



PARMA CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

7000 Ridge Road, Parma, OH, 44129 (440)842-1614

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THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

Interim Minister: Rev. Nancy Dunn

Sunday School: 9:30 AM.

Worship Service: 10:45 AM.

March 15, 2020

Dear Church Family,

How are you feeling? Are you feeling the stress, the chaos, and the confusion that seems to surround us at this moment as the world is dealing with this pandemic called Covid-19 or Coronavirus? Panic is the word of the day. Even though I caution us against panic, these emotions we are feeling are very real and are relevant. Yet, even as we feel these confusing emotions, I want to remind us to keep our hearts, minds, and souls centered on the love of Christ that is always present with us. Remember to breathe in God's peace. Remember to "be still and know" that God is with us. Always.

Guidance for Worship During the Coronavirus - At this time, we will worship together as planned. However, I ask you to keep a good amount of distance between you. Space yourselves out in the chairs. We have plenty of room! Communion will be served differently. Please come forward to receive a cup with the bread in it and a cup of juice. Waste receptacles will be placed by each front pew for you to immediately dispose of your cups after taking the elements. Offering can be placed in the trays at the front of the sanctuary. The communion preparer will wear gloves when preparing the trays. The deacons will come to you if you are unable to come forward. If you do not feel comfortable coming to the church for worship, we are planning to use Facebook Live to livestream the service. If you are unable to join us physically or virtually, please use the worship hour as your time of personal prayer and meditation. This will enable us to be present with one another in spirit as we worship together.

Lenten Bible Study - Lenten Bible Study continues each Wednesday during Lent. We meet weekly at 7:00pm. We are using the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University. If you do not have a copy of the book, you can still join us! The DVD gives us a synopsis of what we read and still allows everyone to participate. The remaining sessions are:

Lenten Bible Study - Weekly on Wednesdays @ 7:00pm		
Date	Topic	Scripture(s)
March 18	Teachings: Risking Challenge	Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12: 28-34, & Mark 12: 41-44
March 25	The First Dinner: Risking Rejection	Mark 14:3-9 & John 12:1-8

April 1	The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends	Luke 22:14-27 & John 13:1-16
April 8	Gethsemane: Risking Temptation	Mark 14:32-52 & John 18:1-11

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 29: On Sunday, March 29, we will have a called Congregational Meeting. Information about the possible merger with Ridge Road UCC will be presented by our members of the New Beginnings Committee. After listening to the presentation, the congregation will have an opportunity to ask questions and to decide if we would like to move forward with next steps in the possible merger process. This is NOT a vote to merge. It is a discussion on the next steps in the process.

My prayer for you over the coming weeks and days as we move closer to the cross and resurrection is that you will find calm in the chaos and blessings in our struggles. You are always in my prayers.

Many blessings, Rev. Nancy

DIACONATE SERVING SCHEDULE

Mar. 15th Barb Dawson, Paul Gering
Mar. 22nd Daniel Vithous
Mar. 29th Barb Dawson, Paul Gering
April 5th Daniel Vithous
April 12th Barb Dawson, Paul Gering
April 19th Daniel Vithous



Volunteers are needed to pack the food bags once a month. Food is passed out the **3rd Wednesday** of each month so the bags must be packed before that date. There is a sign up sheet in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions please see Debbie Hannan our church secretary.

DEACONESS FOR MARCH

Elaine Ferguson

DEACONESS FOR APRIL

Julie Green

SHUT-INS

Here is the shut-in list of PCC members and friends. Please visit them, if you can, phone them, or drop them a note or a card. Above all, please **PRAY** for them!

Charlotte Mickovic
Falling Water Health Care Center
18840 Falling Water Room 213-W
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
440-238-1100, Room 213-Window

Ann Tyma
Sunrise of Parma
7766 Broadview Road
Parma, Ohio 44134

Our next Caller will be passed out on **Sunday, April 19th**. Articles are due by **Wednesday, April 15th**.

OUR DAILY BREAD booklet is available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary, and it's **FREE!** If you would like to make a donation in the box, that's fine, but there's no obligation!

BIRTHDAY-ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

Parma Christian Church has had this celebration offering for quite a long time. A dollar per year of your birthday and/or wedding anniversary is a wonderful way of thanking God for all His blessings AND helping your church. But if that's too much \$\$\$ (Everyone is getting older, after all!) just give whatever you can.



Food Pantry Items for March. For the month of March we are asking for donations of Spaghetti Sauce. You can place your items in the barrels in the Sanctuary. Thank You!

Care & Prayer Time

Did you know Parma Christian Church has Weekly Prayer Time each Wednesday at 7am., Noon and 6:30pm. Please join us each Wednesday for Prayer.

Upcoming Events: 5th Sunday Pot Luck Lunch and Spring Birthday Coffee Hour, **Sunday, March 29th** following the congregational meeting. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend.

