Facebook Check-in: As you arrive, please check in on Facebook.
▲ Please rise in body and spirit, as you are able.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN  “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 1  BLUE 110

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 7:10-16  Pew Bible, pg. 636, OT
(We will read responsively – the lector will read the even numbered verses and the congregation will respond with the odd numbered verses.)

▲ HYMN  “Joy to the World”  BLUE 130

▲ INVOCATION (Unison)
God of Love, you make your presence known in unexpected ways, and challenge our comfortable assumptions about how you work. Meet us here today and open our hearts to recognize you in our midst calling us to live into your new thing: a world where your love takes shape in justice and peace. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray: Amen!

▲ GLORIA PATRI
(Please sing the words most comfortable to you. Here are two options.)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,

Glory be to the Parent and to the Child
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES – Dobransky Family
One: Who do you say Jesus is?
One: To me, a parent, Jesus is like a beloved child, the love of my life and the joy of my heart.
One: To me, a Christian, Jesus is Emmanuel, which means God-with us.
ALL: We wait for Jesus, God-with-us, who spreads love.
One: We wait for Jesus.
One: (The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are lit.)
CHORAL RESPONSE “We Light this Candle” (Love)

GOSPEL STORY Luke 2:1-20
One: God is still speaking.
Many: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison) (Please pray the words most comfortable to you.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Holy God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

▲ HYMN “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry” BLACK 351

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Brooks Jeffery Warner
Congregational Assent
ONE: And will all of you, the members and friends of the Church gathered here today, seek to be a community through which Brooks can discover the meaning of Christian faith and stir the gifts God has given him, whatever they may be?
MANY: We will, with the help of God.

▲ STATEMENT OF FAITH BLACK 885

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING
DOXOLOGY
(Please sing the words most comfortable to you. Here are two options.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host’
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)
With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which
rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world,
and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

CHORAL CANTATA:

▲BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Parts of today’s liturgy have been adapted from the worship resources of The United Church of Canada.

IN SYMPATHY: To the family and friends of Bill Beutel, who transitioned to eternal life on
December 15. His funeral was held here yesterday.

ANNUAL PEACE SERVICE: Blessed Trinity Catholic Church (14040 Puritas Ave, Cleveland,
OH 44135) is once again hosting a special New Year’s Eve Peace Prayer Vigil on Tuesday,
December 31, 2019 at 7pm. This year’s guest speaker is Alan Kolp, PhD, Baldwin Wallace
University Faith and Life Chair and professor of religion. Fellowship and refreshments following
the service. ALL ARE WELCOME.
MINISTERS OF GOD’S LOVE .................................................................Every Member of WPUCC
SENIOR PASTOR ........................................................................Rev. Jason Thompson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR .......................................................................James R. Furry
PASTORS EMERITI ..........................................................................Rev. Don Norenberg, Rev. Larry Craig
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC .................................................................Christopher Venesile, PhD
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ..........................................................Linda Ferro
RECORDING/SOUND SYSTEM .....................................................Mandi Salvino, Dan Karkoff
SOCIAL MEDIA ADMINISTRATOR ..............................................Rachel Miller
POET LAUREATE ........................................................................Jean Clark
LECTOR ............................................................................................Kathy Rennette
COUNTERS ....................................................................................Larry Shank, Holly Sinnema

WE WELCOME all who are here to worship with us today, especially our children and youth. Please sign the attendance pads and pass the pad to the side aisles by the windows.

WE WELCOME TODAY through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Brooks Jeffery Warner, son of Steve and Kristen Warner. His grandparents are Jeff and Laurie Dobransky.

PASTOR JASON’S office hours are Mondays, 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, 9am-3pm, or by appointment. Pastor Jason can be reached at the church office (216) 671-7228 or WestParkUCCPastor@gmail.com.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Attendance last Sunday was 89 adults and 9 Youth/Children. Thank you for your offerings of Operating $7,131, OCWM $35, Pink - Veterans of the Cross $15, Funds: Xmas Endowment $25, Xmas Memorial $150, Foundation $35, Poinsettias $56; Xmas Eve $20, Light the Steeple $25, Birthday $86, Wedding $100, Mittens $200, Refund - Workers Comp. $307.88, Rent: $3,790.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – Join us for our annual Christmas Eve worship on Dec. 24, at 7:00 p.m.

THE STEEPLE SHINES THIS WEEK in celebration of our 5th wedding anniversary from Max & Rachel Miller.

PASTORAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:
If you have an emergency pastoral need, please contact:
Dec 25-Dec 28: Pastor Jason @ 216.671.7228 (leave a message and you will receive a call back within a few minutes)
Dec 29 - Jan 1: Pastor Jim @ 440.552.7822

NOISY CHANGE – Next week is a fifth Sunday of the month, when the children collect the change you bring for the “Let Us Be the Change” jar in the Narthex.

SAVE THE DATE – Un-hanging of the Greens Jan. 11!

