

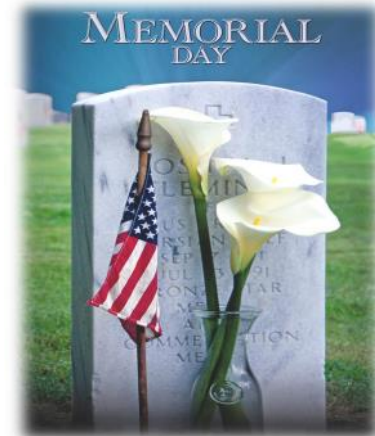


# Tidings

May 2023

## COMING EVENTS

- Thursday, May 4:** Grieving Support Group @ 4 PM
- Saturday, May 6:** Men's Square @ Denny's @ 9 AM
- Sunday, May 7:** Worship @ 10 AM
- Tuesday, May 11:** Esther Circle @ 10 AM
- Sunday, May 14:** Worship @ 10 AM
- Thursday, May 18:** Tidings article deadline  
- Grieving Support Group @ 4 PM
- Sunday, May 21:** Worship @ 10 AM
- Sunday, May 28:** Worship @ 10 AM
- Monday, May 29:** Memorial Day Service



Parma-South will host the 156th **Memorial Day Service** for Parma Heights on our front lawn, on Monday, May 29th at 9:30 AM. Rev. Blake Severson will represent Parma-South, and The Honorable Marie Gallo, Mayor of Parma Heights, will speak. Also represented will be the Commander of American Legion Post 703 and others. The Valley Forge High School Marching Band, directed by Evan Campus, will perform before and during the service. The Memorial Day Address will be given by Mark Arnold, Brigadier General (retired), United States Army, Special Forces.

The Legion will have a wreath laying ceremony and the Historical Society will have a dedication ceremony at the Parma Heights Cemetery following our Memorial Day Service.

We encourage our members to attend this service. If you are attending, please remember to bring your own lawn chair. The church doors will be open before and after the service, and bottled water and donuts will be available. In case of rain, the service will be held in the Parma-South Sanctuary.



## New Members!

Hello friends of Parma-South Presbyterian. Have you considered wanting to become a full member of our community of faith? Do you have questions about what that even means or what it would entail? In the month of May, there will be two meetings for those interested in becoming members of Parma-South Presbyterian Church. Each meeting will take about 90 minutes and will be more like friends talking than a "class." While there will be discussions about what it means to be a Presbyterian and what it is to be a member of a church, we will also talk about our journeys of faith and how they brought us to where we are today. Also, we, the leaders of Parma South, want to know what we have done and/or are doing that is drawing you to join our congregation.

The dates of these meetings will be as follows:

**Thursday May 18: 5:30 PM-7:00 PM**

**Sunday May 21: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

Ideally, any interested people will make it to both meetings, but we do understand that schedules can be difficult to manage. AT LEAST ONE meeting must be attended in order to join our church. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Blake at [blakea.severson@gmail.com](mailto:blakea.severson@gmail.com) or notify the office.



### **So You Are Saying There Is A Chance**

One of the more remarkable parts of the story of the early church was just how utterly unqualified any of them were to do what they did. Fishermen, tax collectors, rebels, and outcasts of every sort took on the established local religious leaders and the largest empire that the world had ever known to that point in history. People who were likely not able to read preached sermons of such power that thousands changed the way they went about their daily lives in a moment. People whom history would just as soon forget, if it would ever have known they existed at all, ushered in a religious and social movement that would sweep through the entire known world before all was said and done. A movement that continues to this very day. A movement we, as members of Christ's Church, are called to carry forward with every choice we make.

As Jesus was preparing to depart this earth via the Cross, he told the Disciples about the house he would be preparing in heaven. A house with many rooms. However, he didn't just prepare them for the sweet by and by. In this same teaching, Jesus says something astonishing. "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these..." He is talking about us here. We who believe can do the things Jesus did and even greater things as well. Yet often we scarcely believe that we can manage even the simplest of deeds in the name of Jesus. Why?

One of my favorite philosophers, Erling Kagge, is fond of saying "If you say it cannot be done and I say it can, we will likely both end up being right."

We in the church often assess any new endeavor on whether it is possible or not. Two true outcomes. Rarely in life and the church is anything so simple. Almost every possible



outcome from a decision or course of action lies on a spectrum of absolute impossibility to absolute certainty. Every outcome in between is some level of improbable to probable as you move from one true outcome to the other. As we think again of what the merry and of misfits and outcasts of the early Church were able to achieve, where would you place that outcome on the spectrum if you were assessing their chance of success in real time? A fisherman named Peter would heal people by merely allowing his shadow to fall upon them? A mass murdering inquisitor, whose only goal was to snuff out the Christian movement before it left the cradle, would become the greatest evangelist for the cause of Jesus the world has ever known? Both outcomes so utterly improbable, most of us would call them impossible. And yet...

Kagge continues in his line of thinking by saying that, after we have identified those things that are impossible, everything else is only improbable at worst. Jesus tells us that we, his followers at Parma-South Presbyterian Church, can do the things he did and even greater things...if we believe in Him. As we prepare for Pentecost and look forward in hope to all the improbable things God has called us to do, let us also remember another famous saying of our Lord, "With God, all things are possible."

