



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.

October 20, 2019

Dear Family and Friends of Parma Christian Church,

The cooler weather, the orange leaves, the mums and pumpkins that are all around us can only mean that Autumn is finally here and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. The colorful days of October are coming to a close. This year, we will celebrate Halloween by joining with St. Peter UCC in Seven Hills for a fun Trunk-or-Treat activity on October 27. We've invited our Food Pantry families to this event. There will be games, costumes, treats, and lots of fun. I hope you will join us. You can decorate your car or simply offer a helping hand.

With November on our doorstep, we are invited to remember and to give thanks! First, we are invited to remember those who have been reunited with God in heaven in the past year as we pray for them on All Saints' Day. Then, we offer our thanks to God as we celebrate Thanksgiving with one another. There is so much for us to be thankful for this year. I am thankful that God brought us together. I am thankful for the ways this congregation reaches out to others so willingly through the Food Pantry ministry and the meal at St. Pat's. I am thankful for how lovingly we welcome visitors on Sundays. I look forward to celebrating and giving thanks with you on Sunday, November 24.

During this season of Thanksgiving, my prayers of thanks are lifted for you, the members of this wonderful congregation. This has been a difficult year in the life of Parma Christian Church. Yet, your faith and your willing spirit to be the people of God is evident each and every Sunday. We have so many reasons to be thankful. In September, we celebrated the history of our congregation. The past has brought us together to be God's people gathered together. Now, we have the opportunity to focus on the future of Parma Christian Church.

We recently received a letter from Ridge Road United Church of Christ asking us to consider a merger with them. Both of our congregations have many similarities, including a vibrant past, current average worship attendance in the 20s-30s, and part-time interim ministers. At the October board meeting, we prayerfully discussed our similarities and differences. Then, we voted to create a committee of 5 people that will enter into conversation with them about this new possibility. This does not commit us to anything at this moment in time. Ridge Road UCC has also selected a committee of 5 people to be our conversation partners as we consider this new venture. As we begin this conversation, please remember that it is only a conversation. Both congregations will have voices at the table as we explore together what it might look like for us to unite together as one people of God. Please be in prayer as we begin these conversations with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Ridge Road UCC.

As we celebrate and give thanks to God during this season of Thanksgiving, let us remember that we are not alone. God is with us. God's Son, Jesus Christ, loves us. The Holy Spirit guides us. For this, let us raise our hands in praise and give thanks together.

Blessings,
Rev. Nancy

DIACONATE SERVING SCHEDULE

Oct. 20 th	Daniel Vithous
Oct. 27 th	Barb Dawson, Paul Gering
Nov. 3 rd	Daniel Vithous
Nov. 10 th	Barb Dawson, Paul Gering
Nov. 17 th	Daniel Vithous

DEACONESS FOR OCTOBER

Jean Cameron

DEACONESS FOR NOVEMBER

Mary Anne Woodward

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, November 17th**. Articles are due by **Wednesday, November 13th**.

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 October. Once again we will be passing out 85 Thanksgiving Dinners to our food pantry families on **Wednesday, November 20th**. Turkeys will be provided. Items needed this year are canned sweet potatoes (all sizes), bag or boxed stuffing, chicken or turkey broth, chicken or turkey gravy, canned cranberries. We are also accepting donations of \$15.00 to help cover the cost of the 85 Thanksgiving Dinners we are providing.

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.



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.

Elders Meetings - **Sunday, November 3rd at 7pm.**

Hospitality Minister Meeting – **Sunday, November 10th** following the Worship Service.

Board Meeting – **Monday, November 11th at 6:30pm.**



St. Pat's Meal Program is **Thursday, November 14th**. If you can help serve 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 **12:30pm**.

PCC Men's Prayer Breakfast – **Saturday, October 19th at 9am.**



Halloween Coffee Hour – **Sunday, October 27th** following the Worship Service. Coffee, Cider and Donuts will be served.



Trunk or Treat—Sunday, Oct. 27, 3-5 p.m., St. Peter United Church of Christ, 125 E. Ridgewood Dr. Seven Hills

Since 2015, St. Peter UCC has hosted a Trunk or Treat event in its parking lot. Car trunks are decorated and children from the community trick or treat from vehicle to vehicle. This year, Parma Christian Church is invited to participate. Not only are you welcome to bring your children and grandchildren, but you are also welcome to decorate cars and hand out candy. Folks decorating cars are asked to arrive at St. Peter by 2:30 so there is plenty of time to set up your decorations. You can also help by donating candy or volunteering to run a game. If you have any questions please see Rev. Nancy.

