



# The Bell



## Wednesday Nights: FriendWeavers

Changes are in the works for our children and youth on Wednesday evenings! A small group has been meeting to find ways to make Wednesday evenings more meaningful – and fun – for our young people. Here’s the plan:

**Name: *FriendWeavers!*** This name combines the new curriculum (Group Publishing’s *FaithWeaver Friends*) we will be using and the friendships that grow and develop over the year.

**Dates:** Wednesday, October 7, through  
Wednesday, December 16

**Format** – stations, similar to Vacation Bible school. Children will travel to a music station, craft station, game station, and a “surprise” station. Each week they will experience two stations. All stations will be related to the Bible story, so over a 2-week period, our young people will experience a Bible story in four different ways.

**Schedule:** 4:30-4:45 – opening celebration (in sanctuary)  
4:45-5:05 – station #1 (music or “surprise”)  
5:05-5:25 – station #2 (game or craft)  
5:30-6:00 – dinner and journaling  
6:00-6:15 – closing celebration (in sanctuary)

**Ages:** Children in grades K-6 will travel to each station assisted by crew leaders in grades 8-12. Station leaders may also need assistance from our older youth. (Seventh graders will be taking confirmation classes Wednesdays with Mr. France.)

**Leaders:** *FriendWeavers* will be directed by Karen France. Leaders for many areas are in place, however, **we do need more adult participation.** Please contact Karen France or Sue Spore if you can help. Wednesdays are a wonderful way to get to know our young people.

**Fees:** *FriendWeavers* is **FREE!** We will no longer charge families for our Wednesday program. Many thanks to Bob Hoy and the finance team for working with us to make this possible.

We are very excited about our new Wednesdays! Join us, spend time with your friends, enjoy some dinner, and watch your faith in God grow.

~Sue Spore  
~Karen France

## Members In Service

**Trustee-of-the-month for September**  
Bob McClelland

**Altar Flowers for September**  
6  
13 J. Jones Family  
20 The Roknick Family  
27

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

**Ushers for September**  
Dick Aurand, Captain; Carl Basic, Tom Macino, Bob McClelland, Don & JoAnn Moser, Cathie Roscoe, Don Mills, Les Hileman

**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 of Christian preschool  
**Logan Sturgeon**, custodian  
**Beth Ferrell**, missionary  
**John L. Hopkins**, resident bishop EOC  
**Dan Bryant**, Mahoning Valley district superintendent



## Garage Sale Support Group

Mark your calendar for the second Thursday in October (October 8) for the first Garage Sale Support Group meeting!

As usual, we meet at Buena Vista Café at 5:30 p.m. for food, fun, and fellowship. Plan to join us in October!

**Dear Friends,**

Summer is drawing to a close. There's already a hint of crispness in the air. The geese and hummingbirds are beginning to feel the itch to fly south. We are reminded of the cycles of life that bring constant change, even as they bring a certain comfortable routine.



I hope your summer was a change of pace and filled with good things. I hope you are beginning to feel the itch to dig in to a new church year, filled with amazing possibilities.

Our kids are happily (hmm) secure again in the daily routine of the classroom. Many of us are preparing for the annual charge conference (October 1, 7 pm), when we reflect on the past year and make new plans for the year ahead. Then ... the joyous holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Fall is my favorite season of the year. It brings refreshing cool breezes, cleansing rain, brilliant tree colors, abundant fruits and vegetables, and hope for the future.

It's a good time to renew your commitment to the church and faithful attendance to worship and study. We are made to honor the One who created us and who gives us life. It is the first priority of the Christian!

May God guide us as we enter a new season of familiar routine.

May God guide us as we enter a new season of change!

Shalom,

  
Pastor Ron

**Traces of the Trade**

Christ Episcopal Church invites the churches of the Howland Clergy Association to join them Sunday, September 13, 2009 at Christ Church to view the Emmy-nominated documentary film, *Traces of the Trade*.

What if you discovered that your ancestors had built its fortune through the buying and selling of human beings? One woman did just that. This is a film about her family's journey of faith once they knew.

Dain Perry is a descendant of the DeWolf family of Rhode Island, that largest slave trading family in the United States, and will be preaching at Christ Church on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The schedule includes:

10 am ... Worship, with Dain Perry

11:15 am ... Inter-faith Potluck

12:30 pm ... Emmy-nominated film: *Traces of the Trade*.

