GATHERING MUSI | SILENT MEDITATION

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

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

GATHERING MUSIC – Doug Henderson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 60:1-6 Pew Bible, pg. 690, OT
(We will read responsively – the lector will read the odd numbered verses and the congregation will respond with the even numbered verses.)

▲HYMN “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” BLACK 157

▲PRAYER OF REPENTANCE (Unison)

One: The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed. Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness: the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily; the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom; the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it; the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;

Let us repent together,

Many: Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are creatures who either through foolishness or willfulness often choose darkness instead of light, often choose division instead of the Dream. Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our shortsighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep-seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: “Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.” Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!
ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: My friends, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us. The Dream comes to show us the possibilities to create beloved community. Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners. Our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

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, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MISSION MOMENT Camperships Lester Armstrong

OFFERING

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 (Unison)

Bless these gifts, O God, that they may shine as brightly as the Star of Bethlehem. May our offerings of talent and treasure be multiplied that the whole world might be illumined from the shadows and live fully into the Light. Amen.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

One: God is still speaking.
Many: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

SERMON “All we have to do is grab hold”

HYMN “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” BLACK 347
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
We gather as a community to share the bread and the cup Christ offers. All are invited to participate in this holy sacrament. Today, we will receive communion in the pews. Please take the bread and hold it until all are served; we will partake together. Do likewise with the cup of juice. We serve gluten-free Communion.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
One: God be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift them up to God.
One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
One: O Holy God........Amen and Amen.
Many: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest!

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (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.

▲ HYMN “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” BLACK 154

▲ BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE
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 ..................................................................................................................... Diane Kragt
COUNTERS ............................................................................................................. Pat & Mark Rust, Kathy Rennette

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, 2-4 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 Christmas Eve was 122. Last Sunday was 62 adults and 4 Youth/Children. Thank you for your combined offerings of Operating $1,462, OCWM $50, Pink - Vets. of the Cross $50, Christmas $1,358, Music Fund $1,150, Birthday$10, Alternative Xmas $55, Food Pantry $3,500, Mitten Line $1,000, Poinsettias $16, Youth Fund $200, Endowment Fund $20, Children's Plate $30, Pennies $4, Light the Steeple $40, Initial Offering $5

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.

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.

PINK ENVELOPE FOR JANUARY – WPUCC Camperships - For our young people, church camp is often where they feel closest to God, surrounded by dedicated counselors and fast friends they see only once a year. It is in this sacred space, where God is present and faith is formed, which is why the Board of Stewardship & Finance is asking our congregation to support West Park UCC’s youth campership program by giving generously to the January Pink Envelope offering.
WE PRAY FOR: Wilda Donegan, Bill Beutel, Larry Shank, Grace Burgess, Austin & Amanda Lupercio, Edna Schleich, Jean Clark, LaShanda Harper, Renee Thayer, Geri Frimel, Dolly Chappell, Janet Gorman, Grace Green, Pastor Larry & Christina Craig, Georgia Smith, Wanda Paulin, Carol Hunt, Midge Karnatz, Anna Belle Rice, Jay Gardella, Bryan Hrehocik, nursing home and at home members & friends.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR- Payments for tickets should be made to the church no later than TODAY. Please see Pastor Jason if you need additional time.

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.

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.

REMINDER: Church Council Installation of Officers, Delegates and Boards is next 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!

**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.

**VOLUNTEER MORNING** – We will be taking down the Christmas decorations this Saturday at the Volunteer Morning starting at 9:00 a.m. Coffee will be on!

**INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP:** Plan to join others from our church from July 5 – July 10, 2020 on a summer mission trip! Our small team will spend the week in Wooster, Ohio partnering with North Street Mission, an outreach of Trinity United Church of Christ. We will assist in preparation and service of daily meals to local residents, increase our awareness and understanding of poverty and homelessness in Ohio and have fun in community together. Approximate cost is $300 per person, though scholarship and fundraising opportunities are available! This opportunity is for ages 13 and up. Please sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office no later than February 16.

**YOUTH GROUP:** On Sunday, January 26, our youth group will head downtown to ice skate at Public Square. Any youth wants to attend, should notify Pastor Jason no later than Sunday, January 19.
THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

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

MONDAY, 01/06:
7:00 p.m. Mood Disorder Support Group, Youth Room

TUESDAY, 01/07:
7:30 p.m. Recovery, International, Youth Room

WEDNESDAY, 01/08:
6:00-8:00 p.m. Neighborhood Night, Bartter Hall
7:00 p.m. Choir, Music Room

THURSDAY, 01/09
6:15 p.m. Low Impact Exercise, Bartter Hall
8:00 p.m. AA, Chapel

FRIDAY, 01/10:
7:30 p.m. Al- Anon, Parlor

SATURDAY, 01/11:
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Volunteer Morning, with Mitten Line packing and Christmas “Un-decorating”
10:15 p.m. Alpha-Omega AA – Bartter Hall
12:00 a.m. Westside Midnight AA – Bartter Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 12:
10:00 a.m. Worship and Agape & Acts 29 Sunday School Classes
11:30 a.m. Boards of Christian Ed, Growth & Outreach, and Trustees
2:00 p.m. Nova Jazz Concert, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. New Member Class, Pastor Jason’s office

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