ELDERS CORNER

To Be Exceptional

There is much excitement in the air these days here at Parma Christian Church.

God is working! Opportunities abound...

Take heed however, because the road to this "Promised Land" is filled with challenges. Walking in obedience is **never** easy. Walking in faith is **harder still**, and make no mistake about it... **There are giants in the land!**

Here we are, a struggling church considering the union with another struggling church. I'm told that it's a common problem in this day in age. Church attendance in the USA is at an all time low. Attendance is down significantly almost without exception. Everywhere you look, churches are closing and the future for most looks dim. Or so I'm told.

But I do not believe that this end of the story for us. If you look around, you **will** see that there are indeed

churches that are not only surviving, but are in fact thriving. It is my belief that we have a major role to fill in this community and I believe we are being called to fill it! I too believe that God is leading us in this direction and I believe that we **most certainly can be the exception!**

But what does it take to be that exception... What is required of us to be that church that bucks the odds and not only survives, but thrives to fulfill their calling? I've given this topic considerable, prayerful thought and I believe God is telling us that we need to be exceptional if we're going to survive in this current social environment.

Let me say that again:

To be the **exception**, we **MUST** be **exceptional** in all we do!

Colossians 3:23 instructs us:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters".

How especially true is this when we're speaking of the work we do in our service to the body of Christ, the church itself!

We all have gifts, and we all have a job to do, and we're all uniquely equipped by God alone, to deliver this exceptional quality of work. But we first need to show up for duty! We need to strive towards this excellence that only God can enable us to fulfill.

During our latest Elders meeting we took time to recognize that the majority of the work has, of late, been done by a minority of our membership and that in so doing, we've been forced to do work that is beyond our individual skill sets. In so doing, the work has been getting done, but are we exceptional in so doing? We're doing our best but we need you! We need your gifts and we need YOUR special contributions...

Opportunity knocks, and the time is now! Let us join together, as one body, with many parts and let us take hold of this, our unique opportunity to enter our own "Promised Land" while we still can!

Respectfully yours in Christ, Daryll



Upcoming Event: Our Annual all-church Thanksgiving dinner will be held on **Sunday, November 24th**. More details will be coming in the weekly bulletin.

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs; include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships, to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.

The offering envelopes will be in the church bulletins on Sunday, November 17th and November 24th.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PAPER DRIVE!!

Parma Christian Church has a recycle container located in the church parking lot. We are asking you, your family members and friends to save your papers. Items that can be put in the container are: Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, junk mail, office and school papers, hard and soft bound books and cardboard. The cardboard must be flattened before putting it in the bin. Items **NOT** accepted in the recycle container are Styrofoam, metal, glass, trash, any type of plastic, aluminum.

Dear Friends,

Thank-you very much for all the cards, and prayers upon my sister's death. They were a great comfort to me during a very difficult time.

Blessings, Jean Cameron

My Dear PCC Friends,

*I would just like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards and concerns during my husband's recent diagnosis with lung cancer and his surgery. I have said all along you are my prayer warriors. As of today Terry is cancer free and has a 98% survival rate. **PRAISE GOD** and Praise Parma Christian Church. I love you all. Debbie*

PCC OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Breakdown for the month of September:

Current Expense	\$ 5,532.30
World Outreach	\$ 75.00
Restricted Funds	\$ 130.00
Reimbursed Expense	\$ 0.00
Bank Interest	\$ 38.85
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 5,776.15

Bills paid out for the month of September amounted to \$6,309.70.

Keeping in Touch

Hi there! Hope this finds you well and happy and getting accustomed to cooler weather. Our 80-degree days are over for 2019, and now we look forward to crisp autumn days and falling leaves. The local color is intensifying -- the small dogwood tree which stands in front of our kitchen window has been a lovely bronze color for weeks, and is now rapidly shedding all its leaves. Our ginkgo in the backyard turns golden and drops all its leaves within the space of 24 hours! (It hasn't happened yet.)

Lots of wonderful things are happening here at PCC -- hope you've been able to be part of them! Rev. Nancy Dunn continues to preach wonderful sermons each Sunday. Her own particular brand of caring comes out in her prayers and in her children's sermons and in her main sermons as well. She is a busy lady, holding down a fulltime job with the Akron public schools and raising two daughters, as well as helping our church during these critical months. We are very grateful for her!

The church received word recently that Ridge Road United Church of Christ is interested in exploring a possible merge with our congregation, so meetings about that possibility will begin soon. What a great opportunity for PCC, as well as for Ridge Road! I'll keep you posted on the latest developments.

