

A WALK THROUGH LENT...

This year the Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2010. The church's staff and leaders have planned activities, worship and spiritually enriching opportunities for all in the life of our congregation. We encourage you to check the bulletins and newsletters for additional information and dates to aid in your walk through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Once again we offer you our own Lenten Devotional. This spiritual resource has been written by the members, friends and staff of our congregation and are available in the Narthex (the back of the church) on Sunday, February 14, 2010 or by calling the church office. We thank all who have taken the time to share their special reflective writings and prayers with all of us. May this wonderful resource strengthen and enhance your spirituality during this sacred Lenten season.

The following events and worship experiences are being offered to you to this season:

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Holy Communion Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Friendship Guild will hold their annual Ash Wednesday morning service which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes, for those who wish to receive them. Bringing the Word of God will be Ms. Vicki McGaw, who served our church during Pastor's Sabbatical in 2007. Following the service there will be a Continental breakfast and a time of fellowship in Barter Hall. All are invited to come, especially men of all the congregations that will be with us again this year.

A Time of Personal Devotion and Altar Communion will be available in the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 17, from 4-6 p.m. Come when you are able, pick up a devotional sheet, and receive Communion from Pastor Craig during this quiet reflective time.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN PROGRAMS, FEB. 17 – MARCH 24, 6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

We will be offering a study/discussion of the bestseller, "**Fearless: Imagine Your Life without Fear**" by Max Lucado. Each week we will view a short film that will spark meaningful discussions, as we can reflect individually and as a church during this Lenten season. This is something you will not want to miss! Books are available from Pastor or Ms. Wendy for \$15.00. **Also, a Bible Study featuring Hermie the Worm will be available for kids during the study time, so bring the whole family!**

The schedule will be dinner at 6:00 pm; DVD at 6:45. Then we invite you to stay for our regular adult Bible Study covering and discussing the Lessons for the upcoming Sundays at 7:45- 8:30 ~ lead by Robin Jessen. Dinner, the movie, the discussions, and the Bible Study all will be in Barter Hall. The kids' study will be up in the High School Classroom.

We hope you will take advantage of these offerings – set some time aside for reflection and fellowship with your fellow members and friends as we prepare for the journey to Holy Week and Easter.

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 14 after church! Annual Reports are available in the Narthex now!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PAGE

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L.I.G.H.T.

Learning In God's House Together

"I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in shadows but will have the light of life."

John 8:12



Intergenerational Family Faith Formation

At our first CE board meeting of the New Year, we planned to have as many church events be Intergenerational Family Faith Formation events. So that every member feels we want to contribute to their faith formation and that we will facilitate that by having programming for the youngest to the oldest. We know that it is not possible for everyone to participate in every program, however we want offer a wide variety programs to follow where the spirit leads us. We would always appreciate any feedback to assist us in that goal.



Valentine's Day is on a Sunday this year!

What a better way to celebrate the day of **Love** than with your Church. There are activities plan for all ages...




The youth group is planning a fundraiser by offering a Spaghetti dinner for the annual meeting, with an awesome performance dinner show performance of



"The Word is Love".

We will be collecting a love offering during the dinner show.

We will also have a  "take it home" **baked sale** (donations needed)



We will have a silent auction on baskets (Maybe a gift for your Valentine?) donated by each of the youth group families.

I LOVE JESUS PARTY! For the children
When: Sunday, February 14th



Time: 12:15 -1:45 (During the Annual meeting)

Where: West Park UCC Preschool room

Crafts, Games, Songs, Snacks!!!!

FUN! FUN! FUN!

Lent

Ash Wednesday ~ February 17th ~ Lenten Bible Study

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lent season in the church. We will have many opportunities for you as you journey this year from the opening of our new Sacred Space /prayer room with prayer stations, to all of traditional programs. There will be a special letter recapping all the ways you can connect with Jesus for 2010. I want to highlight the following:



NEW SACRED SPACE ~ PRAYER ROOM

My prayer is to encourage everyone to visit our new sacred space room beside the Chapel, each season CE will change the prayer stations to reflect the season. I believe that this type of praying will deepen your relationship with God. We will be opening the room Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Bible Study ~ Feb. 17th – March 24th



6:45-7:45 pm **Fearless** Bible Study for Adults
(See Details in Adult Faith Formation)

Hermie, Bible study for children,
lead by youth group

7:45pm Wednesday Adult bible study



Walk through Holy Week

on Palm Sunday, March 28th



Robin Jessen will be heading the team for this very special tradition. Thank you to Debbie Miller for the information about a unique Walk for us. Watch for more details in the March West Park of Gram.

