THE POWER OF WOMEN - A FIVE WEEK ADULT EDUCATION and SERMON SERIES

Pastor Jason is pleased to announce a five week series, both Wednesdays and Sundays, on the Power of Women. We will begin on Wednesday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. with guest teacher Margaret Borelli, on "The Ideal Woman." Each Wednesday Study and Sunday Sermon will feature topics ranging from various Biblical women to current issues. The culmination of this series will feature our Associations General Minister, Rev. Nayiri Karjian, at our 3rd Sundays event May 20, at 11:30 a.m., where she speaks on "What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Woman in Today's World?" All are welcome to come to as many of these events as you can - the full schedule is on page 8 of the newsletter.

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 à 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

‘God is Still Speaking’ at West Park United Church of Christ

3909 Rocky River Drive Cleveland, Ohio 44111
(216) 671-7228
www.WestParkUCC.org
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

HAPPY EASTER!
Everyone is Invited to the!
Youth Group’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 1st after Worship in Barter Hall
Thank you for your delicious donations of candy!

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Prayer shawl meets
April 21st at 2:00pm.

SPIRITS WITH THE SPIRIT
Our next gathering will be at
Justin’s and Jose’s home on
April 28 at 7 pm. Join us!

MOPS second Tuesday of the month, April 10th at
6:30 p.m. Please invite any and all preschool Moms you know -
they will thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!!! May 25-27th All Church Retreat
Saturday only option available
Plan on joining your Church family for this annual event...
Retreat Flyers will be on the Caring & Sharing Table.
Deadline for registration May 7th
Thank you for your cooperation!
If needed Financial Grace or payment plans are available up-on request.

We had a wonderful Women’s Retreat at River’s Edge! A big thanks to all
the session leaders: Debbie Miller, Robin Jessen, and Mandi Salvino. We
were very creative this retreat; the ladies made cards for our shut ins and for
the prayer shawl ministry, also they made beautiful Easter wreaths.

Thank You!
Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday April 1st
Hooley Parking Lot ~ May 12th

DID YOU FORGET TO REGISTER FOR

PLEASE contact Ms. Wendy for camp information.
Support is still being accepted for financial assistance for these campers.
Thanks to everyone who made donations in January!
Remember....it only takes a spark to get a fire going. Happy Camping!

GROUP VBS 2018:
SHIPWRECKED
RESCUED BY JESUS

JUNE 25th -29th
Evening

We are looking for tour guides to lead,
assist and bring children!

Contact Ms. Wendy if you would like to help!

GOD IS ON THE MOVE
COLLECTIONS
The mitten line comes down
April 1st - We gave out over 600 items!
In April, we will collect Toilet Paper.

Peace & Light, Ms. Wendy
I have never planted a garden from seeds before. In years past, when I did do some planting, I’ve always bought small plants and put them in the ground. This year, I thought I would start from scratch. I currently have twelve little potted seedlings that have already begun to sprout with new life and reach toward the sun. Each day, they get a little bigger, a little taller, and a little greener. The life that was packed into the tiny little seeds is already springing forth in the fullness of their glory, growing stronger with the light of the sun.

These last months, we have traveled together the long road of Lent. We have rejoiced in God’s presence, lamented our own failures and mourned at Christ’s crucifixion. The solemnity of the wilderness has come to an end. The darkness and emptiness have been beaten back by the light of the Son, the light that is breaking forth into all of Creation since the very first Easter morning.

The celebration of Easter fills our church with new life, with new hope, with almost unlimited possibilities for the future. The laughter of the children, being surrounded by family and friends and even the hints of spring with the warming air remind us of the new life that awaits all of creation.

In our lives, we are much like the little seedlings. We can be timid and fragile. We need the Son to grow more fully, we need the Son to become who we have been created to be. In our own little pots, we will spend most of our lives even as we know that we will one day experience a resurrection and a new life, just like our dear Jesus.

When we look at a seed, it can almost fool us. It seems to be lifeless with no hope of a tomorrow. But with a little warmth and a little water, it will burst forth a shoot. And we are the same. All we need to grow is inside us. God surrounds us with the warmth of love through the power of the Holy Spirit and gives us our sustenance through the living waters of Jesus Christ.

Even as we have this promise of growth and new life, we have a responsibility to God and to each other. Through his life, Jesus showed us so many things and offered us so much hope. But it was only after his death and resurrection that he commanded his disciples to go forth and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28). The resurrected Jesus teaches us to spread the Good News, to be witnesses to the Gospel and to be servant to all the world.

As spring and summer arrive in the weeks to come, may we keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ. With each seed we see sprout, with each bud on the trees that we see open, let us be reminded of our job in this life. With the new life we have been given, may be continue the work of God in our world.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed!

Pastor Jason
MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE! FABULOUS 50'S FUNDRAISING DINNER!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL DINNER will be held April 29, 2018 from 11:30am until 12:30pm in Barket Hall. The dinner is hosted by the Growth and Outreach Committee. Donations of baked goods for dessert are welcomed!

THE HOOLEY IS COMING!
The annual Hooley on Kamm’s Corners will be held on May 12, 2018 from 12 noon until 8 pm. WPUCC will have a booth at the Hooley. If you are interested in working the booth for any period of time, please see any member of the Growth & Outreach Committee. If you are planning to attend the event, stop by the booth and say hi! We hope to see you there!!

