



Tidings

October 2022

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 2 Worship @ 10 AM:

- World Wide Communion
- Mission Study Survey begins
- Stewardship month begins

Thursday, October 6 @ 4 PM-5 PM

- Grief Support Group

Saturday, October 8 @ 9 AM:

- Men's Square @ Pappou's

Sunday, October 9 Worship @ 10 AM

Sunday, October 16 Worship @ 10 AM

Tuesday, October 18 @ 10 AM:

- Esther Circle (in Parlor)

Wednesday, October 19 @ 7 PM

- Session Meeting

Thursday, October 20

- Grief Support Group @ 4 PM-5 PM
- Tidings Articles Due

Sunday, October 23 Worship @ 10 AM

Sunday, October 30 Worship @ 10 AM

- Trunk or Treat @ 2-4 PM (Church Parking Lot)

Sunday, November 6 Worship @ 10 AM:

- Stewardship Sunday
- Pledges due this Sunday
- Congregational Meeting (after Worship Service)

World Wide Communion & Peace and Global Witness Offering OCTOBER 2



The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received on Sunday, October 2, during the morning worship service. Money collected from this offering goes towards promoting peace and reconciliation efforts within the PCUSA by supporting mission co-workers, sending congregants on mission trips, and educating Presbyterians in the paths of peacemaking – locally and globally. Remember: 25% of the offering stays with our congregation, to be used for our own Peace and Global Witness efforts.



During the month of October, we will be conducting our Stewardship Drive for the 2023 Church Budget. More importantly, we are asking how God is leading you to participate in the ministry and work of Parma-South Presbyterian Church. We realize that our time, talents and treasures are gifts of God, thus making them very precious. What we do with these gifts bears witness to our faith and declares to the world what we truly value. God has given us the freedom to choose how we will use our resources, which includes wasting and hoarding them. However, our gifts were designed to be used, to be shared and to advance the Kingdom of God. Used in this manner, there will be blessing for all.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2022

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately after the worship service on Sunday, November 6, 2022. We ask all who attend to adhere to social distancing.



Congregational
MEETING



During my last call, I was privileged to be a part of a visioning process for the Presbytery. It was a presbytery with great spirit but dwindling resources that was desperately in need of a new way forward. As a part of this visioning team, each member was asked to consider what their vision for the Church was. It was a powerful and clarifying moment in my life of discipleship and my vocation which still has reverberations in how I live and move and have my being. That is what a clear vision should do.

Parma- South is in a season of discerning its vision for what the Church should be. The mission study that you all are about to fill out at some point during the next month is going to, in its own way, ask each of you to consider the essential nature of THE Church and THIS church. I pray that it is just as enlivening a process for you as it was for me.

As a way of giving you a glimpse of who I am and who I believe God has called me to be, I am including the Vision for the Church I came up with that day. A Vision I carry with me still.

My Vision:

A church that worships beyond its walls, be they physical, traditional, or chronological. Any place, anyway, any time, we worship the God of the Universe.

A Church that worships with its hands and feet as much as its mouths and ears.

A Church for any and all.

A Church committed more to the Kingdom than its castle.

A Church that embodies the priesthood of all believers. Ministry is not a profession of the few but a calling upon all.

A Church of people caring for people, no matter who they are, where they come from or any other category that might exclude "them" from being a part of "us."

A Church that is free from financial fear. We release all that threatens to sink us to be freed to live abundantly.

A Church that makes disciples, grows the kingdom, and worships Jesus Christ, here, near and far.

A Church that is flexible in practice but firm in its foundations. Agile within the culture that surrounds it but rooted in Truth that under girds it.

A church that knows how to eat, how to play, how to laugh, how to party, how to comfort, how to grieve and how to cry. For that is how to live.

A living Church who worships a living God. Called to echo the Shepherds voice, the voice that the sheep know. That voice is grace. That voice is mercy. That voice is unending and unlimited love. That voice is justice for the oppressed and sight to the blind. That voice is healing for all who suffer and comfort for all who mourn, and freedom for all who are captive. A Church with the humility to confess that we are all captive to something, sinners and saints alike.

A Church where the first and last thought in any situation is "Thy will be done."



A Spiritual Practice For This Season:

VISION OF THE PEOPLE

One of the incredible things about the Presbyterian Church is that one person's vision is just that...one person's vision. A particular vision holds no particular sway, whether that person is a pastor, presbyter or the principle giver in a given congregation. We believe that the will of God comes from the Holy Spirit manifesting in the voice of the people. As we look at the history of the Presbyterian Church and the Church as a whole, when vision for the future has fallen by the wayside, the people have perished. When the vision for who we can be has been cast aside for the sake of maintaining who we have been thus far, the Church enters a rut and is at risk of rotting. However, when Vision is recaptured and reclaimed, we see the Church at it's full glory. These visions are, as a rule, not a declaration of any individual but a beautiful echoing of the voice of God through many people in many lands at the same time. While we mostly remember Martin Luther and his dramatic conversion, the thoughts that ignited the Reformation were kindling in the minds of thinkers throughout the Church and the world. This vision was also very clearly authored by the God of the Universe through people who were deeply attuned to God's voice and the Spirit. People who placed God's kingdom and vision above their own.

