



Tidings

June 2022

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 4:

Men's Square @ 9 AM (Pappou's Restaurant)

Sunday, June 5—Pentecost:

Worship/Communion @ 10 AM
Wear Red

Monday, June 6:

Church School (Zoom) @ 7 PM

Sunday, June 12:

Worship @ 10 AM

Monday, June 13:

Church School (Zoom) @ 7 PM

Sunday, June 19—Father's Day:

Worship @ 10 AM

Monday, June 20:

Church School (Zoom) @ 7 PM

Tuesday, June 21:

Esther Circle @ 10 AM

Wednesday, June 22:

Session @ 7 PM (Zoom)

Thursday, June 23:

Tidings Deadline

Sunday, June 26:

Worship @ 10 AM

Sunday, July 3:

Worship @ 10 AM

Current COVID Guidelines: The wearing of face masks is now optional. Social Distancing will continue when seated. If you feel ill or unable to attend, please join us for online worship at www.parma-south.org



By popular request we are bringing back summer outdoor worship. These services will occur **on the third Sunday:** June 19, July 17, August 21 & September 18. The services will begin at our normal 10 AM time, weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair, and Bible. As always, please sit at a safe distance.



Happy Father's Day to all men - of all ages.

If you have ever given an approval or some advice, if you have ever coached a sports team or gone with someone to a game or event, if you have ever cared for someone's needs or acted as a mentor, this day is for you! Be blessed as you are a blessing!



One of my passions is helping those who are grieving. Sounds like something you'd like to hear more about, right? No? Well, if you keep reading you might learn something that could come in handy – today, tomorrow, or even for someone else, Let me share some of my grief journey:

Everyone has a personal story about grief. My journey with grief has impacted me professionally and personally. As a senior in high school, I dated the captain of the basketball team. Before his final high school season began, Jim, along with his brother and mother, were killed in a car accident. Knowing nothing about the journey of grief, I literally staggered along for many months with the help and support of family and friends.

Even years later, after I was ordained as a pastor, I still felt the challenge and the impact of the grief. My mind said that I needed to be strong and stalwart. But my heart broke with the memories of each of my losses. There were times that I thought I was dealing with my grief and there were times that I tucked it safely away, ignoring the hole it left. I faced many days that were shrouded in darkness. Hindsight tells me that I did not do well in seeking healing and restoration; of finding peace and hope; of affirming God's grace and God's love.

I was afraid to claim my grief. I believed that pastors were to be an example of faith even as I cried inwardly, "Help my unbelief. (Mark9:24)" I was frightened that I would fall apart and not be able to bring the pieces back together. I feared that I was too broken to be fixed.



Grief caught me off guard when, in 1996, I moved from New Jersey to serve as Associate Pastor of a congregation in Ohio. Though I felt called to this church, I struggled for months with what I classified as "homesickness." I spent many tearful afternoons baffled by my inner turmoil. I was torn between loving the call to ministry and hating the loneliness of being without family. Eventually I moved back to New Jersey and that grief dissolved into the far reaches of my memory.

But grief returned. In 2001, my mother, a twenty-three year breast cancer survivor, succumbed to the disease. Year after year she had beaten the odds, enduring radiation and chemotherapy. When she finally breathed her last, I wasn't ready for her to die. I wanted more time with her. I wanted my Mom. Again, I faced a roller coaster ride of emotions as I mourned my loss.

Two days before the one year anniversary of Mother's death, Dad was diagnosed with colon cancer. Fourteen months later, my father was dead. My pain was raw; my heart was broken.

Then in 2005 my spouse of thirty years filed for divorce. My grief exploded; the pain paralyzed me. I fell into a pit of despair and loneliness and I thought no one could understand what I was feeling or thinking. I had doubts about continuing in ministry. I had misgivings about God's love and God's grace. I found no peace and no hope.

Though I continued serving as pastor, my sermons were dark and my prayers seemed empty. I met with a therapist and a spiritual director yet something was missing. As I look back on my despair, I know that I was in the hands of God. My problem was that, at the time, I didn't know it.

Each chapter of my grief journey took me to a dark place. With each loss, I found myself wishing for what had been. I wanted to turn back the hands of time but I knew I could not. But getting to a better place in my emotional state of woe was not easy. I was a believer whose faith had been rocked by the punch of grief.

In my brokenness, I decided to begin a grief support group at the church where I served as pastor. Initially I was going to “teach” the group but after only twenty minutes into the first class I realized that I needed to be part of the group rather than the leader of the group.



When I joined with a company of people who had also experienced loss, I found solace. This community of grieving people supported me even as I supported them. Together we embraced our grief in a constructive way as we shared its burden. What made the difference for me is the unspoken faith we shared and so this group became for me like a “cloud of witnesses” to the risen Christ. My grief was not separate from my faith.

My experience testifies to the power of the Incarnate Christ realized in the gathered community of broken souls. As we laughed and cried, talked and listened, sat in silence and sometimes even prayed, I and others embraced our grief. Without knowing what was happening, the group moved from the darkness of grief to a journey with the Light of the World, Jesus the Christ. We went from feeling hopeless to sensing renewed hope; from seemingly broken hearts to an awareness of the promise of restored wholeness. Healing is a process – the redemptive power of the Risen Lord permeated our beings. This support group embraced both community and faith.

I know that, without even asking, the Incarnate Christ is present and works through the gathered community to comfort and heal those who grieve. That’s why a grief support group is necessary for those who mourn. That’s why a grief support group works for the bereaved. That’s why my passion for helping all who face a significant loss begins in a grief support group.