3rd SUNDAY: On January 19, 2020, we welcome Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition UCC to our pulpit. He will also lead our Adult Education program at 11:30am titled; “So we are open and affirming…now what?” Join us as we prayerfully consider our ongoing commitment and community response to our LGBTQIA+ friends.

TURKISH COOKING CLASS: Back by popular demand, our Turkish friends from the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association will teach another cooking class. The class will take place on Wednesday, January 15 from 6pm to 8pm in Bartter Hall. Space is limited with only 20 spots available. You may sign up on the sheet in the narthex or by calling the church office.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s award winning musical, returns to Playhouse Square in 2020 for its 50th anniversary. We are putting a group together for a church outing to see the show on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are $58 each. Space is limited, with only 30 spots available. Sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office. Payments for tickets should be made to the church no later than January 5, 2020. Mark JC Superstar on the memo line of your check, or on your envelope so that it will be credited correctly.

REVERSE ADVENT BAGS: Advent is the perfect time to focus on the joy and reflection of the season, but there are also those in our community who struggle with basic necessities. This year, we will once again collect items that will assist those in need. Each day during Advent, we will collect one item and place it in a ‘Reverse Advent Bag’ with our prayers. The bags are located in the narthex if you would like to participate in sharing. Please place the bags under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary when you return them to the church.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LECTOR/SCRIPTURE READER? We are putting the schedule together for 2020. If you have not done it before, or in a few years, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you have served as Lector or Scripture Reader in the past year and want to continue, you do not need to sign up; however, if you do not want to be on the schedule for 2020, please indicate that on the sign up sheet. Thank you!
NEW MEMBER CLASS: Are you interested in learning more about our church and our denomination? On Sunday, January 12 at 5pm, we will host a new member class in the parlor for those considering membership with our church. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please RSVP to the church office no later Jan. 9. Dinner will be served.

FAITH IN FILM: In January, West Park UCC will begin a film series to highlight the intersection of ongoing societal issues with our faith. Each film will be screened in the sanctuary on Saturday nights and followed by a panel led discussion about topics raised in the film. The first of these films is An Act of Love, the story of a United Methodist pastor who was defrocked after refusing to abide by rules that prohibit clergy from officiating marriages of same-sex couples. The panel that will lead our discussion afterwards will include J Bennett Guess, Executive Director of the ACLU of Ohio, Steven Bailey, District Superintendent of the North Coast District, East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips, Executive of Justice & Local Church Ministries at the national setting of the United Church of Christ. This event will take place at 6pm on Saturday, January 18. ALL ARE WELCOME.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT? ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CATALOG - This is the 37th year for the Alternative Christmas Catalog which gives us an opportunity to help others with our financial gifts. If you did not receive the catalog in our Christmas mailing, there are some available in the narthex. To name a few items in our catalogue: Bright Pink is for those who have a genetic high risk for cancer, Moving for Life provides dance exercise for patients recovering from cancer and other health issues and Youth Challenge provides recreational activities for youth with special needs. We also added the West Park UCC Emergency Food Pantry which is being used by many in the neighborhood. Your Alternative contribution is especially useful for saying thank you to a friend or neighbor. We have gift cards on the table in the narthex that you can fill out and give to your gift recipient.

MITTEN LINE: During the colder months, we give away hundreds of mittens, gloves, socks, scarves and hats to those in our community of all ages who need a little help keeping warm. The items are hung on our mitten line in the front of the church and are free for anyone to take. Donations are appreciated and can be placed in the bin in the narthex.

FOOD PANTRY – January 5 is our Food Pantry Collection – Our Cup Runneth Over on some items! Please bring canned meats w/out pasta (we have about 6 dozen cans of SpaghettiO’s etc.); peanut butter, canned fruits, healthy breakfast cereal, oatmeal, chili, soups and stews.

MISSING! 5 six foot rectangular tables and a number of chairs from Bartter Hall– If you borrowed any from the church and have forgotten to return them, please return them as soon as possible, no questions asked. Thanks!

COAT GIVEAWAY! For next week’s Community Meal on December 29, we will hold another coat giveaway. You can bring your new or nearly new clean coats to the tunnel area where the coat rack is and hang them up there. Thank you for your donations!
THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22:
10:00 a.m. Cantata Worship & Baptism
3:00 p.m. Bowling

MONDAY, 12/23:
6:30 p.m. On the Road: Advent Study at Christ UMC
7:00 p.m. Mood Disorder Support Group, Youth Room

TUESDAY, 12/24: Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, 12/25: Christmas Day; Office Closed

THURSDAY, 12/26: Office Closed
6:15 p.m. Low Impact Exercise, Bartter Hall
8:00 p.m. AA, Chapel

FRIDAY, 12/27:
7:30 p.m. Al-Anon, Parlor

SATURDAY, 12/28:
10:15 p.m. Alpha-Omega AA – Bartter Hall
12:00 a.m. Westside Midnight AA – Bartter Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29:
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Community Meal and Coat Giveaway

Celebrating 160 Years
West Park United Church of Christ
3909 Rocky River Dr.  216-671-7228
Cleveland, Ohio 44111  www.westparkucc.org
WestParkUCCOffice@gmail.com