EASTER

Honey Baked Ham Sale



Yummy Yummy Yummy
Yummy Yummy Yummy
Yummy Yummy Yummy
Yummy!

When researching other churches for a easy, profitable fundraisers for the youth group’s summer mission trip, several said that Honey Baked Ham was it! Everyone knows what a delicious products Honey Baked Ham has available. We will have order forms available during Lent, the selection includes ham, roasted turkey breast, walnut coffee cake, carrot cake, lemon cake, coconut cake, mustard, mayonnaise, horseradish and nuts. We will take orders for Easter; all orders need to be turn in by Palm Sunday, March 28th. The order will be delivered to WPUCC on Maundy Thursday, April 1st. You will not have to go to the store, stand in line etc. The youth group will take care of that!

Orders can come from outside the church as well as our church family.



Easter Sunday, April 4th we will have a Mini coffee hour/
Easter Egg Hunt.

**** Please bring in your donations of candy, so the youth group can fill the eggs, by April 1st. Thank you for generosity.*****



Young Adult Faith Formation

****Due by Feb.14th sentences on your statements of Faith.

New Date ~ Feb. 28th class 11:30- 1:45

Lunch- ~ Joe Gibson provides lunch-----

STUDY AND LEARNING SESSION Do at home,

Theme: The story of the Christian Church pages 97-110

The story of the denomination – the United Church of Christ pages 114-129

UPDATE: Watch for new date to the Church house ~

World headquarters of the UCC, due to the fact that it is closed on President's Day.



Outdoor Ministry Camp Sunday Feb 21st

Last year we sent a record number of 14 members to camp, we will be hearing from them about some of their camp highlights. Also Jen Hrehocik will update us about news from the Hills for 2010 camp season from the "Got Camp" event. Help celebrate the success of the growth of Outdoor ministry and learn more about all the options available for 2010! ***** REMEMBER West Park UCC shares the cost for camp of 50 %, so that all who are interested can have this wonderful opportunity! Camp programming includes adult opportunities as well as children.

Retreats

*****All Church Retreat May 28-30, 2010*****

Planning during March Coffee Hour, join Ms. Wendy if interested

F.Y.I. ~ The Jr. High Retreat for Feb 7th has been rescheduled,
watch for the new April date



Regional youth event, on June 17th -20th The theme this year is *Challenges, Choices and Consequences*, this powerful event only happens every 4 years. The event will be held at Defiance College, which is almost a backyard location. Cost \$225 per person.

Jr. High (6th-8th) & Sr. High (9th - 12th)

At the Epiphany Lock in we had a majority of our group attend, with Ms. Mandy joining us as a new youth leader from the CE Board. The youth were very enthusiastic when planning their 2010's calendar. They are interested in attending 2 major events this summer (see details below), which would require a lot of fundraising because we plan to have about half of our active youth group of 20 attend. So they needed to plan a variety of fundraising activities, we would like to say in advance THANK YOU, we appreciate your support. Both Ms. Mandy and I guided them to let go of a lot of minor fellowship choices and to stay focused on the fundraisers needed to go on the summer choices. We did support outreach events however for WPUCC and serving others. They wanted to do the Easter egg hunt for the younger children, the Teeter – Totter marathon and other popular activities. We are really blessed with a wonderful group of young people; our future looks so bright!

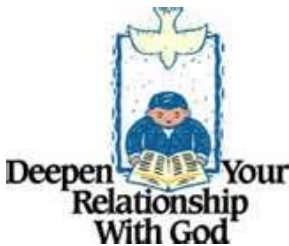
Appalachia Kentucky mission trip at the Lotts Creek Community School- Near Hazard, Ky. Cost is only about \$225 per person, which is very affordable for a week's worth of food, shelter, transportation etc.

Thank you to our fabulous Youth Leaders;

Dan Moreland, Cheryl Barthelman, Mary Kay Fratoe, Amanda Salvino for your support, taking time to attend lock-ins, work mornings, etc!!!!

“...Let Your light shine out of darkness” 2 Cor. 4:6

Adult Faith Formation



Lenten Bible Study ~ *Fearless* by Max Lucado

Imagine your life without fear. Each week different members will lead us through *Fearless*; Week 1-Why are we afraid? Week 2-Fear or not mattering, Week 3 –Fear of disappointing God, Week 4- Fear of life's final moment's, Week 5- Fear of Global calamity, & Week 6-Fear of God getting out of my box. You can attend just one or all weeks, hopefully you can gain peace by the insight found together looking at Fear.

