



Forward Through the Ages

Fredrick L. Hosmer, 1840 – 1929

1. Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.
Gifts in differing measure,
Hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service,
One the sure reward;
Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.

2. Wider grows the kingdom,
Reign of love and light;
For it we must labor,
Till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it,
Martyrs testified,
Poets sing its glory,
Heroes for it died.
Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.

3. Not alone we conquer,
Not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph
Lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose
In one living whole,
Move we on together
To the shining goal!
Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.

So we are and we continue to be the faithful spirits, God's people, you and I and countless others who move at God's divine call. We, with gifts of differing measure, hearts of one accord, continue to proclaim, sing, labor and die for God's wider growing kingdom. We do so, not alone, but with the faithful spirits of many who have gone before us and the many who shall continue forward after us. You see, we are pioneers, not settlers.

There is a wonderful book, an introduction to Jewish mysticism, "*Honey from the Rock*" by Lawrence Kushner. He writes, "Abraham, our father, was simply told to leave. 'Go forth from your land and from your kindred and even from your father's house, to the land that I will show you.' (Gen. 12:1)" Kushner continues, "This is the setting out. The leaving of everything behind. Leaving the social milieu. The preconceptions. The definitions. The language. The narrowed field of vision. The expectations. No longer expecting relationships, memories, words, or letters to mean what they used to mean. To be in a word: OPEN."

And so you and I and West Park UCC will leave behind the 2009 calendar year, a 150th Anniversary year. As the sun sets beneath the horizon in the west we will experience another time of closure. This is our personal and communal setting out.

However, in our doing so, as with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses, we, each and all, will move as faithful spirits at God's divine call that beckons us forward through the ages. "If you think you know what you will find, then you will find nothing. If you expect nothing, then you will be surprised." (*Honey from the Rock*)

Welcome to another year. In its arrival, may we bless the God of our faith, the God of our lives, the God who creates for us the world full of surprises anew to us each day.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PAGE

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L.I.G.H.T.

Learning In God's House Together

Jesus said, "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

Epiphany

January 6th is the beginning of the Epiphany season in the church. "Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "appearance". Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Light of God into the world. The one who is born in a stable in Bethlehem is the savior of the whole world.

According to tradition, January 6TH is also the day when the church celebrates the arrival of the Magi. The story of the Magi's journey to find the child Jesus is told to proclaim that even those in distant lands come to recognize the importance of this event in human history. The wealthy and the wise seek out this manifestation or incarnation of God made flesh. - from Deborah Payden

☺ Please see Ms. Wendy if you would like more information about Epiphany to discover other ways to celebrate this season of light and hope in your home.

Intergeneration Family Faith Formation

Outdoor Ministry

Try out Camp at Pilgrim Hills

Camp Event Jan. 29th / 30th - this is a FREE overnight event at Pilgrim Hills, to celebrate Outdoor Ministry for every family member. Please let Ms. Wendy or Jen Hrehocik know if you're interested. At last year's event my Grandson Tyler won the grand prize, a free week at camp! Help celebrate the success of the growth of Outdoor ministry and learn more about all the options available for 2010!

Young Adult Faith Formation

Youth Group consists of Jr. High (6th-8th graders) & Sr. High (9th - 12th graders)

****Epiphany Lock in****

On Saturday, January 2nd to Sunday, January 3rd, we will meet at the church @ 7:30.

VERY IMPORTANT - We will be planning for 2010's calendar, including fundraisers for our Kentucky mission trip and for the group to attend the Regional youth event, on June 17th -20th. This powerful event only happens every 4 years. The theme this year is **Challenges, Choices and Consequences** and will be at Defiance College.

Young Adult Faith Formation (Cont.)

Painting

The youth group and the Christian education board will be working with the trustee to paint the Sacred space / prayer room on January 9th. We are hoping to have the room with prayer stations available for Lent

Twilight Fans

A Bible Study on the Twilight movie,
Sat. Jan. 16, 2010 1:00 pm-2:30pm.

We will be examining Twilight through a Biblical lens.

Youth Leaders this is for you!!!!

