



COMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 1 @ 4:00 PM
- Zoom Grief Support Group

Saturday, December 3 @ 9 AM
- Men's Square

Sunday, December 4
- Last Sunday for Care & Share Store

Tuesday, December 6 @ 11 AM
- Care Team

Sunday, December 11 @ 11:00 AM
- Christmas Meal

Wednesday, December 14
- Session Meeting @ 7 PM

Thursday, December 15 @ 4:00 PM
- Zoom Grief Support Group

Tuesday, December 20 @ 10 AM
- Esther Circle

Thursday, December 22
- Tidings Articles Due

Saturday, December 24 @ 5 PM
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25
- Online Worship Service only

Sunday, January 1 @ 10 AM
- Online Worship Service only

Sunday, January 8: Communion Sunday



Tidings

December, 2022



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Parma-South Presbyterian Church will be at 5 PM on December 24. The service will be kid-friendly, and we will celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ with song and voice.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25: Online Service Only; No In-Person Worship Service this Sunday. Presbytery of the Western Reserve is providing the service. It will be online streaming the morning of the service, go to: our Parma-South Website (www.parma-south.org), access under "Worship" online.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1: Online Service Only, No In-Person Worship Service this Sunday. Parma-South Pastors will provide a pre-recorded Worship Service. It will online streaming the morning of the service, go to: our Parma-South Website (www.parma-south.org), access under "Worship" online.





FROM THE PASTOR

Advent is a time of anticipation. A time awaiting the coming of...what? The coming of the Christmas season?

Sure. The coming of the celebration of Jesus' birth? Absolutely. The coming of a frenzied shopping season in which we try to show our loved ones how we feel about them through gifts and time spent together? Also, true. However, I think we miss the meaning of the season of Advent if we just focus on the first two things, and especially the third. Why? Unlike the people inhabiting our beloved scriptures, we already know how the story is going to end.

To appreciate Advent more fully, we must turn our focus to a world before Jesus came. A world in which God had been silent or nearly silent for almost 600 years. A world in which God's people were being oppressed and crushed by not only foreign invaders, but by the very priests of their own religion. In the years leading up to Jesus' birth there were several so-called messiahs that claimed they would bring an end to Israel's suffering. Of course, each failed, but that should tell us something about the longing God's people felt. The need that had overcome them to be made new and saved from all that surrounded and ensnared them. And then Jesus was born, and everything changed.

For those of us who claim Christ as Lord, we should still be anxiously awaiting something. Awaiting the return of Christ, which he promised would come as he prepared the disciples for his departure. His return will usher in the end of the old and the beginning of the new. The new heavens and the new earth. The new Jerusalem. The healing of all wounds. This is our expectant hope now. A hope that I believe is the true reason for this season.

Advent is of course a time to revel in the anticipation of remembering Christ's birth. To rejoice in all the customs and pleasures of the Holiday season. But even more than that, it is an anticipation of Christ's return. This year could be the year. This could be the time that the horns blast and Christ descends upon a cloud. This could be the end of mourning and crying and death. But if it is not, may we still live in such a way that we diminish the mourning, the crying, and the pain of this world. May we rest in our hope and live into the Kingdom in the here and the now.



Merry Christmas and Happy Advent to you all. Maybe this year will be the year that Jesus comes back. If so, hooray! If not, I rejoice that my family and I will be able to join with Parma-South Presbyterian Church in blessing our community in the name of our Lord Jesus and preparing you for the leader God has in mind to lead you all into the future.

Rev. Blake Severson

Coffee (Or Tea) with the Pastor!



Hello friends,

Pastor Blake here. Thank you to those who took me up on my offer of coffee in November. Like anything new, it takes a minute for momentum to build so I am once again inviting anyone who would like to join me for coffee/tea in the parlor of Parma-South Presbyterian Church on Wednesdays in December from 10am-11am. This isn't meant to be by appointment or just one at a time. The more the merrier! I look forward to having wonderful conversations and nice warm beverages as the winter season settles in and we expectantly approach the Christmas season. Bring your favorite cup from home and be ready to tell me and anyone else who gathers, what is so special about it!

Hope to see you on each Wednesday in December except December 28!



Love INC's mission is to transform communities in Cuyahoga County.

From Love INC November Newsletter:

Noelle tragically lost most of her possessions in an apartment fire. When she moved to a new space and was in need of furniture, Love INC was there. Love INC provided the voucher to make a way for her to receive furniture at no cost to her. They referred her to the Cleveland Furniture Bank and covered the cost of the voucher and delivery. Noelle said she is so grateful for Love INC and she loves her new furniture. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of your neighbors in need.

