GATHERING MUSIC | SILENT MEDITATION  

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT          “I Am Alive”          Nova Jazz Singers  
                  By Greg Jasperse

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 29  
(We will read responsively – the lector will read the odd numbered verses and the congregation will respond with the even numbered verses.)

▲ HYMN          “What a Covenant”          BLACK HYMNAL 471

▲ GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)  
Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. You were well-pleased. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to our calling as your people that you might also be well-pleased with us. In the name of our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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,  

NOVA JAZZ SINGERS  
“All Creatures of Our God and King”  
Arranged by Anders Edenroth

INSTALLATION of BOARD MEMBERS

One:  Members and friends of West Park UCC, you have heard the promises of our friends in Christ who have answered God’s call to service in our church. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. I invite to rise in body and spirit as witnesses to the commitment we now make.
Many: We gather in celebration of our joy to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you so that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Blessing of the Advent Bags

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
One: Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our hearts and eyes that we may see the wonders of your word; give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom.

Amen.

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 3:1-17

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

SERMON
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

▲HYMN:
“God, When I Came into This Life” BLACK HYMNAL 354

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 (Unison)
Bless this gifts, dear Jesus, that the promises of your baptism might be fulfilled. Bless these gifts, that we may fulfill the promises of our own baptisms. Bless these gifts, that the whole world might be baptized in your never-ending love. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

▲HYMN “Shall We Gather at the River” BLACK HYMNAL 597

▲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..................................................................................................Gail Kenney
SCRIPTURE READER......................................................................Judi Wiseman
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 last Sunday was 66 adults and 2 Youth/Children.
Thank you for your offerings of Operating $2,598, OCWM $162, Pink - Camperships $40, Music Fund (Memorials) $270, Foundation Fund $25, Endowment Fund $5, Children's Plate $33, Initial Offering $97, tickets - "Jesus Christ Super Star" $570

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.

THE FLOWERS on the Altar are given are in honor of Audrey’s 7th birthday from Grammie and Grampie Jessen. They are also given to the glory of God in joyful and loving celebration of the January 15th birthday of Julie Schleich and in loving memory of the January 2nd birthday of Magda Peregrin, Chris Wiesner’s aunt, by Julie’s mom and dad and loving friends of Magda, Edna and Dave; Julie’s fiancé, Chris Wiesner and loving nephew of his aunt Magda; and Brian Golba, soon-to-be brother-in-law of Julie, and loving nephew-in-law of Magda.

FAITH IN FILM: This weekend, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, January 18, 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. ALL ARE WELCOME.

2019 ANNUAL REPORTS are due Sunday, January 19, 2020. 2019 Staff, 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 11:30 a.m. 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.

YOUTH GROUP: On Sunday, January 26, our youth group will head to Serendipity Arena in Lakewood for ice skating from 1-4 p.m. Any youth wants to attend, should notify Pastor Jason no later than Sunday, January 19.
INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP: Plan to join others from our church from July 12 – July 17, 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.

WHAT DOES THE NUMBER 4728 MEAN TO YOU? Well, in case you’re wondering, this is the number of pennies we collected in our “Change For Good” change jar in 2019! Through our ongoing contributions of our loose change, we collected over $360.00. These monies will be used to further God’s mission in our world: A Change for Good. If you have a unique idea on what to do with this money, write it down on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate. A special thank you to Bob Arcuri and Linda Ferro for helping count and roll all the coins!
THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

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, Parlor

MONDAY, 01/13:
7:00 p.m.  Mood Disorder Support Group, Youth Room

TUESDAY, 01/14:
6:30 p.m.  MOPS
7:30 p.m.  Recovery, International, Youth Room

WEDNESDAY, 01/15:
6:00 p.m.  Turkish Cooking Class
7:00 p.m.  Choir, Music Room

THURSDAY, 01/16
6:15 p.m.  Low Impact Exercise, Bartter Hall
8:00 p.m.  AA, Chapel

FRIDAY, 01/17:
7:30 p.m.  Al- Anon, Parlor

SATURDAY, 01/18:
2:00 p.m.  Prayer Shawl
6:00 p.m.  Faith in Film, “An Act of Love” Sanctuary
10:15 p.m.  Alpha-Omega AA – Bartter Hall
12:00 a.m.  Westside Midnight AA – Bartter Hall

NEXT SUNDAE, JANUARY 19: 2019 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
10:00 a.m.  Worship and Agape & Acts 29 Sunday School Classes
11:30 a.m.  3rd Sunday
3:00 p.m.  Bowling

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