



Tidings

May 2024

COMING EVENTS

Thurs. May 2—Grief Group via Zoom, 4 PM

Sun. May 5—Worship & Communion @ 10 AM
-Town Hall Meeting/lunch @ 11 AM

Sat. May 11—Men's Square @ 9 AM

Sun. May 12 -Worship Service @ 10 AM

Tues. May 14—Esther Circle @ 10 AM

Thurs. May 16—Grief Group via Zoom, 4 PM

Sat. May 18 - Hike & Kite @ 12:30 PM

Sun. May 19 -Worship & Communion @ 10AM
Congratulations- Gwen Beyer @ 11 AM

Thurs. May 23—Deadline for Tidings articles

Sun. May 26 -Worship Service @ 10 AM

Mon. May 27—Parma Heights Memorial Day
Service @ 9:30 AM

Sun. June 2—Worship Service @ 10 AM
-Strawberry Festival @ 11-1





What a treat to be able to serve in your midst! You may know that I have a “history” with Parma-South, dating back to, well, dating the daughter of one of its ministers back in our college days. In more recent years I’ve attended Presbytery meetings at PSPC and, on occasion, a memorial service. I can’t believe I actually get to serve in ministry functions at this church I’ve known for so long.

In my previous church I used to balk when people would call me a “Senior Pastor.” Two reasons: first, the PC(USA) Book of Order does not describe any ministry position called a “Senior Pastor.” The second reason was that I was the one and only pastor of the church I was serving, so who was I supposed to be “senior” to? So I never liked the term “Senior Pastor.”

And now, after about 18 months of adjusting to the title of “Honorably Retired” member of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, I’ve accepted the gracious invitation of your Session to serve as your “Gap Pastor” for these months until your next called pastor arrives.

But let’s face it: “Gap Pastor” is not the most prestigious job title. “Gap....” Hmmm. Sounds like something’s missing. Sounds like you can just take any person with a “Rev.” in front of their name and stick them in there to fill the void.

But in a way, every one of us is a “gap minister.” Each of us is called to continue the ministry of Jesus during this “gap” between his resurrection and that glorious day when, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet,” we will all be changed [1 Cor. 15:52].

You probably know that the venerable London subway system has signs and announcements reminding riders to “Mind the gap” as they board and disembark the trains. You’re supposed to pay extra attention to that space between the platform and the car. Let us, too, “mind the gap”—paying extra attention to how this unique time before the arrival of the next pastor can be the time we’ve been waiting for to grow in fellowship, to explore new ways of serving, to deepen our devotion to following the way of Jesus in our daily lives.

—Jon Fancher



CONTACTING OUR NEW "GAP PASTOR"

Rev. Dr. Jon Fancher will have office hours at church on Friday mornings from 9 to 11 AM. In the event you become aware of a pastoral emergency and need to reach Pastor Jon quickly, please call or text his personal cell phone at 440-263-8872. For other inquiries, you may reach him by email: pastor@parma-south.org



NEW OFFICE
ADMIN

Please welcome Kathy Snyder, who started duties as our new Office Administrator at Parma-South on April 22. Kathy replaces our off-site Virtual Ministry Assistant Nicole (who will remain until May 31, working with Kathy on the transition.) Kathy can be reached by phone during office hours (Mon.-Thurs., 9-3), or by email at: officeadmin@parma-south.org



Town Hall Meeting

On **Sunday, May 5**, please join us in the Dining Room immediately after worship for our next Town Hall meeting. A light lunch will be served, and you will hear from various church groups about upcoming summer activities and updates. Child care will be available.





Parma-South is pleased to join with the City of Parma Heights again this year, as we host the city's 157th Memorial Day Service on our front lawn. The service will be on Monday, May 27th, beginning at 9:30 AM. Parma-South has been the site of Memorial Day Services since 1867. We are recognized as having the longest continuing Memorial Day Services in the state of Ohio.

Our Fellowship Committee will again provide bottled water and donuts for those attending. Our Sanctuary will be open to the community, and church members will be at the doors to greet visitors.

The service will be led by our Rev. Jon Fancher and American Legion Post 703. It will include a welcome by Mayor Gallo, singing of patriotic hymns, music by the Valley Forge Marching Band, and brief messages from two local veterans. The thirty minute service will be followed by a parade on Pearl Road to the Parma Heights Cemetery, where departed veterans will be honored.

Please bring your own lawn chair, and plan to be a part of this service of recognition and remembrance.



Best Wishes
On Your
Retirement
Gwen Beyer

Please join us in celebrating Gwen Beyer's retirement and recognizing her many years of service to Parma-South during a reception at Coffee Hour following worship **on Sunday, May 19th**. Gwen has been a dedicated member of our staff, serving for 12 years as our Director of Music, working with our youth, with carillon ringers and choirs. Gwen will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best!