**-Rev. Blake Severson**

## **MISSION STUDY APPROVED**

Great news! The Session approved our Mission Study at their April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Subsequently, the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery approved the study effective April 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the Mission Study Leaders: Sarah Rodriguez; Sandy Kardamis, Norma Fink; Melissa Evans; and Bob Schomer for their long and faithful work. The team extends their thanks and appreciation to Pastor Blake Severson as the team's staff support and to Rev. Dr. Arvid Whitmore and Cyndi Oviatt as Presbytery liaisons.

### **Summary of Search Process:**

Phase 1 - Hiring of Pastor Blake Severson as our Transitional Pastor - effective mid -July 2022

Phase 2 - Completing the Mission Study - approved April 24, 2023

Phase 3 - Election of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), commissioned to conduct a pastoral search process

## PROCESS FOR ELECTING A PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

The Presbytery authorizes the congregation to elect a PNC.  
*The Presbytery did so upon approval of our Mission Study.*

The Session recommends the number of individuals to serve on the PNC.  
*Our Session approved a PNC of no less than 6, no more than 7 members.*

The Nominating Committee prepares a slate to be voted on by the congregation at a meeting called by the Session. A congregational meeting will be held to elect a PNC. The PNC is elected and commissioned to conduct a pastoral search process.

If there are members who feel called to be considered for serving on the PNC, please contact one of the following members of the Nominating Committee: Bob Schomer; Ed Walker; Dick Salisbury; Ruth Fay; Sandy Kardamis; Darlene Ells; and Fran Marvel.



**PASTORAL**  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE



### STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!

**Our annual Strawberry Festival is back!** It will be held on our front lawn (weather permitting) on **June 4, from 12 -3 PM**. Come, relax and enjoy refreshing beverages, the Euclid Beach Rocketcar (until 1 P.M.) and the Bubble Station by Zap Entertainment. There will be an assortment of food and, of course, our delicious strawberry shortcake!

Invite your family and friends and join us for a wonderful afternoon.



The last regular class of Sunday School will be on May 21.

During the summer, we will only have Sunday School on the second and third Sundays of the month: June 11 & 18, July 9 & 16, and August 13 & 20.



Every first and third Thursday, Rev. Dr. Debbie Cerra offers a Zoom Grief Group from 4-5 PM. For more information, she can be reached at (856) 912-1202. This group is open to anyone who has experienced a significant loss.



### COFFEE WITH THE WORD

Please join us on Saturday, May 20th to hear Rev. Debbie Cerra speak about **"Mindful Living"**.

A luncheon will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you, family and/or your friends at 11 AM in the church Dining Room. If you have any questions, contact Fran Marvel or call the church office. Hope to see you there!



### ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, May 9 at 10 AM  
in Parlor

## Parma-South Mission Garden

Spring has sprung and so have the weeds in our P-S Mission Garden! Did you know that our church has a 16 raised bed vegetable garden located behind the main church building? It was started over 10 years ago by a young adult group with a mission to grow fresh produce for the Parma Heights Food Pantry and church members in need. One of the goals is to grow easy to prepare produce such as peppers, lettuce, green beans, tomatoes, peas, carrots, cucumbers, eggplants, zucchini and squash.



**We need your help!** We are looking for volunteers of all ages and abilities to help with spring clean-up, planting, watering, harvesting, and delivering produce. We need interested people to join our group and help to make this a productive ministry once again. Garden season runs May through late September. We welcome any help, from 1 day of watering a week to dropping off produce at the food pantry and everything in between! We do ask that you bring your own pair of garden gloves.

The Mission Garden is a church-wide effort and can't happen without time and labor. At a recent congregational Town Hall Meeting, our church garden was identified as a mission priority. Please consider helping us in God's garden, serving our community, and also having some fun while enjoying time in nature! Please contact Tony Indovina at 216-701-0880 to sign-up, or for more information.





## MEN'S SQUARE

The next meeting of Men's Square is **Saturday, May 6, at 9:00 AM.**

The group will be meeting for breakfast at Denny's Restaurant located on Day Drive in Parma. We normally gather in the back room.

Our regular agenda is to 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.



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



## Birthdays

### MAY Birthdays

5/01	Tony Indovina
5/02	Christopher Sivik
	Alexander Sivik
5/03	Austin Csuti
5/04	Connor Diedrich
5/06	Elaine Yonek
5/08	Jim Topor
5/09	Katie Kolthoff
5/10	John Summa
5/11	Jerry Nagy
5/12	Linda Tresise
	Linda Knable
	Thelma Reinerth
5/18	Pam Nash
5/19	John Lahl
5/22	Mark Para
5/23	Mateo Rodriguez
5/24	Judith Ziem
5/25	Ed Walker
	Stephen Castor
5/26	Melissa Evans
5/28	Kathy Pepera
5/29	Liz Garcia
5/30	Victoria Schwab

## In Memoriam

Virginia (Ginny) Swift  
April 8, 2023



### MEMORIAL CARILLON

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

#### May 7

Marilyn Weiss  
Clinton L. Goode

#### May 14

Walter W. Schilke  
Maxine Abbott

#### May 21

Edna N. Galitz  
Laura Elva French

#### May 28

Mary Jane McMichael  
Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Schinman

### 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.



# Tidings

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

Visit our website: [www.parma-south.org](http://www.parma-south.org)

Rev. Blake Severson, Transitional Pastor  
Email: [blakea.severson@gmail.com](mailto:blakea.severson@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Debra Cerra, Parish Associate  
Email: [ddcerra@gmail.com](mailto:ddcerra@gmail.com)

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**EASTER LUNCHEON: Attendance: 35**

