

Hiram Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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Hiram, OH 44234  
330-569-7697

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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

Reverend Chris McCreight

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## September 2021

### ***Christ's Church: Always Welcoming***

To arrive and know that you belong.

This is a sacred gift provided by the God of us all. This is a sacred gift that is honored within beloved communities of faith. It is something that each of us contributes to - the divine hospitality - within the congregation, and something we all receive.

To understand the image of God within the self, and to see it within the other is one of the foundations of our tradition. When we begin with this sense of belonging, we proceed faithfully and well.

This is the nature of the blessing we pray for upon the incoming students of Hiram College. This week, young adults are arriving from all over the country and the world. It is wonderful to convey a welcome to all as they approach this village, and let us pray that all of the students would experience that sense of belonging upon the hill, in their classrooms, and among the campus community. Let us also pray that we may look for and find opportunities to serve the Terriers this year.

May the Terriers and may all students (Bees, Bulldogs, Tigers, and Wildcats, Greenmen and G-Men, Rough Riders and Red Devils, Explorers, and Bombers) returning to school this year find that soul-comforting sense of belonging in their class communities.

And may we, as Christ's Church, continue to honor the image of God in the self and in the other, proceeding ever so faithfully together.

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](http://www.wkyc.com) and on news radio WTAM 1100.

**The Minister's schedule in May:** Rev. Chris has online office hours- schedule an appointment at <https://doodle.com/mm/456575318/book-a-time> or please connect with him at [Chris@HiramChristianChurch.org](mailto:Chris@HiramChristianChurch.org) or 330-977-7834.

### **COMING EVENTS:**

#### **September 26 at 9am - Blue Mass at St. Joseph, Mantua:**

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mantua & the Knights of Columbus Father John Cassidy Assembly present A Celebration of all First Responders & Military Blue Mass. Family and friends are welcome as we honor those who have died in the line of duty, veterans, retirees, and those currently serving as first responders and military. A reception will follow in Hughes Hall. For more information, please contact Jim Fields (330-402-2862 or [cowboyjim59@hotmail.com](mailto:cowboyjim59@hotmail.com)) or St. Joseph's Parish Office (330-274-2253).

**November 14, 2021:** HCC Annual Congregational Meeting, after worship. Deadline to submit reports covering 2020 and 2021 to [secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org](mailto:secretary@hiramchristianchurch.org) is October 27.

**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.

## Worship:

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### **Details about our In-Person Service: Continuing with Masking**

Our team is continuing to review the emerging data on the Delta variant along with current transmission rates within Portage County. At this time, we feel as though it remains safe to worship in-person with masks and distancing. We will continue to read and listen to the recommendations from the CDC, Portage County Health Department, and the General and Regional Church.

In the meantime, there is great encouragement to make your appointment to get vaccinated if you haven't already and mask up when indoors. Let us continue with caution and care.

## Prophetic Witness:

### **Growing Hope Globally/Maple Syrup:**

Our last contribution to Growing Hope Globally was in May, for \$1,424. Most of this went to two projects in Haiti, Haiti Jean Rabel and Haiti Mole St. Nicolas. You could look these up on their webpage. These projects are in the north, away from the earthquake, but all of Haiti is affected by current earth and weather events, and it is good to know that we are there working with farmers on sustainable agriculture. Our project is small, but never underestimate the impact of small gifts. In the meantime, there is plenty of syrup still available, in the church office and in the church narthex. \$18/quart; \$10/pint.

### **Ways to respond to our brothers and sisters in need:**

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is currently providing financial aid to relief groups on the ground in Haiti as they seek to recover following the earthquake and tropical storm, Grace. If you are interested in providing support, please consider visiting the Week of Compassion site ([weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org)).

International Institute of Akron

The IAA anticipates it will resettle close to 500 refugees and holders of special immigrant visas, which are reserved for people who have worked with the U.S. government and forces and are now at high risk of suffering retaliation from the Taliban. IAA's core responsibility is to house new arrivals. IAA provides services to families from providing them with home furnishings bedding, blankets, and coats and they also help refugees transition to US culture, Akron Culture. To make a donation visit <https://www.iiakron.org/takeaction>. If you have items to donate contact Marcia, ([mmuster@roadrunner.com](mailto:mmuster@roadrunner.com), 330-274-3205)

### **Reconciliation Sundays: September 26 & October 3:**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has committed itself to anti-racism and reconciliation for more than 40 years now. This work has been named as part of the mission of the Christian Church in Ohio for over a decade. And this work is understood as part of our discipleship within Hiram Christian Church.

Christ's invitations to follow in the ways of love will lead us into radical new understandings of equality, justice, and community. And as we have seen and known, without an ability to identify racism and courage to dismantle it, there is only so far we can follow.