Chris Venesile

Please welcome Chris Venesile, our new **Director of Music**. He takes over for our retiring director, Gwen Beyer. Chris will begin his role on May 1st, and will plan and direct all of our music programs at Parma-South. Until recently, Chris was Associate Professor of Choral Music Education at Kent State University.

HIKING & KITE FLYING

Come fly a kite and/or go for a hike! We will be at Edgewater Park, meeting up at the Edgewater Beach House. Reach out to Katie Kolthoff with any questions.

Saturday, May 18
@ Edgewater Park

12:30 PM - Kite Flying

1:15 PM—Hiking



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!

Join us on **Sunday, June 2** for our annual Strawberry Festival! It will be held on our front lawn (weather permitting) from 11 -1 PM. Come, relax and enjoy lunch, refreshing beverages and 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 great time.

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 keep this productive ministry alive. Garden season runs May through late September. We welcome any help, from one 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. Our church garden has been 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.



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 23rd.***





YOUTH BASEBALL SPONSORS

Parma-South is sponsoring two Parma-Heights baseball teams again this summer: a girls team and boys team. Dick Salisbury will soon be receiving the game schedule from the city Recreation Department. Stay tuned for the latest updates and come show your support by cheering on “our” teams!



Rev. Debbie Cerra continues to hold her Grief Group via ZOOM. This group is open to anyone who has experienced a significant loss. It meets online every 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM. Pastor Debbie can be reached at (856) 912-1202 for more information.



ONGOING PRAYER CONCERN

Pastor Blake’s wife, Megan, has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Please keep the Severson family in your prayers. Cards can be sent to:

Blake Severson
420 Cherry St
Anchorage AK 99504



Presbytery Meeting Attendance

The Presbytery of the Western Reserve holds a Presbytery Meeting on the fourth Monday of every other month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Meetings are hosted by different churches, either in-person or virtually via Zoom. In addition to attendance by pastors within the Presbytery, each church can send up to two “commissioner representatives.” A church commissioner can be any current or past elder from that church, who can vote on issues on behalf of their church.

The meetings provide an opportunity to learn about issues, concerns, and policies within the denomination or within our Presbytery, and share ideas with other churches. Each meeting includes a brief church service. For more information, or to register to attend a future meeting as a Parma-South representative, please contact Don Sinko. (donsinkocpa@hotmail.com)



MEMORIAL CARILLON

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

- May 5 Gay Ellen Sargent
Marilyn Weiss
- May 12 M/M John E. Cantwell
Maxine Abbott
- May 19 Richard Kitchen and
Phyllis Kitchen
Laura Elva French
- May 26 Gilbert E. Calderwood and
Ruth Calderwood

MEN'S SQUARE

Men’s Square meets on the second Saturday of the month. Their next meeting will be on **Saturday, May 11th**, gathering for breakfast at Denny’s in Parmatown at 9 AM. Anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker. Hope to see you there.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Esther Circle will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, May 14. Please join us for a time of study and fellowship. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, now through June.



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
SCHOOL of ROCK
 THE MUSICAL



Our own Pastor Jon is performing in "School of Rock" at The Cassidy Theatre!! Let's all go enjoy the show together on **Sunday, June 9 at 2:30 pm**. Tickets are \$17, and order forms are available on our website (under ACTIVITIES), in the Sunday bulletins, and below. Deadline to order tickets through Parma-South is May 20. (After that, call the theatre directly to ask about tickets.) Questions? Contact Katie Kolthoff at (216) 386-7741.

"Rock got no reason, rock got no thyme... You better get me to school on time! Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock - The Musical is a two-hour, two-act show based on the hit movie. The tuner follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band. But can he get them to the Battle of the Bands without their parents and the school's headmistress finding out?"



Ticket Order Form

"School of Rock" at Cassidy Theatre: Sunday, June 9 @ 2:30 PM

Name _____

Phone Number _____

of tickets _____ x \$17 = _____

Form and payment due to the Church Office by May 20, 2024

Make checks payable to Parma-South Church.



- 1 Tony Indovina
- 2 Alexander Sivik
Christopher Sivik
- 3 Austin Csuti
- 4 Connor Diedrich
- 6 Elaine Yonek
- 8 Jim Topor
- 9 Katie Kolthoff
- 10 John Summa
- 11 Jerry Nagy
- 12 Linda Knable
Thelma Riennerth
Linda Tresise
- 18 Pam Nash
- 19 John Lahl
- 22 Mark Para
- 23 Mateo Rodriguez
- 24 Judith Ziem
- 25 Stephen Castor
Ed Walker
- 26 Melissa Evans
- 28 Kathy Pepera
- 29 Liz Garcia
Michael Dory
- 30 Victoria Schwab



Tidings

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Visit our website: www.parma-south.org

Rev. Dr. Jon M. Fancher, Gap Pastor
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