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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP:  Psalm 40:1-11  Pew Bible, pg. 513, OT
(We will read responsively – the lector will read the odd numbered verses and the congregation will respond with the even numbered verses.)

▲HYMN  “Lift Every Voice and Sing”  BLACK HYMNAL 593

▲GATHERING PRAYER  (Unison)
God of Justice, grant us your life-giving presence.
Guide us in our time of worship and remain with us as we step out into the world, that we may face injustice with courage and love. May we come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience. The timing may feel off; the end of the road might be out of sight, yet we trust in your holy presence.
How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.
How long? Not long, because we still reap what we sow.
How long? Not long. Because the arm of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.
How long? Not long, because you are our God, and all may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. 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,

ANTHEM  “We Will Give Thanks”  Mark Patterson
OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT (May 2015)
One: We welcome ALL who wish to worship God and follow the teachings of Jesus. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We welcome people of all ages, genders, races, views, abilities, sexual orientations, ethnic and economic backgrounds into the full life and ministry of our church.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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.

HEBREW BIBLE READING Genesis 18:1-8 Pew Bible page 14, OT
One: God is still speaking.
Many: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 15:1-6 Pew Bible page 163, NT
One: God is still speaking.
Many: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Covenant and Coming Out” Rev. Andy Lang

LITANY OF ACTION TOWARD JUSTICE
One: A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name. . .’Samuel’;
Fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;
And still the Voice beckons today. . .can you hear?
Many: Here I am. Send me.
One: Moses protested as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;
And still the Voice beckons today. . .can you hear?
Many: Here I am. Send me.
One: Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;  
Martin Luther King, Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;  
And still the Voice beckons today. . .can you hear?

Many: Here I am. Send me.

One: The Voice beckons from humble places. . .  
in the tears of hungry children,  
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly,  
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;  
and still the Voice beckons today. . .can you hear?

Many: Here I am. Send me.

One: A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;  
A struggling church hears the Voice and turns;  
and still the Voice beckons today. . .can you hear?

Many: Here I am. Send me.

▲ HYMN: “Here I Am, Lord” NEXT PAGE

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)
O God, we commit to use all our gifts--wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, administration, hospitality, and finances-- in the service of acting as co-workers with you and each other, that peace and justice for all may flow like a mighty stream! Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

▲ HYMN “Precious Lord, Take my Hand” BLACK HYMNAL 472

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
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 especially welcome Rev. Andy Lang. Andy has been the Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition UCC since 2010: in that capacity, he leads the UCC’s Open and Affirming Program, the largest LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world. His passion is to reach the nearly 3,500 UCC congregations that have not yet adopted an ONA covenant. He is a member of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Shaker Heights, OH. Andy’s pronouns of choice are “he, him, his.”

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 84 adults and 6 Youth/Children. Thank you for your offerings of Operating $1,035.25, OCWM $91, Pink - Camperships $15, Funds: Foundation $25, Endowment $70, Music $75, Children’s Plate $23.25, Rent: $4340, Initial Offering $55, "Coins for Change" $362.56, Copier Receipts $5.91, Tickets, Jesus Christ Superstar $774

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. We received a $1000 grant from the Deaconess Foundation, with which we purchased 15 bags of clothes pins, 8 storage bins, 1068 items, and zip lock bags to keep them dry. Saturday, January 11, we had 13 people who helped assemble bags for distribution on the Mitten Line. We removed tags and bagged the items for hanging outside. Before the grant, our church had donated 700 items ourselves for the Mitten Line. Thank you and keep up the good work!

THE STEEPLE WILL SHINE THIS WEEK in memory of Jeanette Bender who went home to the Lord on January 12. May you rest in peace, Jeanette, from Kathy Rennette

2019 ANNUAL REPORTS are due TODAY, 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: Today, we welcome Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition UCC who will lead our Adult Education program at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor, titled; “So we are open and affirming…now what?” Join us as we prayerfully consider our ongoing commitment and community response to an extravagant welcome for all.

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.

PINK ENVELOPE FOR JANUARY – WPVUCC Camperships - For our young people, church camp is often where they feel closest to God. They are 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. This 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.
THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

SUNDAY, 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

MONDAY, 01/20: Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)
7:00 p.m. Mood Disorder Support Group, Youth Room

TUESDAY, 01/21: Council Reports and February – March Good News Articles due!
6:00 p.m. Deacons
7:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance
7:30 p.m. Recovery, International, Youth Room

WEDNESDAY, 01/22:
6:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Choir, Music Room

THURSDAY, 01/23
6:15 p.m. Low Impact Exercise, Bartter Hall
7:00 p.m. Church Council
8:00 p.m. AA, Chapel

FRIDAY, 01/24:
7:30 p.m. Al-Anon, Parlor

SATURDAY, 01/25:
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Bartter Hall use – Disc. World
10:15 p.m. Alpha-Omega AA – Bartter Hall
12:00 a.m. Westside Midnight AA – Bartter Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 26:
10:00 a.m. Worship and Agape & Acts 29 Sunday School Classes
11:30 a.m. Community Meal
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Youth Group

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