Following the showing of the film, Dain and Constance Perry will facilitate conversation about this painful part of our history, how we might work toward the healing of wounds that mark relationships between races today, and what role the Church has in this healing process.

I'm asking you to join us on the 13<sup>th</sup>, following our own worship, to be a part of this important discussion.



Pastor Ron

Participating Churches of our association include:

The Seventh-Day Adventist, Blessed Sacrament, Howland Community, Howland United Methodist, and Christ Episcopal Churches.

Dear Church Family,

Dick and I want to thank everyone for the love and prayers during the past few weeks and for the many cards and calls. It meant so much to us for the caring of everyone of you. For the ones who cut and carried and stacked wood, God bless you! We are so thankful for the love we have in our church family. Dick is feeling stronger each day. We know God's hands are in our lives.

In Christian Love,  
*Gloria and Dick Gibbs*

Dear HUM Church Family,

We want to thank you for the calls, cards, prayers, and visits to the funeral home when Jim's step-father, Archie, passed away. It was a long struggle for him and although saying goodbye is always difficult, we know that he is now free from a body that no longer worked and we have faith that we will be with him again in heaven.

Thank you to Nancy Hoy, Patti Warren, and Sandy Dunlosky for volunteering in the office while Patty was away at the funeral.

In Christian Love,  
*Jim and Patty Davis*

**Please pray for...**

**HUM Members:** Bob Gray, Sally Jones, Betty Holbrook, Mid Nighswander, Carl Isom, Ed Baker, Ginny Churchill, Gene Stefani, Cheryl Guerrero, Mary Miller, Lee Spak, Dick Gibbs, Jen Alberini, Joey Alberini, Sean Philbin, Dave Harriett, Chuck May, Robert Lupton

**Friends and Family:** Todd Santti, Bob and Theresa Rodgers, Linn Bartholomew, Diana Barreto, Delores Ross, Anthony Petrosky, Tim Flannery, Andrew Howe, Nick Macrinos, Mary Miller, Fred Norton, Krista Ronai, Debbie Bosak, Diana Anderson, Ray Dales, Jr., Robbie Corbin, Lawrence Catley, Susan Cunningham, Mike Axelrod, Carol Begg, David Wright, Donna Thorpe, Jennifer Cunningham, Louise Philippi, Maetro Catley, Kristy Holm, Alexander Thompson, Jan Kazonyi-Rokus, Stan Piekielek, Ellen Becker, Barbara Culver, Bill Renninger, Terri Fleming, Lillie Carroll

## Youth Notes

**Middle School Youth Group will begin Sunday Night September 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:15 p.m.** Our staff of advisors has expanded to include: **Darren and Kim Messina, Jeff and Carrie McClain, Sean and Tina Craigo, Diana Plecker, Anne Monroe, and Rick France.** We will be exploring our faith, making friends, having fun, and consuming great snacks! All youth in the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome and encouraged to join in. We are an open group that is all about faith, fun, friendship, and service.

**Confirmation Class 2009-2010:** It is the tradition of the Howland United Methodist Church to provide youth entering the seventh grade with instruction preparing them for confirmation. This is an important and joyful process in which young people will become better acquainted with a mentor, take a deeper look into the scriptures, provide service to others, and are led to make a commitment to Christ and His church.

The program that is being planned for this year will include a mentorship, an in-depth class in which students will receive an overview of the major themes of scripture, history of the United Methodist Church, and a retreat designed to deepen their faith and relationships with one another.

The class will follow the Wednesday night program schedule beginning October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will meet from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and then share dinner together. A make-up session will be made available for those who cannot attend on Wednesday nights.

We are in need of **mentors** willing to spend some quality time with a young person starting out on their faith journey. Please contact **Rick France** if you are interested in serving in this important ministry of our church.

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## Christian Preschool News

Happy Indian Summer! Isn't it always hot when the kids have to go back to school? Here at the Preschool we start on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. We still have a few openings, so if you know of anybody who is looking for an awesome Preschool, send them our way.

There are a few volunteer jobs that are open in the Preschool: we are looking for someone to read a short story to the children at the beginning of their library time. It would only be about half an hour at the end of our day and you could do AM or PM or both. The other job is lunch aide—we need someone to eat lunch with our kids who are either coming from or going to kindergarten. Time frame would be 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This will allow our teachers to have a break from the children and be better mentally prepared for the second half of the day.

