Special points of interest:
- Wednesdays in Lent
  12:15 pm service and 5:30 p.m. potluck and study
- Lenten worship and activities schedule page 6

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A NIGHT OF QUESTIONS: PASSOVER SEDER

On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, in Bartter Hall, we will host a Seder meal led by Rabbi Enid Lader of Beth Israel, the West Temple. The Seder starts at 6:00 p.m. The Seder meal is observed during Passover to remember and celebrate the story of the Exodus, when God rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt and led them to the promised land. Rabbi Lader will lead us through the symbolism of this timeless story, and we will enjoy a meal together afterward.

Cost to attend is $10 per person, which includes dinner. Tickets may be purchased either before and after Sunday Worship services, or by RSVP to westparkuccoffice@gmail.com, or by calling the office, 216-671-7228. Seating is limited.

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”
Christian Education

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

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

Thank you to all the Boards and Committees for hosting the PotLukc!

Prayer Shawl Meets March 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, Scarves, Gloves etc. through April 1.

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

Save the Date!!!

All Church Retreat Memorial Day for 2018, May 26-28 at Templad Hills - We are returning to our beloved Templad Hills! Come for the weekend, or Saturday only, or anything in between!
You’re Invited to Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt
On Easter Sunday, April 1ST

The egg hunt will take place during our Fellowship time following the 10:00 am Worship Service
Sponsored by the Youth Group
Please bring in your donations of candy (the non-melting kind, please) by March 29th so the youth group can fill the eggs.
Thank you for your generosity.
Youth Group will fill the eggs Saturday, March 31st, time TBA.

GROUP VBS 2018: SHIPWRECKED

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2018!!
JUNE 25th - 29th EVENING

See Ms. Wendy for planning days
Thanks in advance for all your help!

Location: River’s Edge
Date: Saturday, March 3rd-4th
A BIG Thanks to Debbie Miller, Robin Jessen, & Mandi Salvino for leading the Women’s Retreat with me!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

I’m Grace Soaked with Blessings, with a foundation in Faith! Thank you for being one of my many blessings!

Peace & Light, Ms. Wendy
Life is hectic at times. We do so much running around taking care of others that we can sometimes forget to take care of ourselves. We visit our friends when they are sick, do work around our church and even volunteer in our community. Doing the work of God is who we are as a people, so when we take time for ourselves we can be left feeling a little guilty. Trust me, I’ve been there too.

Our Bible tells us what our God requires of us: to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). But how are we to do any of these things if we are overwhelmed and tired, if we are run down and worn out? Simply put – we can’t!

Self-care is so important. It is not selfish to take time to re-energize, to take time to spend recuperating some of our energy. How else could we continue to serve our God and each other? In this way, we are kind of like an internal combustion engine. The engine can go and go for quite a long time but eventually needs more fuel.

We can refuel in a variety of ways: take a quiet walk, spend time with a dear friend, stay in bed an extra hour and of course, we gain a great deal of renewed energy by seeking and maintaining relationship with our God through prayer. Lent is meant to be a season of reflection and penance, a time for us to set things right in our lives, a time for us to remember The Christ who walked among us.

When we think of Christ’s time in the wilderness, this was a time he withdrew from the world. He spent time focusing on himself and his own temptations. We tend to forget the humanity of Jesus. Luke 4:13 tells us that Jesus was tempted in every possible way. He knew temptation. He knew what it meant to have desires. He confronted hunger and want and lust and envy; he was tempted in every possible way.

Throughout all the temptations thrown his way, he relied on God’s word to guide him. And to keep God’s word in our hearts, it is essential that we spend some time taking care of ourselves. Jesus knew when he had to take a break and spend some time alone in prayer (Mark 1:35) and he even told his disciples that they should spend time taking care of themselves (Mark 6:31-32).

So in the coming days and weeks, spend some “me” time with just you and God. When is the last time you had a chance to pause and truly reflect on your relationship with Jesus? It been a little too long for me. I ask for you prayers in following my own advice!

May the journey of Lent be a rewarding challenge to us all!

Pastor Jason
SAVE THE DATE! FABULOUS 50’S FUNDRAISING DINNER!

