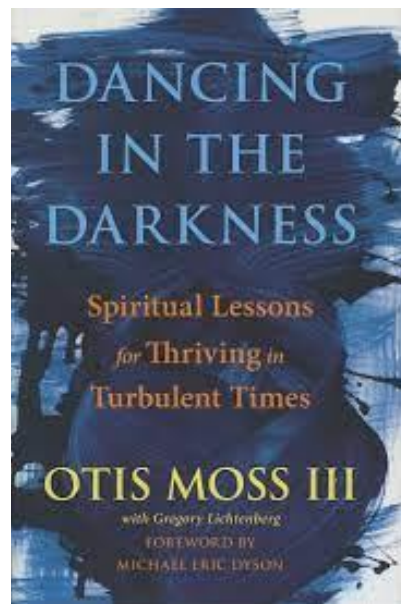
Spiritual Formation (cont.):

As church returns to the winter schedule, Adult Elective Sunday school class returns to action the hour before church, at 9:45am in the Fireside Room.

This adult class has a long history, over half a century. The character of the class evolves, as it grows from the interests and concerns of the participants.

We began September 10 with Otis Moss III's book, Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times. We welcome everyone.

For more information call Jon Moody (330) 527 2837, or email at jandjmoody@msn.com.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Blessing of the Animals: Wednesday, October 4th @ 5:30pm

The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi is October 4th. Francis possessed a Christian mysticism that understood the presence of God to be in and of all things within the creation. It is common for this feast day to include a blessing of the animals, which is what we plan to do this year.

On Wednesday, October 4th @ 5:30, you will be invited to bring your beloved pet to the church garden for a brief worship service and blessing. And, if you have a beloved animal in your life that you would like to be blessed, but perhaps isn't the most social animal then please consider the other ways that we can bless them. You are welcome to bring a belonging of the pet instead of the animal itself, if it would be too difficult for the creature.



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 15th St
Apt 4319
Sebring, OH 44672

Don Swift
18060 Fallen Oaks Trail
Hiram, OH 44234

Words of Gratitude:

I want to thank Hiram Christian Church for supporting the Hiram Lunch Bunch. The last day of my duties with the Lunch Bunch is Thursday September 28 2023. It has been 38 years for me with the Hiram Lunch Bunch.

So many folks have enjoyed coming and meeting new and old friends. So many blessings for them and for me.

Thank you
Sandy Coffman

Hospitality:

In the Life of the Congregation:

Prayers of comfort:

Prayers for family of Ron Simsa, who passed. * Congregation, family and friends joined in a memorial to Karen Hinkle on Monday, August 28. Prayers for Drew and family. Thanks to Drew for sharing the beautiful quilts that were created by Karen, a fabric artist. * Prayers for Dan and Jama Peterson of Garrettsville on the unexpected passing of their son, Zach. * Prayers for the family and friends of Joan Siman. * Continued prayers for the family of Mary Bittance.

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Partners in Ministry:

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4Cs' Needs: For October - canned or bottled spaghetti sauce, Jello & canned pasta
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

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio provides FREE books to kids

Have you heard about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio? It's a FREE book-gifting program for all kids between birth and 5 years old. Every child in Ohio is eligible to receive a monthly book in the mail until their fifth birthday.

After enrolling, the child will receive a collection of high-quality, age-appropriate books, such as "Llama Llama Red Pajama" and "The Little Engine That Could."

There are still so many of Ohio's youngest learners who are not signed up for this free program. Help prepare these little ones to take on kindergarten – and life! Program registration is available at OhioImaginationLibrary.org



Recycling Bags!

Our church is part of an ongoing drive to collect household bags and wrap to be recycled into composite material for outdoor furniture. Used plastic bags can be brought to the church and left in the large lawn bags found in Fellowship Hall near the children's Sunday School room.

Materials that will be accepted include grocery bags, bubble wrap, newspaper sleeves, and cereal bags. Chip bags, candy wrappers, pet food bags, and mesh produce bags are on the "no-no" list, and cannot be accepted. Complete lists are available near the collection area. Bags for recycling must be clean and free of food debris.

What an easy way to reduce plastics that go to landfills or roadsides or oceans! Just bring your clean empty bags to our church!

