Footsteps of the Civil Rights Mission Trip - Extended Deadline!!

We are finalizing our plans for our summer mission trip to Alabama. We will depart from Cleveland on July 24 with a return on July 30. The cost of the trip will be approximately $1500 per person, depending on the number of people who wish to go. We need confirmation of intent to go on the trip on or before February 19, 2018, with an initial deposit of $400 on or before February 28, 2018. Please contact Pastor Jason with questions or to confirm your intent to be included in this learning opportunity. All are welcome, especially friends and community neighbors. Our first organizational meeting will be in Pastor's office after worship on Sunday, February 25.

“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

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUB ORDERS! THEY WILL BE DELIVERED DURING THE FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR!

We will celebrate Camp during the February Coffee hour. We appreciate all the support from the January Pink Envelope.

Prayer shawl meets February 17th at 2:00pm.

GOD IS ON THE MOVE COLLECTIONS!
We are refilling the Mitten Line at least 2-3 times a week!
ITEMS FOR THE MITTEN LINE: SOCKS (can be used for hands and feet), HATS, SCAVES, GLOVES ETC. through MARCH!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - LENTEN POTLUCK AND STUDY in BARTTER HALL
Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21
5:30 p.m. - Potluck Dinner, Hosted by various Boards and Committees
5:55-6:55 p.m. - Study, “24 Hours that Changed the World” led by Pastor Jason

MOPS second Tuesday of the month, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. Please invite any and all preschool Moms you know - they will thank you!

The youth group thanks you for supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring during the month of January. Our collection goes until Feb. 4th. We will be collecting cans of soup and cash donations for Church Street Ministries, and will drop them off during the Teeter Totter Marathon, February 16-18, at Middleburg Heights UCC. All monies collected from the Marathon are also given to Church Street Ministries!
The WRA/EOA MLK OVERNIGHT EVENT
Was another great event, we had 6 youth and 2 adults participate with over 70 youth from around the association for fellowship and conversation!

Before the event we filled the mitten line bags and delivered the Advent Hope bags to Laura’s house for the city mission.
We also enjoyed fellowship at Olive Garden for lunch, then went to the mall to see the movie ‘Wonder’.

Winter Jam ~ Christian Music Concert
Friday, February 9th, 6PM
The Wolstien Center
We can car pool from WPUCC @ 4pm
Please confirm with Ms. Wendy by Feb 4th if attending
I grew up in a faith tradition that did not observe the season of Lent. There was no pancake dinner. No fasting. No season of preparation. Though I truly enjoyed my life in church as a child, I look back and think that it could have been so much more. The forty days season of Lent can be a meaningful time when taken seriously. The number forty has deep biblical significance in our Bible: Moses spent forty days on Mount Sinai communing with God; Elijah was on Mount Horeb for forty days; the rains of the great flood of Noah lasted forty days; and of course, Jesus Christ spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by evil. During this season, our hearts turn toward introspection and contemplation and on strengthening our relationship with our God.

I offer only one recommendation for spiritual practices during the coming weeks: DO SOMETHING!! For some of us this may mean giving up chocolate or limiting caffeine or starting the day with our church devotional. For others, limiting carbon emissions or adding an exercise regime may seem more appropriate.

Whatever your Lenten rituals may be this year, I remind you that Lent is not about “giving something up” but about getting closer to God. We “give up” in order that we might spend more time building relationship with our triune deity. Our various fasts are meant to provide us more time to reflect on our partnership, and ultimately, our dependence on our God. Our fasts allow us to stand in solidarity with Jesus though a symbolic representation of his forty days of fasting in the wilderness.

We will begin our Lenten journey this year with the imposition of ashes in our sanctuary on the morning of February 14. We will still hold our traditional Ash Wednesday service in the evening but this early morning start is for anyone who would like to come by the church to begin the day thinking of God. All are welcome to come by the church on your way to work. There will be no formal worship service -- simply an individual, first-come, first-served blessing for you to begin your day. I will be in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 a.m. Come for 5 minutes or the whole hour and a half.

I also invite you to take a look at our church calendar, as we have lots of ways to participate during Lent, including a mid-week service on Wednesday afternoons. We will also celebrate Holy Communion each Sunday during the season.

Lent can be a solemn time, but the road of solemnity will lead to the Joy of Easter. There can be no Light without darkness and there can be no Resurrection without Christ’s Passion. This season may lead us to Good Friday, but in Christ’s death, we have the promise of eternal life!!

