

Parkside Nazarene Church

23600 Hilliard Blvd
Westlake, Ohio 44145
www.parknaz.org



MAY MESSENGER

Phone: 440-333-3998
Fax: 440-333-3149
Email: dlain1058@gmail.com
Mobile Phone: 740-502-5852

THE ACTS 2 CHURCH

By Pastor Don

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread together in their homes, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47)

As we read the book of Acts, we find an accounting of the happenings of the early church. They were exciting days, filled with adventure, often with danger, but always covered by grace. From its humble beginnings – Jesus and 12 disciples – the church grew to about 120 by the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth. That’s not bad growth for three years; most churches today would long for such growth. When Pentecost came, the church exploded in growth. On Pentecost alone, 3,000 men plus their wives and children became followers of Christ. Miracles happened on a regular basis. People were healed. With dizzying speed, the church soon moved out from its home base of Jerusalem into the surrounding areas. And then when Paul was converted, following his training period, the church spread to the known world.

As Luke shares with us the story of the early days of Christianity, I love it that, from time-to-time, in the middle of recording the many adventures, it’s almost as if Luke said: “wait just a minute. I need to take a picture. I want to remember what things were like.” That’s what we still do today, but with our phones. Luke, instead, had to use words. We find snapshots of what the early church looked like in Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 5:12-16; 8:1-3; and in other places. Each snapshot offered a look at the things that were foundational about the church: how they gathered, what they did when they gathered, how they ministered, how the church began to spread. Luke knew that there were things that needed to be remembered.

Foundational for this dynamic beginning of the New Testament church was their regular practices; how they did “church.” Many of them still went to temple on a regular basis, but these were the things that everyone did as the function of the church:

They met in each other’s homes

They ate together

They talked about the teachings of Jesus

They participated in the Lord’s Supper in a very informal way

They prayed

They experienced the miraculous

Every day they gathered to “praise God and enjoy the favor of all the people”

It’s worth noting that there were no church mortgage payments, no church utilities to pay for, no paint to buy and apply, no toilet paper and paper towels, no sound systems, no pews/chairs, no lawn care bills,..... They simply met in each other’s homes, ate, shared, prayed, encouraged one another, and met one another’s needs – it was church. For over 300 years this was the Church. It was the most explosive time of church growth the Christian Church has ever known. All of that changed around AD 320 when Constantine introduced Christendom and the Institutional Church. I wonder, could it be that in Constantine’s hope to protect the church that he inadvertently harmed it?

As we move further and further into a season of decline in churches around the globe, here’s some question to be prayerfully asked:

- Might there be something about “the way things used to be” – and by that, I mean 2,000 years ago – that today’s church needs to rediscover? And what does that look like?
- Could it be that “getting back to the basics” means getting back to what worked immediately following Pentecost? In what form?
- Could it be that the culture of 2024 is so much like the culture of AD 50 - pre-Christian - that the only way we will reach today’s culture is to do so in the same way it was done in AD 50?

God help us to be the church that we need to be to reach the world we live in today. And God, reveal to us the right methods to be used to fulfill the two primary functions of the church: to disciple those who already know You AND to make new disciples. Amen.

The May Messenger Continued..

SIGNIFICANT MAY DATES:

04-05: Tragedy Into Triumph

05: Communion Sunday



05: Finance Committee Meeting

11: Ladies Brunch



12: Mother's Day

13: Teacher Appreciation Week Begins

19: Church Board Meeting



21: Gals w/Grace

26: Church Election Sunday



27: Memorial Day

MAY APPRECIATION!



May is a month filled with celebration and appreciation at Parkside Preschool & Child Care Center!

Firstly, we are thrilled with our celebration of Moms Breakfast, where we honor and celebrate all the amazing moms in our community. We can't wait to share this delightful morning with each and every one of our Moms and their children.

Next, we have **Staff Appreciation Week** coming up from **May 13th to May 17th**. During this special week, we'll be showing our gratitude to our dedicated staff members for their commitment to our program. We have exciting surprises and recognition from both our parents and the church.

Additionally, Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place this month. These conferences provide a valuable opportunity for our staff to communicate with families about their child's growth and development. We'll be sharing screenings, assessments, and collaborating with parents to set goals for both home and school.

Lastly, we will be **CLOSED on Monday, May 27th** in observance of Memorial Day. If you have any questions, please contact Chery and/or Nancy in the school office.

May Birthdays

Anne Laker	01
Martha Kolpien	13
Harold Kimmey	14
Calvin Laker	20
Mike Kolpien	21
Anita St. John	28

May Anniversaries

Kasey & Ben Kindle 21



TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH



Life is difficult. For some people, life can even be crushing, and there may be times in our lives when we feel like we cannot make it through. LIKE NO ONE HAS BEEN WHERE WE ARE.

THERE IS HOPE. People do break through and turn their tragedies into triumphs with God's help. We want to share some of these stories with you in a special simulcast event.

You will need to register if you would like to view this simulcast. It is being held May 4 & 5. The speakers are: Coach Jim Tressel (from OSU), Pastor Wendell Brown (NCO District Superintendent) and Anne Beiler (founder of Auntie Anne's). Go to: www.tragedyintotriumph.com/pages/2024-simulcast for more information and to register.

LADIES BRUNCH



Ladies - let's have brunch! In honor of Mother's Day, all Parkside ladies are invited to join together for brunch at First Watch in Rocky River (19340 Detroit Rd). We'll meet **Saturday, May 11 at 11 am**. Please RSVP to Nancy Lain by Monday, May 6. Brunch menu options range from \$12-\$15 plus a beverage. Go to: <https://firstwatch.com/menu/> to see the menu. We can make arrangements if you need a ride or want to carpool.

Weekly Services: (services: person & online)

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Go to: www.facebook.com/parknaz/ or

www.youtube.com Parkside Nazarene Church

Life Groups are weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

Go to: <https://parknaz.org/ministry-news/> for details

Looking Ahead: Graduation Recognition is Sunday, June 2!