



The Bell

Heavenly Trash XXVII

Friday, April 16—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 17—10 a.m. to 1p.m.

As you read this, our “HUM’s Got Talent” 27th annual garage sale is just one month away! This year we are dedicating the garage sale to the memories of *Dick Gibbs and Dick Johnson*, garage sale “treasures” who are greatly loved and missed.

Is your name on the sign-up sheet? Is your junk ready to bring? Are you signed up to help set up tables at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 3rd? I sure hope so!!

You can start bringing your junk after worship on Easter Sunday, and the absolute last day to bring it is Wednesday, April 14th. We need Thursday, April 15th to be completely ready for the sale. As always, call Mary at 330-856-3866, or the church office at 330-856-3463, if you need big things picked up. And the earlier you get your junk to us, the easier you make the job for us.

The many ways you can help are still the same:

- Work **before, during, and after** the sale (and clean up, please!)
- Donate junk, paper bags, pop and snacks.
- Donate money for pizza and donuts.
- Save *Plaza Donuts* coupons.
- Bake for the Bake Sale.

Just a reminder: please don’t drive any cars or trucks on our new sidewalk from the parking lot. Please unload at the front doors by the office.

For those of you working at the sale on April 16 and 17, please see Charlie Rice to “donate” your parking space to the public. We did this last year and it made the people coming to the sale very happy that they didn’t have to park way up the road. There will be a sign-up sheet for this, too.

God bless you for all the love and support you give the Garage Sale year after year. Many of you plan vacations around it, take time off work for it, and work days on end for it. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all of you.

Thank you and God bless you.

Love, *Mary, Queen of Junk*

Change in FriendWeavers and Confirmation Schedule On March 17

Due to HUM hosting Family Promise the week of March 14 through March 21, **FriendWeavers will be canceled on March 17**. The last night for FriendWeavers will be Wednesday, March 24.

Confirmation Class will meet from 4:30—5:30 p.m. (no dinner) on March 17 in the Sanctuary.



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Members In Service

Trustee-of-the-month for March

Linda Drew

Altar Flowers for March

- 7
- 14 The Lytle Family
- 21
- 28 Carolyn Price

Call the church office if you would like to provide flowers on any open date this month. Cost is \$23.

Ushers for March

Lee Giesecke, Captain; Gene Heitzenrater, Chuck Baker, Mike Bollas, Harry & Eleanor Schoger, Greg Greenwood, John Stock, Becky Philbin Brent Heitzenrater

Staff

Ronald C. Spore, *pastor*

Andy McCracken, *lay leader*

Patty Davis, *secretary*

Frank McCauley, *director of music*

Lori Seinar-Roknick, *organist/accompanist*

Robert Gray, *director of music emeritus*

Carrie Santti, *acting director,*

Christian Preschool

Logan Sturgeon, *custodian*

Beth Ferrell, *missionary*

John L. Hopkins, *resident bishop EOC*

Dan Bryant, *superintendent,*

Mahoning Valley District

New “Lunch Bunch” Group

If you want to enjoy some food and fellowship with other HUM members, join the “Lunch Bunch” group! They will meet on the third Friday of every month (this month is March 19) at 1:00 p.m. for lunch at the Elm Road Perkins Restaurant. You don’t have to make a reservation, just be there! Everyone is welcome!

Dear Friends,



We move deeper into Lent, the most holy season of the church year. As we get closer to the Cross, we are reminded of our own mortality and the sacredness of each day of life.

The devastating earthquake in Haiti last month, and now the massive earthquake in Chile this week, wrench our hearts and leave us bewildered. How can we find words that even come close to expressing our feelings for the people of those two countries ... the families ... the children ... the parents ... alone and without hope, grieving for a lost husband or wife or child or parent or friend. Not people of any **fault** different from our own. Only people whose misfortune it is to live near a **fault line**. Subject to the laws of nature. Often people of great faith.

