In My Head:
thoughts from Pastor Jason

You know, I’ve been thinking about that Donny and Marie Osmond song the last few days. It’s become an earworm and I can’t seem to get it out of my head. You know the one, “I’m a little bit country, and I’m a little bit rock ‘n roll….” Ordinarily, I sing a lot of hymns and church songs throughout my week – not because I’m especially holy, but because I spend a lot of time planning worship and those are the songs that get stuck in my head. Why Donnie and Marie this week?

Well, I’ve been thinking about the lyrics and the different experiences that each of the singers highlights. Country and Rock ‘n Roll are presented as two different worlds, two different universes even. But in their song, the brother and sister are able to find commonality and unity. They are able to understand that it is the differences that give us strength, and that we are all in fact quite similar.

I think our faith teaches us this too. Among us, God has created such an abundance of difference: sex, gender, sexual orientations, skin color, height, ability, origin, intelligence, and so on. Each of us is so very different than any other human being on this earth. But we are also so much alike; we are all children of the same God and we all crave human love, affection and touch.

These last weeks have been difficult for us all, difficult for the whole world. I find that what I miss most is a tight, all-embracing, knock-the-air-out-of-my-lungs HUG! After all this is over, I plan to hug anyone who will let me!

We will celebrate Easter Sunday on April 12. It is the right and honorable thing to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on this day, even though we will do it online and in our own homes. This year’s celebration may be a bit solemn, but remember that Christ is also called “Emmanuel” which means God-with-us. And God is with us.

When we return to our church home in person, we are planning a great big celebration. We are calling it EASTER @ WEST PARK! Because everyday is Easter to us. Everyday we are reminded of the gift of the forgiveness of sin offered by Jesus Christ; and everyday we are reminded of the promise of new life through Christ’s victory over the power of death!

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!
HAPPY EASTER!
HAPPENINGS IN OUR CHURCH LIFE

PINK ENVELOPE
April’s special offering will benefit One Great Hour of Sharing. The ecumenical offering is collected annually and is one of the 5 for 5 offerings of the United Church of Christ. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, One Great Hour of Sharing provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

CARE CIRCLES
We hope to put together a group of 10-15 people who are willing to make regular calls to our church members while we are unable to meet in person. If you are willing to help with this new ministry, please contact Pastor Jason. The church staff cannot do this alone. PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED!

SUNDAY WORSHIP: We all miss our church: the building where we have worshiped God as a community for years and years. We have celebrated baptisms, Holy Communion, funerals and countless other special events in our lives together. We also know that everyone wants to see each other.

In April, we are returning to our regular worship time at 10am. Our worship will be broadcast on Facebook. Best of all, after church, we will have a “virtual coffee hour” so we can see each other and chat to catch up. Tune in on Sundays and we will walk everyone through our new virtual worship format.

So what do I do to join in worship and other church activities? Visit westparkucc.org and click on the COVID-19 UPDATE tab on the home page.

NO INTERNET ACCESS? You may use the following phone numbers to listen in to worship:

SUNDAYS @ 10am
+1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 503 841 134

COFFEE HOUR @ 11:30am
+1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 198 946 112

HOLY SATURDAY 7:00pm
+1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 364 764 870

With apologies, our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are pre-recorded; they cannot be accessed without an internet connection.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL met on March 26 and made the decision to continue the temporary suspension of all church services and activities until further notice. We will resume operations when it is safe for ALL to be in attendance.

NEWSLETTER: To help us all stay better connected, THE GOOD NEWS will now be available on a monthly basis. We will return to our bi-monthly publication schedule in the Fall.

STAYING CONNECTED CHALLENGE: Let’s keep a physical distance while remaining “social.” If your birth year is an even number, we ask you to call one person from our church directory each of these days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday. If your birth year is an odd number, we ask you to call one person from our church directory each of these days: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Anyone who reaches out to 25 different people should contact Pastor Jason for a prize!

BIBLE STUDY will resume Wednesday, April 1 @ 6pm via Zoom, an online platform where we can meet virtually or by dialing in from a phone. If you would like to participate, you may join the Bible study each week through a link posted on the website under COVID-19 UPDATE. If you don’t have the capability to join online, you may dial in to 1 929 205 6099. When prompted for a meeting ID, enter 973 685 062; when prompted for a participant ID, simply press the # key.
Birthdays & Anniversaries – April 2020

**BIRTHDAYS**

**APRIL**

2  Joseph Gibson  
   Renee Thayer  
3  Elmer Rogers  
8  Audrey Glaser  
   Phyllis Schroth  
16 Anthony Bostwick  
19 Linda Ferro  
21 Marie Koch  
23 William Armstrong, Sr.  
24 Ted Litchney  
28 Candace Berichon

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**APRIL**

Bill & Erin Armstrong  
04-24-2004  
Dave & Ellie Ellsworth  
04-28-1984

What are you doing during quarantine?
West Park
United Church of Christ

3909 Rocky River Drive
Cleveland, OH 44111-4153
www.westparkucc.org
216.671.7228

APRIL 2020

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jason Thompson
Senior Pastor
WestParkUCCPastor@gmail.com

Jim Furry
Associate Pastor
WestParkUCCLicensedMinister@gmail.com

Christopher Venesile, PhD
Music Director
WestParkUCCMusic@gmail.com

Linda Ferro
Church Administrator
WestParkUCCOffice@gmail.com

Rachel Miller
Social Media Admnistrator

Bob Arcuri
Director of Maintenance

Darrell Hurns
Custodian

SAVE THE DATES

June 22-26 – Vacation Bible School
July 4 – Kamm's Corners 4th of July Parade
July 18 – Church Council Retreat
August 22 – Strawberry Social (new date)
September 12 – Pride in the CLE (new date)
September 19 – Country Hoedown Fundraiser (new date)
October 16-18 – All Church Retreat (new dates)