



Tidings

April 2023

COMING EVENTS

Sat. April 1—Men’s Square @ Denny’s

Sun. April 2—Worship @ 10 AM
-Children’s Easter Egg Hunt

Thurs. April 6—Maundy Thursday service
@ 6:00 PM

Sun. April 9—EASTER Worship @ 10 AM

Tues. April 11—Esther Circle @ 10 AM

Sun. April 16—Worship @ 10 AM

Thurs. April 20—Tidings article deadline

Sun. April 23—Worship @ 10 AM

Sun. April 30—Worship @ 10 AM



HOLY WEEK Services

(Also streamed online at www.parmasouth.org)



On Palm Sunday, April 2, our children will pass out palms during the service then head up to the classroom for snacks and an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School. Come and wave the palms as we celebrate the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem.

Our Maundy Thursday Service will be at 6:00 PM on April 6. Communion will be served via intinction, though we will have servers available to assist those for whom coming to the table is a challenge. Nursery care will be provided during the service.



On Sunday, April 9th, join us for our Easter Service which will begin at 10 AM. Communion will be served, again by intinction. Note that there will be no Sunday School on Easter; Children are invited to worship with their families.

May this Easter season be a blessing to your spirit and your soul as we celebrate again the saving death and resurrection of Jesus, our Lord.



Until I saw Alaska, Colorado was my favorite place on earth. It is where my love affair with the mountains was born and grew. In many ways, it was the place where I first learned who I really was. In 2012 I watched in horror as it burned. 600 square miles of Colorado land mass burned to the ground during the series of 4167 individual fires that plagued the state that summer. This is a land mass that is nearly three times the size of Chicago. Many of the fires were determined to have been started by natural or accidental human causes while others have been considered potential arson cases. The second largest of these incredibly damaging fires, the Last Chance Fire, consumed an area of 45,000 acres. That is almost twice the amount of all of our Metroparks combined. It was started by a spark from a blown out tire. Just a little spark and an inferno was born.

It can sometimes seem like the task before us as the Church is beyond measure. We spend so much time looking at the end result that we are consumed by its enormity. End world hunger? Us and whose army? Fight to destroy the sex trade and human trafficking? How exactly do you propose we end internet pornography anyway? Stopping all murders, adultery, thieving and envy? All idolatry, all slander, all lying, all war, homelessness and every other form of evil on the earth? How about convincing all 7 billion people on this earth of the

truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No big deal right? Even if we look at the specific challenges of our church, which has been declining for decades, it can feel like too much. Yet, we are all called to bring God's Kingdom into reality: In our church, in our communities and in our world. More often than not, when we survey the enormity of our call, we despair.

However, as was the case in Colorado in 2012, sometimes a raging inferno can be started by the tiniest spark in the right conditions. I am confident saying that the world has become a dry place. Hope diminishes and fear increases. The living waters of faith and hope seem like they will never flow again. In to this, we, as people of God's choosing, children of the Lord of All, can be a spark. We can live the life that Christ has called us to live and in so doing, give light to a fire that will not destroy the world, but restore it through love, grace and forgiveness. May we, at Parma-South Presbyterian Church, find ways to be that kind of a spark in our community, our country and our world.

The Good News is, we don't have to generate the spark on our own. We each bear the Spark of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in us. That Spark was famously seen in the tongues of fire at Pentecost. However, the true spark that ushered in a movement that changed the world forever came on the third day. The incredible news that Jesus, who

preached love, grace and mercy to those who never even dared dream of such things, died on the Cross and was raised again from the dead. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was all the disciples talked about as the early Church grew by leaps and bounds. It led them to live differently. Those changed lives sparked more changed lives and eventually the Gospel had burned around the world and ignited new life everywhere it went.

As we enter the season of Easter, so may it be for us. So may it be for our church.

-Pastor Blake Severson

BE A SPARK...