As you go to prayer ... at home, in worship, on the job, wherever ... keep the people of Haiti and the people of Chile in your every prayer! For now, we pray, and we share out of our abundance, to help reach those in such tremendous need.

Come to worship

Palm Sunday :: March 28, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday :: April 1, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday :: April 4, 9:30 a.m.

God loves the people of Haiti, the people of Chile,
and people like you!

Pastor Ron

New Member Class

A new member class will begin on Saturday, March 13, at 10 a.m.

There was a wonderful turnout for the initial member inquiry meeting we had in January, but because of the recent harsh weather we delayed the start of the class until now. If you have an interest in exploring membership in the church, please plan to come March 13. If you were not at the January 30 meeting, let the pastor know of your interest so enough materials can be ordered. Also you may want to fill out a green card (available in the sanctuary pews) and give to Pastor Ron or place in the offering plate. Information from that card will help in contacting you if there is an emergency need to alter the Saturday schedule.

We look forward to getting to know you better and helping you to know our church.

Mission Support Request

Megan Long, whose family has relocated to Iowa, and who is now a freshman at Iowa State University maintaining a 4.0 GPA, recently wrote a letter to our congregation about a mission trip she will participate in later this month. The church campus ministry she is now attending will send a mission team to Haiti to help in the earthquake recovery effort, providing construction help, medical intervention, and assistance with orphans.

Megan estimates her costs at about \$1850 and is requesting help from family and friends. Details of the trip are included in her letter, which is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you want to help, please complete the Response Form and follow directions for your check to Cornerstone Church. Send the check and completed form to Megan at the address on her letter.

Family Blessings

Starting Sunday, April 4, 2010 we are initiating a new part of our worship service called "Family Blessings." Five families will be randomly chosen each week to be honored and blessed. You will not need to do anything special except to stand in your pew as you are recognized and prayed for.

During the course of one year every church family will have been honored and will know how valued each of you is as part of our church family.

You can expect to receive a letter two weeks before your special Family Blessings Sunday to help you plan. If you need a ride please call the church office at 330-856-3463 and one will be arranged for you.

We hope every family will be here in worship on their special day. If you are unable to be in church that day, know that you will be in our prayers.

Thanks to Mary Raeburn for this wonderful idea!

In God's love,
Pastor Ron

Please pray for...

HUM Members: Bob Gray, Carl Isom, Ed Baker, Gene Stefani, Bette Champ, Donna Lowman, Ann Baker, Georgia Stefani, Michael Taylor & Family (on the death of his uncle, Robert Taylor), Joanne Thomas, Jan Rice

Friends and Family: Todd Santti, Diana Barreto, Nick Macrinis, Fred Norton, Krista Ronai, Diana Anderson, Susan Cunningham, Donna Thorpe, David El Hatton, Ellen Becker, Alexander Thompson, Jan Kazonyi-Rokus, Marsha Wissinger, Luke Holko, Julie Carbone, Greg Flick, Robbie Corbin, Ron Kilner, Cheryl Boyd, Wyatt Girard, Aaron Kent, Jim Barber, Leslie May, Jackson Barretts, Darin Jones, Iris Biery, Inez Musselman, Maria Sybelnek, George Pond, Joe Holland, Ann Penman, Ron McCracken, Maribeth Longberry, Ronald Lott, Marianne Chovan, Dorothy Hritz, Jack Rudloff, Tom Lepola, Marlene Morales, Angela Cartechine, Brian Begg, Duane Diver & Family (on the death of his wife, Kathy), Janice Lewis, Courtney Dunlosky, Kathy Edenfeld, Matt Davis, Gianna Glaros, Fanny Meaden, Betty Kulyk, Brian Steadman, Andrew and Justin Almand, Bobbie Gibson

Youth News



Although it doesn't look much like spring with several feet of snow on the ground, it is time to make preparations for the final phase of the confirmation program. Parents and mentors are also invited to join us when we visit with **Rabbi Muller** and attend services at the Congregation Rodef Shalom in Youngstown.

