



Parma-South Presbyterian Church

Parma Heights, Ohio

First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Christin Moreland, **Pastor**

Ed Walker, **Lay Reader**

Chris Venesile, **Music Director**

Laurie Archibald, **Organist/Pianist**

Chris Kurka, **A/V Coordinator**

December 1, 2024

10:00 AM

WELCOME

The Church Life and Ministry

Prelude

"Just A Closer Walk with Thee" – arr. J. Raney

Reminder: All members, please sign the attendance book. Thank you.

Call to Worship

Sojourners of faith, today we begin the journey to Bethlehem, to the city called "House of Bread".

We take one step toward Christmas, the first step of many. Let this journey transform us from beginning to end.

Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, look toward the manger, toward the stars over the city of David, and find hope.

We look with hope because Christ is coming to fill hearts and satisfy bellies with goodness and peace.

Come, let us worship as we journey to the House of Bread, where our Brother and Friend will be born.

Glory to God, there is hope today. Let us worship!

Advent Candle Lighting

Song "From the Manger" (verse 1 – see insert)

***Opening Hymn N^o. 82**

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

**God who cares for every sparrow and every child,
we confess the enormity of the world's hunger feels overwhelming.
We do not know what to do about famine and starvation,
so we look away and distract ourselves from suffering people and all
creatures, great and small.**

We confess we neglect small acts of generosity because the problems seem so big. We confess we shrink back from true solutions because the sacrifices seem too great. May your hope compel us to make choices reflecting our love for our neighbors and creation.

You take our feeble efforts and magnify your glory. May the world be fed with hope. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news:

God is a loving parent with endless compassion who desires all people to flourish. Even when our hope falters, and we feel helpless to address the hunger in our world, God's steadfast love emboldens us to persevere so all creation can be fed. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

***Gloria Patri N^o. 581**

Anthem

"An Advent Prayer" – Allen Pote

1st Verse of Advent Lighting Candle

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

- Luke 2:7

- Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

***Passing of the Peace**

Hymn N^o. 188 (verse 1)

"Jesus Loves Me"

Time for Young Disciples

(Children may come forward)

Sermon

"Hope Grows"

***Hymn of Meditation N^o. 460**

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"His Eye is On The Sparrow" – arr.M. Hayes

***Doxology N^o. 606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion Liturgy (see insert)

***Closing Hymn N^o. 683**

"Lord of all Hopefulness"

***Charge & Blessing**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant N^o. 727 (verse 1)

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I have the grace to let you be my servant too.

***Postlude**

"Excerpt from Amazing Grace" – arr. Alex-Zsolt

*Please stand in body or spirit.

"Liturgy adapted from and used with permission from Amanda Meisenheimer and Illustrated Ministry, LLC."



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Announcing a new addition to our Parma-South Staff! Effective Monday, November 18th. Nancy Chism has been hired as our Church Administrator. Nancy comes to us with extensive experience in church administration. Nancy will be working Monday through Thursday from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. We welcome Nancy to our church family.

2025 Offering Envelopes – These will be available by Dec 1st and will be placed in the church narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy at treasuer@parma-south.org, or by phone at (440) 885-2652 x 220 (church) or (216) 970-5286 (cell). Thank you.

MISSIONS NEWS

Family in Need Update: Parma South's total donations for the Family in Need was \$5,015.00. The contributions came from the Mission Committee, Care Team, Presbyterian Women and the congregation.

Buhrer School Christmas: The Mission Committee sent \$2040 to Buhrer Dual Language School to be used for Christmas gifts for the children. Their teachers will buy the gifts and plan the party for them. The congregation is invited to attend the school's Christmas party, to be held at 11:00 AM – Noon on Wednesday, December 11th. If you would like to attend the party, please meet in our small parking lot at 10:20 AM to carpool. We will leave at 10:30 AM.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Sunday, December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM – Worship Service – Communion

11:00 AM – Coffee Hour – Dining Room

- Care & Share Store Open

11:15 AM – Advent Celebration – Dining Room

3:00 PM – Life Group – Online

5:00 PM – Tree Lighting Festivities – Parma Heights Greenbrier Commons

Monday, December 2

7:00 PM – Life Group – Parlor

- Topic: Exodus

Tuesday, December 3

11:00 AM – Care Team Meeting – Parlor

Thursday, December 5

4:00 PM – Grief Group – Online

7:00 PM – Den Meeting – Social Hall

Sunday, December 8

10:00 AM – Worship Service – Sanctuary

11:00 AM – Coffee Hour – Dining Room

- Care & Share Store Open

3:00 PM – Life Group – Online

PRAYER REQUESTS

Submit requests using the back of the attendance sheet or Prayer Request cards available in the pew holders. Place completed cards in the offering plate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life Group – This is an opportunity to discuss today's lesson and look deeper into today's scripture. Join the live Zoom feed Sundays starting at 2:45 PM. Contact John Lahl (440) 725-3239 or Ed Walker (440) 552-2998.

Care Team – The Care Team has a supply of stamped and addressed cards in the Narthex for our friends and members. Please take a few and sign, add a short message if you'd like, then mail. Let's stay connected.

Grief Group – Rev. Dr. Debbie Cerra hosts an online group on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 4:00–5:00 PM via Zoom. Contact Debbie at (856) 912-1202. She is also leading in person grief groups on the 1st and 3rd

Thursdays at Strongsville United Methodist Church from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM. *In January, the online meetings will change to 6:30 PM.

CHURCH OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Announcements: Submit announcements by 10:00 AM on Wednesdays.

Meetings: This includes scheduling requests or cancellations notices.

Events: All upcoming events should be communicated through the church office. We would like to track these on our Weekly Calendar and get any new event set as reserved.

*All office communications should be sent to Nancy Chism, Office Administrator at officeadmin@parma-south.org.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Name Badges – Please wear your name badge, so Pastor Christin can get to know everyone.

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

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: Megan Severson, 2612 Ingra Street, Anchorage, AK 99508.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Celebration (Sunday, December 1): Following worship, join us for a meal and activities in the Dining Room.

Parma-South Mitten Tree (Sunday, December 1): Donate hats, mittens, and scarves to the Parma Heights Food Pantry. Hang items on the tree near the church office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hurricane Relief – Donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at <https://pda.pcusa.org>.

Come and enjoy the Tree Lighting Festivities, today (Sunday, December 1)! We will have a table at this event, handing out Christmas cookies and information about our Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 4:00 PM. You are invited to Parma Heights Greenbrier Commons from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM for the Tree Lighting Countdown, Valley Forge High School Choir Performance and Photos with Santa.

Blue Christmas Service is on Saturday December 21st at 3:00 PM.

FUNDRAISING

Annual Peterson Nut Sale by Scout Troup #263 – We will be at coffee hour on December 1st and December 8th to take the orders. The products will be delivered between December 18 – 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Sanae Rogers, (440) 785-7613.

Please join us
**Wild Winter Lights @
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**
Sunday, December 29th from
5:30pm-9:30pm
\$15.75 per ticket
Ages 2 years and under free
Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____
_____ tickets x \$15.75= _____

Wild Winter Lights Outing – Please return this form and money to the church office by Monday, December 16th. Checks can be made payable to: Parma-South Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact Katie at katekolthoff@gmail.com.