WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
Over the last weeks, we have gotten to be REALLY comfortable in our home worship each Sunday morning, wearing everything from t-shirts, shorts and even our favorite pajamas. On our first Sunday back, you are invited to wear your at home worship clothes to church. Come as you are and as you have been these last weeks. This will be a fun way to celebrate our return but also a visible reminder that no matter what we wear, no matter our location, no matter where we are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

PINK ENVELOPE
May's special offering will benefit the ALBER SCHOLARSHIP. This scholarship is offered annually by our church to benefit the ongoing post-secondary education of one or more of our members. All of the donations received will be distributed to this year’s winner(s).

In My Head:
thoughts from Pastor Jason

I am a pastor and theologian, not a doctor. I don’t pretend to fully understand all the science behind the novel coronavirus that is infecting our world, though there are many who do think that they are better informed than people with years of medical training and experience. There are anti-government groups showing up with military style weapons at statehouses around the country. I even saw one “protester” with a sign that read: “Sacrifice the Weak. Reopen Tennessee.” Then there are the vast majority of our citizens who are at home, following the advice of our civic and medical professionals.

I, like most of us, often have an immediate answer when I am confronted with something new. But I also have the habit of reviewing my own viewpoints and filtering what I think through the lens our faith, through the commands of Jesus Christ. That’s the theologian in me and, quite frankly, that’s what you pay me to do.

Everything taking place in our world has me thinking a lot lately about face masks and thermometers. Many of us have recently learned that most protective face masks provide only limited protection for the wearer so there is little need to wear one for self-protection. But we have also learned that wearing one of these facial coverings can protect others with whom we come in contact. Wow! Just wow! What could be more Christian? What could be more loving than that? What could be more loving than making sure we are not contagious by checking our temperatures?

Jesus sums up our entire faith in Matthew 22: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” And in Matthew 25 Jesus says, “Amen, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” These words of Christ have face masks and temperature checks written all over them.

(continued on page 3)
NEW PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

Matthew 7:12: “In **everything** do to others as you would have them do to you.”

After careful consideration and prayer, we have developed these new policies for in-person church activities. It is our hope that by strict adherence to these new procedures, everyone who enters our buildings will be able to worship God without any safety concerns. If you are immunocompromised or have underlying health conditions that may put you at greater risk of complications of COVID-19, we encourage you to stay home and worship online or over the phone.

- **EVERYONE** entering the church will wear face masks or shields. Masks will be available in the narthex if you do not have one. Anyone unwilling to comply will be asked not to enter the building.
- Everyone will enter the building through the front doors only. Other entrances will be locked.
- Everyone is encouraged to check your temperature before coming to church. Everyone entering the building will undergo a temperature check at the front door with an infrared, no-touch thermometer; those with temperatures over 100.4 will be asked to return home.
- Every other pew in the sanctuary will be closed. The balcony will also be closed. Please keep a physical distance from anyone outside of your own household.
- We will observe one-way traffic into the Sanctuary -- enter through center aisle, exit via the side aisles, exiting one row at a time when service is over.
- The offering basket will be positioned at the entrance to the sanctuary and will not be passed during worship.
- Worship bulletins will be positioned in the narthex and entrance to the sanctuary; ushers will not hand them out.
- The cushions have been removed from the pews. All pews will be be sanitized following each gathering. If you wish, you are welcome to bring your own cushion or pad for use while seated.
- No large gatherings will be held in Bartter Hall; this includes coffee hour.
- No Sunday School or 3rd Sunday events will be held during the summer. For younger children, packets of coloring pages of Bible lessons will be available for pickup and use during worship.
- Small Groups – If you would like to host a small group meeting, special accommodations will be considered by contacting Pastor Jason.
- Hand sanitizer stations are now located in various locations throughout both buildings. Please sanitize your hands when entering the buildings. There are also new no-touch soap dispensers in all bathrooms and kitchens. Please no more than two people at a time in a restroom.
- Access to the church office is restricted to church staff and treasurers.
- Sunday worship will continue to be live streamed and audio broadcast.

