



# Tidings

February 2023

## COMING EVENTS

### BUHRER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Saturday, February 4:** Men's Square @ 9 AM

**Sunday, February 5:**

- Worship Service @ 10 AM
- Town Meeting @ (After Service)

**Sunday, February 12:** - Worship Service @ 10 AM

- Worship Service @ 10 AM
- Souper Bowl

**Wednesday, February 15:** Session @ 7 PM

**Thursday, February 16:** Tidings deadline

**Sunday, February 19:** Worship Service @ 10 AM

**Wednesday, February 22:**

- Ash Wednesday Service @ 6 PM

**Sunday, February 26:**

- Worship Service @ 10 AM
- Congregational Meeting (After Service)





The results are in! In mid-December, Bob Schomer let me know the Convergence results were in. The in-depth report that they provided for us is filled to the brim with a wealth of knowledge it would take me 20 tidings articles to explain. Since I received my copy, it seems as though I have spent more time with it than with my Bible. It is a strange thing for a pastor to admit, to be sure. However, the Scriptures have never been far from my mind as I review who Parma-South is, according to Convergence, in the congregation's own words.

Little of it came as a surprise to the Mission Study Team and the Session and I would wager it is little surprise to you either. We are declining in membership. We are increasing in age.

Excitement about the future is not as high as one would hope to see. Willingness and skills to engage in meaningful change are muscles that need serious rehabilitation. At first glance, the report is a tough read.

However, as I read further and deeper, something incredible happened. Despite the difficult moment we find ourselves in, I grew more excited with each read. Despite the doubts surrounding the future that so clearly came through the surveys, my confidence in Parma-South's ability to navigating these challenges grew with each new conversation about the results. And it comes down to one number. 6400 hours.

According to you, the people of Parma-South Presbyterian Church, our members contributed 6400 volunteer hours in 2021. That is 267 days. A little over half of those hours were connected to involvement in the church, which is astonishing. Mind blowing, however, is the fact that in 2021, the people of Parma-South contributed 3100 volunteer hours outside the church setting. That is just under 10 hours per day for an entire year! What we realized, was that much of this work happened outside of the community in which Parma-South exists. That is both our most glaring problem, that we do not seem to actively serve in our local community, but also our greatest and most profound opportunity



to turn things around.

What would the people in and near Parma Heights say if we became the church that volunteered 10 hours a day in their community? How well would we know and understand the people who live within a 4 mile radius of 6155 Pearl Road (a population over 100,000) if we committed our volunteer hours to that specific geographic area? I do not believe I overstated it when I excitedly blurted out at the Mission Study Team meeting "that kind of time in our community could change the world."

As I read this report time and time and time and time again, the following Scripture was echoing loudly in my mind:

"That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens." (Romans 8:18-21 The Message).

Convergence asked the Mission Study team and the session the same question. "Parma-South is the church that \_\_\_\_\_ its neighbors." It was and continues to be a difficult question for us in this moment in Parma-South's History. Imagine with me what it would be like if we could answer it like this: "Parma-South Presbyterian Church is the church that volunteers over 6000 hours in service to its neighbors."

Friends and family of Parma-South Presbyterian, the call is clear and the opportunity undeniable. Let us focus on the community in which our church resides. Let us be the people of God among the people that surround the place our church family calls home. It starts by focusing the mission and ministry of Parma-South Presbyterian toward the community that surrounds us. What that looks like is still being decided, and will be finalized at the **Town Hall on February 5th, 2023** after church. Please join us that Sunday. Please join us as we seek to be the church that volunteers over 6000 hours in service of our community.

That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The community around us itself can hardly wait for what's coming next.

Rev. Blake A. Severson



The Mission Study Leaders in conjunction with the Fellowship Committee are hosting our third Town Hall session on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> immediately following Worship Services. A light meal will be provided, and we will continue our discussions regarding the future of our church. Please RSVP by

Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> by calling the church office or submitting a note in the offering plate.



### 2023 PER CAPITA

If you had a chance to look inside of your new offering envelope box, you will discover the first two envelopes are blue and pink. One is for Per Capita and one is for the Initial Offering. The Per Capita is the offering we give to the three higher governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church USA, to pay for administrative costs. This way, any mission offerings will go to mission, and very little administration.



Per Capita has a set rate, based on the number of members in each church. The 2023 PER CAPITA RATE FOR PARMA-SOUTH IS **\$36.50 per member**. The total cost is billed to and paid by Parma-South Church.

Your offering for the Per Capita Fund is greatly appreciated, to help defray this cost. Please use the special offering envelope found in your envelope box to help with this fund. If you have any questions, please ask our church Treasurer, Jan Fritzsche.