"READING PLAN" for April

Hello friends, as we prepare for Easter, welcome the new life embodied in Spring and close in on the joy and excitement of electing a PNC, my hope is that we also seek to welcome the Spirit of God into our midst. Selecting a PNC is one of the holiest and most spiritual practices many in our churches will ever experience. While those involved in that process need to be people of prayer and spiritual
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openness, it is equally vital that the congregation strengthen its spiritual muscles as well, to help discern who God is calling forward to lead it. As such, I am calling upon each of you to join together in a season of spiritual reading.

I want you to take your Bible and open it up to any page at all. Some people suggest standing the book on its spine and letting it fall open. Otherwise just open the pages to a random spot without thought and without flipping a page. From there, select one chapter, and only one chapter, and read it daily for the rest of the month. Before you read, pray that God would open your heart and mind and bring meaning to the words for you. After you have read it, and perhaps reread it a few times, pray for God to help you understand. Each day, I encourage you to write down the thoughts that this chapter of God's Word stirs up in you and see how these same words mean different things to you day by day and week by week. You may find that the circumstances of your day will suddenly cause new words or phrases to have importance they did not the previous day. In this we see the Spirit of God speaking to us and meeting us where we are. This is an ancient practice of Spiritual Reading that has benefited Christians in all times and places. I pray that it does the same for you.

If you would like to share what you are reading or what God has been teaching you, please email me at blakea.severson@gmail.com. I would also love to speak with anyone willing at "Coffee With The Pastor" on Wednesday mornings at 10am.

-Pastor Blake



During Sunday School on Palm Sunday, April 2, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for our youth. Children will start out in the Sanctuary, and leave immediately following the Children's Chat for all the fun.



NOTE: On Easter Sunday, April 9th, there will be no Sunday School program. Children are invited to worship with their families that day.



Help needed! The Education Committee is looking for someone to help teach Sunday School on the 4th Sunday of the month. Lesson plans will be provided and the children would love to get to know more members of our congregation! Please contact the office or Lisa Profio if you are able to help on either of these dates:

- April 23
- May 28



CARING CORNER

Verna Buchholz is a long time member of our church and was a staple in the choir for many years. She now resides in Virginia. We know she appreciates receiving cards, so why not mail her one?

Verna Buchholz
Sunrise of Springfield
6541 Franconia Rd #221
Springfield, VA 22150



If you plan to apply for one of the three college scholarships offered annually for members of Parma-South, call the church office for forms. The completed forms should be returned to the church office no later than May 1st.



C-PSAN

Clerk's Parma-South Action News

Quarterly coverage of your Session at work

Hi. I'm Audrey, your Clerk of Session. This is your 2023 first quarter report from Session. Today this report is organized by subject rather than monthly because singular topics have spanned multi-months.

Mission Study: the big self-reflective step between hiring a transitional pastor and a called pastor. In January the organization *Convergence*, hired to help with Parma-South's mission study, presented the comprehensive survey results along with their professional viewpoints. Adhering to their recommendations, Session deliberated and selected some 'to-do' items and decided to solicit more at a Town Hall event. That Town Hall was held February 5. At the February meeting, Session approved a Healthy Communications Seminar recommended by *Convergence*. All will be welcome to attend; Session members are required to attend. The seminar will take place April 24-26. In March, the Mission Study Team presented a nearly-complete report for Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM). The aforementioned 'to-do' items comprise the mission priorities and core values portions of the document. The report should be finalized in time for the COM to approve it in April, thus allowing Parma-South to move forward to selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Building Lease – In January an eviction was filed to remove the daycare whose lease expired in September 2022. The landlord attorney addressed Session in February. Session approved a final move out date in June, conditional upon shared spaces (kitchen, gym, stage, etc.) reverting to the church's exclusive use on 6/1. A document was filed in February with Parma Municipal Court stating all the agreed conditions. Breaking news... Parma-South has been contacted by an Early Learning Program/ Head Start Program whose current Parma location

is scheduled for demolition. A subset of Session and Pastor Blake will meet with them. If a new lease seems warranted, Presbytery and the congregation will be consulted. The church will also hire a new attorney to complete these processes.