We **CAUTIOUSLY HOPE** to return to in-person worship on **PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020**.

This date is subject to change and is our best case scenario.

“**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”
KEEPING CONNECTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP: During May, we are hosting regular worship at 10am on YouTube @ YouTube.com/WestParkUCC. We also are hosting “virtual coffee hour” each week so we can see each other and chat to catch up.

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:
SUNDAY 10am: 1 929 205 6099
COFFEE HOUR after worship: 1 929 205 6099
Webinar ID: 503 841 134
Meeting ID: 198 946 112
Password: 210502
Password: 654965

NEWSLETTER: THE GOOD NEWS will return to our bi-monthly publication schedule next month.

BIBLE STUDY is on Wednesdays, 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 the meeting ID, enter 973 685 062; the password is 004757.

PASTORAL LETTER: (continued…)

We do our best everyday to live out our faith, why would these days be any different? Regular temperature checks and wearing protective facial coverings in public and in church are just other ways that we can say to the world, “I care about other people and I am willing to help protect them.”

In the coming weeks, our church will re-open. It will look different than it did before the pandemic began. There will be new protocols in place and enhanced safety features. But one thing that has not changed is that our church is holy and sacred space. God is still speaking, and we are still listening. As always, God is telling us to take care of the least, to take care of those with weakened immune systems and underlying health conditions, to take care of all God’s children. And we will do just what our God is calling us to do!

See you soon, my friends!
Pastor Jason

Birthdays & Anniversaries – May 2020

BIRTHDAYS
1 Lisa Hrehocki 19 Clarence Chavers III
3 Tara Clifford 23 Thom Rowntree
5 Susan Kirst 25 Ruth Finley
6 Holly Sinnema 26 Jim Hutchings
7 Dennis McCormack 27 Erin Armstrong
10 Margaret Owens 28 Dolly Chappell
14 Marlene Arcuri 29 Laurie Dobransky
16 Robert Lamb 30 Lora Mosier
Rachael Thayer 31 Douglas Miller

ANNIVERSARIES
Jim & Sandy Zmina
05-08-1965
Candace & Richard Berichon
05-13-1989
Robert & Marlene Arcuri
05-16-1964
Dan & Kathleen Moreland
05-21-1982
Scott O’Con & Rev. Jason Thompson
05-25-2003

Douglas Miller
Grace Burgess

Lora Mosier
THE GOOD NEWS
NEWS & HAPPENINGS @ WEST PARK UCC

Following Christ, Caring for All, Growing Together

West Park
United Church of Christ
3909 Rocky River Drive
Cleveland, OH 44111-4153
www.westparkucc.org
216.671.7228

May 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 Administrator

Bob Arcuri
Director of Maintenance

Darrell Hurns
Custodian

SAVE THE DATES
Vacation Bible School – will return in 2021
August 22 – Strawberry Social (new date)
September 12 – Pride in the CLE (new date)
September 13 – church Picnic (new date)
September 19 -- Country Hoedown Fundraiser (new date)
November 13-15 -- All Church Retreat (new dates)
Each year on Mothers’ Day, it is part of our church tradition to honor all of the women in our community with the presentation of a flower. We would like to keep that tradition alive even as we are not physically present in church this year. Please accept this flower (colored by Annie Karkoff) as a gift from West Park United Church of Christ. This month, as always, we honor our women, and say “WE LOVE YOU!”
West Park United Church of Christ
3909 Rocky River Drive
Cleveland, OH 44111

Flower Order Form
For Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020
or when we reopen

Donor name

Telephone number

CHOOSE:

IN HONOR OF

AND/ OR

IN MEMORY OF

The cost of each 6 inch pot is $8.50.

Please make checks payable to:
WEST PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Please mail to the church office. No orders will be accepted after Sunday, May 24.

Amount enclosed:
# of plants _____ x $8.50 = ______

Pd. ______ Cash _____ Check # _______