Coming Soon to a Narthex Near You

We are in the final stages of preparing an up-to-date directory of members and friends of Hiram Christian Church. As soon as they are ready, copies will be available in each narthex, near the east and west doors of our sanctuary.

Meanwhile, Ann Patella will be happy to accept any address verifications or new addresses to be added to our directory. 330-569-7953 or Ann.Patella@gmail.com. Please also let us know if you would prefer that your name and contact information not be included in the directory.

UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.):

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Family Event – Derthick's Corn Maze Sunday, October 15, 4-6pm

Crop Walk in Kent – Sunday, October 15, 1-5pm

We do not have a walk here in town --BUT the wonderful folks at the Kent Interfaith Alliance (KIFA) have invited the community to join in theirs! Our sister Disciples church in Kent is sending a team. Walk with them, enjoy the company, and have some wonderful conversations along the way. The location is at the Trail Lake Park in Streetsboro. The money will go to CROP to support sustainable projects overseas, and the local portion will go to Kent Social Services.

Kristen has created a Team for HCC, and remember, if you can't walk, know that you can donate! You can sign up at: events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/teams?event=kentoh

Story Slam - Sunday, October 22 @ 6pm, HCC Fellowship Hall

Enjoy an evening of listening to and sharing stories brought to mind by reading American Salvage by Bonnie Jo Campbell as part of the Community Read organized by Hiram College. Campbell's book tells the stories of rural, working-class people in post-industrial Michigan, the struggles they face, and the resilience they manifest. At this Moth-style event hosted by Ellen Eckhouse, several local storytellers will share stories about their lives in and around Portage County. Attendees who would like to share their own story can put their name in a hat, and if chosen, can tell a 5-minute story that is true and in which they are one of the main characters. Story content and language should be appropriate for a general audience and must be on the theme of life in rural, working-class America.

For all ages--16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. For more information, contact moderator@hiramchristianchurch.org.

Men Graciously Serving Breakfast – the Return:

The guys are back on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except for December, 6:30 - 9am. Dave and Emliss and others will be in the kitchen, ready to prepare a delicious breakfast just for you. The coffee will be hot, the eggs are fresh, and the community is exquisite! Start your morning at the church and invite a friend or neighbor too. Donations are welcome, but the breakfast is free. See you on October 24!

Pumpkin Carving Party October 29 after worship and Hiram Village Trick or Treat – Tuesday, October 31, 5 – 7pm

Be sure to make Hiram Christian Church a stop on your trick or treat tour this year. The sanctuary will be open from 6:30 to 7:30pm and will bring a bit of Hogwarts to Hiram.

Lisa Wright is coordinating the magical transformation and will need your help to fill the large space of the sanctuary with LOTS and LOTS of jack-o-lanterns. Bring your pumpkins (the more the merrier!) and some carving tools on the 29th and we'll gather in the hall to carve a variety of faces. The pumpkins will all stay in the sanctuary to be lit on Tuesday night (followed by responsible composting on Wednesday). Alternatively, you may carve pumpkins that you wish to donate at home and drop them off by noon Monday, October 30.

DINNER

TO BENEFIT GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Delicious Food

We are taking a journey through Central and South America via the foods served.

Chef Anne Haynam will be telling the story of the plate.

Attendees will sample multiple courses (served family style) and learn about the culinary traditions of these regions as well as connect with the charitable work the church aspires to support.

Water, ice tea, and coffee will be served, but feel free to bring your own beverage of choice to enjoy.

Presentation of Purpose

Members of Hiram Christian Church will speak about the Growing Hope Globally organization, how the church has provided funding in the past, and our hopes for future giving.

\$50 per ticket

\$420 for a reserved table of 8

There is a strict limit of 48 attendees. Cash or check only, payable to Hiram Christian Church.

For tickets:

Contact Rosanne Factor
330-569-7030
olivia.s.factor@gmail.com

More Information
growinghopeglobally.org



GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY



6:30PM
27
OCTOBER

HIRAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6868 WAKEFIELD RD
HIRAM, OH



Hiram Christian Church

Wednesday, December 27th, 2023

10am – 3pm

Fellowship Hall
6868 Wakefield Rd.,
Hiram, OH 44234

Make a Legendary Impact! Come give Dec. 18 thru Jan. 5 for NEW long-sleeved Red Cross Tee, ltd qty.



For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: *HIRAM*

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App