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

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

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

We continue our study of “The Power of Women.” 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 Sunday 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!

SUMMER LEARNING COMMUNITY!

We are excited that this year’s Summer Learning Community will be using a rotation model with cooking, computer games, etc., while we look at “Why Do We Do What We Do” starting June 3rd.

We are looking for leaders! Contact Ms. Wendy if interested.

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Wendy LeForge, Director of 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

MOPS second Tuesday of the month, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. Please invite any and all preschool Moms you know - they will thank you!

May 25-27th All Church Retreat

Our Theme is “Welcome Home”
As we return to our Beloved Templed Hills!!!!

“Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 11:19

Plan on joining your Church family for this annual event...
You can come just Saturday for only $30.

Adults staying two nights $90.00
Adults staying one night $60.00
Adults Saturday only $30.00
Children ages 6-11 staying two nights $58.00
Children ages 6-11 staying one night $42.00
Children ages 6-11 Saturday only $15.00
Children under 5 free

Retreat Flyers with information are on the Caring & Sharing Table.

Deadline for registration May 7th Please turn in to Sandee Vastag.
If needed Financial Grace is available upon request, payment plans also available.

Thank you for your cooperation!
Jr. Hi (6th-8th) and High School (9th -12th)
Hooley Parking Lot ~ May 12th - We need ALL Youth to help with the parking lot!

HAPPY CAMPING!
Jacob Carleton will be attending Sports Camp.
Did you forget to register for camp??

WALL OF 100!
Please pick up an envelope off the board in the Narthex, put in a donation, and put in the offering plate - your donation will be used to support the Youth Group and their missions. The wall will be up from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

Please order your Red Geraniums to decorate the sanctuary, then the yard. Our youth group invites anyone available to help plant the geraniums. We will be planting right after Worship; please bring gardening tools and help plant them! The cost of each Geranium is $5.00; an order form is included. Deadline is May 13.

GROUP VBS 2018:  
SHIPWRECKED  
RESCUED BY JESUS  
JUNE 25th -29th  
5:45-8:00 pm,  
Dinner included

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TOUR GUIDES TO LEAD, ASSIST AND BRING CHILDREN!

West Park United Church of Christ invites you to VBS where kids will experience God's Love in Action! The adventures include Bible story fun, creative crafts, hands-on mission work, science, and great music.

To be a part of all the excitement at VBS the register forms are on the Caring & Sharing table, or call Wendy LeForge at (330) 990-1716.

How you can help? Join the volunteer team as we explore God's love in action!
Nine years ago, I woke up early one Sunday morning to go to church. Now, I hadn't been to church in a long time, decades in fact. Something was stirring in me that morning. I pulled myself out of bed and hurried myself to get dressed. But I really had no idea where I was going. I remembered a church that I had driven past many times and decided I would go there.

Recalling the church of my youth, I put on a coat and tie and had my Bible under my arm as I walked in the building that morning. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming even as I was a bit shy. I took a seat in the back of the sanctuary and began to wonder what on earth I was doing. What on earth had possessed me to come to church this day?

As I sat with these thoughts, the lector began reading from the Hebrew Bible. The reading was from Jeremiah 1. God speaks to Jeremiah: "You shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you." At that very moment, as the words were being formed in the lector's mouth and the sounds of his voice began to fill the room, the Holy Spirit completely wrapped me up in God's love. I felt warm all over and almost as if I were outside of my body looking on this moment from afar. I have never been able to find the right words to describe this experience, other than simply saying that I know, without any doubt, that the Holy Spirit was with me in that moment; in that moment God revealed to me that I should pursue a path toward pastoral ministry.

In the UCC, some say we have become so focused on issues of social justice and living by the word of Christ that we have lost the spiritual dimension of our faith. But I think we can have it all. We can help feed others and love our neighbors AND have a deep and meaningful relationship with our God.