YOUR GIVING STATEMENTS -
In order to save printing, paper and postage costs, the first quarter giving statement will be sent to you only on request. You will receive a paper copy of the June 30 statement in July, and the September one will be on request, and of course, you will receive an end of year statement in Jan. 2019. Thank you for being green!
IMPORTANT APRIL DATES

Events in the lives of our friends in West Park UCC

**Birthdays**

2  
Joseph Gibson  
Jennie Fazekas  
Renee Thayer

3  
Elmer Rogers

8  
Audrey Glaser  
Phyllis Schroth

13  
Lucas Kantura  
Morgen Martin

16  
Anthony Bostwick

19  
Linda Ferro  
Matthew Higgins

21  
Marie Koch

23  
William Armstrong, Sr.  
Barbara Barthelman

24  
Ted Litchney  
Isabel Sandoval

28  
Candace Berichon

**Anniversaries**

Dave & Ellie Ellsworth  
04-28-1984

Bill & Erin Armstrong  
04-24-2004

**SAVE THE DATES!**

April 14 - Fabulous 50's Fund-Raising Dinner

April 15 - 3rd Sunday - Ethnic History of Cleveland

April 26 - Turkish Culture and Heritage

April 18 - May 20 - Wednesdays and Sundays, The Power of Women Study and Sermon Series

May 6 - New Member class 12:00 noon

May 20 - 3rd Sunday - "What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Woman in Today’s World?" Rev. Nayiri Karjian, WRA/EOA Associations General Minister

May 25-27 - All Church Retreat
PINK ENVELOPE - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is both West Park UCC's April pink envelope offering and the Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ. Through One Great Hour of Sharing we assist people and communities around the globe, helping them to become stronger, healthier and better equipped to rebuild their lives following natural disasters.

The theme for this year's offering is "You are here" which could easily be the response to a question provoked by tragedy, fear, or suffering: "Where are you, God?" Psalm 145:18 echoes the refrain throughout scripture that God is nearby. As soon as a person calls on God, God is here. You are here shows the church uniting to respond to the many critical needs present in our world today. West Park UCC's support of One Great Hour of Sharing is given through partner organizations responding to health, education and agricultural development needs, refugee initiatives, and both international and domestic disaster response. As a United Church of Christ congregation, when we give it means that the church can stand strong — in the midst of great need — whether it is nearby or far away. When God's love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of God's family, so please give generously to our April pink envelope offering in support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

THANK YOU

A Big Thanks to all who participated in our Lenten Study, the boards who hosted it, and especially to Pastor Jason for leading us in the Study!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ETHNIC HISTORY OF CLEVELAND
On April 15 at 11:30 am, David Bematowicz, Associate Professor of History at TriC, will present a narrative history of groups that migrated to the Cleveland area from the early 19th to the 20th century. Included will be a discussion of the migration of the many ethnic groups to Cleveland, the places where they worked, the neighborhoods they developed and the effect they had on the history of the City of Cleveland.

TURKISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE - RESCHEDULED
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, April 26 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

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jason Thompson
Senior Pastor
WestParkUCCPastor@gmail.com

Rev. Lawrence H. Craig
Rev. Don R. Norenberg
Pastors Emeriti

James R. Furry
Licensed Minister
WestParkUCCLicensedMinister@gmail.com

Wendy LeForge
Director of Christian Education
WestParkUCCChristianEd@gmail.com

Linda Ferro
Church Secretary
WestParkUCCOffice@gmail.com

Christopher Venesile, PhD
Director of Music Ministry
WestParkUCCMusic@gmail.com

THE POWER OF WOMEN

WEDNESDAYS @ 6PM
ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

APRIL 18 The Ideal Woman? Guest teacher: Margaret Borrelli, Minister of Faith Formation, Church of the Redeemer UCC

APRIL 25 Paul and the Modern Woman Guest teacher: Rev. Kelly Burd, Senior Pastor, Pilgrim UCC

MAY 2 A Judge and a Queen

MAY 9 Women in Christian Art Guest artist: Ruth Finley

MAY 16 Give Me a Name! The Woman at the Wall

SUNDAYS @ 10AM
COMMUNITY WORSHIP

APRIL 22 The Proverbial Woman Guest preacher: Edie Resell, PhD, Former UCC Minister for Economic Justice

APRIL 29 A 2500-year-old Problem: The Exploitation of Rahab

MAY 5 When Women Ruled the World: Deborah and Esther

MAY 13 You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down: Hagar

MAY 20 Feminine Flames: The Women at Pentecost

ADULT EDUCATION 3RD SUNDAY EVENT

MAY 20 @ 11:30AM
“What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Woman in Today’s World?” Rev. Nayiri Kargian, Associations General Minister

ALL ARE Welcome!
West Park United Church of Christ Calendar for April, 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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| EASTER SUNDAY  
7:00 am Sunrise  
Worship  
10:00 am Worship & Communion  
11:15 am Coffee Hour | | | | 6:00 pm Community Bible Study  
6:15 pm Low Impact Exercise  
10:00 pm AA, Bartter Hall | | 7:00 pm Al-Anon, Parlor |
| 8       | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 10:00 am Worship & L.I.G.H.T.  
11:15 am G & O  
3:00 pm Bowling | | | | 6:00 pm Comm. Bible St.  
6:15 pm Low Impact Ex.  
10:00 pm AA | | 7:00 pm Al-Anon, Parlor |
| 15      | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 10:00 am Worship & L.I.G.H.T.  
11:30 am 3rd Sunday | | | | 6:00 pm Comm. Bible St.  
6:15 pm Low Impact Ex.  
10:00 pm AA | | 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl |
| 22      | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| 10:00 am Worship & L.I.G.H.T. | MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TODAY | | | 6:00 pm Comm. Bible St.  
6:30 pm Turkish Am. Soc. Event – off site  
6:15 pm Low Impact Ex.  
10:00 pm AA | | 9-12 DW Bartter Hall Use |
| 29      | 30     |         |           |          |        |          |
| 10:00 am Worship & L.I.G.H.T.  
11:30 am Community Meal, Deacons  
12:00 pm Staff Meeting | | | | | | |

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR THE VOICE DUE APRIL 23!