Plan to attend West Park UCC’s Bridge to the Future Fabulous 50s Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a delicious menu of 1950s “comfort food” including classic meatloaf, fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, Jell-o salad, and apple pie a la mode. Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for children under 12. They can be purchased from Dan Moreland (216-393-0266) or Marlene Arcuri before or after service. The church office also has a quantity of tickets. If you would like to provide a themed basket for this year’s gift basket auction, contact Gail Kenney at 216-251-1512. Seating is limited so purchase your tickets today. All proceeds will go to the Bridge to the Future capital campaign. “Be there or be square!” – Arthur Fonzarelli

THE NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL DINNER will be held March 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 for dessert are welcomed!

LENTEN LUNCHEON WORSHIP - 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, through 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.

LENTEN STUDY AND POTLUCK - Join us on Wednesdays, 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.
IMPORTANT MARCH DATES

Birthdays

1. Kim McFadden
2. Nancy Krueger
3. Kathy Moreland
4. Evelyn Faulkner
5. Larry Shank
6. Richard Schweichler
7. Emma Borrelli
8. Edward Fowler
9. Aimee Bonsell
10. Jennifer Krejza
11. Kelly Medkoff-Rose
   Krista Zaharewicz
15. Isabelle Armstrong
16. Chris Venesile
17. Jaret Bostwick
18. Tricia Melton
21. David Schleich
22. Ed Gamary
25. Janet Beutel
26. Kristen Dobransky
28. Jonathan Murray
30. Kathy Sandoval
31. April Hill Jackson

Anniversaries

Larry & Marilyn Shank
03-29-1969

Dennis & Janice Jones
03-31-1967

Lenten Worship and Events

March 4 - Worship & Communion
March 11 - Worship & Communion
March 18 - Cantata Worship & Communion
March 25 - Palm Sunday with Processional, Communion
March 7, 14, 21, 28 - 12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship
March 7, 14, 21 - 5:30 p.m. Potluck and Lenten Study
March 29 - Maundy Thursday Soup, Communion, and Stripping of the Altar
March 30 - Good Friday Worship
April 1 - Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship, 7:00 am - Meet on the Front Porch (we will move inside if the weather is bad)
April 1 - Easter Sunday Worship & Communion, 10:00 am, Coffee Hour and Children’s Egg Hunt following

March 11 - Music as Healing 1:00 pm - pg. 7
March 18 - 3rd Sunday - Rev. Vance Awa, Cypress Hospice- page 7
March 28 - Seder Meal 6:00 pm, Tickets required - see page 1

Save the Date! Fabulous 50’s Fund-Raising Dinner - April 14 - page 5
PINK ENVELOPE - WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER

Did you know that 33% of Cleveland’s residents and almost half of Cleveland’s children live in poverty? Fortunately, there is a not-for-profit organization that is actively addressing the needs of this at-risk population, and West Park UCC can help support their outreach efforts through our March pink envelope offering. The West Side Catholic Center offers hot meals, hospitality, clothing and household goods, emergency services, advocacy, a women and children’s shelter, and a housing solutions program to those in need at no charge, regardless of religious affiliation. Established in 1977, the West Side Catholic Center operates independently of the Catholic Diocese and Catholic Charities, providing love, hope, and respect to all they serve. Please share in this important mission by giving generously to the March pink envelope offering.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with our first annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper! We had a good turn out, and many hands made light work. Thank you to Robin Jessen, Holly Sinnema, Pat Rust, Dan Moreland, Stacey Thayer, Wendy LeForge, Dan Moreland, and all who brought desserts!!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Practices: Music as Healing: What does Music do to “Heal the Savage Beast”? How do experiences in Music, both listening and participating, make a difference in our physical, mental and emotional well-being? Research made fun, and experiences galore give an overall picture of this most interactive of Art forms.

Join us in the Chapel on Sunday, March 11 from 1:00-2:00pm for an interactive presentation by Kira Seaton, Assistant Professor of Music at Cuyahoga Community College.

3rd Sunday: “Death, Life and Everything in Between”

Join us in the Chapel at 11:30 on Sunday, March 18 for a conversation with Rev. Vance Awa, Chaplain and Spiritual Coordinator at Cypress Hospice. How can we be well when we’re ill? This adult education session will highlight spiritual care and how spiritual matters effect our health and influence the way we live.

Here at West Park UCC, we are able to beautify our Sanctuary and strengthen our church because of Christ’s Resurrection. Our Risen Savior is honored in a number of ways on Easter Sunday. For those who wish to provide a spring flower, or contribute to the Memorial or Endowment Funds, a form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Let us remember to give praise to the One who gave us new life.
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

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