On both September 26 and October 3, we will hold a special offering that will support the Reconciliation Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On both of these Sundays, we will also welcome friends and members of the church who have been participating in anti-racism and reconciliation work that is personal (spiritual/interior) and communal (conversational/relational).

(cont.)

## Hospitality (cont.):

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### **Prayers of healing and strength (cont.):**

\* Megan Harnar's aunt is recovering from surgery. \* Prayers for Jean Brewer as she had a medical procedure. \* Prayers for Betsy's sister, Marge Dingman, and brother, David Hyde, who are both feeling the challenges of growing older. Thursdays are sister days, so Marge's husband can have some respite time. \* Prayers for Missy Bookbinder who had dental surgery. \* Prayers for Tammy Sprague (niece of Janet O'Bryant and Nancy Schauer.) She is being treated for cancer. She has had radiation and some chemo. \* Prayers for Gilda Mateo and family as she travels to Dominican Republic for the third time. Her father is out of the hospital recovering from Covid19, but her mother is still hospitalized with covid.

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

Prayers for the people of Surfside, Florida at the loss of lives and homes. \* For Felix, who was deported and is going through the process of getting back home. \* All those traveling, may they stay safe. \* Prayers for teachers, students, and the community of learning as they try to transition back to school. \* Gratitude for the July 4th celebration, fellowship, community, and the Hiram Fire and Police Departments. \* Safe travels for friends Sara and 7-year-old Sami as they travel to Bolivia to visit their family. \* Prayers for Israel and Palestine as they continue at war. \* For courage and calm in disturbing times. \* For those affected by the heat and wildfires. \* Harnars ask for prayers for dads. May we all celebrate our dads with fond memories, mourning, and healing as necessary. \* Prayers for the people of Afghanistan during these tumultuous times. \* Prayers for our siblings in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. Thanks that disaster relief is on the way. \* Prayers for friends and relatives living in the path of the storm- relatives of Jon and Jane, Lindsay Boyle and Molly and nephew Matt.

### **Blessings and Celebrations**

Grateful for Independence Day, fireworks, goldfishes, salamanders, Pokemon, family and watermelon. \* Grateful for the spirit of abundance/generosity. \* Blessings for Lilly O'Bryant as she attended Camp Christian for CYF Conference. Thanks to the church for support of this ministry. \* Cathy and Emliss are thankful that they got to celebrate their grandchildren's birthdays. \* Thanks for wiggly teeth and farming. \* Betsy sends a very grateful THANK YOU for prayers, or for help with her Plant/Bake sale. \* Blessings of birthdays- Cathy Ricks (June 18) Sandy Coffman (June 20) Thanks for Cathy Ricks' birthday and for Phyllis Brosius's birthday. \* Congratulations to Noah who was married recently. Houston and Mary celebrated with family. \* Blessings for the anniversary of Mary and Lowell Evans. They celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July. \* Blessings on Rachel Gundlach (Cindy's daughter, Margaret's niece), on her marriage to Avery Quesenberry. \* The generous gift of rain, while others suffer with drought and fires. \* Pastor Chris gives thanks for rest, play, and joy and for all those who served the church while he was on vacation. \* Blessings for birthdays (Jen McCreight) and for "birthday lemonade". \* Blessing for farming and the ability to do it with other people.

**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. See the list above.**

**We Will Pray for You and Yours:** Our prayer chain goes out to 40+ people over email. We pray for you and your loved ones. If you have a request, please contact Nancy Schauer ([dnssofhiram@gmail.com](mailto:dnssofhiram@gmail.com) or 330-569-7416) and let us know of your request. 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 Healing and Strength:

Crystal Teicher requesting prayers for her dad who was hospitalized with a stroke. \* Kristen gives thanks for the good news that a donor has been found for her friend, Steve, who struggles with leukemia. \* Prayers for humility- willingness to accept healing and to help others heal. \* Nancy and Dale Lacan's great niece, Ayla Slivka, has begun radiation and it is making her lethargic. She will be 6 in August. This is tough for a little one, and her family. The prognosis is dire. Prayers to lift their spirits; and comfort them during this challenging time. \* Joyce Hunter asks for prayers for Pam Kaiser, her daughter-in-law, who had hip replacement surgery. \* Peg and John Ehrlinger ask for prayers for his grandson, Apollo, who is recovering from hip surgery. Prayers for the family who are tired; prayers for healing for this 19-month-old, patience, rest. Thankful for community support. \* Margaret's two cousins will be moving to a memory care unit. Prayers for them during the difficult transition. \* Karen Hinkle's granddaughter, Niva, continues to heal from burns. Long painful treatment and recovery. Gratitude that she was wearing her glasses. She is healing and has use of her hands. Grateful that she will be able to attend school with precautions. \* Karen's son, Greg, had extensive elbow surgery and it was successful. \* Joan Boyle is recovering from a surgical procedure. Prayers for comfort and speedy recovery. \* Prayers for the Perkins family that they may stay healthy without vaccinations. \* Prayers for those dealing with mental health issues. \* Prayers please for Margaret's high school friend Patt and her sister Joan. Patt has been fighting cancer, MS and kidney issues for several years. Currently in ICU, intubated. Will be doing scan to check for brain activity. Joan must make decision to let the fight end or keep struggling. Prayers for both and they have a brother and other family members. \* Please continue to keep Charlene Moss in your prayers as she recovers. Also, prayers for Charlene for peace and discernment as she seeks care for her parents- mom with a broken leg and dad with dementia. \* Sheryl Dufey asks for prayers for her friend Doug who has lost his thumb while sawing. \* Benny is battling cancer and undergoing treatment. \* Debbie Moore is recovering from painful shoulder surgery. \* Please pray for Eric's mom Ingrid Hankinson. She fell and broke her hip and is recovering from surgery. \* Please pray. Pray that fear and anxiety do not take root in any of our hearts. Pray that we all stay close to our God, and to trust Him in these moment-to-moment circumstances. Pray that we remember to be loving and tolerant with each other as we travel this difficult road. \* Richard had his 2nd cataract surgery. \* Prayers for health of Jane's niece. \* For Kristen's Mom, Connie, who fell playing tennis. She had an emotional lift as no broken bones after a fall. Now just healing. \* Please pray for Lucy's sister and her family as she recovers from a serious emergency surgery. Faith for expectations to be healed. \* Prayers for Margaret's sister Trish, who is nearing the end-of-life Prayers for her family, as well, through this time of waiting. Also, prayers for Margaret's sister-in-law, Dung. \* Prayers for Margaret's Aunt Nora who has stage-4 cancer and is in hospice and Nora's husband, Chuck who suffers from Alzheimers. \* Please pray for Drayden LeSevre He is 15 and has been diagnosed with Crohn's disease. \* For Peg and John's daughter Ziva, who is seeing a heart doctor. \* For Crystal's daughter Evan, who is starting a new job in Cleveland and will be making home visits. \* Prayers for courage, calm hearts, and courage when we are facing the storms of life. \* Continued health for Ken, Damaris, and Hazel. \* Prayers for the Cisney family, especially for Bob as he faces a terminal illness. Cards welcomed. \* Prayers for Joyce Hunter's cousin, Fran. She lives in Florida and has had serious vertigo. She is hospitalized while doctors determine the cause. Prayers for patience, comfort, and discernment. \* Prayers from Peg for dad, Joe, daughters Ziva and Anna, and son Vitor. \* Houston's and Mary's son, Andrew, is recovering from surgery. \* Damaris's sister, Penny Porter, needs our continued prayers after jaw surgery which is healing slowly. She is unable to eat solid foods. Thanks, from Damaris's sister, Penny. She is recovering slowly. Her faith is keeping her strong.

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## Prophetic Witness (cont.):

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Through recent ministries of the church, there is extraordinary discipleship taking place within us and newer and richer dimensions of life that are emerging. This will be an opportunity to listen to what God has been doing in and with us, to receive again the invitation to faithful discipleship, and to support the ongoing work of Christ's Church to help create beloved community and a just world for all.

## Reconciliation Ministry Offering

"The time is always ripe to do what is right." – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Our special offering will be taken on September 26, 2021, and October 3, 2021. Expect to receive offering materials the week of September 13th. Your advocacy and financial support are much appreciated.

For more than 40 years, Disciples have had a visible ministry to address racism in society. Gifts to **Reconciliation Ministry**, through its Offering or throughout the year, support programs and initiatives aimed at dismantling racism. Reconciliation Ministry is not supported by Disciples Mission Fund.

### Upcoming Fundraiser: St. Joseph's Christmas Boutique, Sunday, November 7, 9:30-3:30:

Held in Hughes Hall, the Christmas Boutique continues the 36-year tradition of a nice show of hand-crafted items, baked goods, raffles, door prizes, and breakfast and lunch items. Members of St. Joseph's PSR program will run the kitchen offering snack, lunch and dessert items at this annual fundraiser. <https://stjosephmantua.com/christmas-boutique>

Also, tables are still available for crafters—\$30.00 for an 8 ft. table (2nd table is \$25.00). To reserve a table and/or for more info., please contact Nikki Fathauer (937-726-6470 or [nmpoppe1@gmail.com](mailto:nmpoppe1@gmail.com)). Reservations accepted on a first come basis.

## Spiritual Formation:

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### **Christian Education:**

The Neighborhood has concluded. We explored "Fruits of the Spirit." Three of our young people participated. One of our youth, Lilly O'Bryant, attended CYF Conference at Camp Christian. Thanks to the church for their support.