Building Updates – From January's meeting and February's Town Hall, Properties Committee is tasked with improving signage and generally making the building and grounds more welcoming. In March a presentation addressing visual monitors in the sanctuary was provided to Session with Worship Committee and Mission Study Team as guests. Pros, cons and many questions were addressed. No immediate action was approved.

General Operations – A financial audit was conducted. Souper Bowl and many youth activities were planned and carried out. Our Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Debra Cerra, was officially approved by Presbytery (different role from Gap Pastor). The church signed up to sponsor a local youth sports team. The Caring Team and Mission Committee both report a great number of ongoing ministries. Pastor Blake was reviewed by the Personnel Committee. Pastor Debbie's grief support group is ongoing. A generous gift was accepted to start a new community-involved project for which Mission, Fellowship and Discipleship are tasked with brainstorming and initiating an endeavor. The church garden is being prioritized among multiple committees. Social and family events are penciled in for every month of 2023.

Session is Parma-South's governing body. Expressing your thoughts and concerns to a ruling elder is analogous to writing a letter to your state representative. Please do! The ruling elders need your prayers, your support and your input to govern at their best. Tune in again next quarter for more Session news.





You are invited to attend the Cooperative Mission Meeting at Independence Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 12th at 10 AM. This is a meeting of the Presbyterian Churches to share and discuss their mission projects. There are also opportunities for partnerships on specific projects. The shoe collection last year is one example. If you are interested in attending, contact Dick Cooper prior to April 7th at richroxiisbcglobal.net



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

During the season of Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with "those who have least" – that's how Matthew 25 puts it – and that's what *One Great Hour of Sharing* is all about: Connecting.

This Lenten season, please give generously to *One Great Hour of Sharing*. Together we make a difference.

Children and adults should bring their OGHS offering to church by Easter Sunday.



BAPTISM

Evelyn Irene Bryson
2-26-23



Helen Salisbury
March 2, 2023



MEMORIAL CARILLON

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

April 2
Marilyn Weiss
Laura Elva French
Martin Bowman

April 9
Wilbur P. Henninger
Fred Ells

April 16
Jack E. McGuff

April 23
Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Cubbison

April 30
Mr. and Mrs. Frantz Dickerson



Articles for our monthly Tidings newsletter are due the day after the regularly scheduled monthly Session meeting. Therefore, please note: Articles for the May Tidings will be due *no later than Thursday, May 18th*.

MEN'S SQUARE

The next meeting of Men's Square is Saturday, April 1, at 9:00 AM. The group will meet for breakfast at Denny's Restaurant located on Day Drive in Parma. We normally gather in the back room. We will have our group discussion following breakfast, and then head over to the Church for our current project. Anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker. Hope to see you there.



ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, April 11 at 10 AM
in Parlor



Tidings

Parma-South Presbyterian Church
6155 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44130
Office Phone (440) 885-2652

Visit our website: www.parma-south.org

Rev. Blake Severson, Transitional Pastor
Email: blakea.severson@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Debra Cerra, Parish Associate
Email: ddcerra@gmail.com

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OFFICE NOTES

- Please call the office to request that you receive your monthly Tidings newsletter via email. We would love 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.



- 04/02 Shelby Topor
- 04/02 Carolyn Jeremiah
- 04/03 Bob Schomer
- 04/03 Norm Alford
- 04/05 Timothy Joseph
- 04/06 Leigh Anne Best
- 04/06 Margaret Hale
- 04/07 Pat Moncol
- 04/08 Dave Kane
- 04/09 Bev Martin
- 04/11 Donna Loeb
- 04/14 Bob Jelinek
- 04/14 Kath Prestien
- 04/14 Sarah Rodriguez
- 04/15 Janet Fritz
- 04/20 Gary Suhadolnik
- 04/21 Dakota Reinhart
- 04/21 Harold Mitchhart
- 04/22 Amanda Cheng
- 04/22 Emily Cheng
- 04/23 Ann Kasner
- 04/23 Jean Pfister
- 04/28 Clark Weaver
- 04/29 Renea Schomer
- 04/29 Ginny Swift
- 04/30 Mike Fanous