As you prepare to answer the Mission Study Questions and create your vision, which will become Parma- South's vision, I invite you to **Read Jeremiah 29:11**, a passage that declares that God has a plan for us that is supremely good and worthy of inspiring hope. After you have done that, read/sing/pray the lyrics of the beloved hymn **Be Thou My Vision** as a means of asking God to give you a vision for where Parma- South as a church is being called.

Be Thou My Vision Irish

D G A Bm A D
Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart

A Em G A
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art

G D D/C# Bm Bm7/A G A
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night

Bm7 Bm7/A G D/F# Em7 D
Wa - king or sleep - ing, Thy pre - sence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight,
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight,
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower;
Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

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Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tow'r:
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Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Share your vision with others. When a group of people seek God's will individually, they soon come to find that God is speaking to them all in similar ways and themes. God is alive and acting in this world. Let us all join in tuning our hearts, minds, and souls to hear what God is doing in this time and place. May God be OUR vision, that we could see and hear the plans he has for us. Plans for our welfare and not our harm. To give us a future with hope.

Rev. Blake Severson

ALL CHURCH SURVEY!



During the month of October, we are inviting you to complete a survey as part of our Mission Study required in our search for our next permanent pastor. The purpose of this survey is to help us gather data about our congregation as well as our surrounding community. The results will help us as a church to identify what qualities, strengths, and attributes we are looking for in a pastor. In addition, it will help identify our priorities and vision for our congregation before we elect our Pastor Nominating Committee.

The kick-off for the surveys is Sunday, October 2nd. You will be receiving an email with a link containing the survey, or if you do not have email, you will be receiving a paper copy of the survey in the mail. We ask that each member of the household (teens included) take the survey for themselves. We want to hear each person's unique perspective. We thank you for your time and honesty to help us seek our next pastor who will lead us where God is calling us to go. Any questions regarding the survey, please contact one of the Mission Study Leaders: Bob Schomer; Norma Fink; Sarah Rodriguez; Sandy Kardamis.



Please join us for our Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 30th from 2-4pm in the church parking lot.

There will be candy, crafts, and lots of fun! If you would like to participate, decorate your car and/or donate candy, please contact the church office, 440-885-2652.

Live Stream Report

Parma- South Presbyterian Church started Live Streaming our worship services last September. This means people may



watch the worship service via the internet at the very same time as worship is happening within the Sanctuary. This can be done by going to: <https://www.parmasouth.org/worship.html> or you can watch the sermon at a later time.

You may find these facts interesting:

There have been 60 broadcasts watched by people from 8 countries and 37 states. The most distant is Guam and Ohio is of course number one in viewers. According to our service provider we have had 3,214 views for the year. The average viewer watches for 14 minutes, 29 seconds. 41% watch live, 59% watch recorded.

Thank you for your support which allows our worship service to be accessed live and 24/7 by those for cannot attend in person.





Clerk's Parma-South Action News

Quarterly coverage of your Session at work

Here is your 2022 third quarter Session news recap. I'm Audrey, your Clerk of Session.

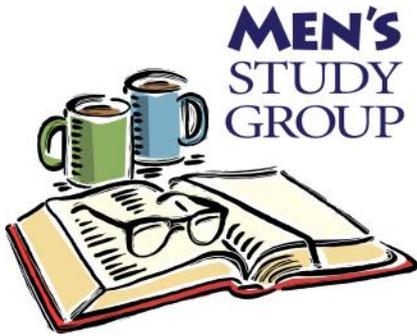
In June, approval was given to the Mission Study Team to hire Convergence Network to assist with the Mission Study, the next step before beginning a new pastor search. Convergence will conduct a congregational assessment (survey and study of church functions) and write a Vital Church Assessment. A guest attorney requested a lease renewal for the daycare currently occupying much of the building. No Ruling Elder called for new action, so the February 16 vote to allow the lease to expire on 9/20/22 stands. A reception for Rev. Severson was in the works. Over twenty thousand dollars for Ukraine relief was reported. Work towards reopening nursery care and in-person Sunday School was ongoing. A Music Scholarship was approved to enhance the music program.

A special Session meeting was called in July to discuss hiring a landlord attorney to handle the expiring daycare lease. One of three lawyers presented was approved for hire.

