



# Tidings

August 2022

## COMING EVENTS

- Sun. July 31—Worship, 10 AM  
(Rev. Blake Severson's first sermon @ P-S)
- Sun. Aug. 7—Worship, 10 AM
- Sun. Aug. 14—Worship, 10 AM
- Thurs. Aug. 18—Tidings article deadline
- Sun. Aug. 21— OUTDOOR Worship, 10 AM
- Sun. Aug. 28—Worship, 10 AM



**Rev. Blake Severson**

Please welcome Rev. Blake Severson, our new Transitional Pastor, who started at P-S on July 18th. A big WELCOME to Rev. Severson, his wife Megan and their two young daughters!

## *The Best Part About the End of One Trip...*

To the members and friends of Parma-South Presbyterian Church,

Greetings from your new Interim/Transitional Pastor. My Name is Rev. Blake Severson. I have the joy of writing this article/letter to you today. It's been a while since I introduced myself like this, so please forgive any rust collected over the years.

I am so excited to begin the next phase of my ministry in your midst as you begin a new phase in your ministry. As I thought about what to say in this first article for the Tidings, I considered some of the great hikes and trips I have taken in my life.

The first to come to mind was the glacier crossing I did last summer in the Wrangell St. Elias National Park in Alaska. It was a trip I had planned for and dreamed about for years. I trained for it. I studied glacier navigation and safety. I prepared my mind and body for months, if not years, to ensure I could reach my goal. I did it!



(continued from p. 1)

The picture above is me at the base of Mt. Donahoe in Eastern Alaska with the Root Glacier and Icefall in the distance. Though we still had the journey back across the glacier, all I could think of was the joy of achieving this goal that had been at the front of my mind for so long.

In the end, though, the best part of this day was not finishing the trek safely, though it was undoubtedly an essential high point. The best part of this trip was the opportunity to begin dreaming about the next one... ...the one where we camp at the spot at which I am standing in the picture above and tackle the MASSIVE Mt. Donahoe directly behind me. Or the chance to take my daughters Ada and Sigrid on this hike when they are old enough to do so. Or the chance to explore the wonders of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and the opportunities for deep and meaningful ministry at Parma-South after leaving a congregation which my family and I truly cherished but knew was no longer the place God wanted us to be.

The best part about ending one trip is the chance to plan and prepare for the next one. The best part of one thing ending are the wonders that God will put before us in the days, weeks, months, and years to come. I look forward to serving alongside you and helping Parma-South to dream about what new story God will tell in your midst, now that the previous chapter has ended.

### Thank you from the Seversons!

On behalf of the Severson Family (Megan, Ada, Sigrid, Tillman the dog, and myself), I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the members, friends and staff of Parma-South Presbyterian Church for the tremendous welcome we have received in our first week in the area. From the amazing team of folks who helped us empty the moving truck (an act worthy of sainthood in my book) to the cookies from the Care Team and the emails extending welcome and prayers, we could not feel more welcome than we have. Thank you! We look forward to walking in Christian fellowship with you all as we work together to glorify God, build God's kingdom together and discern the future of Parma-South Presbyterian Church.



## CARE TEAM

**Members needed!** Our Care Team would like to add a few new members. The goal of our group is to bring cheer by a monthly visit, call or sending a card to those in our congregation who are homebound. If you feel called to join our team or have any questions, contact Norma Fink at 216-319-5547.

\* \* \* \* \*

An electric wheelchair, originally donated by Jack Elliot's family, had been gathering dust at the back of the church. Our Care Team paid for a new battery to make it functional again. It was then donated to the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. They were very appreciative and were sure it would be put to use immediately.



As seen in our church Mission Garden: A memory of Frank Kuhn, who was so involved with the garden.

New address for Ginny Swift:

Danbury Senior Living  
9500 Broadview Rd #268  
Broadview Hts, Ohio 44147  
PHONE: 440-587-6278



As part of the process for our Search and Call of our permanent pastor, we will be asking each of you to complete a church survey. More details to follow, but wanted our members to be aware and look forward to the survey that will be coming later this summer. Your voice is important as we determine what are the hopes and needs of Parma-South and the community in which we live. This information is essential as we discern the best pastoral leadership for Parma-South in this time of our church life.



## SHOES, SHOES, SHOES

The Presbytery of the Western Reserve is holding a shoe drive. Now is the time to clean out your closets and donate pairs of shoes that are in good condition but are no longer being worn. Tie the pairs together, bring them to church, and place them in the container in the Narthex. This drive will end in August.



# Outdoor Worship Service 10:00AM

By popular request, we are bringing back summer outdoor worship. These services will occur on the third Sunday of the month:

August 21  
September 18

The services will begin at our normal 10 AM time on our front lawn, weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair and Bible. As always, please sit at a safe distance from others.



Hello & Happy Summer! Our Zoom Monday evening sessions are scheduled to resume on August 1. We're kicking around ideas for the fall, hoping that we will return to our church classroom on Sunday mornings. When we come up with the final plan, we will update you.



## Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We would like to open up our church nursery soon. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer on Sunday mornings, please contact me at 440-237-2782 or my cell 440-773-2993. It's a 2-person operation. We are also exploring the possibility of hiring a staff person for the second person.

Sending you warm summer thoughts and prayers!

-Lisa Profio



## MUSICIANS NEEDED!

During the summer our worship is enhanced with guest musicians. We love to hear others that we know and who are new to us, share their God given gifts. Do you know someone that plays an instrument or sings? If you do, please share their name with Gwen Beyer (440) 886-4152 (gwenbey@aol.com) and maybe we can invite them to join us this summer.

## OFFICE NOTES

- Please call the office to request that you receive your monthly Tidings newsletter via email. We would love 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.



Articles for our monthly Tidings newsletter are due the day after the regularly scheduled monthly Session meeting. Therefore, please note: Articles for the September Tidings will be due **no later than Thursday, Aug. 18.**



## BUILDING ACCESS

The outer doors of the church including the one to the office area will only be accessible during office hours. If anyone is in need of access to the building at other times, please request a swipe card from the office staff.

## MEN'S SQUARE

The Men's Square group will not meet during the summer.

## ESTHER CIRCLE

Esther Circle will not meet during the summer.

# Ukraine Crisis Response

**6.8 million**

Ukrainians have fled the country as [refugees](#)

**7.1 million**

Ukrainians are internally displaced

**15.7 million**

Ukrainians are in need of food, livelihood assistance, and other aid

God calls us to go into crisis areas to help those who are most vulnerable. As the conflict continues in Ukraine, our **international disaster response teams have come alongside local churches to help people in Jesus' Name. We want people to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them.**

## Current Activities in Eastern Europe



**Medical Care:** Our 24-bed emergency field hospital in [Lviv](#) is providing trauma care and maternity services. The facility has an intensive care unit, emergency room (up to 100 patients per day), and an operating room (up to 10 surgeries per day).

Two clinics and a mobile medical unit in [Lviv](#) are providing basic outpatient services for displaced Ukrainians and stabilizing those with more serious wounds for referral to hospitals. A third emergency clinic is set up in southern Ukraine, and a fourth clinic is operating in central Ukraine.



**Supplying Ukrainian Hospitals:** Pharmaceuticals, bandages, and other critical supplies are desperately needed by Ukrainian medical facilities. We are sending medical supplies each week as part of our ongoing airlifts to meet these needs.



**Aid Distributions:** In Moldova and Ukraine, we are empowering our church partners to shelter and assist their neighbors by distributing food, blankets, clothing, solar lights, hygiene kits, and other aid. We've also significantly increased the scale of our food distributions to meet the immediate need of hungry families.



**Providing Access to Clean Water:** In Ukraine, we have deployed four community water filtration systems, each equipped with desalination components to treat brackish water. These systems provide over 20,000 liters of clean water per day on average.



**Emotional and Trauma Support:** In Moldova, we are providing emotional and trauma support training for church leaders so they can better serve the spiritual and psychological needs of Ukrainian refugees.

## Accomplishments to Date\*

Hygiene Kits	Solar Lights	Blankets	Clean Water (liters)	Food Rations (metric tons**)	Outpatient Consultations	Surgeries Performed	Total People Reached
66,808	10,454	10,691	477,145	5,429	16,432	138	1,460,218

\*Not all data is represented; data is preliminary and subject to change

\*\*For each metric ton, approximately 100 people receive a 10-day supply of food.



# Tidings

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Visit our website: [www.parma-south.org](http://www.parma-south.org)

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## MEMORIAL CARILLON

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

### August 7

Maud C. Dexter  
Lydia Boehmer Zurfleh  
Marilyn Weiss

### August 14

LaVerne Mackert

### August 21

Ferd Heise  
Merril Swan

### August 28

Mr. and Mrs. Earl C. Gibbs  
Al and Lena Weiss  
Ed and Greta, Marv and Peg and  
Gene and Ruth Taano



- 8/1 Margie Miller
- 8/2 Luisa Hung
- 8/3 Paige Schwartz
- 8/3 Amanda Stapf
- 8/3 Trevor Stapf
- 8/9 Craig Smith
- 8/11 Ken Diedrich
- 8/15 Audrey Adanitsch
- 8/15 Mary Lou Wright
- 8/15 Kaitlin Zietlow
- 8/16 Bob Miller
- 8/17 Elaine Decker
- 8/17 Linda Fanous
- 8/17 Barbara Karse
- 8/18 Mary Diedrich
- 8/22 Sharon Gavala
- 8/22 Katherine Schwab
- 8/24 Johanna Glover
- 8/24 Jeri Tahsler
- 8/26 Jan Colbert
- 8/26 Judy Grigas Aungst
- 8/26 Amy Schwartz
- 8/27 Joseph Ferencz
- 8/27 Eric Juengel
- 8/28 Kathleen Rice
- 8/31 Maxwell Sinko