“It’s your Turn” Youth leaders’ lock-in - ‘Let light shine out of darkness’ 2 Cor. 4:6

Dates: January 29/30 - for any one who has an interest in Youth Ministry.

It will be held at the Church House in Cleveland, the key note speaker will be Steven Case, author of *Caffeine and Christ* series.

Confirmation

January 10th Sunday 11:30- 1:45 Lunch- Rosie Miranda - Begin writing statements of Faith in class

STUDY AND LEARNING SESSION Do at home:

Finish Jesus Chapter Questions and write a Lenten Devotional entry

Theme: Christian Beliefs - continue “What we believe” pages 59- 68

**“What we believe about ourselves” pages 53-58,
Chapter 15 pages 111-113**

Leader: Pastor Craig and Ms. Wendy

***** (New Date) January 31ST Sunday, Time TBA to Leek Pipe Organ Company
~ Pastor Craig**

Adult Faith Formation

Read it and Meet Book Club

We will be discussing *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idiby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three women search for understanding. Book Club will meet on Feb. 7th in the Parlor. 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.

Retreats

Save the date - The Jr. High retreat at Pilgrim Hills will Feb. 6-Feb.7th

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

Mission Update

Suggestion ~ Remember to use Martin Luther King Day as a day of service! Maybe make it a family project! FYI...Disney has an offer of free tickets for service on their website.

The Sr. High youth group will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 6th
The C.A.R.E. Committee will also be collecting cans of soup. See notice elsewhere in the WPOG!

We will be joining Middleburg Heights UCC for their Teeter- Totter Marathon Feb. 12-14th.

Did you know ?????
That Valentine's Day is on a Sunday this year!
What a better way to celebrate the day of
Love than with your Church.
There will be activities plan for all ages... stay tuned!!

Happy New Year! Ms. Wendy

OUR LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY - Pink Envelope will be Hope Homes

January 3: Second Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany Sunday
Worship ~ Communion ~ L.I.G.H.T ~ Coffee Hour, Bartter Hall
Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18
OR: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 (for Epiphany)

January 10: The Baptism of Christ
Worship ~ Officer and New Board Member Installation ~ L.I.G.H.T ~ Brunch ~ Confirmation Class
Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17: Second Sunday after Epiphany
Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T ~ Board Meetings
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24: Third Sunday after Epiphany
Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T. ~ Confirmation Field Trip

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



Dear WPUCC Family:

A heart-felt thanksgiving goes out to each and every one of you for being such a wonderful and supportive church family. The last few years have had more downs than ups, it seems, but I know that we have gotten through the "valleys" with the well-wishes, prayers and support of the members of WPUCC. Most recently, during the sudden illness and death of Rick's brother, Steve, Pastor Craig came to the assistance and comfort of our family. This was a true blessing in a very confusing and chaotic time.

From this congregation we have FAITH that God knows what we need and provides it in His time and way, HOPE for a brighter, peace-filled tomorrow, and LOVE. Always LOVE.

Thanks to God for all of you.
Diane Kragt Griffin

FRIENDSHIP GUILD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

The "Sewing Angels" will meet at 10 AM to begin their puppet project for 2010. In 2009 they sewed 130 puppets but for 2010 they're setting their sights even higher but at this point aren't giving a clue on new figures. From the happy smile on Clara Strodtbeck's face she has already decided on the new count.

The Brown Bag Lunch will be at noon with Hostesses Grace Burgess, Christina Craig and Myrtle Ittu serving beverages and dessert. At the meeting following lunch there will be plans and assignments made for the Ash Wednesday Service on February 17th. There will be no regular meeting on the second Wednesday in February. Please plan to attend the January meeting as we need your help and suggestions.

IN TOUCH WITH ZION.....

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! Those are the words from Zion in thanks and appreciation for our generosity. In a period of 3 Sundays you donated \$314. for gifts for the childrens' Christmas Party. It was a party with Santa, presents and little children laughing and loving Santa and the treasures he gave them. Pastor Joyce made a selection of both wants and needs for each child. Two women without families were also given gifts. From the look on their faces they were so thrilled that someone cared that they too were like children. Even God must have smiled down on the wonder of the occasion. It was truly a "Miracle on West 14th Street". The reindeer from WPUCC even wore antlers to make it all authentic.

