COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to participate in a Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the West Park Interfaith Clergy Alliance, here at West Park UCC. Come and hear thankful voices from all faiths, and join with us for refreshments after the service in Bartter Hall. Some of the refreshments will be provided by the Turkish American Society of Cleveland.

We will collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit Bountiful Basement, a local food pantry managed by Blessed Trinity Catholic Parish.

Come and meet your community neighbors, and give thanks for our blessings and each other!

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”
Learning In God’s House Together

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in shadows but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Prayer Shawl meets November 18th at 2:00 p.m.

YOU’RE INVITED TO A MOVIE RETREAT
NOV. 10-11 at Camp Gideon

Relax, Renew, Reconnect! Join us for the day for only $30. Overnight will be additional cost. Gift Certificates Available. Forms are on the Caring and Sharing table. Thank you to the planning team! Contact Ms. Wendy if you have any questions or concerns.

MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers - Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Robin Jessen or Debbie Miller for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! ALL CHURCH RETREAT AT TEMPELED HILLS, MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 25-27, 2018

FYE ~ Fall Youth Event 2015 ~ Sr. High

Saturday & Sunday, November 18-19 At Pilgrim Hills Camp in Brinkhaven, OH.

Theme is You Gotta BE. . .

God gives EVERY person natural, creative talent. You just need to activate it!

- BE empowered to use your natural leadership gifts to tackle those tough issues that seem impossible.
- BE engaged in a new design process that will unleash your creativity.
- BE effective in leading change in your home, your church, your school and your community.

Cost and Payment: $70 (+$15 for optional t-shirt) Includes lodging, meals

Registration deadline: Register by October 27 with t-shirt order, Nov. 3 without t-shirt

Check-in Begins at 8 am on Saturday. Event ends on Sunday at 11 a.m.

GOD IS ON THE MOVE COLLECTIONS!
ITEMS FOR THE MITTEN LINE: SOCKS, HATS, SCAVES, GLOVES ETC FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS. THE MITTEN LINE WILL GO UP ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
UPCOMING EVENTS!

November 18-19 - FYE
November 18-19 - The Fall Youth Event “BE EMPOWERED” at Pilgrim Hills Camp in Brinkhaven, OH. This will be the last event to be held at Pilgrim Hills. Registration deadline Nov.10, cost $70 + $15 for Tshirt

December 17th - Christmas Pageant and Take It Home Bake Sale!

Jan. 14-15, 2018 MLK Overnighter @ Federated Church Family Life Center

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 10:00 A.M.

We would like our Christmas Pageant to be intergenerational, involving as many of the congregation as possible. If you would like to be one of the actors, please let us know. For all of those who are participating in this year’s West Park’s Christmas Intergenerational Pageant “A Charlie Brown Christmas”, we will be having our practices after worship on the following Sundays. PLEASE If you cannot attend, let us know as a courtesy to the group.

Oct. 29th - Handing out scripts and going over any questions.
Nov. 5th - PRACTICE
Nov. 12th - PRACTICE
Nov. 26th - PRACTICE
Dec. 3rd - COSTUMES
Dec. 10th - DRESS REHERASAL
Dec. 17th - ****PAGEANT****

We will practice every Sunday after Worship about 45 min.- hour.

Acts of Kindness for Christmas

An Alternative Advent Calendar from the beginning of Advent Dec. 3rd to Epiphany to Jan. 6th.

Advent is the perfect time for focusing on the joy of the season, but it can also seem really commercial. We will be starting our Christmas acts of kindness, an alternative for us to try and refocus this time away from receiving to giving. We will be doing HOPE TOTES …. each day you add an item to the tote/bag and say the prayer. We will donate our totes on Jan. 8th 2018.

A great way to help homeless neighbors, Hope Totes are plastic bags filled with essential hygiene products used every day. You probably take them for granted, but to a homeless person toothpaste and a toothbrush, soap and a clean pair of socks can be a huge blessing. For some it can also be the first step off the streets.

THE YOUTH ARE LEADING!!!

