

Rev. Dr. Debra May Cerra, GAP Pastor of Parma-South Presbyterian Church since December 2021, was ordained in June of 1996 by Newton Presbytery as Hospice Chaplain for Center of Hope Hospice, in Newton, NJ. Since then, she served as Associate Pastor in Poland, OH and Ambler, PA and retired in 2017 from Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverton, NJ, where she served for 14 years as Pastor/Head of Staff.

Debbie (as she likes to be called) received her doctorate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Her cohort was Spiritual Formation and her focus was on grief and the grieving. Debbie has experience with ecumenical relationships, Habitat for Humanity, Administrative Commissions, and served as Moderator, Moderator-Elect and General Assembly Commissioner of the PCUSA. She is a certified Grief Coach and has a certificate in Contemplative Practices.

After retirement, Debbie moved to Ohio and returned to Poland Presbyterian Church as Parish Associate where she offered pastoral care, worked with the Board of Deacons and led a Grief Support Group. A move closer to her family led her to the position of Parish Associate and then GAP Pastor of Parma-South Presbyterian Church.

Before ordained ministry, Debbie was a high school Industrial Arts Teacher, teaching all levels of Drafting, Graphic Arts, and Woodshop. Debbie strives to live out her ordination vows to serve the Lord and God's people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.