Pentecost will soon be here. This is the time in the life of the Church that we celebrate the Holy Spirit being poured out on all of us and the annual event we celebrate as the founding of the Christian Church. But Pentecost is more, much more. This is day that we proclaim God's healing power among us. God offered us the opportunity to glimpse the divine, to hear the words of strangers in love.

I haven't often talked about the events that inspired me to serve God as your pastor, mostly because I am a rational man and do not want people to think I am detached from reality. However, it is not irrational for me to believe in truth and science and verifiable facts while also believing that God has a plan for me, that God has a plan for us all. I wondered around this world for almost twenty years without a relationship with our God. The last ten years of my life have been filled with love and joy and God has been there through it all.

As our Easter season continues, we know the flames of Pentecost are just around the corner. I invite us all to open ourselves up the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our God is a God who defies expectations.

Pastor Jason
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FABULOUS 50S FUNDRAISING DINNER

Approximately 140 people attended West Park UCC’s Fabulous 50s fundraising dinner in support of The Bridge to the Future capital campaign. The event would not have been possible without the support of so many people who contributed their time and talent to this important cause, which helped raise much-needed funds for our three-year capital campaign. Thank you for all of your efforts! It proved to be a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship for a worthy cause. In all, the gift basket raffle, dinner tickets, and 50/50 raffle generated $3,549 in revenue. With expenses for the event totaling $1,000, we generated $2,549 in profit for West Park UCC’s Bridge to the Future capital campaign. Whether you purchased a ticket for the event or helped in the planning and implementation of the dinner or the basket raffle, thank you for your contributions!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL DINNER
will be held May 27, 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!

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!!

NEW MEMBER CLASS!
If you are interested in joining our congregation, or are just considering it, come to a New Member Class on Sunday, May 6 following the worship service. Please contact Pastor Jason or Linda in the church office by May 3 if you would like to attend.
Events in the lives of our friends in West Park UCC

**Birthdays**

1. Lisa Goldrick
2. Tara Clifford
3. Susan Kirst
4. Barry Barthelman
5. Holly Sinnema
6. Dennis McCormack
7. Margaret Owens
8. Ellen Armstrong
9. Adam Bonsell
10. William Vastag
11. Marlene Arcuri
12. Robert Lamb
13. Rachael Thayer
14. Lynette Lyons
15. Melissa Miranda
16. Jackson Kraus
17. Kirk Barry
18. Ann Johnson
19. Ruth Finley
20. Jim Hutchings
21. Erin Armstrong
22. Dolly Chappell
23. Laurie Dobransky
24. Lora Mosier
25. Sarah Shaw
26. Douglas Miller
27. Dorena Gilchrist
28. Grace Burgess

**Anniversaries**

Margaret & Robert Owens
05-02-1980

Lori & Michael Conley
05-04-2001

Jim & Sandy Zmina
05-08-1965

Candace & Richard Berichon
05-13-89

Scott O’Con & Rev. Jason Thompson
05-25-2003

Robert & Marlene Arcuri
05-16-1964

Dan & Kathleen Moreland
05-21-1982

**SAVE THE DATES!**

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
June 2018 we go to bi-monthly newsletter
June 2 – Strawberry Festival
June 8 – Ramadan Meal with Turkish American Society
June 10 - Graduates Sunday
June 17 - Church Picnic
June 25-29 VBS, 5:45-8:00 pm
OUTREACH AND THANKS

PINK ENVELOPE - ALBER SCHOLARSHIP

West Park UCC has always had a history of strong Christian education within the church. However, we also celebrate our youth and students success in their academic life. With your generous gifts, we can supplement the annuity dividend that was bequeathed to West Park UCC years ago by Donald Alber. This money is designated for all member college students who are entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of post high school education. Your gift will help these students with not only tuition, but books and supplies, and living expenses. Please consider the future and the success of these students, who will determine the future and success of our church!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU OR ANOTHER MEMBER YOU KNOW IS GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION!