A Big Thank you to Olivia Armstrong, Tyler Johnson, Elizabeth Griffin, Faith and Isabelle Armstrong for leading our Youth Sunday, Oct 15th!
It was really a memorable message of Praiseworthy Living with Esther Ngemba.
I’m so proud of them and WPUCC for the support of all the programming we offer.
So many of you made this day possible…
Thanks…. To God
To all the young people,
to their parents, to all the members of the CE board,
to the WPUCC staff: Linda, Chris, & Pastor Jason.

To the support of WPUCC Congregation - We are so Blessed to be a blessing, to these youth and children.
I like to think of the word relationship as a verb! (I am sure my middle-school grammar teacher would not agree!!) Relationship is about doing; it’s about growing; it’s about creating!!

So I talk about relationship a lot. But you know that already. Relationship with God, relationship with the world and relationship with each other – if all these things are in balance, we will truly see the dawn of God’s realm on our earth. I get chill bumps just thinking about the possibilities for our church’s future!! Can I get an Amen!!

We have started to build a stronger relationship with God as a community. We worship our Creator each week together and give thanks to Jesus Christ for the gifts we have in abundance. We have also started to strengthen our relationships with each other. Fellowship is something we do well at WPUCC. We’ve had the chance to get together outside of Sunday worship in events such as the July 4th parade, clothing giveaway, weekly Bible studies and Open Mic Night. The time we spend together is bringing us closer and making us stronger.

This month, we will continue to build relationships. Our primary focus in November will be to start new and strengthen existing partnerships in our world – right here in West Park. One way we are doing this is by providing space for a neighborhood meeting. This is not just for the members of our church, but for the entire community of women, men, and children who call West Park home. This forum is called Neighbor-Up Night and will meet on the second Wednesday of every month starting November 8.

Another way we are building relationships with our world will be visible November 22. On Thanksgiving Eve, our church will host a community service of gratitude, thanksgiving and praise. This service is being coordinated in partnership with Bethany English Lutheran Church, Beth Israel – The West Temple, West Park Baptist Church, 2nd Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, St. Paul AME Church, Blessed Trinity Catholic Parish and the Turkish American Society of Cleveland.

This, my friends, is what relational theology looks like. The partnerships and relationships we are forming are a blessing from God and will serve all of our communities to live out The Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28).

Of course, the most important relationship any of us will ever have in our lives, is the one we have with God. From our own personal experience, we know that the family and friends we have in our lives can sometimes be …. shall we say challenging. But in our love, we work to maintain our relations. In our love, we try to uplift others. And just like some of these more challenging associations, our relationship with God requires work.

When we pray – we are doing that work. When we offer forgiveness – we are doing that work. And when we create a new friendship – we are doing that work.

I am so excited about God has in store for us. I hope you are too!! I look forward to our continued years in ministry together!!

Pastor Jason
WHAT WEST PARK UCC MEANS TO ME

My connection with the United Church of Christ predates my connection to West Park UCC. As many of you know, I am the son of a UCC minister, and I was confirmed in a Congregational church in a small town in Geauga County where my father was the minister for many years. (For those who wonder, being a minister’s kid in a small town is not easy -- let’s just say everybody knows who you are . . . .)

I attended Heidelberg College, which is affiliated with the UCC. While I have visited churches of other denominations, the UCC has been my choice for most of my life. I love that our denomination is other denominations, the UCC has rooted in the history of the United States (we date back to the Pilgrims after all), and that we work for justice here in our neighborhood, in our country and among the nations.

In the late 1990s, I began attending West Park UCC with my family, which included my brother and my parents, who had retired a few years earlier and had moved to Bay Village. We joined West Park UCC in February 1999, and have been attending ever since. Olivia was baptized here; Louisa, Graham, and Olivia were confirmed here, and Janell and I were married in this church.

Over the last eighteen years (can it really be that long?), our family and our church have seen many changes. Personally and collectively, we have gained friends and family members, we have lost loved ones, and we have experienced changes in church personnel. There has been joy and sadness. But our church -- more specifically, you, the members of this church -- have been a constant source of strength and comfort.