So, there you have it. I hope that you read until the end and I hope that this is helpful. We all face loss and some losses are significant. Be aware of your grief and find a way to grieve that brings comfort and healing. I have. You can too.

Rev. Debbie

The Rev. Dr. Debra May Cerra, Adapted from A Doctoral Paper submitted to the faculty of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Ministry, Pittsburgh, PA, 2012 entitled GRIEF AND COMMUNITY: THE INCARNATE CHRIST AT WORK THROUGH COMMUNITY TO COMFORT AND HEAL THOSE WHO GRIEVE.

PREACHING

Rev. Dr. Debra May Cerra, GAP Pastor

June 5, 2022 – Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21, “Filled with the Holy Spirit”

June 12, 2022 – Trinity Sunday
Romans 5:1-5, “The Glory of God”

June 19, 2022 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Father’s Day
Galatians 3:23-29, “Faith”

June 26, 2022 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Galatians 5:1, 13-25, “Peanut Butter and Jelly”

July 3, 2022 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Galatians 6:1-16, “Responsibility”



Love INC Golf Outing

Event Details:

June 27, 2022 at 8 am | Pine Hills Golf Club:
433 W. 130th Street, Hinckley, OH 44233

Raffle Details:

Tickets will be available for purchase at the event. Prizes include specialty gift baskets.
Visit Love, Inc. website for full details.

Registration Details:

Cost \$150/person

\$750 Corporate Sponsored Team

Visit Love, Inc. website for more options.

Sponsorship Details:

\$2,500 Event Sponsor

\$250 Hole Sponsor

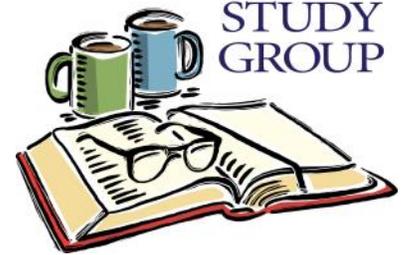
Visit Love, Inc. website for more options.

Love In the Name of Christ of Cuyahoga County
PO Box 31775
Independence, OH 44131
216-456-0302
Email: info@loveinccuy.org
Website: <https://www.loveinccuyahoga.org>



Do you receive solicitations with greeting cards enclosed? If so, the Care Team is looking for them to use in our card ministry. Please place in our mail slot in the work room. (No Christmas cards, please) Thank you!

MEN'S STUDY GROUP



Our next meeting of Men's Square will be **Saturday, June 4**, at 9:00 AM. We will gather for breakfast at Pappou's Restaurant (located on the corner of Snow and Pearl Roads). At our last meeting we decided to finish the group discussion on the book from last year, "Jesus Before Christianity" before the summer break. If you still have your book, we left off at the beginning of Chapter 17. One of the agenda items is to discuss our activities for the coming year.

Any members having suggestions for group projects or anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker.

Mission Committee

Mission Project



Parma-South will participate in a shoe collection sponsored by the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. The collection will last until **Sunday August 14th**. The donated shoes will be sold and the funds will be split between three organizations. One organization uses funds to help support developing countries to fight systemic poverty. Locally, funds will be given to Brigid's Path which helps infants exposed to addictive substances. Funds will be given to RAHAB Ministries which works to counter human trafficking. Please drop off your shoes in the work room. Tie your shoes together with their shoe laces. If they don't have laces, secure them with a rubber band.

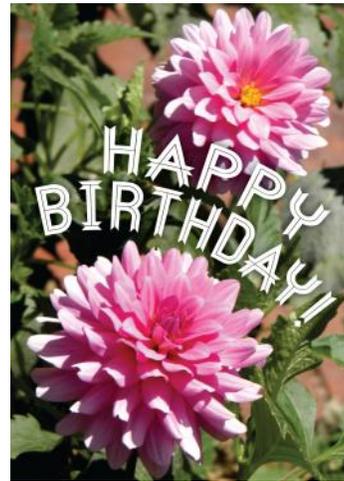
ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING



Tuesday, June 21

Last meeting until September

10 AM in Parlor



Memorial Carillon for June



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

June 6

Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Cubbison
Marilyn Weiss
George H. Hennemuth

June 13

Mr. and Mrs. Frantz Dickerson

June 20

Clinton L. Goode
Al and Lena Weiss, Ed and Greta, Marv and Peg
Gene and Ruth Taano

June 27

Edna N. Galitz
Lois and Merrill Swan
Ferdinand E. and Marie Seegert Boehmer
Dorothy Hennemuth

6/01 Sharon Durcansky
6/01 Michael Fanous
6/01 Kay Thompson
6/02 Dorothy Morse
6/04 Trudy Castor
6/06 Judy Dye
6/07 Susan Rhee
6/08 Claudia Jackson
6/09 Audrey Brandmeier
6/09 Cassie Gavala
6/12 Dick Beck
6/14 Cathy Cubbison
6/17 Keziah Nebasi
6/19 Ken Thompson
6/19 Cynthia Loovis
6/20 Sally Moncol
6/22 Melissa Brown
6/23 Carolyn Morway
6/24 Cal Weiss
6/29 Gina Hansen
6/29 Chris Juengel
6/29 Christine Schwartz





Tidings

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Visit our website: www.parma-south.org

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OFFICE NOTES

- Don't miss out getting the latest copy of Tidings! Have it electronically sent to you. Please call the office during office hours and indicate that you want to receive your monthly Tidings in your email! We are more than happy to accommodate you with this request!
- Please let Sara Ekkens in the office know when your meetings are scheduled so that they can be entered onto the Church Calendar. Equally important is letting us know when you cancel or reschedule meetings.
- Please call the church office to confirm that you and your family have an emergency contact card on file.