



Tidings

September 2022

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 4—Worship, 10 AM

Saturday, Sept. 11—Men's Square,
11 AM @ Pappou's Restaurant
(Snow and Pearl Road).

Sunday, Sept. 11—Worship, 10 AM

Saturday, Sept. 17—Coffee with "The
Word", 11 AM

Sunday, Sept. 18— OUTDOOR Worship,
10 AM
(Picnic following Worship Service)

Tuesday, Sept. 20—Esther Circle
@ 10 AM

Thursday, Sept. 22—Session Meeting

Friday, Sept. 23—Tidings article
deadline

Sunday, Sept. 25—Worship, 10 AM

WELCOME REV. BLAKE SEVERSON!





FROM THE PASTOR

One Christmas, I went with my mom and stepdad to his family gathering. A Sacia family tradition was a poker game using coins they saved up throughout the year. I had JUST learned what Texas Hold Em was and knew just enough to think I wanted to play.

David bankrolled me and set me loose to have some fun. My new relatives were all experienced poker players. They knew when to hold 'em. They knew when to fold 'em. Even when to walk away and when to run. I, however, did not. I am confident you can see how this story ends. I walked away with everyone's money. Beginner's luck had struck again. We have all encountered it at some point, but what is it?

I think of the times I have been on the receiving end of Beginner's luck. I once played a game I knew intimately with friends and someone who had never touched it. He used strategies no seasoned player would have ever imagined using. He approached the rules with a different view of what was possible than those of us who have played the game dozens of times. He dominated us. Our well-worn strategies were useless against his seemingly random and foolish play.

What I see in common with the beginners in these two stories is that neither carried the burden of long-established habits or traditional tactics of play. I stayed in almost every hand to see if I could get lucky. My newbie friend just wanted to see if the things he tried would work or not. We were free from the encumbrance of "how it is supposed to be played" and just took things as they came. We could see the games free from preconception and prejudice about what should or would happen. In many ways, I think this is the essence of Beginner's Luck. It is not a special blessing of fortune, at least not entirely, but an openness to try and risk that often pays off because the people you are playing against are unwilling to do the same. Being a beginner means being free from the dreaded mantra of Church Folk everywhere "We have never done it that way before."

Whether we like it or not, churches are starting over in some significant ways coming out of the COVID pandemic. The momentum that was going strong in March of 2020 stalled out. Ministries that were growing went dormant. In Parma-South's case, on top of all these other challenges, there was a change in pastoral leadership. That's the bad news. But here is the Good News. There isn't a single church that is immune from these issues.



None of us have ever emerged from a pandemic shutdown before. None of us have tried to rekindle ministries after doing the responsible and loving thing for our communities and shutting our physical doors for over a year.

Many churches experienced pastoral changes during the stress and difficulty of the last few years. We are all beginners again, and that is an enormous gift. We can be free from what has happened before and be open to the possibilities and potential of what is to come.

Consider the early days of the Christian Church. The Disciples had never run the show Without Jesus before. They had never known a "Jesus Movement" without Jesus there. We know what happened. They added thousands to their number daily because they remained open to the Spirit's leading. They planted churches across the Roman world in a matter of decades, eventually leading to Christianity being the predominant religion in the world. I contend this happened not because they knew what to do but because they did not.

They had to trust God and lean on the Holy Spirit expressly because they didn't know what to do. They also changed their minds about what they needed to be doing. A trait not often seen in the "deeply experienced."

Friends, we have hundreds of years of cumulative experience on how the church used to be gathered in our pews each week. That will serve us well in keeping us grounded in the faith and holding to what truly matters. However, we also need to celebrate that we do not have any experience trying to be the church in this new world in which we now live. May that lack of experience lead us to ask novel questions instead of relying on old answers. May that lack of know-how open our hearts and minds to the opportunity that taking risks can offer. May it be our Beginner's Luck as we start anew.

Rev. Blake Steverson

CHURCH PICNIC - September 18th

All are invited to join us for a picnic on our front lawn after Worship Services on September 18th. That Sunday is the last outdoor service scheduled for this year. Box lunches, drinks, and ice cream will be provided. For planning purposes and to ensure sufficient food is available, please contact the church office (440-885-2652) no later than Monday September 12th regarding your attendance.

Join us for a great time of Fellowship!!



Congregation Survey— Coming in October

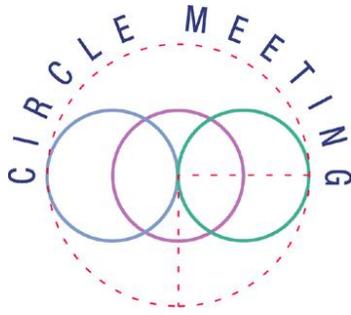


October 2nd is the kickoff for an important Congregational Survey! We are entering the second phase in the process of extending a call to our permanent pastor for Parma-South. This second phase is the completing of a Mission Study that provides an understanding of the nature of Parma-South and our unique mission, This is essential before a search for a permanent pastor can begin.