Hello friends! It seems like Christmas just happened and yet here we are looking ahead to the season of Lent. Lent is one of the oldest and most important observed seasons in the Christian faith. A season of reflection and preparation for the incredible joy of Easter. It starts with repentance. It starts with admitting before God and neighbor that we have all fallen short. That is what Ash Wednesday is all about. The Ash Wednesday Service at Parma South Presbyterian Church will be held at **6pm on Wednesday, February 22**. For those who cannot attend or do not want to be out at night, please join us via livestream. In preparation for this service, please spend time reflecting on the following question: **"What thing do I struggle to forgive myself for?"** Write it down and put it on your fridge or some other place that you won't misplace it. Then bring it with you or have it handy at home.



Are you migrating south for the winter? Please be sure to notify Parma-South with your new address. Also, let the church know when you will be available at that address, so that we can send appropriate mail to you.



Articles for our monthly Tidings newsletter are due the day after the regularly scheduled monthly Session meeting. Therefore, note that articles for the February 15 Tidings will be due **no later than Thursday, February 16th**.

Ash Wednesday is definitely about confession, but it is also about starting the journey to freedom. What you bring with you that night, you will not take along with you on the road to resurrection. See you on **February 22**.



There are three scholarships offered annually for members of Parma-South.

**Daryl Laing Scholarship** – in memory of Daryl Laing, awarded to members enrolled or planning to enroll in a two-year or four-year college or university degree program the year of the application.

**Pardee Scholarship** – in memory of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Pardee, awarded to members enrolled in the College of Wooster, with an effort to provide sufficient financial assistance to make the cost of attending Wooster comparable to the cost of state universities in Ohio.

**Howard & Estelle Withers Scholarship** – in memory of Reverend and Mrs. Withers, awarded to members enrolled in approved graduate schools or theological seminaries in preparation for full-time professional service to the Presbyterian Church.

These are awarded annually and are renewable for subsequent years of study. The criteria for awarding these scholarships include active participation in the worship, stewardship, and mission at Parma-South; financial need; and academic achievement. The award for each scholarship is based on the amount available in the endowment funds each year.

Scholarship Application Forms may be obtained in the church office. Please return them no later than **May 1**, of the year that you will be attending.



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.

## Men's Square

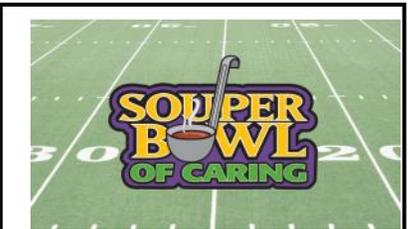


The next meeting of Men's Square is **Saturday, February 4, at 9:00 AM**. The group will be meeting for breakfast at Pappou's Restaurant located on the corner of Snow and Pearl Road. Our agenda is to have our group discussion following breakfast, and also do some planning for our Church projects going forward this year. Anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker. Hope to see you there.



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

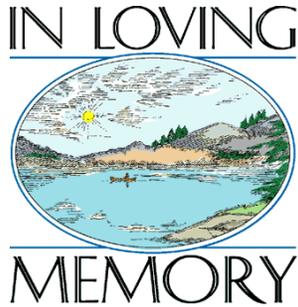
Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary after the Worship Service on **Sunday, February 26**.



Please help us fight hunger and raise money for the Parma Heights Food Pantry by participating in the Souper Bowl on Sunday, February 12th ! The youth will be collecting donations after the church service. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## In Memoriam

Ronald Shaffer 12/22/2022  
 Dr. Sang Rhee 12/29/2022  
 Kyle Powell 12/31/2022  
 (Sandy Kardamis' grandson)



### Memorial Carillon for February

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

#### February 5

Marilyn Weiss  
 Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cantwell

#### February 12

Richard Kitchen  
 Phyllis Kitchen  
 Barbara Abbott

#### February 19

Gilbert E. Calderwood  
 Ruth Calderwood

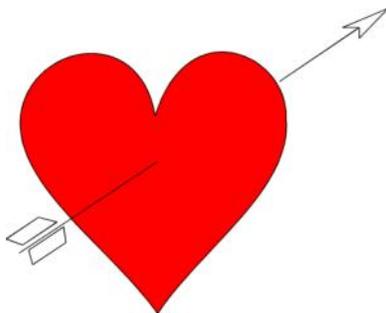
#### February 26

Janice Kay Petruska

2/04	Terry Tahsler
2/06	Cathy DeMoss
2/13	Mali Beyer
2/14	Bailey Madercic
2/17	Scott Diedrich
	Pamela Wilkins
2/19	Nancy Calaway
2/21	Bob Morway
	Norma Fink
2/23	Donna Whitely
2/24	Fran Marvel
	Joe Schwartz
2/25	Lois Graff
2/26	Jacob Sinko
2/27	Robyn Bryson

### 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.





# Tidings

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