Read it and Meet Book Club

We will be discussing on April 11th in the Parlor. *Three Cups of Tea- One Man's Mission to promote peace... One school at a time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Remember to try to read the book before attending. We are always on the look out for our next book, please let Robin Jessen or Ms. Wendy know your recommendation.

Mission Update



The youth group will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 6th
You can make Cash donations or you can bring in cans of soup for The Bread Basket.

Teeter Totter Marathon

February 12th -14th

We will be joining Middleburg Heights UCC for their Teeter- Totter Marathon on Feb. 12th for an overnight experience.

Support goes to  Church Street Ministries



Did you know ?????

We have a wonderful West Park UCC Lenten Devotional, a special gift put together each year by Patti Jacko. A BIG THANKS to Patti and everyone who sent in a devotion article, to shine a light of inspiration for all of us.

Happy Valentine's Day! ☺ I Love serving God at WPUCC!

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**KIWANIS SPAGHETTI DINNER!**

Saturday, February 20, 4-7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a fine spaghetti dinner prepared by your local Kiwanis Club. Tickets are available from William Cunningham: Adults \$7.00; Kids 4-12 \$4.00; and children 3 & under are free! Let someone else do the cooking and the dishes for you!



Thank you to all who came to the January Work Morning! We took down the last of the Christmas decorations – the ones that needed a really tall ladder, and we painted the Sacred Space room, among other jobs. Thanks go out to Jeff Dobransky, Lois Cole, Marlene & Bob Arcuri, George White, Pat & Mark Rust, Dolores Holliday, Dennis McCormack & Mary Kay Fratoe, Robin and Becky Jessen, Félix Miranda, Ed Gamary, Jim Zmina, Anthony Bostwick, and Diane Martin. Join us in February for a great time, doing needed work around the church! Check your Sunday bulletins for the date.

*Thank you to Patti Jacko who edits and publishes our Lenten Devotional. Her work in putting this excellent compilation of our thoughts and writings for Lent is truly a treasure. Be sure to pick up a copy on February 14 in the Narthex.*

## OUR LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY - Pink Envelope will be Hope Homes

### **February 7: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Worship ~ Communion ~ L.I.G.H.T ~ Coffee Hour, Bartter Hall**

Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

### **February 14: Transfiguration Sunday**

**Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T ~ Annual Meeting ~ Lunch and Dinner Theater**

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43

### **February 17: Ash Wednesday**

**10:00 a.m. Worship ~ 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Lenten and Bible Studies**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:16-21

### **February 21: First Sunday in Lent**

**Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T ~ Board and Committees meet**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

### **February 28: Second Sunday in Lent**

**Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T. ~ Confirmation Class**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

## IN TOUCH WITH ZION.....

Zion UCC has some good news to report. They are rejoicing because, for the first time in 8 years, their choir is once again up and singing. Furthermore the church has been updating the kitchen facilities and some of it with the help of our donations. They have new shelves, storage tubs, donated clothing is more efficiently stored, repairs mandated by the insurance company are nearly complete and some needed housekeeping, painting and repairs are done.

The **BIG NEWS** is an All U Can Eat Italian Sweetheart Buffet will be served on Sunday, February 14th from 12:30 - 2:30 and Zion's food in any nationality is guaranteed delicious. What better way to spend Valentine's Day!! There will be Italian Wedding Soup and both meat and vegetarian entrees. The price is \$8.00 in advance or \$10. at the door. Because WPUCers have special connections you can make reservations with either Kathy Rennette or Jean Clark and when you pick up the tickets at the door they will be \$8.

## Brunch Raises Funds for Youth Group

More than 60 people attended the West Park UCC Youth Group brunch in January featuring a presentation by Rachael Thayer chronicling her "Youth Ambassador" trip to Europe. Members of the Youth Group prepared and served a scrumptious brunch of eggs, spiced apples, cinnamon rolls, cereal, hash browns, juice, and coffee, followed by PowerPoint presentations featuring highlights of Rachael's trip, along with a photo review of West Park UCC's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala & Dinner. A timeline featuring key moments in West Park UCC's history, prepared by historian Holly Sinnema, was distributed prior to the presentations. In all, \$245 was raised at the brunch to support various Youth Group activities in 2010. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets for the brunch or support the Youth Group in other ways throughout the year. Your efforts are much appreciated. Thanks also to the Board of Deacons, who co-sponsored the brunch, as well as Mary Kay Fratoe, Kathleen Moreland, John Bunnell, Renee Thayer, Marlene and Bob Arcuri, Janet Gorman, Bob Lamb, and others who lent their support to this effort. And thanks to our youth for being such an important part of West Park UCC's spiritual life!

