Facebook Check-in: As you arrive, please check in on Facebook.

▲ Please rise in body and spirit, as you are able.
PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN  “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”  BLACK HYMNAL 478

CALL TO WORSHIP:
One:  Blessed be the name of God
from this time on and forevermore.
Many:  From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of God is to be praised.
One:  It is good to give thanks to God,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
Many:  to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.
One:  For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;
Many:  at the works of your hands we sing for joy.

▲ HYMN  “Joy to the World”  BLACK HYMNAL 132

▲ CONFESSION OF SIN (In Unison)
We know, God, that we have disappointed you. We have said and done shameful things. We have had uncharitable thoughts and welcomed them. We have left opportunities to do good pass us by. We are sorry and ashamed. But we know that we can be honest with you about our failures, that you are an understanding, merciful, forgiving God. So we ask your mercy and forgiveness, putting all our trust not in our wavering selves but in you and your faithfulness. Hear these our prayers. Amen.

▲ ASSURANCE OF PARDON
One:  Listen to the words of Scripture:  The love and mercy of God are endless. When we turn away from our wrongdoing, God turns to us with gracious forgiveness. We can trust in a merciful God. Amen
▲GLORIA PATRI
(Please sing the words most comfortable to you. Here are two options.)

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

LITURGICAL DANCE to “Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)”
by Hillsong Worship  Danced by Louisa Armstrong Cathcart

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NOISY CHANGE OFFERING

THE LORD’S PRAYER (In Unison)
(Please pray the words most comfortable to you. Here are two options)

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.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE  Colossians 1:15-20  Pew Bible pg. 200, NT
One:  God is still speaking.  Many: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

SERMON  “Who Is Jesus?”

▲HYMN  “Away in a Manger”  BLACK HYMNAL 124
OFFERING & HEALING PRAYER

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

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

▲PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)
We give thee but thine own,
What-e’er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

▲HYMN
“What Child Is This”
BLACK HYMNAL 148

▲BENEDICTION
One:  May God grant you courage for the days ahead,
      comfort in any affliction,
      and contentment in all things. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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LOSS/GRIEF GROUP  meets on Monday January 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Emma Lang Lounge at Christ United Methodist Church, 3825 West 138th Street. Whatever loss is in your heart, please join us for prayer, fellowship and shared joy as we remember our loved ones and share God’s peace.

HEALING PRAYER – Today, during the Offering, the Deacons will offer up Healing Prayer for you or a loved one. Please go to the back of the church, where two Deacons will be available for the Healing Prayer.
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.

PASTOR JASON’S office hours are Mondays, 2:00-4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., or by appointment. Pastor Jason can be reached at the church office (216) 671-7228 or WestParkUCCPastor@gmail.com.

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

Attendance last Sunday was 79 adults and 3 Youth/Children. Thank you for your offerings of Operating $4,167, OCWM $165, Pink - Veterans of the Cross $5, Music Fund $105, Memorial Fund $10, Poinsettias $40, Christmas $153, Kids Plate $22, Rent Bartter Hall $100, Youth Fund $170, Endowment Fund $20, Foundation Fund $35, Light the Steeple $50,

THE STEEPLE WILL SHINE THIS WEEK for those incarcerated, especially my loving husband, Bryan Hrehocik. Love you, Lisa

NOISY CHANGE – Today 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.

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.

THE PINK ENVELOPE FOR DECEMBER is The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. The Christmas Fund is one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, and congregations have been generously giving to the offering for more than a century. Proceeds from the offering are used to provide direct financial assistance to UCC clergy and lay employees in several areas. Congregations across the country contribute to the Christmas Fund each year, and it is our December Pink Envelope here at West Park United Church of Christ.

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS: Are you interested in learning more about our church and our denomination? On Sunday, January 12 at 5:00 p.m., 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 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 18. ALL ARE WELCOME.
KENT STATE NOVA JAZZ SINGERS will offer a performance in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 p.m. Our own Dr. Christopher Venesile, Associate Professor of Music Education at Kent State University, founded the Nova Jazz Singers in 2012, combining the disciplines of advanced choral singing and the language of jazz. Jazz music continues to gain popularity and is recognized all over the world as a reflection of our country’s social and musical history. The ensemble performs annually at premier jazz clubs in Northeast Ohio, New York City and Chicago. In 2020, they will be featured at the Ohio Music Education Association State Professional Development Conference. Everyone is welcome so please invite your family and friends! Don’t miss this uplifting, entertaining afternoon! There will also be a luncheon served after worship and a free will offering will be collected.

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!

REMINDER: Church Council Installation of Officers, Delegates and Boards is Sunday, January 12, 2020. All continuing and new members are asked to attend that day.

2019 ANNUAL REPORTS are due Sunday, January 19, 2020. Staff, Current Board and Committee Chairs, Officers, and Delegates are asked to submit a report recap for the Annual Report. The Annual Meeting will be February 9, 2020.

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 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 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.

MITTEN LINE VOLUNTEERS: In our abundant blessings of the grant from the Deaconess Foundation, the Board of Christian Education invites you to help keep our neighborhood family warm this winter. On Saturday, January 11 @ 10:00 a.m., we will host a "packing party" in Bartter Hall to pack over 900 items that have been purchased to stock the mitten line. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Many hands make light work. All hands on deck for this important event!
THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

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

MONDAY, 12/30:
7:00 p.m. Mood Disorder Support Group, Youth Room

TUESDAY, 12/31: New Year’s Eve
Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020:
Happy New Year – Office Closed

THURSDAY, 01/02:
8:00 p.m. AA, Chapel

FRIDAY, 01/03:
7:30 p.m. Al- Anon, Parlor

SATURDAY, 01/04:
10:15 p.m. Alpha-Omega AA – Bartter Hall
12:00 a.m. Westside Midnight AA – Bartter Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5:
8:50 a.m. Teachers’ Meeting
10:00 a.m. Worship, Holy Communion, Agape & Acts 29 Sunday School Classes
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
12:00 p.m. Confirmation
3:00 p.m. Bowling

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