We will need to leave HUM by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday March 26th**. The service will be led by their youth and will last forty-five minutes to an hour. I'm hopeful that Rabbi Muller will be available to meet with us afterwards for some discussion about the Jewish faith. We should be finished by 8:00 p.m.

Confirmation will be **Sunday May 2nd** beginning with an 8:00 a.m. breakfast.

Please continue to support our confirmands with yours prayers as they continue their meetings with mentors, class work, memory work, and service hours. I am enjoying working with these fine young people every Wednesday night and am often impressed with their understandings and insights concerning our faith. **Our classes will conclude on March 24th**.

Our combined youth groups will have participated in the 30 Hour Famine by the time you are reading this article. More details will be in the April Bell.

We are looking ahead to a living history program at Hale Farm and Village where we will experience some of what it was like to be a fugitive on the Underground Railroad. The tentative date for that event is April 24th.

Many thanks to all who make our youth programs work!

~Rick France

FriendWeavers

Moses caught the Israelites bowing down before a golden calf (that looked like a Winnie the Pooh chair). Moses (played by a girl) threw down the 10 commandment tablets, pretended to melt down the golden calf and made the Israelites drink the gold powder in their water. The Israelites said they would worship only God. The

Tabernacle was built (from paper bags from Giant Eagle). Returning with clipboards and fake fruit in hand, two of the 12 spies said the Promised Land could be theirs with God leading them.

These are some of the scenes from activities you will find each Wednesday at FriendWeavers! Are the 30 young participants learning about how God can change lives? Are they realizing that God cares about them even when they aren't perfect? Listen to the songs, watch the group-building games that end with a prayer, see partners working together to accomplish a goal or a craft, and you will know. Check the writings in the weekly journals done after a kid-friendly meal around the table with their circle of friends. Visit us some Wednesday and experience for yourself the fun that can be had with a great group of children, committed youth circle leaders, wonderful adult leaders, and reliable helpers. Also, be sure to check the FriendWeavers poster board of photos displayed each week in the Narthex.

The final Wednesday for this session of FriendWeavers will be on March 24. Stay tuned to find out what will happen in the fall when FriendWeavers will probably return with more Bible adventures to weave Jesus into our lives!

****FriendWeavers is canceled for Wednesday, March 17 due to HUM hosting Family Promise.**

High Seas Expedition—Exploring the Mighty Love of God Vacation Bible School June 7—11 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Our Christian Education Team is excited about this year's Vacation Bible School, and we're already working hard planning a great week for everybody. Parents, as we make our plans we need a little bit of help from you:

1. Mark your calendar - **June 7-11, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** This is the week right after school is out, and everybody gets to sleep in and then come to VBS in the evening this year!
2. Help us invite your child's friends - give names and addresses of any friends you want to invite and we'll get them on our mailing list. (Anybody who attended VBS last year, or who attends FriendWeavers is already on our list.) Give names and addresses to Sue Spore, or call the church office with the information.
3. Join us for the week - Vacation Bible School requires lots of adult assistance. Just a few things you could help us with are: snacks, sound system, decorating, be a crew leader (no teaching, just travel with a crew from station to station), or work with a station leader. No experience is required and you are guaranteed to experience a wonderful week.
4. Want to make a financial contribution? Like all other areas in the church, we are watching our budget this year. Any financial donations will be very much appreciated.

*Prayerfully consider how you can be involved with this very important week, and then contact **Sue Spore**.*



Easter Flowers

We will celebrate the Resurrection at the Easter service on Sunday, April 4 by decorating the Sanctuary with Easter lilies, tulips, and hyacinths. You may take the flowers home following the worship service on Easter. The cost is \$8.00 each. **Deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, March 28.** Payment must be made at the time of order; you may place your order in the collection plate or turn it into the office. Please choose from the following:

Lily _____ Tulip _____ Hyacinth _____

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God _____

Please take my flower to a shut – in _____

I can help deliver flowers to shut-ins _____



Here are the upcoming books to be discussed in Book Bunch. Summaries are available on the church web site at <http://www.howlandumc.com> and on the Book Bunch bulletin board in the Narthex.