Please feel free to stop in anytime and say hello to the children—we love to have visitors. Coupon Sunday is September 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your support!

## Nursery Schedule 2009-2010

	<u>Worship Hour</u>	<u>Sunday School Hour</u>
<b>1st Sunday</b>	Jackie & Jeremy Jones	Sue Baker
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	Deanna Andamasaris	Shannon Lawson
	Eleanor Schoger (January)	Eleanor Schoger (January)
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	Kim Messina	Lynne Norton
<b>4th Sunday</b>	Tammi Penman	Tammi Penman
<b>5th Sunday</b>	Deanna Andamasaris	Deanna Andamasaris
Substitutes: Bonnie Johnson Eleanor Schoger Deanna Andamasaris		

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## Children's' Church Schedule September 2009-August 2010

	<u>Adult Volunteers</u>	<u>Youth Volunteers</u>
<b>1st Sunday</b>	Deanna Andamasaris	
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	Jessica Rullo	Messina Boys
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	Nancy Hoy	
	Deanna Andamasaris	
<b>4th Sunday</b>	Jeanne Smith Debbie Macino	Becca Smith Erin Norton
<b>5th Sunday</b>	Kim Messina	Messina Boys

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and there is a class for everyone:



### CLASSES for CHILDREN and YOUTH:

**Nursery (ages 0-2)** – our nursery is staffed during the Sunday school hour, so that parents can attend the class of their choice. Little ones are encouraged to play with a variety of age-appropriate toys and have a fun time at church.

**Pre-K (ages 3—kindergarten)** – Led by Deanna and Bill Andamasaris, this class meets in preschool classroom #7. This class uses simple lessons to teach Bible truths, and to introduce our children to God’s love for them. This class will help our youngest children become comfortable in their church as they get to know their teachers and develop friendships with their classmates.

**Grades 1-2** – Led by Susan Taylor and Nancy Hoy, this class meets in preschool classroom #6. Bible stories are taught using stories, games, student books, and play-acting, all at an age-appropriate level so that younger elementary-aged children can understand that Jesus loves them, and also that the Bible can help them make good decisions in their own lives.

**Grades 3-5** – Led by Sally Allen and Beth Trace, this class meets in classroom #2. In this class, children will learn about their Bible, using lessons, games, maps, and memory work. After completing this class, students will be able to look up verses in the Bible, know major Biblical themes, have key Bible verses memorized and, who knows ... maybe they will be able to recite all 66 books of the Bible! Children: bring your Bible to class each week!

**Grades 6-8** – Led by Kim Messina, Glenda McCracken, and Diane Noble, this class meets in classroom #1. The DVD-based Live B.i.G. curriculum will help our “tweens” see, hear, and live their **B**elief **I**n **G**od. Each month features a new theme, starting with the creation story in September.

**Grades 9-12** – Led by Nancy Moore and Bert Morales, this class will meet in the youth room. Curriculum is in process of being developed. Join this class and check out the cappuccino maker!

### CLASSES for ADULTS:

**Bible 101** – Led by Karen France and Tom Macino, this class meets in the library. We will use a book titled “Books of the Bible” to survey all the books in the Bible over the course of a year. Designed for persons who are not well acquainted with the Bible, the book is clearly written and easy to use. The class will receive an overview of the entire Bible, focusing on the Bible’s major themes. This is an excellent way to prepare for a more in-depth Bible study. The book is provided; suggested donation \$10.

**Faith Seekers** – Led by Harry Schoger and Jan Rice, this class meets in Fellowship Hall A. Using Ray Vander Laan’s DVD titled “Walk as Jesus Walked,” the class will travel with Ray Vander Laan through the land that Jesus and his disciples walked, and discover how the culture and politics of the first century influenced the imagery and stories of the Bible. Join this class and discover what walking like Jesus meant in the first century, and what it means today.

**Explorers** – Led by Rick France and Dennis Moore, this class meets in Fellowship Hall D, closest to the kitchen. This class has an “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Door” philosophy as they seek to understand the Scriptures and discover what they mean to us today. The text for this year is “*The Mind of Jesus*,” by William Barclay, who has authored a commentary on every book of the New Testament. Barclay is gifted in his ability to relate biblical scholarship to the lay person, and the purpose of this book is “to make the figure of Jesus more vividly alive, so that we may know him better and love him more.” The book is available through internet sources or can be ordered for you by Rick or Dennis. Come as often as you are able. Homework is optional! All are welcome. In this class you will be among friends.