Pastor Jason
MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN STUDY AND POTLUCK
Join us on Wednesdays, starting February 21 through March 21 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner in Bartter Hall. Stay for the study, “24 Hours that Changed the World” by Adam Hamilton. The Potlucks will be hosted by our boards and committees, and the study will be led by Pastor Jason. Everything will be done by 7:00 p.m., so that Choir can meet.

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 14.
Ashes and prayer, come when you can, between 6:30 - 8:00 a.m., Sanctuary. Join us for Worship and Communion 7:00 p.m. also in the Sanctuary.

PANCAKE SUPPER!
Join us on Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. in Bartter Hall for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Come and eat delicious pancakes and sausages. Gluten Free pancakes are also available! Drinks are provided. Bring desserts to share. A Good Will offering will be collected, suggested donation is $3 to cover our expense.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Community Meal Dinner will be held on February 25, 2018 from 11:30am until 12:30pm in Bartter Hall. The dinner is hosted by the Growth and Outreach Committee. Donations of baked goods are welcomed!

Save the date for Game Night! The next game night will be held on Friday, February 23, 2018 beginning at 7:30pm at the Elmwood Cabin, located at 600 Elmwood Road, Rocky River, Ohio. Please bring your favorite game and an appetizer or snack to share. All ages are welcome! Sponsored by the Growth and Outreach Committee.

DAYTIME LENTEN SERVICES
Do you live or work in the area, but cannot come out for the evening Lent Potluck and study? This year, we will offer weekly daytime Lenten services on Wednesdays in Lent, starting February 21-March 28, 12:15 -12:45 p.m. Come on your lunch hour and spend time with God in a quiet space away from the busyness of the world.
Birthdays

4  Brian McFadden
    Alexandria Nelson
9  Rebecca Lamb
11 Amanda McFadden
12 Marilyn Shank
15 Bob Arcuri
   Rodney Pauley
17 Janet Ackerman
18 Scott Newman
21 Brian Furry
23 Elliott Clifford
25 Christina Litchney
    Valerie Litchney
28 Ryan Clifford

SAVE THE DATES- February

February 11 - Annual Meeting and Lunch
February 14 - Ash Wednesday Worship at
7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21, 28 - 12:15 pm Lenten Worship and
5:30 p.m. Supper and Lenten Study

DID YOU KNOW THAT OHIOANS STARTED
BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Copied from Wikipedia

United States: Black History Month (1976)

Black History Month was first proposed by black educators and
the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of
Black History Month took place at Kent State one year later, in February 1970.

Six years later Black History Month was being celebrated all across the country in educational
institutions, centers of Black culture and community centers, both great and small, when Pres-
ident Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month, during the celebration of the United States
Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected
accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."
PINK ENVELOPE - CUE SEMINARIES

Together We Are Equipping God’s People for Ministry!

Our faith is a living tradition that calls for continual discovery and re-discovery. Our leaders must be equipped to interpret the tradition for our own time and place. This call has never been more important than now in these days of societal change and complexity. Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries (CUE) are dedicated to strengthening churches by educating leaders who will serve congregations and communities around the world with compassion and justice. Help assist in educating our next generation of UCC leaders by giving generously to the February Pink Envelope Offering which is dedicated to the CUE Seminaries of the United Church of Christ.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 11, 2018 is our Annual Meeting. Brunch will be served and the business meeting will follow. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office so we can prepare enough food.

Annual Reports are published and may be picked up at the church lobby or office. Please call if you would like a copy mailed to you. Due to the nature of the report, a compilation of many documents, e-copies are not practical.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Pastor Jason and all the all the WPUCC family that extended support during the situation with my sister in Michigan. It was a difficult six months and knowing my church family was there made all the difference. Your cards, calls, texts, emails, words of kindness and support meant the world to me and to my family. May God bless each of you.

With deep appreciation,
Judi Wiseman

Dear West Park UCC: Thank you so much for your recent donation of bread and canned goods. Our clients appreciate it.

Tammi Graf, Bountiful Basement at Blessed Trinity Church.

A SPECIAL EVENT

Our friends from the Turkish American Society have extended an invitation to join them for a presentation on Turkish Culture and Heritage. The event will take place at 6:30 pm on Thursday Feb. 15th at the Turkish Cultural Center in Lakewood (13303 Madison Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107).

Please contact the church office or Pastor Jason if you would like to attend so that we can let our friends know how many guests to expect. Refreshments will be provided.
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