As a member of West Park UCC, I have served on various boards and committees, and this church was even brave enough to let me serve as Vice-Moderator and Moderator. In participating in the life of the church through the boards and committees, I became friends with many wonderful people. If I had chosen to simply sit in my pew each Sunday and had not accepted the invitation to serve on a board or committee, I truly would have missed out. (For those of you reading this and considering a position on a board or committee, there is no better way to feel a part of the church. Contact a member of the Nominating Committee and sign up!)

So, what does West Park UCC mean to me? It is where I am accepted, flaws and faults and all. It is where I have never been turned away. It is my home. It is my comfort zone. I am proud to have lived in the West Park neighborhood since 1989, and I am proud that my family and I are members of West Park UCC. Let’s keep sharing our stories and spread the good news.

Lester Armstrong

FALL BONFIRE AT ELMWOOD PARK!

The Board of Growth and Outreach would like to invite all members and friends of West Park United Church of Christ to our Fall Bonfire at Elmwood Cabin located in Elmwood Park, 600 Elmwood Road in Rocky River, Ohio 44116 on Friday November 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM for an evening of fellowship, fun, and games around a cozy fire! Guests are encouraged to bring your favorite appetizers, snacks, or desserts, while hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Those of you who wish to help with the setup and preparation, please arrive at 6:30 PM. Anyone who will need transportation, please contact the church office, Pastor Jason, or Chris Wiesner. Please see below for directions. The Board of Growth and Outreach is excited about this event and hope to see you there for a wonderful evening!

ELMWOOD PARK:
600 Elmwood Road,
Rocky River OH 44116

FROM WEST:
I-90 EAST TO DETROIT RD. EXIT. TURN LEFT OFF OF EXIT RAMP ONTO DETROIT RD. (STAY IN LEFT-HAND LANE)
TURN LEFT ONTO ELMWOOD
TURN LEFT INTO PARK ENTRANCE (DIRECTLY ACROSS MAPLEWOOD DR. WHICH IS ON ON RIGHT-HAND SIDE)
IF YOU MISS ELMWOOD, TURN LEFT AT LIGHT WHICH IS WAGAR RD., THEN LEFT ONTO MAPLEWOOD (TWO STREETS AFTER RAILROAD TRACKS. YOU WILL DRIVE STRAIGHT INTO PARK.)

FROM EAST:
I-90 WEST TO HILLIARD RD. EXIT. TURN RIGHT OFF EXIT RAMP ONTO WESTWAY. TAKE WESTWAY TO WAGAR RD (3RD LIGHT) AND TURN RIGHT. TAKE WAGAR RD. TO MAPLEWOOD (2ND STREET PAST RAILROAD TRACKS). TURN LEFT ONTO MAPLEWOOD AND DRIVE STRAIGHT INTO PARK ENTRANCE.
**IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES**

**Birthdays**

6  Brian DeAnte Furry  
   Faith Armstrong  
   Kenneth Grady  
7  Douglas Roff  
   Michelle Roff  
8  Cheryl Barthelman  
9  Nora Litchney  
11  Louise Gamary  
14  Rosalyn Miranda  
15  Lester Armstrong  
   Joyce Tabata  
16  Kimberly Miller  
   Eric Miranda  
22  Rebecca Jessen  
23  Doug Henderson  
   John Hogan  

26  Jeff Dobransky  
    Janet Gorman  
    Debbie Lamb: (Mrs. Robert Lamb)  
27  Adam Hrehocik  
28  Chris Wiesner  
30  Julie Szabo  
   Judi Wiseman

**Anniversaries**

Kathleen & Joselito Sandoval  
   11-12-1983  
Linda & Rev. Robert Ferro  
   11-12-1988  
Ken & Susan Grady  
   11-14-1970

Dave & Edna Schleich  
   11-20-1954  
Doug & Debbie Miller  
   11-28-1981

**Our Wednesday Bible Study Topics**

Nov 1 -- Genesis 12-13  
Nov 8 -- Genesis 16  
Nov 15 -- Genesis 27  
Nov 22 -- no study, thanksgiving service  
Nov 29 -- Genesis 37

**SAVE THE DATES- December**

2 -- CE Meeting  
3 -- Pastoral Advisory Committee  
10 -- Adult Education Series  
17 -- A Charlie Brown Christmas Pageant,  
   Blue Christmas Service  
24 - Christmas Eve Worship - 7:00 p.m.

