

SILENT MEDITATION

“You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.”
Desmond Tutu

GREETINGS AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign Attendance Pad)

PRELUDE *Toccata* G. Enescu

CALL TO WORSHIP Carol Werner

Leader: Let us celebrate! We are members of God's family!

People: We are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Leader: We were slaves -- slaves to sin and slaves to the law.

People: But now we are baptized in Christ.

Leader: We who were far from God have now been brought near.

People: We who did not know God are now embraced by God's love.

Leader: It no longer matters if we are male or female, rich or poor.

People: In Christ we are all children, all heirs to God's extravagant grace.

Leader: God withholds nothing from us, his heirs.

People: God blesses us with every spiritual blessing.

Leader: The Lord lavishes us with his presence and grants us wisdom and understanding.

People: The Lord forgives our sin and bestows his peace upon us.

Leader: God gives us the Spirit.

People: We call God, "Dad" and Jesus, "brother."

Leader: It is a family celebration!

People: Let us rejoice and give thanks. We are the children of God!!

+*HYMN #134 *Joy to the World*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

+*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, all things are yours. You experience no shortages, no scarcity, no lack or deficiency, and you share your wealth with us. You are generous always, unrestrained in the outpouring of your grace. Your mercy is unending. Your love is relentless. Your compassion is unbounded. You reveal your truth to us. You imprint us with your image. You illumine our lives with the light of your presence. We are as rich as kings, yet far too often we live

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nursery: Please note that there will be no nursery care for this morning's service.

2018 Pledge Envelopes: The 2018 contribution envelopes have been placed on a table in the Library and are available for pick up. If you would like envelopes and do not see a box with your name on it, please contact Jan Fritzsche at 440-885-2652 between the hours of 1:00-5:00 any weekday except Thursday. She will be glad to prepare one for you.

2017 PLEDGES: All gifts and pledge payments received in the office by noon on December 29th, or anything mailed and postmarked by December 31st will be credited to your 2017 giving statement. For many good reasons, you may not have completed your 2017 pledge payments by the end of the 2017 calendar year. If you find you are still able to complete your pledge, we ask that you do so early in the year 2018. If you identify your gifts as 2017 pledge payments, they will appear on your 2018 giving statement as last year's pledge and will not be applied to your 2018 pledge amount.

Cub Scout Pack 263 presents "A Night in Italy"

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Saturday January 13, 2018 5-8pm, Parma South Gym. Tickets will be available in the office for any parishioners who would like to attend the dinner. Adults \$12.00, Kids \$6.00, children 3 and under free.

2018 Annual Meeting: After January 1st the push will begin for compiling the Annual Report to be presented at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 25th. Please don't wait until the last minute to get reports written and into the office. **Reports are due January 29th.**

Vacation: Jan Fritzsche will be on vacation until Monday, January 8th.

Welcome: Please welcome our new Office Administrator, Karen Hildreth. Karen will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Her email address is: officeadmin@parma-south.org. Please stop in and introduce yourself to her!

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Sunday, December 31
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Monday, January 1 New Year's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2
8:30 AM – Men's Bowling – Rollhouse Parma
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts - Gym

Wednesday, January 3
9:30AM – Senior Exercise Class – Library
10:30 AM – Al-Anon – MPR
3:00 PM – Life Group – Parlor

Thursday, January 4
8:30 AM – Men's Bowling – Rollhouse Parma
6:00 PM – Carillon Choir – Bell Room
7:00 PM – Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Saturday, January 6
9:00 AM – Men's Square – Pappou's Restaurant

Sunday, January 7 – Communion Sunday
10:00 AM – Worship Service

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Homeless Stand Down: Saturday, January 20th is the 2018 Homeless Stand Down. For the past two years Parma-South has sent volunteers to welcome and register the guests. We are putting a team together once again. If you are interested please see Susan Rhee for the details. Our Mission Committee also gives \$1,000 for boots, a large need during the winter months.

as paupers. Embolden us to grow into the sons and daughters you have created us to be, by the power of your Spirit who resides within us. For the sake of Christ and his kingdom we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering Sentence

Offertory *Angel Carols* arr. E.J. Schwarz

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4:1-9 N.T. page 189

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Family Ties"

*HYMN #144 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You #104

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day.
When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* arr. E.J. Schwarz

The Memorial Carillon is played this week in memory of
Ferd Heise

Chancel Flowers are placed in Loving Memory of
Michael Campbell by Jim and Sue Campbell

"FAMILY TIES"

December 31, 2017 Galatians 3:28-4:11

Life Group Study Guide

Notes from Worship Service

1. I believe it has become increasingly more difficult to define adulthood. How do you know when you're an adult?
2. Being an adult Christian has little to do with how old one is. It has more to do with maturity, which isn't always easy to see.
3. A mature faith is measured by our ability to love and include a diverse people in our circle of fellowship.
4. There is no way of getting around this, but if we desire to mature in our faith then we have to walk by faith.
5. Paul is trying to convey to us that a mature faith is one that has intimacy with God. We are never going to get very far in our faith if we keep treating God like a concept instead of a living interacting presence.

Life Group Homework

1. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. When did you first think of yourself as an adult?
3. List some adult things you would rather not do. Explain.

Read Galatians 3:28-4:11

4. How does verse 28 impact the life of the church?
5. What indicates that you are growing in faith?
6. How is God challenging to step out in faith at the moment?

Life Practice: What spiritual practices are you planning to engage in this year that will help you grow in your faith? Commit to them!

Parma-South Presbyterian Church

Changing lives through Christ



December 31, 2017

2017 Theme Verse

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." – Isaiah 40:31

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*Those who are able, please stand

+Appropriate time for the Ushers to seat latecomers