Help us put a smile on a kid's face by contributing to our **Socks in the City Campaign for Shoes and Clothes for Kids**. SC4K helps thousands of children in need by providing them brand new shoes, clothing, school supplies, and other basic clothing items such as socks. With this assistance they are helping remove the barriers to school attendance among K-8th grade students in the Greater Cleveland Area. Right now we are raising funds to help provide the most needed item, brand new socks.

You can help by donating here: <https://e.givesmart.com/events/tpk/c:7qHc-vpzEZZ/> or by writing a check to Shoes and Clothes for Kids and dropping it off at the Church's office.



Socks are one of the most common items kids living in poverty need and access to them is often limited. New socks are included in the school appropriate packages SC4K provides along with a weeks' worth of clothing, underwear, hygiene kits, and supplies.

Do something to show your support by participating in our **SOCKS IN THE CITY SOCK COLLECTION DRIVE** **NOVEMBER 21ST - DECEMBER 9TH**.

HELP CLEVELAND KIDS START THEIR DAY OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT BY:

- **DONATING** any amount which will help us purchase the socks we need for the students we serve.
- **BUYING** socks from our Amazon Charity list.

VISIT WWW.SC4K.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION





Mark your calendars for a Christmas meal on December 11th. The Fellowship Committee in conjunction with the Mission Study leaders have scheduled a Christmas Dinner immediately following the worship service. The meal will take place in the Social Hall and will provide a time for fellowship, a great meal, and a continuation of the visioning discussions that took place on October 23rd. These discussions will augment the results from the Congregation Survey in completing our Mission Study. A Free Will offering will be accepted and all proceeds will be donated to the Care and Share Store. Please RSVP by calling the church office on or no later than December 5th.

Even if you did not attend the October 23rd event, you are invited to attend this dinner and if you know someone who was unable to attend previously, please extend a personal invitation to them. Child care will be available during the entire activity.

The next meeting of Men's Square will be Saturday, December 3, 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. As at our last meeting, we will use a selection from the 'Upper Room' devotional as the subject for our discussion.

After the discussion, we will head over to the Church for our group Christmas activity. Anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker. Hope to see you there.



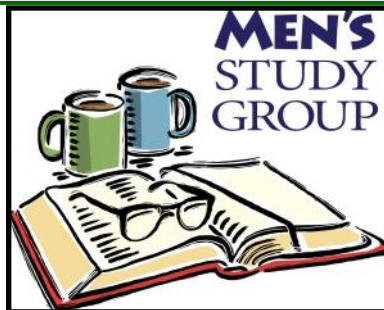
Throughout the Advent Season, the Mitten Tree will be located outside of the Church Office.

Please bring in hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens, and hang them on the tree. The Education Committee will donate these items to the Parma Collaborative Group. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Child Care position



We Are Hiring! If you, or someone you know, is interested in a part time Child Care position for our Church Nursery on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office.



MEN'S STUDY GROUP

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.



Going forward, our Esther Circle has changed its meeting day to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, starting in December, and continuing in 2023.

Therefore, our December meeting will be December 13. We meet in the Church Parlor. Any women who are interested in joining us, please feel free to come to our scheduled meetings.

NOTE: We will have no January or February meetings. Our first meeting in 2023 is scheduled for March 14.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

IN MEMORIAM

Jackie Mayer 10/27



Memorial Carillon for December

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

December 4

Janice Kay Petruska
Marilyn Weiss

December 11

John W. Kuhn
Dorothy and William Kuhn

December 18

Courtney Kromer, Peggy Kromer
Esther Jones
Norman T. Lischer and
Ferne Lischer

December 25

Elizabeth Ashmus
Ben F. Evans
Albon Johnson
Harvey Hale

Birthdays for December

12/03	Lindsay Gavala
12/04	Bob Decker
12/07	Parker Muranko
12/08	Sang Rhee
12/10	Caera Adam
12/12	Roseanne Best
12/16	Chloe Cassem
12/17	Jim Climer
	Bev Kuhn
12/21	Ryan Nebasi
12/22	Raymond Burner
12/24	Mary Ewokolo Molua
12/28	Janice Lappin
	Michell Adam
12/29	Jack Krisch



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 remember to 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.
- **Very Important!** Please check with the office to confirm you and your family have filled out an emergency contact card. Please call the office to provide the information and to check if there is one on file so that we can update our records. Thank you!.



Tidings

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