



PARMA CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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

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THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

Minister: Rev. Eugene Carey email: eugenecarey1@gmail.com

Sunday School: 9:30 AM.

Worship Service: 10:45 AM.

January 20, 2019

THE CAREY CORNER

We are 3 weeks into a new year. Before you go any further into the year, let me make some suggestions. Take a look at your life and how you want to live it. Remember this:

Life is a **Journey**; I will live it trustingly: “though I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me.” Psalm 23:4

Life is a **Task**; I will live in obediently – “we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” I John 3:22

Life is a **Mission**; I will live it helpfully: “be you kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.” Ephesians 4:32

Life is a **Contest**; I will live it earnestly: “watch ye, stand fast in your faith, be men of courage, be strong.” I Corinthians 16:13

Life is a **Battle**; I will live it courageously: “be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, for the Lord, your God is with you.” Joshua 1:9

As you work your way thru this year, remember, whatever comes, you can make it. Be it good or bad, God is with you and you can make it. Don't quit, don't slack off, don't get discouraged – you can make it. God is with you, His spirit is in you, His word is before you, you can make it!

No words of wisdom come to me that could possibly compare with Goethe's immortal New Year's wish written 2 centuries ago. So in Goethe's words, I wish for you all in the coming year:

Health enough to make work a pleasure,
Wealth enough to support your needs,
Strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them,
Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them,
Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished,
Charity enough to see some good in your neighbor,
Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others,
Faith enough to make real the things of God,
Hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

Because I Love You All,
Pastor Gene

DIACONATE SERVING SCHEDULE

Jan. 20 th	Joe Marchese, Walt Kusen
Jan. 27 th	Kristin Green, Barbara Webb
Feb. 3 rd	Barb Dawson, Paul Gehrig
Feb. 10 th	Daniel Vithous, Kathy DiFranco
Feb. 17 th	Joe Marchese, Walt Kusen

DEACONESS FOR JANUARY

Elaine Hlaves

DEACONESS FOR FEBRUARY

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

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

Bruce Gardner
Pleasantview Nursing Home
7377 Ridge Road
Parma, Ohio 44129
440-845-0200

Our next Caller will be passed out on **Sunday, February 17th**. Articles are due by **Wednesday, February 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 January. For the month of January we are collecting cereal. You can place your items in the barrels in the Sanctuary. Thank You!

Care & Prayer Time

Did you know Parma Christian Church has a 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 Pastor Carey.

Upcoming Event: On **Sunday, January 27th** following the Worship Service we will have a farewell Coffee Hour for Jayne Chafin. Please plan to attend.

Elders Meeting - **Sunday, February 3rd at 7pm.**



Bell Choir Practice – Monday, January 28th, February 4th at 7pm. On Monday, February 11 Bell Practice will begin after the Board Meeting.

Our weekly Bible Study Group will meet on **Monday, January 28th, February 4th at 8pm.** All are welcome.

Choir Practice – **Wednesday, January 30th, February 6th, 13th** at 7pm.

Hospitality Ministry Meeting – **Sunday, February 10th** following the Worship Service.

Worship Department Meeting – **Sunday, February 10th** at 7pm.

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



St. Pat's Meal Program is **Thursday, February 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 **1:00pm**.



FESTIVAL OF HEARTS DINNER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH
SOCIAL HOUR 6:00PM
DINNER 7:00PM
MORE DETAILS ARE COMING!!

ELDERS CORNER

What is the Family of God?

The Bible tells the story of the human family's developing understanding and relationship with God, our Father. It clearly shows God's fatherly love and caring for all of his creation. Much like the maturing of a child, his people's understanding of their Father, God changed over time. What is clear is that God unconditionally loves *all* of his people -- always did and always will.

So, if God equally loves all of us, why can't we learn to love and celebrate one another? Why do we develop theologies and nationalism that separates us, smug in the idea that God really likes what we believe and do - that God "likes us best." Is this like "sibling rivalry?"

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, retired director of religion at the Chautauqua Institution, developed the "Abrahamic Initiative." Followers of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity worship the *same* God -- the God of Abraham. If we worship the same God, what prevents us from accepting and loving each other as valued members of God's family?

There are too many divisions among the Christian family -- those who are committed to following the example of God's son, Jesus. Christians tend to "cherry pick" parts of the Bible to justify their many divisions. Does God only accept men as qualified to lead His church, or are the gifts of all people -- men *and* woman -- important?

When Jesus shared the bread and cup at "the last supper," saying "do this in remembrance of me," what did he mean? Should His church decide who is worthy and how often should they celebrate Holy Communion, or is it a celebration for all of His people? Do we take communion because we have been good or because we are all sinners and *need* it to bring us closer to God?

Do we select the *real* children of God based on the color of their skin, language, sexual orientation, following the correct faith, etc. etc.? Or do we regard our many blessings as gifts from our Father, to be shared with those in need? Do we decide "who God hates," and try to gain His favor by "hating" them also? Is national prosperity God's gift to be used wisely, or proof that God really loves us best?

The fastest growing "denomination" in our country, if not the world, are the "nones" -- those who do not claim any religious affiliation. Sometimes this is an unwillingness to share their time, talents, etc. with a church to further God's kingdom. But sometimes it is a rejection of the many apparent divisions and inconsistencies in the church.