**Consecration Sunday is Coming**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay the bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their income.
Thank you for all your support and kind words on the passing of my brother, Jeff Todd, in Colorado. I appreciated your prayers, cards, and words of comfort to me in this difficult time.

Dede Todd

Dear Search Committee,
Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts you presented me during the reception following Jason’s installation. I appreciate you all always thinking of me and making me feel so welcome at WPUC. I look forward to our continued relationship in Christ. Thank you again, Scott O’Con.

Pink Envelope - Strengthen Our Church

For many of us, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are among the most eagerly anticipated times of the year. That’s because with the coming of fall and winter, God’s beauty is all around us ... in the vibrant colors of nature, in the coming together of friends and family, and in the promise of new life as expressed in the birth of Jesus.

It’s a lot like that at West Park UCC, isn’t it? Here we flourish in the warmth of God’s love. Here we find welcome, acceptance, and grace. Gathered by God, we grow ... and serve ... and are renewed by the fruit of the spirit.

Here we discover a gift too great to be kept to ourselves. We want to spread the love beyond the walls of West Park UCC, which is why this month’s pink envelope offering is so important. Called Strengthen Our Church, the November pink envelope offering helps underwrite West Park UCC’s operating budget and outreach ministries. It supports programs for young and old alike, as well as provides much-needed funds for maintaining our buildings and grounds, which house numerous outreach ministries throughout the year including AA, Al-Anon, Recovery International, and a local Mood Disorder Support Group.

And it sends the God is Still Speaking Ministry’s message of extravagant welcome and inclusivity throughout the Kamm’s Corners neighborhood and beyond.

We will receive this offering throughout the month of November. We invite you to join in the celebration. Your generous gift today ensures a vibrant church tomorrow.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all your support and kind words on the passing of my brother, Jeff Todd, in Colorado. I appreciated your prayers, cards, and words of comfort to me in this difficult time.

Dede Todd

WEST PARK NEIGHBOR NIGHT will meet on Wednesday, November 8 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm in Bartter Hall. As part of the larger Neighbor Up Network through Neighborhood Connections, this monthly gathering brings diverse neighbors together to build meaningful relationships that move our community forward. The Neighbor Night is a place to share information, nurture connection and mutual support using a series of practices that are safe and welcoming. Dinner will be provided. Everyone is invited. Come see what Neighbor Night is all about!

BAKED GOODS/ SNACKS NEEDED:

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
On Wed. Nov. 22 at 7:00PM our church has the privilege of hosting a Community Thanksgiving Service for the community. We will host a reception following in Bartter Hall. Anyone who would like to bring a treat to share, please sign up on the list in the narthex over the next several Sundays, so the Board of Growth & Outreach can better plan the reception. Thank you in advance for your help.

A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND THE ANNUAL FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AFTER WORSHIP.

A special congregational meeting will be called immediately after worship to vote on proposed Constitutional Bylaw changes recommended by Church Council. Following, at the Fall Congregational meeting, we will review and vote on the 2018 Budget, and vote on the Nominating Slate of Council Officers, Board Members and Delegates for 2018.
This Church encourages people to think for themselves in matters of religion, following their best judgment and dictates of their own Christian faith and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

West Park UCC Constitution, Article III, Section 2

Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action. In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“That they may all be one” (John 17:21)

From the home page, www.ucc.org

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!

The first Sunday of November, Nov. 5th this year, is when we celebrate All Saint’s Sunday. Traditionally, it is a day when we remember those who have transitioned into life eternal over the past twelve months. This year we will remember 12 members: Marlene Krueger, Muriel Stryffeler, Margaret Roupe, Jean Hannah, Christopher Zmina, John Newman, Steven Bonsell, Julia Roberts, Gloria Conner, Irene Szabo, Jean Stettnisch, and Molly Strachan, and several close family of members. West Park UCC’s tradition has also been to honor long time members, those who have been members for 50 years or more on this Sunday. We will recognize Dennis Jones, Nancy Golden, and Candace Berichon, who have been members 50 + years. We are proud to point to the future also, as we welcome new members during this service. Plan to attend as we remember our past, recognize our present, and welcome the future!