The Session has appointed a Mission Study team that includes Bob Schomer, Norma Fink, Sandy Kardamis, and Sarah Rodriguez. We are asking your help as we seek to discern a path forward for Parma-South.

At the beginning of October, each of you will be receiving a survey asking a number of questions about your church life. This survey will help us discern our priorities and our vision as a congregation. Your voice is critical! If enough people are involved, it will increase the likelihood that the pastor who is called will be able to lead us where we believe God is calling us to go.

In the coming weeks we will be discussing in detail how the survey will be received by each of you. For now, please mark your calendars for the beginning of October!



Esther Circle will resume meetings **on Tuesday Sept. 20 at 10:00 am**, meeting in the Church Parlor.

The topic for this year's study is **Sabbath**. We will look at it's meaning, importance and ways we celebrate this day. All women are invited to come for a time of study and fellowship.



With Fall approaching, we are working on reopening our Nursery and Sunday School class. A few updates: Very soon we will be looking for staff to be hired Sundays for the Nursery. We are also trying to figure out new ways for the reopening of our Sunday School classroom. One of our ideas was to have a group of volunteers rotate Sundays, so they would possibly just commit to one Sunday a month (like we did in the Nursery in the past) The commitment would only be once a month. We are open to ideas and suggestions.

A couple of important upcoming dates:

Sunday, September 18th, Church Picnic

-We will be planning some fun kid activities

Sunday, October 30th, Trunk or Treat

-We will be hosting this event at the church

Please pray for us as we move forward and please give some consideration to joining us!

Thanks!
Lisa Profio
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COFFEE WITH "THE WORD"



Please join us on **Saturday, September 17 at 11 AM** in the church Dining Room for *Coffee with "The Word"*, for Christian fellowship and luncheon to follow.

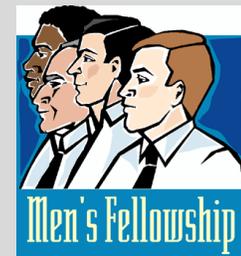
Speaker: Fran Marvel
Topic: Revisiting Paul & Friends

Family and friends are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, contact Fran Marvel or call the church office. Hope to see you then.



Articles for our monthly Tidings newsletter are due the day after the regularly scheduled monthly Session meeting.

Therefore, please note: Articles for the October Tidings will be due **no later than Friday, September 23.**



The next meeting of **Men's Square** will be **Saturday, September 10, at 9:00 AM**. We plan to gather as usual for breakfast at Pappou's Restaurant located on the corner of Snow and Pearl Road.

At our last meeting, we decided that we should discuss the agenda and activities for continuing the group going forward. At this meeting we will review some of the possible Christian faith study/review resources we can use for these activities (for example: Upper Room). Please bring along any specific recommendations you may have. Anyone needing more information, please contact Ed Walker. Hope to see you there.



Parma-South has a continuing partnership with **Love In The Name of Christ**. Below are some examples of how our monetary support is used by Love INC to help those in need.

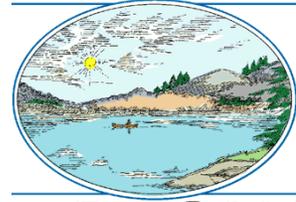
From their Executive Director:

Parma South Presbyterian referred JG to us because they heard from Parma Academy that she had suffered a house fire. Immanuel AOG stepped in to help the client because of their relationship to the school. JG needed some household items as well as a mattress and sheets for her children. Love INC bought a brand-new mattress for JG's 7-year-old daughter (\$324). Immanuel AOG provided brand new pots and pans, and all new bed sheets for JG, and her daughter and son. JG called to thank us saying: *"I received everything, and I am grateful beyond words. Thank you very much. I really appreciate all you guys did—it was so helpful!"*

TS had been struggling financially for many months to catch up. She had been working at a hospital and felt very pushed out while she had to miss work taking care of her sons when they contracted Covid-19. She ended up resigning and looking for new work. She was also a student, and caring for her mother who was ill. TS had become 4 months behind on her rent as well as was now having car trouble. We helped get her car into Conrad's and they repaired her car with no cost directly to her. TS was overjoyed for our help with her car and was not even expecting any more help with her rent. Because of a generous church member, we were able to give TS \$1000 towards her rent. (Love INC gave \$250 and \$250 from the Community West Foundation Grant, and a church member gave \$500 to help TS with her rent). When we let TS know of the rent help, she cried and thanked Love INC, as well as praised God for the blessing. TS was incredibly grateful!



IN LOVING



MEMORY

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

September 4

Wilbur P. Henninger
Marilyn Weiss

September 11

Howard Ziel

September 18

Paul R. and Phyllis Hoobler

September 25

Arthur Thiele



- 9/01 Ellen Snyder
- 9/10 Don Sinko
- 9/11 Logan Diedrich
- 9/11 Linda Topor
- 9/12 Anna Graham
- 9/16 Emma Diedrich
- 9/23 Allie Coleman
- 9/23 Sharon Bible
- 9/24 Greg Sinko
- 9/27 Brandon Smith
- 9/29 Arline Ferencz



Tidings

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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.