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 119:1-8  Pew Bible, pg. 566, OT
(We will read responsively – the lector will read the odd numbered verses and the congregation will respond with the even numbered verses.)

▲ HYMN  “Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”  BLACK HYMNAL 537

▲ GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)
Discerning God, help us to consider this day,
how we live our lives and how we choose the direction we take.

Discriminating God,
help us to understand how crucial the words are that we speak to others
as we seek to build and strengthen relationships in our lives.

Disturbing God, help us find clarity in our relationship with you,
with others, and with ourselves.

Moving God,
help us to know you and to feel your presence among us this morning.
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,

ANTHEM  “Walk Through the Valley in Peace”  Douglas E. Wagner

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.

YOUTH ANTHEM “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:20-48 Pew Bible page 5, NT
One: God is still speaking.
Many: And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

SERMON “”

▲ HYMN “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

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)
This offering, O God, is dedicated to you. This money represents our time and our labor, our work and our toil. We know you love a generous giver and we gladly give a portion of our earnings, that your work will be done in this world and that your justice will flow like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER
▲ HYMN

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"  BLACK HYMNAL 448

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Parts of today’s liturgy have been adapted from Re:Worship
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 ......................................................Jean Clark
POET LAUREATE ..................................................................................Rachel Miller
LECTOR ....................................................................................................Louise Gamary
SCRIPTURE READER ...........................................................................Jim Hutchings
COUNTERS ............................................................................................Marilyn & Jim Furry, Lester Armstrong

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 64 adults and 4 Youth/Children. Thank you for your offerings of Operating $1,621, OCWM $117, Pink - CUE $41, Children's Plate $46, Initial Offering $10, Rent $3,700, Funds: Foundation $25, Endowment $20, Memorial $100

SHROVE TUESDAY - Plan to join us in Bartter Hall from 6 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25 for our annual pancake dinner. Tell your friends. Tell your family. And give a great big shout out of “THANK YOU” to Robin Jessen for her leadership in planning and executing this event! There will be pancakes and sausages aplenty! Suggested donation $8.

SIGN UP! To put flowers on the Altar, or to Light the Steeple. Sign up in the narthex.

YOUTH GROUP: On Sunday, February 23, our youth group will gather at 12pm for conversation and fellowship before heading to Crocker Park to see The Color Purple, a film about a black Southern woman who struggles to find her identity after enduring a lifetime of abuse. We will return to the church at 4pm. Any youth who wish to attend should notify Pastor Jason no later than February 18. Each youth is welcome to bring a friend with a signed permission slip. Tickets and popcorn will be provided.

ASH WEDNESDAY services will again be celebrated in partnership with our friends from Christ United Methodist Church. We will worship at Christ UMC (3625 W 138th St, Cleveland, OH 44111) at 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 26, including the imposition of ashes.

PINK ENVELOPE FOR FEBRUARY – CUE - Our faith is a living tradition that calls for continual discovery and re-discovery. Our leaders must be equipped to interpret the tradition for our own time and place. This call has never been more important than now in these days of societal change and complexity. Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries (CUE) are dedicated to strengthening churches by educating leaders who will serve congregations and communities around the world with compassion and justice. Help assist in educating our next generation of UCC leaders by giving generously to the February Pink Envelope Offering which is dedicated CUE Seminaries of the United Church of Christ.

Join Us for a Country Western Hoedown
West Park UCC Fund-Raising Dinner Set for April 25

Howdy, pod’ner! Members and friends of West Park UCC will have an opportunity to raise funds for our operating budget while having some good-natured fun by moseying on down to Bartter Hall on Saturday, April 25 for a country western dinner and hoedown! Cost is $20 for adults; $10 for children under 12; children under 5 are free. We don’t want any members who would like to attend not to do so due to cost; tickets are donated by fellow church members for just such a circumstance, so let us know. Space is limited and tickets sell out fast, so see Dan or Kathleen Moreland to reserve your seat today. Tickets also can be purchased at the church office.
PASSOVER SEDER: West Park UCC has been invited to an interfaith Passover Seder from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Beachwood, Ohio. If you would like to attend with a group from our church, please sign up in the narthex no later than Sunday, February 23.

PASTORAL ADVISORY is meeting Sunday, March 1 before worship. If you have complements or concerns, please contact Robin Jessen, Dan Moreland, or Jen Krejsa.

HONORING AMERICAN HEROES: BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Gwendolyn Brooks is one of the most highly regarded, influential and widely read poets of 20th-century American poetry. She was a much-honored poet, even in her lifetime, with the distinction of being the first Black author to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for Annie Allen. She also was poetry consultant to the Library of Congress—the first Black woman to hold that position—and poet laureate of the State of Illinois. Many of her works display a political consciousness, especially those from the 1960s and later, with several of her poems reflecting the civil rights activism of that period. Her body of work gave her, according to critic George E. Kent, “a unique position in American letters. Not only has she combined a strong commitment to racial identity and equality with a mastery of poetic techniques, but she has also managed to bridge the gap between the academic poets of her generation in the 1940s and the young Black militant writers of the 1960s.”

ALBER SCHOLARSHIP! Applications are available for our Alber Scholarship. It is open to Active Members who will be Sophomores, Juniors, or Seniors in an accredited educational institution. The deadline for the scholarship is Sunday, March 31. Some of the requirements have changed, including providing a current official transcript from the educational institution. You can pick up a paper copy in the Narthex or you can email Linda at westparkuccoffice@gmail.com for an electronic copy. Please let your students know that this is available!
THIS WEEK AT WEST PARK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16:
10:00 a.m. Worship & Agape & Acts 29 Sunday School Classes
11:30 a.m. 3rd Sunday, Growth & Outreach, Trustees
            Bartter Hall Rental
3:00 p.m. Bowling

MONDAY, 02/17:
7:00 p.m. Mood Disorder Support Group, Youth Room

TUESDAY, 02/18:
6:00 p.m. Deacons
7:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance
7:30 p.m. Recovery, International, Youth Room

WEDNESDAY, 02/19:
6:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Choir, Music Room

THURSDAY, 02/20:
6:00 p.m. Turkish Cooking Class
8:00 p.m. AA, Chapel

FRIDAY, 02/21:
7:30 p.m. Al-Anon, Parlor

SATURDAY, 02/22:
10:15 p.m. Alpha-Omega AA – Bartter Hall
12:00 a.m. Westside Midnight AA – Bartter Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23:
10:00 a.m. Worship & Agape & Acts 29 Sunday School Classes
11:30 a.m. Community Meal
           Youth Group

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