Sunday school on Zoom will begin on September 12. Time will be decided. Parents have been sent a survey exploring different options for how this time together should look. **Parents: please return the survey along with your ideas.**

### **Sunday School Memories from Esther Douglas**

Read at Hiram Christian Church, May 12, 1985, and published in "Minutes in History," 1986

[Notes in brackets added by Ann Patella]

[Clara Douglas was born in 1906. Died 1998.]

When I came to Hiram in 1920, Professor Jess Turner was Sunday School Superintendent. He held that post for 32 years.

Everyone met in the sanctuary. First there was a song. (The small children liked to sing a spirited song like "Brighten the Corner Where You Are.") The Superintendent asked, "Did anyone have a birthday this week?" If so, they would drop their pennies one by one in the Birthday Box. Adults also had birthdays, but they could cheat and drop quarters and dimes and nickels so you couldn't count how old they were. If some class had learned some scripture or the books of the Old Testament, they would recite. The Superintendent had a few words and a prayer. Then it was one last song, and the small children would go to the three small rooms behind the pulpit and the rest of us to the basement.

The women's class met at the front of the sanctuary and Mrs. Pounds [Jessie Brown Pounds] was the teacher. She did not live very long after I came, and I believe Mrs. M.E. Baker took the class. At least she was the teacher for many years.

The men met under the balcony. Some years later during the time Harold Humbert was minister [1926-1933], we had a change, in the form of S.S. Prof. Dunsmore, from the Department of Religion at Hiram College. He set up a more modern form for the Sunday School, extending the time to two hours and having Junior Church during the time of the regular church service.

The Sunday School children had envelopes to put their collection in and we noticed that the offering was going down. We found that the children were stopping at the Hub to get ice cream cones. (The Hub had moved into the Young house across the street.) Someone spoke to Mr. Rox. He opened half an hour later and the offering came back to normal.

Some later faithful leaders were Mrs. Short, Betty Smith, Everton Smith, Mary Garver, Jane Wiseman, Charles Thompson, Alma Cook, Betty Beckelhymer, Thelma Bumbaugh, Win Bartunek, and Genevieve Green.

Since 1920, there have been a number of changes in material and form for the Sunday School, but whatever the form or the material, the Sunday School is still with us.

## Spiritual Formation (cont.):

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### **A Bit of History about our Education Building:** (as compiled by Ann Patella)

Richard Masters remembers crowding in the church building before 1957:

"At that time, there were fourteen classrooms with over 150 Sunday school students in our church. The office was a small room which served both staff and pastor in the basement. No fellowship area in the basement. If we had a dinner, walls were removed between three classrooms and tables were set up. It was a big task each time it was done. After we purchased the land [house and land at the rear of the church, purchased in 1957 from Stanonik, and called the Annex], eight of the fourteen classrooms were moved to the house, so we could have space for fellowship dinners and other events in the basement."

In January, 1964, after hearing a report from the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Hiram Christian Church Board began plans to construct a new building where Sunday School classes could all meet on one floor and in the same building. Planning, fund-raising and construction all proceeded rather quickly, and the Sunday School moved to the new Education Building on November 7, 1965. It was officially dedicated in a special worship service on January 16, 1966. Rev. Hunter Beckelhymer was minister at the time. (He served from 1953-1966.)

### **Partners in Ministry:**

#### ***Giving Thanks for Little Village Early Learning Center:***

After nearly eight years of good and faithful service to the children and families of our community, Little Village Early Learning Center will be concluding its operations. The Board of Little Village recognized the challenges to its mission brought on by the pandemic and, after considering every possibility for re-opening, realized that the best course is to bring the service to a close. We are grateful for the generous service by the members of Little Village and honor their stewardship and their decision. We also recognize the great difficulty and grief that comes in making such a decision, as Little Village has been such a blessing.

There are many more steps to take in the process of closure, and the Church Board has assigned a delegation to work with the Little Village Board to bring everything to a good and healthy close.

Church, let us give thanks for the vision that brought this mission into place. Let us give thanks for the church and community members who gave of their gifts to bring Little Village into being. Let us give thanks that their faithful stewardship has continued in the recognition of the season and the decision to close. May God accompany in the grief of conclusion. May God continue to move about this church and community with new dreams and new visions.

### **Hospitality:**

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

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

Prayers for the McCreight family following the passing of Jen's Mom, Kathy Crusey. \* Comfort and prayers for the Gall family as they grieve the loss of Nancy. \* Don Havener family, especially Kathie and sons. \* For Sydney, whose grandma died. \* For the family and friends of Margaret's cousin, Nora Kegley of Kent, who passed. \* Prayers for family and friends of MaryBeth Cascio who passed. \* Prayers of comfort for Richard's extended family whose cousin's grandson passed away. \* Jean Brewer has a good friend whose uncle passed. \* Ron gives thanks for the opportunity to be together to remember a friend, Billy.

(cont. on p. 6)