We want to celebrate your accomplishments, and are interested in your future plans as a result of your achievements. We will be celebrating and recognizing West Park UCC’s graduates on Sunday, June 10, during worship and at a reception after worship. Please contact the church office with information about the graduate by May 21.

Thanks and Congrats!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES AND LASSIES WPUCC BOWLING LEAGUE:

Another fun season has come to an end! We will take the summer off and start up again on Sunday, Sept. 16th at Buckeye Lanes in N. Olmsted at 3:00PM. The season will run every other Sunday through April 14th. New bowlers are always welcomed. It’s a great way for fellowship outside of church and it helps to make the colder months fly by! If anyone has interest, contact the church office for more information.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 2!

This year’s Strawberry event will be bigger and better! Not only will there be the usual fabulous food and strawberry desserts, but there will be activities such as a dunking booth, face painting, and many more things to do! Watch the church bulletins, the Monday “Happening @WPUCC” email, etc. for more information and details. It’s sure to be a great time - mark your calendars and bring your friends and family!
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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CHANGES TO WEST PARK UCC’S THE VOICE

We are so blessed in our church to have a wealth of financial resources that have helped us along the way through the years. We have, though, not met our budgetary goals through our pledging and rental income for years. The last time we were in the black was 1993! We will be looking at different ways to cut our expenses in the months to come as we hope to move toward a balanced budget. In these cost-saving efforts, The Voice will be distributed six times each year rather than twelve. Starting June 2018, we will publish our newsletter on a bi-monthly basis.
# West Park United Church of Christ Calendar for May, 2018

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<thead>
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>7:30 pm Recovery, Int. Youth Room</td>
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<td>6:15 pm Low Impact Exercise&lt;br&gt;10:00 pm AA, Bartter Hall&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Al-Anon, Parlor</td>
<td>10:15 pm AA, Bartter Hall&lt;br&gt;12:00 am AA, Bartter Hall</td>
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<td>6:00 am Teacher's meeting&lt;br&gt;10:00 am Worship, Communion, &amp; L.I.G.H.T&lt;br&gt;11:15 am Coffee Hour, Christian Ed, G &amp; O, Trustees&lt;br&gt;VBS Planning Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Mood Disorder Support, Parlor</td>
<td>6:30 pm MOPS&lt;br&gt;7:30 pm Recovery Int.</td>
<td>6-8 pm Neighbor Night&lt;br&gt;6:00 pm Bible Study&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Choir</td>
<td>6:15 pm Low Impact Exercise&lt;br&gt;10:00 pm AA, Bartter Hall&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Al-Anon</td>
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<td>10:00 am Worship &amp; L.I.G.H.T</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Mood Disorder Support</td>
<td>7:00 pm Stewardship &amp; Finance, Board Room&lt;br&gt;7:30 pm Recovery Int.</td>
<td>6:00 pm Bible Study&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Choir</td>
<td>6:15 pm Low Impact Exercise&lt;br&gt;10:00 pm AA, Bartter Hall&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Al-Anon</td>
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<td>20 PENTECOST SUNDAY</td>
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<td>10:00 am Worship &amp; L.I.G.H.T&lt;br&gt;11:30 am 3rd Sunday, Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Geranium Planting</td>
<td>JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY!</td>
<td>7:00 pm Mood Disorder Support</td>
<td>6:15 pm Low Impact Exercise&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Church Council&lt;br&gt;10:00 pm AA, Bartter Hall&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Al-Anon</td>
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<td>10:00 am Worship &amp; L.I.G.H.T.&lt;br&gt;11:15 am Deacons&lt;br&gt;11:30 am Community Meal</td>
<td>Memorial Day – Office Closed&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm Mood Disorder Support</td>
<td>7:30 pm Recovery Int.</td>
<td>10:00 pm AA, Bartter Hall</td>
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**JUNE-JULY (TWO MONTH) Newsletter Deadline is MAY 21, 2018!**