The August meeting of Session covered a lot of ground. The landlord attorney's recommendations were studied and accepted, including a 3-month grace period to the daycare. The Mission Study Team shared plans for the upcoming October effort to gather information church-wide. A resignation from Session was accepted. An outdoor picnic was in the works. A church Zoom account was approved. Personnel for education was discussed including hiring several positions. Plus, every committee submitted reports filled with ongoing efforts – building repair and maintenance being the longest.

Committee reports in September show a great deal of work ongoing with church property. Nametags for worship are ready. A congregational study kick-off and a church pot luck are in the works. Sunday School and Nursery Care are actively growing and hiring. An additional Audio/Visual person will be hired to help with live streaming. The church's landlord attorney attended September's meeting as a guest and explained the next steps now that the daycare has entered the grace period. Finally, the Nominating Committee is completing a slate for vote at the November 6th Congregational Meeting.

Every Session meeting is, of course, begun and closed in prayer. We pray for the joys and challenges of our entire congregation. Prayer needs and praises can be shared with Pastor Blake, or an Elder. Please pray for your Session members, and their governance of your church. Tune in again next quarter for more Session news.



The next meeting of Men's Square will be **Saturday, October 8, at 9:00 AM**. We plan to gather as usual for breakfast at Pappou's Restaurant located on the corner of Snow and Pearl Road. At our last meeting, we decided to use a selection from the current issue of the 'Upper Room' devotional as the subject for our discussion. Anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker. Hope to see you there.



Love INC is in need of hand and pump soap. The supply of these items is very low. If you can donate these items, please drop them off at the church office.

The annual Love INC Coat Drive is ongoing through October 23th. There is a great need for children's coats and adult sizes 1X to 4X. Please drop off the coats at the church office.

Kids at Christmas



We will not be able to have our annual Kids at Christmas Party at Buhler Dual Language School due to Covid-19 issues. Instead, based on children's needs of uniforms, underwear, socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Mission Committee has designated \$1200 for the uniforms and other items. The committee is asking the congregation to donate toothbrushes and toothpaste during the month of October. There will be a bin for the items in the Narthex.



Articles for our monthly Tidings newsletter are due the day after the regularly scheduled monthly Session meeting.

Therefore, please note: Articles for the November Tidings will be due **no later than Thursday, October 19.**

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, Rev. Dr. Debbie Cerra offers a Zoom Grief Group from 4:00 - 5:00 PM. She can be reached at (856) 912-1202 for more information. This group is open to anyone who has experienced a significant loss.



In Memoriam

Kenneth L. Hale 8/30/22



Memorial Carillon for October

Carillon music during October will be played in loving memory of:

October 2

Josephine M Folvarsky
James M. Presley
Marilyn Weiss
Thelma Hale

October 9

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Migala

October 16

Mr and Mrs. William Yurcheshen
and Michael Yurcheshen

October 23

Alfred M. Schilens

October 30

Pearl Thiele



10/03	Betty Handlin
10/08	Beth Denison Para
	Rose Djukic
10/10	Carol Werner
10/11	Cathy Sinko
10/12	Donald Adanitsch
10/15	Phil Beyer
10/16	Ariel-Ruth Ngange
	Nancy Suhadolnik
	Nancy Toghil
10/18	David Cheng
10/19	Bonnie Thompson
	Karen Stapf Walters
10/20	Alexander Topor
	Judy Martin
	Charles Murphy
10/23	Clarissa Csuti
	Pam Murawski
10/25	Sarah Reinhart
	Debbie Binder
10/26	Gwen Beyer
10/27	John Martin

My Friend Jack

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Jack comes every year to visit me,
And his grin just makes me smile.
Nearly toothless, he doesn't care.
He happily laughs all the while.

Eyes glowing in mirth and merriment,
He makes this time of year happy,
Though he's not much in conversation,
And he has no repartee snappy.

Jack just stays for a few weeks
Every year when the leaves turn yellow.
He's as welcome as he could possibly be.
He's quite the fun old fellow.

Now the sun goes down and the moon comes up,
And the costumed monsters come calling.
Light a candle to get Jack going!
Fast! The eventide's falling!

All Halloween night he sits with me,
Grinning to greet the neighbors
'Til his candle's gone and he goes to sleep.
These are hours that I truly savor.

So long old Jack, tomorrow's November!
We'll see you again next year!
When you come to visit from the pumpkin patch,
We will all be waiting right here!

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/my-friend-jack>



Tidings

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 **Happy
Halloween**



OFFICE NOTES

- Don't miss out getting the latest copy of Tidings! Have it electronically sent to you. Please call the office during office hours and indicate that you want to receive your monthly Tidings in your email! We are more than happy to accommodate you with this request!
- Please let Sara Ekkens in the office know when your meetings are scheduled so that they can be entered onto the Church Calendar. Equally important is letting us know when you cancel or reschedule meetings.
- Please call the church office to confirm that you and your family have an emergency contact card on file.