PCC had a wonderful 65th anniversary celebration on September 29! Several former members attended the inspiring worship service, as well as the potluck lunch that followed. Berda Allen played the piano and even managed to get a few hand bells rung! We had 5 "kids" up front for the children's sermon, and even one new member! (I changed my membership from "associate" to full membership, something I should have done a long time ago!) The potluck meal featured pulled pork and chicken lovingly prepared by Julie Green. There were lots of salads, vegetables, and potato dishes. Dessert was one of Madelyn's wonderful cakes, which read "Happy 65th Anniversary, PCC" as well as "Happy Autumn Birthdays," and every bit of it was eaten! There were also some of Fran Sykes' delectable fruit tarts, as well as those filled with chocolate and peanut butter! There were other desserts as well, but right now I can't remember what they were!

Coming up in October will be our Halloween coffee hour on October 27. We will be serving donuts and cider, as well as coffee, of course. We will be

guessing the weight of a large pumpkin, as usual, as well as trying to calculate the number of candies in a glass pumpkin container. Whoever comes closest without exceeding the number will win all the candy! Hope you can be there with us!

After that you're invited to take part on a "trunk-or-treat" afternoon at St. Peter's U.C.C. on East Ridgewood Drive. This is the church of which Rev. Nancy's husband, Rev. Chris Helton, is pastor. We've been collecting candy in our black cauldron in the rear of the sanctuary for a few weeks. The event begins at 3 p.m., and you can decorate your car and pass out candy, or you can bring your grandchildren to visit the cars. Afterward there will be games. If you'd like to help out with any part of the event, please see Rev. Nancy.

After Halloween our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving, of course. Our food pantry plans to pass out 85 turkey dinners on November 20, so we need donations of canned sweet potatoes, gravy, turkey broth, cranberry sauce, etc. If you are inclined to make a monetary donation instead of shopping, the cost of a dinner, including turkey, is \$15.00. (We get a very good price on frozen turkeys from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.) Please make your check payable to PCC, mark it "Thanksgiving dinner," and place it in the regular offering plate before November 17. (We will also need help packing the dinners and passing them out on November 20, the regular pass out day. See Daryll or call Debbie Hannan, our church secretary, as soon as possible if you can help.)

Our annual all-church Thanksgiving dinner will take place after worship on Sunday, November 24. This is always a very big deal -- hope you can be there to join us! More information about the dinner will be available after Halloween. Another upcoming event will be Christmas caroling to PCC shut-ins and seniors on Saturday, December 14. More about this later. Attention, PCC bakers!

We will be grateful for your home baked or purchased cookies and candies, which will be packed here at church on Sunday, December 8, after worship. The carolers will deliver boxes of Christmas goodies as they visit shut-ins, and some will be passed out at the food distribution on December 18. (Wow! Lots of opportunities to help out!)

Please remember to pray for all those in need of prayer, including Joe Marchese, Jim Sipple, Daryll Krivanos, Wanda Vasarhely, and families of several

PCC friends who lost family members recently. These include the families of Scott Paige and George Valla, who passed away recently. Please pray also for the family of Mae Keenan, the grandmother of the wife of our youngest son Brian.

You may remember that I underwent an MRI recently. It showed several herniated discs, which are evidently pressing on nerves, accounting for my acute leg pain I will see a surgeon on October 23 to learn what can be done about this, so once again I ask your prayers.

Remember that our church does have a prayer chain, where PCC members receive a phone call to pray for various intentions. If you are need of prayer, you may call Fran Sykes, Elaine Hlaves, or me. Any one of us can start the prayer chain, and are happy to do so. Whoops, I'm out of room! Till next month, take care and God bless!
 Mary Anne Woodward

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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3 10:45am Worship Service 7pm Elders Meeting	4	5	6 PCC Prayer Time 7am Noon & 6:30pm.	7	8	9																																																																																				
10 10:45am Worship Service Hospitality Ministry Mtg. After the Service	11 Veterans Day Board Meeting - 6:30pm.	12	13 PCC Prayer Time 7am Noon & 6:30pm.	14 4:15pm St. Pat's Meal	15	16 9am Men's Prayer Breakfast Tim Schnell's Birthday																																																																																				
17 10:45am Worship Service Thanksgiving Offering	18	19	20 Food Pantry Distribution 9am.-1pm. Brian Sykes' Birthday	21	22	23																																																																																				
24 10:45am Worship Service PCC Thanksgiving Dinner Thanksgiving Offering	25	26	27 PCC Prayer Time 7am Noon & 6:30pm.	28 Thanksgiving Day Neal & Barb Dawson's Anniversary	29	30																																																																																				
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