March 18, 2010

One Perfect Day (Lauraine Snelling)
(Meeting at Bert Morales' home)

April 15, 2010

We Were the Mulvaney's (Joyce Carol Oates)

May 20, 2010

The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)

June 17, 2010

The Beach House (Jane Green)

July 15, 2010

Against All Odds (Irene Hannon)

Book Bunch is a monthly book discussion group that meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December). Whether or not you've read the book for the month, if you are interested in hearing it discussed, please join us.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Deborah Lowman at 330-372-9528 or dllowman@earthlink.net.

Dear Church Family,

I was so pleased to receive the beautiful poinsettia at Christmas. It is nice to be remembered even though I can't get to church now. I miss all of you.

Love, *Virginia Churchill*

Dear Church Family,

The family of Mildred Nighswander wishes to thank Pastor Spore for his kindness and helpful advice before and after Mid's death. You were a great comfort to us. The message at the funeral truly spoke of the wonderful lady Mid was to all of us.

We would also like to thank the organist Lori Seinar-Roknick for the lovely music.

Our thanks to all of you who came to celebrate Mid's life and to all who gave food or flowers. Your support and love mean so much. We are truly blessed to have such a loving church family.

The Family of Mid Nighswander

HUM Christian Preschool News

Daro Miller has become our "Snow Angel" for the Preschool. He is the first one here on a snowy morning to clear our sidewalks for us. We thank you, Daro, from the bottom of our hearts...you are an answer to many prayers.

If anyone has access to a local office or business and would be willing to display our Preschool flyers and registrations, please call the office and we will see that you get the information. This greatly helps in spreading the word about our Christian Preschool

HUM Website

I was hoping that this month's article would be a list of all the changes that have been made to the HUM website (<http://www.howlandumc.com>). There aren't as many as I had hoped, but there are a few:

- "Upcoming Events" is back, but it only includes a few items. **If you want an event publicized, let me know. Please don't assume that just because it is in the Bell or Sunday bulletin that it will be posted on the website.** I'm way behind on copying and pasting from the *Bell*.
- The Home Page is arranged a little differently. It now includes the hours of Sunday worship and Sunday School as well as more "teasers" for the rest of the website.
- "LOGOS" has been changed to "FriendWeavers." This is to reflect the change in curriculum in our Wednesday after-school program.

I've disabled the links to some of the sections I'm working on; so if you're looking for something specific, let me know.

Hopefully next month's article will tell you more changes that have been made to the website. Until then, God bless and see you in cyberspace and church.

~Deborah Lowman

Family Promise

HUM will be hosting Family Promise **March 14 - 21**. There are currently four families in the program: a mom, dad and 2 year old; a mom, dad, and 8, 9, and 12 year olds; a mom and 15 and 16 year olds; and a mom with a 4 month old.

There are several ways you can help. We need people to help set up the rooms on Sunday, March 14, right after Sunday School. This doesn't take long if there is enough help.

There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex to provide food for breakfast, lunch and snacks, and to provide dinner. Dinner hosts prepare part of a dinner at home for approximately 20 people. They serve the meal, sit down with the guests and eat with them, then clean up after the meal and put away leftovers. The guests love the leftovers for midnight snacks and for their lunch the next day. Dinner is to be served between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.

We would like to try something different this time. In the past, the overnight supervisors would arrive around 7:00 p.m. We would like to have two evening hosts from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The evening hosts would play games, do crafts, read books, help with homework, etc. with the children. They would also socialize with and assist the guests with needs.

Overnight supervisors are needed from 8:30 p.m. - 6:30 a.m. (except on Saturday and Sunday, when the guests stay at the church all day). You should arrive at the church by 8:30 p.m. unless there are no evening hosts scheduled, then you need to be here by 7:00 p.m. Be available to meet the guests' needs and in case of an emergency.

We need two people to be at the church on Saturday. The day is broken into shifts, so no one needs to be here all day.