Two ideas for an additional adult class have been suggested:

- 1) Christian Parenting, and
- 2) Christianity for Everyday Living.

Are you interested in one of these? Please contact Sue Spore ( [suespore@yahoo.com](mailto:suespore@yahoo.com) ). If several people are interested, we can certainly begin a new class!

After Sunday worship, chat with your friends, get some coffee, and then . . . **Come to Sunday School!**



### Acts of Kindness

A little over two years ago, an idea was born. We all do nice things for other people at one time or another, and usually they know about it, either because we tell them about it or they see us do it. The Bible, though, says in Matthew 6:3-4:

*But when you give to someone, don't tell your left hand what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in secret, and your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.*

The members of Book Bunch thought it would be a really positive project to collect anonymous acts of kindness from the congregation. So that's what we did. We put a box in the Narthex with pencils and paper. Over the past two years, people have been "telling on" themselves and other people.

Recently, the box had a makeover. There are still pencils, and now there are coupons – quarter sheets of paper that you can write on.

*If you do something nice for someone during the week  
If you see someone do something nice for someone else  
If someone does something nice for you  
Write it down and put it in the box or the church office.*

For each edition of the Bell, we write an article that contains the Acts of Kindness turned in since the previous Bell. It helps individuals realize that they ARE making a positive difference and shows that our church is making a difference as well.

Here is the newest Act of Kindness:

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*We were sitting at a Mahoning Valley Scrappers baseball game. There was a family of four sitting in front of us. The father and son left their seats for awhile. While they were gone, a man came by and asked the little girl if she would like a baseball from the game. She accepted, and the man gave it to her and walked away. The look on her face was like she had been given the best gift in the whole wide world and beyond. I don't know who he was, but I do know that he made one little girl's day!*

*-- Donna and Deborah Lowman*

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We may never know how our Acts of Kindness affect someone's life, but God knows and we believe He smiles each time an Act of Kindness is performed.



### Sunday Worship Nursery and Children's Church

Howland United Methodist Church offers alternatives to sanctuary worship for our younger children:

**Nursery** – for our littlest children, **ages birth-2 years**. Our nursery is staffed by loving adults, and your children are encouraged to play with our toys, hear stories, and make friends with others of similar age.

**Children's Church** – for our children **age 3-Kindergarten**. Children's Church offers a Bible lesson, snack, and a short play time. This program begins immediately following the children's message in the sanctuary, through the end of the worship service. We meet in preschool room #8.

Parents – we need your help in two ways:

1) Please pick up your children from the nursery or Children's Church. Safety is our top priority and we are not able to either let children go alone to meet parents, or leave the nursery to take a toddler to the parents. Please pick up your children promptly!

2) Note the ages for both of these programs. We have been a bit lenient over the past year, especially with Children's Church, but beginning this fall I feel that we must follow our age guidelines. Children first grade and older may take the activity bags into the sanctuary during worship, or bring a book from home to help them during the service. Some churches offer a children's church for older elementary children. If you are interested in helping with something like this, please see me.

We encourage you to have your younger children participate in these activities.

~Sue Spore

### Home Meal Delivery

Trumbull Mobile Meals is looking for volunteer drivers and meal packers. If you have an hour to spare once a week – or even once a month – YOU can help!

Trumbull Mobile Meals relies on 50-60 volunteers daily to deliver meals to over 200 individuals (about 100,000 meals each year). The value of the time you DONATE is immeasurable and so important to others in need. Volunteering for Mobile Meals gives an instant gratification, knowing that you have made a difference in someone's day.

Call Mary Anne Jones, volunteer coordinator, Trumbull Mobile Meals, at 330-394-2538.



## Family Promise

HUM will be hosting Family Promise the week of September 27–October 4. Sasha and O'Shea and Amy, Gabby, and Zach are still in the program. Two new families, a single mom and her two children, ages 5 and 7, and a husband and wife and two children, ages 1 and 2, are now in the program.

Our time with the families in June was very successful, thanks to all the help from our church family. We provide food for their breakfast and also food for the families to pack a lunch to take to the day center. Members of our church family prepare dinner and eat with the families. The families spend so much time at the day center that it is a treat for them to be able to stay at the church all day Saturday. We would like to do something fun with the families during the day and possibly have dinner at CiCi's Pizza that night.

