WHILE YOU WERE AWAY

The Board of Trustees has been hard at work these last months! Since March, the sanctuary windows (including the Rose window) have been repaired, new soap and hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed, the carpet has been shampooed as well as ongoing grounds care and some much needed painting. We are also moving forward with repairs to the parking lot and preparations for a new tenant later this summer. Thanks to all who have aided our church with these updates!

PINK ENVELOPE

June’s pink envelope is Strengthen the Church. These monies are used by the UCC to support new ministries and people who are discerning their call to the ministry.

In My Head:
thoughts from Pastor Jason

When I was in high school, I was in the marching band. I loved spending time with my friends playing music and performing at Friday night football games. We also spent many Saturday afternoons at various competitions around the state. Not to brag, but we were good. Over the years, we collected lots of titles and many trophies. I give credit for much of our success to our band director. He had a plaque in his office with the words of 1 Corinthians 14:40: “Let all things be done decently and in order.” This was the guiding principle he tried to teach us. I’ve been reflecting on this passage and how it might guide us today.

I, for one, am deeply disappointed and saddened that our church must remain closed to in-person gatherings at this time. I am sure that you share those feelings. But doing things decently and in order does not necessarily mean that we get our hopes and dreams fulfilled. It means that we honor our God by making the hard choices when necessary, including limiting access to our church buildings.

Doing things decently and in order is right up our alley as Christians. Wearing face coverings, keeping a physical distance and doing our part to slow the spread of the coronavirus are ways that we continue to live out our faith.

I have been doing extensive research on our church during times of global pandemics. Many of us are aware of the 1918-19 influenza pandemic that gripped our world and our city. During the outbreak, many people in our church contracted the flu and more than a dozen died. Our Pastor, The Rev. J.P. Reidinger, was so sick that he spent several weeks at home in bed. But what you may not know, is that there was a flu pandemic in 1890 that hit Cleveland especially hard as well. There were two members of our church who died from flu that year.

(continued page 2)
KEEPING CONNECTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP: During June, 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 10 a.m.: COFFEE HOUR at 10:45 a.m.:  
1 929 205 6099 1 929 205 6099  
Webinar ID: 503 841 134 Meeting ID: 198 946 112  
Password: 210502 Password: 654965

COMMUNION SUNDAY: On Sunday, June 7, we will celebrate Holy Communion together as part of our online worship. Before we begin at 10am on Sunday morning, you are invited to create a sacred place to celebrate the Sacrament. You will want this area to be in the same place where you are watching/listening to worship. Please set up a simple cloth, a candle, a cup, juice (or any potable liquid) and a plate with bread. Please wait until we celebrate to pour the juice in the cup. We will walk you through each step as part of worship.

Here are two set-up examples:

Pastoral Letter (cont.)

In looking back, our ancestors also tried to do things decently and in order. Rev. Elisha Hoffman, our pastor in 1890, encouraged clean hands and fresh handkerchiefs. Rev. J.P. Reidinger instructed the congregation on how to worship at home while the church was closed for almost two months. And today, we are following in their footsteps. Just like our forebearers, this shall end for us. But what kind of world will we find on the other side? What kind of people will we be after this all ends? It is my hope for all of us, that we will still be a people who are strong in our faith, strong in our commitment to each other and strong in our love of Jesus Christ. Let us do all things decently and in order.

Pastor Jason
**BIRTHDAYS**

3 Lynne Rice
   Georgia Smith
6 Louise Unterzuber
   Diane Lett
   Dan Moreland
10 George White
12 Dolores Holliday
13 John Gibson
   Mark Rust
   Deb Solyan
18 Grace Green
   Nicole Jessen

19 James Furry
   Shannon Thayer
   Judy Rogers
   Amanda Salvino
   Rachel Miller

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**ANNIVERSARIES**

Mandi Salvino & Dan Karkoff
   06-04-2011
   06-07-1958
   06-19-2010

Elmer & Judy Rogers
   06-04-2011
   06-07-1958
   06-11-2004
   06-19-2010

Chris & Suzanne Venesile
   06-08-2019
   06-11-2004

Deb Solyan & Julie Turnley
   06-11-2004

Daniel Vivacqua & Russell Petrus
   06-19-2010

Bryan & Lisa Hrehocik
   06-20-2019

James and Marilyn Furry
   06-21-2003

Ryan & Tara Clifford
   06-25-2005

Ted & Nora Litchney
   06-26-1988

Richard & Lynne Rice
   06-27-1959

Jim & Liz Hutchings
   06-27-1970

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**NEWSLETTER:** THE GOOD NEWS will continue monthly until we return!

**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.

**WEEKDAY MEET-UPS:** Beginning in June, we will offer a few opportunities to check-in while we wait to see each other in person later this summer. On Monday mornings, you are invited to kick off your week with coffee and conversation with Pastor Jason and others from our church. On Wednesday afternoons, we will get together for lunch. Both of these new meet-ups will take place virtually via Zoom. So sit back with your morning java and afternoon sandwich while enjoying time with church friends, all from the safety of your own home. Information on how to access each meet-up (either through video or dial-in) is below.

**Monday Morning Coffee with Pastor Jason** 8am - 30 minutes

(June 1, 8, 15, 22)

Join Zoom meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85734842065
   Meeting ID: 857 3484 2065

Or dial in by phone 1 929 205 6099
   Meeting ID: 857 3484 2065

**Wednesday Afternoon Lunch Crew** 12pm (noon) - 30 minutes

(June 3, 10, 17, 24)

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83815117214
   Meeting ID: 838 1511 7214

Or dial in by phone 1 929 205 6099
   Meeting ID: 838 1511 7214
**THE GOOD NEWS**

**NEWS & HAPPENINGS @ WEST PARK UCC**

Following Christ, Caring for All, Growing Together

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**West Park**
United Church of Christ
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Cleveland, OH 44111-4153
www.westparkucc.org
216.671.7228

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**June 2020**

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WestParkUCCOffice@gmail.com

Rachel Miller
Social Media Administrator

Bob Arcuri
Director of Maintenance

Darrell Hurns
Custodian

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**SAVE THE DATES**
August 22 – Strawberry Social
September 12 – Pride in the CLE
September 13 – Church Picnic
September 19 -- Country Hoedown Fundraiser
November 13-15 – All Church Retreat