Lenten Bible Study - During the season of Lent, Rev. Nancy is leading a weekly Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Next study will be on **Wednesday, March 18th**. We are using the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University. This study will take us through the events of Holy Week by critically examining the risk Jesus took on each step of his journey in Jerusalem and the risk we take in faithfully following him.

Elders Meetings - **Sunday, April 5th at 7pm.**



Upcoming Easter Season Schedule

Palm Sunday Breakfast, **April 5th** at Denney's Restaurant **8am**. Joint Holy Thursday Service at Ridge Road UCC on **Thursday, April 9th at 7:30pm**. Good Friday Service at St. Peter's UCC on April 10th at 7pm. Our Beautiful **Easter Sunday Service, April 12th** at 10:45am followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.



St. Pat's Meal Program is **Thursday, April 9th**. If you can help serve the meal at St. Pat's please be at the church by **4:15pm**. If you cannot help serve but can bake a cake (we need 9 cakes) please drop your cake off at church by Noon. Thank You.

Board Meeting – **Monday, April 13th at 6:30pm.**

Hospitality Minister Meeting – **Sunday, April 19th** following the Worship Service.

PCC OFFERINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Breakdown for the month of February:

Current Expense	\$ 2,759.25
World Outreach	\$ 209.32
Restricted Funds	\$ 35.00
Reimbursed Expense	\$ 0.00
Bank Interest	\$ 23.24
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 3,026.81

Bills paid out for the month of February amounted to \$4,818.32.

ELDERS' CORNER:

Greetings All!

Everyone at Parma Christian Church is aware of my appreciation for fitness. I have an unshakable belief that exercise is a strong type of medicine for almost anything that ails us. Our bodies are meant to move and I'm committed to helping others (seniors in particular) to move accurately, safely and in a manner that allows us to live our lives to the fullest, and to use this "Medicine" as God has provided to take advantage of this historically unprecedented lifespan and longevity.

The longer I train seniors however, the more I realize that the actual movement and exercise part is really only a VERY small part of the total picture! The reason why?

Our exercise routines do not start in the gym... Our strength, for all practical purposes, begins in our heads and it begins in our hearts! If anything, our exercise routines are a result of living wisely, eating wisely, making wise life choices and thinking with thought patterns that are based on long held wisdoms. This is what I, in my Methuselah Fitness project call a "Lifestyle of Longevity".

What does this have to do with Parma Christian Church? Everything. Several months ago, while considering this possible merger with Ridge Road UCC, I realized that between our two congregations, at the very minimum, 85% of us are senior citizens who are over 60 years old (or at least approaching 60). It then struck me that our current reality to be dealt with is nothing less than this:

We are truly nothing more than one big senior ministry that has been ultimately entrusted (by God, nonetheless) with the responsibility to live our lives in a manner that would actually attract the younger generations of today to want to join our ranks!

While diet and fitness will, without question play into how we are perceived by today's youth, it is those underlying qualities of thoughtfulness, diligence, faithfulness, honesty and wisdom towards life in this 21st century that can and will (of course with the Love and Grace of Christ), ultimately draw a more youthful crowd to our congregations.

With all of this said and considered, I can not help but refer us to the Bible and to the scriptural account of Caleb. Caleb and Joshua were the only two individuals who were given the original opportunity to enter the promised land and had kept their faith and courage intact through the entire 40 years of wilderness testing. It is easy to see, from those statements and conclusions above that there are considerable "Giants in the Land" that we'll need to overtake if we as a church intend to survive. It is my prayer that we, like Caleb, can approach our entrance to this

promised land by proclaiming, with abundant faith in God:

"Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day.

You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."

Daryll Krivanos, Elder

2020 Easter Offering

REJOICE

Moment for Mission: Disciples Home Missions

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."—John 15:5

Disciples Home Missions, in relationships with its partners, equips Disciples for Christ and connects people in the life-changing love of God while facilitating faithful and effective ministry.

The multiple ministries of Disciples Home Missions are life giving and fruitful branches. These include: Congregational Transformation, which engages leaders in their context to understand and fulfill God's call for their collective service and particular roles in mission. Disciples Chaplains offer the touch of Christ beyond the Church walls; Refugee and Immigration Ministries offers refugee resettlement and advocacy for immigrants. Disciples Volunteering connects with local mission destinations. Family & Children Ministries (Ministries Across Generations) curates relevant, authentic, and effective tools and resources for children, families, and church leaders within all covenanted ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Green Chalice connects Christian faith, spiritual practice and creation consciousness in order to demonstrate the fullness of God's shalom.

Disciples Home Missions is grateful for the life changing love of God through Jesus Christ. We are grateful to be connected to the divine vine that branches out into ministries that impact our world.

Your gifts to the Easter offering support Disciples Home Missions and make their ministry possible. Offering Envelopes will be in your church bulletins on Sunday, April 5th and April 12th.

