



THE BLADE/REBECCA BENSON

Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo.

House of Worship Spotlight: Christ Presbyterian Church

THE BLADE

Religious leader(s): the Rev. Ruth Clendenin

Sect: Presbyterian

Neighborhood: Franklin Park

Address: 4225 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo

Service times: 8:30 and 10 a.m. Sundays

Type of service: A traditional style of worship with hymns, organ music, and a choir. The liturgy involves reading of Scripture and prayers of confession, praise, and intercession.

Regular attendance: About 80 worshippers attend each Sunday

Ministries: Christ Presbyterian's Tuesday School serves as a parents' morning out, the pastor leads an adult Bible study, and the church is a location for the GriefShare support group program. The intergenerational Neighbor Nights gathers during the summertime, and the CPC Artists meets monthly for kids' crafts and is open to the wider community. Church volunteers also prepare a hot meal every Monday to serve to the community.

History: The Oak Grove School House at Wildwood Preserve Metropark, originally located on Corey Road, was the first church building for what was then called the Presbyterian Chapel. Charter members began meeting there in 1952 until they built a small chapel at the current location, at the corner of Talmadge and Sylvania, in 1958. They moved into the big sanctuary in 1961, and completed the square facility, enclosing a courtyard, in 1971.

"We've been doing ministry from that corner since 1958," said the Rev. Ruth Clendenin, who grew up attending the

**Pastor Ruth Clendenin.**

church and in May, 2023, became the church's first female head of staff.

What's special about this faith community? "I was gone for about 30 years, out and about doing ministry, and then getting called back to the church that I grew up in — I can truly say that it just feels like home," Pastor Clendenin said. "And I'm not the only one that feels that way. There are a lot of people that if you ask them, 'What is it that's special?' Well, 'It feels like home.'

"This community, they are family. It just is amazing to me, how much this group of folks loves one another," she continued. "Anyone who walks through the doors is going to be welcomed. They might be overwhelmed by the welcome, but they're going to be welcomed."

Are there any upcoming events or projects you're working on? Jennifer Juhasz, director of faith formation, has recently applied for and received two grants: \$1,000 to help make children welcome in worship, which the church will do by installing a changing table in a restroom near the sanctuary, and \$1,000 for intergenerational events, which is still in development.

Website: cpctoledo.org

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