Set up will go quickly if we have enough help. We need to move tables and set up beds after Sunday School. We also will need help putting everything away when they leave. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this exciting program. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex. We have been so blessed, and this is a way to share our gifts with people struggling to get back on their feet.



“A grieving father receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him to meet in the Oregon wilderness where his daughter has been abducted and murdered. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?"

Help us kick off the sixth year of HUM's Book Bunch by joining us **Thursday, September 17** for an inspiring and thought-provoking discussion of William Paul Young's *The Shack*. You do not have to be a member of Book Bunch or HUM to attend Book Bunch. We welcome anyone who likes to read. We usually meet the third Thursday of every month (except August and December) at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email Deborah Lowman at [dllowman@earthlink.net](mailto:dllowman@earthlink.net). We look forward to seeing you on **September 17, 2009**, even if you haven't finished the book.

### Dear members and friends,

On behalf of the families of Family Promise, thanks you for your care and hospitality during your host week. The families are very grateful.

Sincerely,

Patty DiGiacobbe, executive director  
*Family Promise of Mahoning Valley*

## Cardboard Box City

Once again *Family Promise* is sponsoring a Cardboard Box City. It will be held on **Friday, September 18 beginning at 7:00 p.m.** at Howland Community Church. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness and money to help knock out family homelessness.

Participants are asked to collect pledges, which will be used to benefit the families served by *Family Promise*. Last year HUM had nine people participate in this event. It sure opened our eyes! Please see **Debbie Macino, Dave Lowman or Wendy Downs** for more information.

## Book Bunch Schedule for 2009-2010

It's finally here ... the Book Bunch list of books for September through July. Summaries are available on the church web site at <http://www.howlandumc.com> and on the Book Bunch bulletin board in the Narthex.

### September 17, 2009

*The Shack* (William Paul Young)

### October 15, 2009

*The Last Lecture* (Randy Pausch)

### November 19, 2009

*Halos* (Kristen Heitzmann)

### January 21, 2010

*Have a Little Faith* (Mitch Albom)

### February 18, 2010

*Oceans Apart* (Karen Kingsbury)

### March 18, 2010

*One Perfect Day* (Lauraine Snelling)

### April 15, 2010

*We Were the Mulvaneys* (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 or [dllowman@earthlink.net](mailto:dllowman@earthlink.net).



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Methodist Church**

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Ronald C. Spore, pastor  
Patty Davis, editor

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

**Non-Profit Organization**

**Bulk Rate**

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**Deadline for the  
October 2009 newsletter:  
Friday, September 18, 2009**



**International Friends Committee  
Youngstown State University**

Are you interested in being a part of the International Friends Committee at Youngstown State University? International Friends invite YSU international students to their homes for a meal, or include them on a family outing such as a picnic, hike, or a trip to the park, mall or museum. There are no set rules and no minimum expectations.

Some families have become like "American" parents to international students, while others have invited a number of different students to their homes to get to know more about the world we live in. We understand that each family's situation and level of involvement will be different.

By hosting an international student in your home you will get to know someone from a different culture and it is an opportunity to show our traditional Ohio hospitality. For more information contact Rev. Kathryn Adams via email at [Kathrynpcm@aol.com](mailto:Kathrynpcm@aol.com).

**New Choir Folders**

Thanks to Dr. Morris (Bud) Pulliam, our chancel choir starts the fall season with new choir folders. We are grateful to now have the highest quality, attractive leatherette binders available, with all the accessories possible to keep our sheet music organized and secure for singing.

Thank you, Dr. Pulliam!

**2010 Tour of Italy Planned**

Former HUM pastor, Rev. Tom Snyder and his wife, Kitty, invite interested persons to join them on a ten day tour of Italy, leaving the U.S. on June 6, 2010.

They are hosting this tour through Educational Opportunities, which has been in the Christian travel business since 1974. Starting in Austria, and traversing the Brenner Pass in the Alps, the Italian tour begins in Verona. The tour continues on to the historic cities of Venice, Florence, Siena, Pisa, Assisi (home of St. Francis), ancient Rome and Vatican City.

For an illustrated brochure describing the trip in detail, please contact Tom or Kitty, [profsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:profsnyder@gmail.com), or [kittymariesnyder@gmail.com](mailto:kittymariesnyder@gmail.com).