### **FRIENDSHIP GUILD ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

We are inviting our church members and members of neighboring churches to join us at **10:00 AM** for our Community Service of Worship on Ash Wednesday, **February 17, 2010** in our Sanctuary. Together we will begin our journey through Lent to the breathtaking glory of Easter Day. Vicki McGaw, who served our church during Pastor Craig's Sabbatical, will be our guest speaker. Communion will be served. James Clouser will be at the organ and Patti Jacko will be our soloist.

Anna Belle Rice, Clara Strodbeck, Nancy Krueger and Patti Jacko will serve Communion. Acolytes will be Anna Belle Rice and Elaine Barry. Ushers will be Georgia Smith, Dolly Chappell, Midge Karnatz and Nancy Olsen.

Following the service there will be a Continental Breakfast for a time of fellowship and a Roll Call of churches and their members. This is always an interesting and friendly time to meet and greet our guests from area churches. Hostesses will be Myrtle Ittu, Nancy Krueger, Margaret Roupe and Nancy Olsen.

### **SOUP FOR THE SUPER BOWL**

**The Super Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 7**  
**The C.A.R.E Committee will once again sponsor "Soup for the Super Bowl".**  
**We will collect cans of soup (other non-perishable foods will also be accepted!)**  
**to be donated to the Bread Basket. Please leave your donations in the narthex.**  
**Thanks for your support!**

### **Special Announcement - The Trash and Treasure Sale will be held in 2010**

The Trash and Treasure Sale is scheduled for Thurs, Sept. 16 and Fri., Sept. 17 with the preview sale for members of the church on Sunday, Sept. 12. Mark your calendars and start saving items to donate for the sale. This event is always a good money maker for the church. Complete details at a later date. If you have any questions, call Lynne Rice 440-333-3605 or email [Lynne\\_Rice@ameritech.net](mailto:Lynne_Rice@ameritech.net).



## *FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*



|    |                                          |    |                                        |
|----|------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------|
| 3  | Christopher Bonsell<br>Kristopher Kozlak | 17 | Janet Ackerman                         |
| 4  | Brian McFadden                           | 18 | Florence Knox<br>Scott Newman          |
| 5  | Betty Martin                             | 21 | Brian Furry                            |
| 7  | Nancy McCall                             | 22 | George Faulkner                        |
| 9  | Betsy Bruening<br>Rebecca Lamb           | 23 | Anthony Borrelli<br>Harriet Schultz    |
| 11 | Amanda McFadden<br>Lola Schweichler      | 25 | Christina Litchney<br>Valerie Litchney |
| 12 | Marilyn Shank                            | 28 | Harriett Brauer                        |
| 15 | Bob Arcuri<br>Rodney Pauley              |    |                                        |

*(Don't forget to use your Birthday Envelopes!)*

Please call the church office if you are ever omitted or if your birthday is incorrect.  
Also, if you have reached your 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, please let us know! Thanks!

### Save these Dates

**Feb. 6&7 – WRA Jr. High Event at Pilgrim Hills**

**Feb. 12&13 – Youth Teeter Totter Marathon @ Middleburg Heights**

**Feb. 14 – Dinner Theater sponsored by the Youth, Annual Meeting and Jesus Loves You Party to follow.**

**Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday – see page 1 for details**

**Feb. 20 – Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner – Bartter Hall**

### C.A.R.E. COMMITTEE

There was a young 12-year-old girl named Hannah who, with her mother, went to a homeless shelter to serve meals. She noticed that many of the people wore ragged shoes and no socks even though it was the dead of winter. The following day, she and her mother returned with 100 pairs of socks to distribute. Their efforts were so successful that she now has her own web site and is backed by The Clorox Company.

I thought of the meals Zion serves to the homeless. I contacted Pastor Joyce, explained to her that our C.A.R.E. Committee would like to distribute socks, and possibly mittens to those homeless people, and she was happy to hear about it. She also suggested that they be thermal. I'd will place a box in the Narthex for the congregation (hopefully) to fill with whatever they are able to bring. Even one pair of socks or mitts each would count and be very much appreciated by Zion and the homeless. Thank you for your consideration. Florence Boughner, C.A.R.E. Committee Chairman.