Keeping in Touch

Hi there! Hope this finds you well and happy and doing your best to move forward and keep your sanity during this crazy, mixed-up time we are in. So many events have been cancelled, postponed or suspended, so many folks are panic-buying in local

grocery stores, that entire sections of said stores are empty -- those featuring hand sanitizer, bleach, cleaning supplies, paper towels and toilet tissue! Instead of panicking, this is a time to think, to make wise decisions, and to pray for guidance for ourselves and for all those in positions of authority, whether medical, governmental, or spiritual.

Pray also for working families with children who will be gravely affected by the upcoming 3-week school hiatus.

Pastor Dunn and the elders have worked out a new method of distributing communion. When you next come to church for Sunday worship, you will notice that the communion table has been moved to the base of the chancel steps. You will be asked to come forward for communion, and will find that both the bread and juice are now in small cups, (paper ones for the bread). The deacon preparing the elements will wear disposable gloves. Only you will touch the elements, and there will be receptacles in which to place your empty cups. You may place your weekly offering envelope in the plates on the communion table. If you have difficulty walking forward, the deacons will bring the trays to you at your place. We will continue to use this method until we can safely resume our usual way.

Life continues at PCC, despite the upheaval around us. Rev. Nancy's weekly Bible study of the events of Holy Week in Jesus' life has been excellent so far. It's too bad that more PCC folks are not taking advantage of it. It happens on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

We will not be helping serve a meal at St. Pat's this month, but that's because of the feast of St. Patrick, March 17, when St. Pat's parish hosts (or did host) many parish festivities. We will still pass out food to our food pantry clients on March 18, although our methods will vary slightly. We will need more folks to help, so please volunteer if you're able. Please speak to Daryll Krivanos, or call our secretary Debbie Hannan at 440/842-1614.

If circumstances permit, we will hold a 5th Sunday potluck on March 29, complete with a celebration of spring birthdays. The menu will feature homemade sloppy Joes and homemade baked macaroni and cheese, as well as birthday cake (plus whatever YOU bring, of course)! Please sign up on the poster in the rear of the sanctuary.

Before the potluck we will have a brief congregational meeting to explain to you what has been going on with the "New Beginnings" committee, tasked with exploring the feasibility of a future merger with Ridge Road United Church of Christ. You should find it quite interesting, so please plan on attending that Sunday!

Please keep all our PCC folks who may be under the weather in your prayers. Please pray that this coronavirus pandemic is soon contained, and that all our elderly PCC family and friends manage to stay healthy and free from the virus. Please pray also for my mother, who is currently in the hospital suffering from cellulitis, an infection which she has had before. Treatment must be done in a hospital setting, because it involves antibiotics administered intravenously. My mother's memory is failing, so she is very confused and unhappy being away from her apartment and familiar surroundings. When she does return to Mt. Alverna, she will be allowed no visitors, nor will any of the other residents, as an anti-virus precaution.

In closing, I must say that this is one of the most unusual columns I have written in my nearly 22 years of writing "Keeping in Touch." (Yes, my first article seems to be from October 5, 1998! At least that's first one I have saved on our computer!) But what's going on in the world is beyond unusual! Till next time, take care of yourself, don't do any hand-shaking, and God bless!

Mary Anne Woodward

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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5 8am Palm Sunday Breakfast at Denney's 10:45am Joint Worship Service with Ridge Road UCC	6	7	8 PCC Prayer Time 7am Noon & 6:30pm. 7pm Lenten Bible Study	9 4:15pm St. Pat's Meal 7:30pm Holy Thursday Service at Ridge Road UCC	10 7pm Good Friday Service at St. Peter's UCC	11																																																																																											
12 10:45am Easter Sunday Service Easter Egg Hunt after the Service Easter Special Offering	13 6:30pm Board Meeting	14	15 Food Pantry Distribution 9am.-1pm.	16	17	18																																																																																											
19 10:45am Worship Service Hospitality Ministry Mtg. after the Service	20	21	22 PCC Prayer Time 7am Noon & 6:30pm.	23 Kara Dawson's Birthday	24	25																																																																																											
26 10:45am Worship Service	27 Jim Sipple's Birthday Paul Green's Birthday	28	29 PCC Prayer Time 7am Noon & 6:30pm.	30 Jean Cameron's Bir.																																																																																													
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Our Joint Worship Services with Ridge Road UCC		
Date	Worship Location	Time of Worship
April 5	Parma Christian Church	10:45 am
Thursday, April 7	Ridge Road UCC (Holy Thursday)	7:30 pm
May 3	Ridge Road UCC	10:30 am

Good Friday Worship Service, April 10

St. Peter UCC, 125 East Ridgewood Drive, extends to us the invitation to join them at their Good Friday Worship Service on Friday, April 10.

Worship begins at 7:30pm