Anyone who has volunteered in the past will tell you what a rewarding experience it was. The families in the program are so grateful for all we do, and they love spending time with us. Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

~Debbie Macino

2nd Annual Family Promise Soup Cook Off

The second annual Family Promise Soup Cook Off will be held on **Saturday, March 20, from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Blessed Sacrament Church has graciously offered to host it this year. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Registration forms to enter soup are available in the church office. There is a professional competition, a non-professional competition and a clergy competition. For more information contact Patty DiGiacobbe at the Family Promise office.

**HUMC Financial Status
Through January 31, 2010**

INCOME:

Church Receipts	\$ 20,210.88
Other Receipts	1,032.58
Total Church Receipts	\$ 21,243.46

EXPENSES:

Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$ 12,186.36
Programs	483.11
*Trustees Accounts	4,081.15
**Apportionments/Stewardship	3,355.22
Administration	1,089.25
Total Expenses Paid	\$ 21,195.09
Subtotal	\$48.37
Commitments not met	-\$416.63
Total Under-giving	-\$368.26

*Trustee Accounts include maintenance on the church and parsonage buildings and grounds, utilities, janitorial and lighting supplies, insurance, capital improvement, etc.

** Apportionments are our share of money paid to the East Ohio Conference and Mahoning Valley District. As of January 31, 2010 the only commitment not met is the Capital Improvement Escrow for January. Everything else is current.



**Appalachia Service Project (ASP)
June 20-26, 2010**

Four teams from this church will travel to Central Appalachia the week of June 20-26, bringing God's love to families as we help to repair their homes. We are meeting each month to prepare for this trip.

Our Phone-a-Thon fundraiser was very successful and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. During difficult financial times, your help is appreciated more than ever. We are currently at 60% of our goal. Contributions can be made at any time; just be sure to mark your check for "ASP" in the memo line.

We often talk about how we are helping the families in Appalachia and there's no question that we are doing just that - we are making their homes warmer, safer, and drier. Please remember that this trip is also a very powerful experience for our mission teams, especially our youth. Every single person who makes this trip is changed forever.

Be sure to read the Bell each month for updates about this extremely worthwhile ministry. If you have questions, check out the ASP bulletin board in the narthex or contact Bill Headland.



**Howland United
Methodist Church**

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The Bell is published monthly.

Ronald C. Spore, pastor
Patty Davis, editor

Worship—9:30 a.m.
Sunday School—10:45 a.m.

Non-Profit Organization

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage PAID

Vienna, OH

Permit No. 33

Return Service Requested

**Deadline for the
April 2010 newsletter:
Monday, March 15, 2010**



Silent Auction - November 14, 2010

The Faith Seekers Sunday School Class is announcing that it, with a lot of help from everyone in the church family, is sponsoring a silent auction to be held on November 14, 2010. We are announcing the silent auction now so that you can be thinking about what you might like to contribute to help make it a success. Remember, items can be handmade (like the wonderful snowmen that Gene Heitzenraiter crafted). Perhaps you might like to donate a gift certificate to a local restaurant, a gift basket or a golf outing. Some of you could provide a service by fixing a meal for the highest bidder or do home repair work. The list is endless. At one of our past silent auctions one couple hosted a shopping trip to Pittsburgh that included lunch.

We are asking that donations arrive at the church by October 27th. The items will be on display and open for bids starting on October 31st through Sunday morning, November 14th. The auction itself will be held after church on the 14th of November.

Lee Giesecke is willing to pick up any item that you might be donating and even provide storage until the auction is held. His phone number is 330-637-4270.

You will be kept informed about the auction with follow up articles in the Bell and an occasional announcement on Sunday morning. We have had several silent auctions at HUM and they are a lot of fun - they bring the church together in fellowship and the money raised is used to further our HUM ministries.

**Male Call
Men's Breakfast**

The Male Call Men's Breakfast Group will not meet again until September. Look for upcoming information in the September Bell.