God is love. Our church family is built on love. Please come home!

Elder Dick Woodward

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PAPER DRIVE!! IT PAYS TO RECYCLE!!

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. **So start saving your papers today!**

*Dear PCC Family, A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that attended my Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, January 6th I was so touched by your beautiful cards and generous monetary gifts, you have no idea how much I appreciate it. Special thanks to Dick Woodward for putting together the beautiful collage of pictures that represented my past 25 years here at Parma Christian Church. Special thanks to Mary Anne Woodward for her delicious lasagna and the beautiful vase of flowers, corsage, and to Julie Green for her delicious chicken and noodles, those are two of my favorite dishes. It was a wonderful afternoon, something I will never forget. I love you all so much!! I would also like to thank everyone for your generous Christmas Love Gift.*

Love to all of you. Debbie Hannan

Thank you for the love gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. I am truly touched.

Kim Wainwright

A Note from Jayne Chafin:

Dear Friends, thank you for the gift card I received. Thank you, even more, for the love, friendship, and encouragement I received in my short time here. Without your kind words I would not be entering back into full-time ministry.

I hope God leads me back here one day.

*In Christ,
Jayne Chafin*

*New Address:
503 Palmer Drive
Parkersburg, WV 26104*

PCC OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER 2018

Breakdown for the month of December:

Current Expense	\$ 6,660.03
World Outreach	\$ 917.00
Restricted Funds	\$ 1,255.00
Reimbursed Expense	\$ 100.00
Bank Interest	\$ 55.18
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 8,987.21

Bills paid out for the month of December amounted to \$8,122.42.

Keeping in Touch

Hi there! Hope this finds you well and happy and enjoying the new year so far! Weather forecasters tell us that we're in for the first BIG snowfall of the winter--glad it didn't happen sooner! Lots of snow makes me think of the warm places I've been in the last few years -- Florida, Arizona, the Caribbean, Hawaii! No sense wishing I was there, no chance this year!

Meanwhile, things have been warm and cozy here at PCC! The Christmas season was wonderful, the decorations magical, the fellowship perfect! Right after the holidays (January 6) the church honored our secretary Debbie Hannan with a potluck dinner, cake, card shower, corsage, rose bouquet, and a signed photo collage of some of Debbie's choicest memories of her 25-plus years working here at the church. Oh yes, I should also mention the wonderful food, which included TWO of Debbie's favorites, chicken and noodles and lasagna! A good time was had by all, in spite of Debbie's repeated comment, "This wasn't necessary." Of course it was, Debbie, we can never repay all your many sacrifices and kindnesses.

So now the decorations are put away till December (thanks to all who helped take them down swiftly and neatly), and PCC settles down to its many activities which go on week after week and month after month. Thanks to all of those who make all these activities possible! Our dear Audra Crego and her family are off to spend the winter in North Carolina, so we won't see her smiling face until April. She'll be missed! Hope the weather is good and warm for them!

Many thanks to all those who worked to fix the fellowship hall ceiling after the roof was repaired! The last coat of paint is now in place, and repairs have been made to the boiler room (new lights, newly painted ceiling) so it doesn't look quite so much like a dungeon anymore!

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of our dear Jane Reeder, who left us at age 94 recently. She was a dear, sweet woman who dearly loved singing carols with us when we visited her at the nursing home where she resided. She may not have recognized us, but she knew every word to the carols and greatly appreciated the cookies we brought. Our prayers go out to daughter Amy, her sisters, and the rest of her family.

Several PCC folk have been under the weather lately. Jim Sipple was hospitalized due to liver issues recently, but is now at home. Hurry back, Jim, we miss your smiling face and your harmonica! Wanda Vasarhely sends her love to everyone at PCC--she is pretty much homebound due to health issues. Barb Webb's eye issues are all resolved now, hope to see her back at PCC one of these days.

On January 20 we will be meeting after worship to discuss new ideas and directions for PCC in the coming year. Hope you're able to join us! On the 27th we will have a farewell coffee hour honoring our dear Jayne Chafin, who has accepted an interim position serving Christian Churches in Marietta, Ohio and Parkersburg, West Virginia (right across the Ohio River from each other!). We will really miss Jayne, who has been such a great friend and has done so much for our church in the two years she has been with us. God bless you, Jayne, in your future ministry! (Hope all of you can attend the coffee hour.)

Some upcoming events you may want to note on your calendar: the Festival of Hearts will take place on Saturday, February 16 this year. Chef Vince DiFranco will be cooking, and the group who entertained us last year, "Side by Side," will be back. More info and ticket prices will be announced shortly. Ash Wednesday is March 6, more info about Lent will be coming up. Since March 31 is a 5th Sunday, we will have our annual Soup-and-Pie luncheon on that day in place of a regular potluck. All good cooks, get your best recipes ready! On Thursday April 18 we will hold our 4th annual Seder meal. Easter this year is on April 21. That's all the dates I have for now!

So there is much to look forward to! Hope to see you at ALL these events! Till next time, take care and God bless!

Mary Anne Woodward