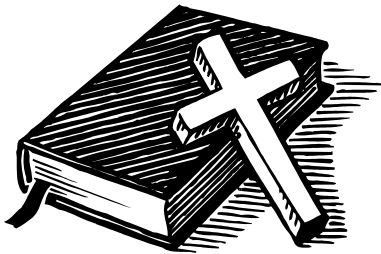
A beautiful concert was presented by the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra at Zion which several of our members attended on December 13. The thrill of hearing such talented musicians and vocalists brought special joy to the Advent Season.

January Brunch to Highlight Rachael Thayer's "Excellent Adventure" & Our 150th Anniversary Gala

Mark your calendars. On January 10th plan to attend a special post-holiday brunch, featuring a slide show and presentation by Rachael Thayer chronicling her trip to Europe as a youth ambassador. Earlier this year, West Park UCC played a role in helping Rachael fund this unique outreach activity featuring a select group of students from Northeast Ohio. Now Rachael would like to thank West Park UCC members for their generosity by sharing her photos and memories from the trip with the congregation.

Following Rachael's presentation, a slide show featuring photos from West Park UCC's 150th Anniversary Gala will be presented by the 150th Anniversary Committee, so if you were unable to attend the gala or simply want to relive that magical night, be sure to attend the brunch on January 10th.

Tickets will be available in the Narthex for \$7 per person beginning in January, which includes the slide shows and a scrumptious brunch, so bring your appetite. The cost of tickets for children under 12 is \$3, infants free. Families can purchase a "family pack" of tickets for \$20. However, we don't want anyone *not* to attend this special brunch due to the cost of a ticket, so if you would like to attend but finances are tight, just let Dan Moreland (440/572-2749, dmoreland@gie.net) know and a complimentary ticket(s) will be provided. Proceeds from the brunch will be donated to the West Park UCC Youth Group to support their activities in 2010. In addition, individual photos from the 150th Anniversary Gala will be available for purchase for \$3 each. Those funds will be used to help further defray the cost of the church's various 150th Anniversary programs this past year. See you there!



Lenten Devotionary 2010

The deadline is Sunday, January 24th, 2010 so I can assemble and have it ready for Sunday, February 14th, 2010. Ash Wednesday on February 17th, 2010.

I will take typed, handwritten or emailed articles. Please use webmaster@westparkucc.org to email articles to me.

I will be happy to help you with your writings, scripture selection, prayer or anything that may be stopping you from writing. This isn't an essay contest so you don't have to be a great writer. Your article can be long or short. It's up to you. Sometimes the best way is to sit with me and talk about what you want to write. We can work on it together.

If you are new to the Devotionary, see me so I can get a copy of the 2009 edition to you. The general format is a scripture verse, poem or other writing of the writer's choosing, a discussion of why this selection is meaningful to the writer and a prayer at the end of the article. This is the preferred format but if you wish to submit an article in some other way that's fine. I do ask that you do not submit items without some reflection on why it was meaningful to you.

Please take a few minutes to consider writing for our Devotionary. It really means a lot to our members to have this ministry.

Patti Jacko, Lenten Devotionary Editor



SUPER BOWL SUB SANDWICH SALE

Once again it looks like the Cleveland Browns aren't going to qualify for the Super Bowl this year, but let Chef Larry Craig and his West Park United Church of Christ catering staff prepare delicious sub sandwiches for you and your guests for the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 7, 2010. Each six-inch sub is freshly made that day and includes turkey, ham, salami, American and mozzarella cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, and onion, with mayonnaise, mustard and dressing on the side. Each sandwich is \$5.00. Pick up is after services on Sunday, February 7 in Bartter Hall. No orders will be taken after Sunday, January 31. Order forms will be available throughout January.

C.A.R.E. COMMITTEE

A good book to read is *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace With Books Not Bombs in Afghanistan and Pakistan* by Greg Mortensen. The Central Asia Institute in Montana was formed when "Pennies for Peace" was started, a program which asks the public to send them their pennies to finance the building of these schools. They do not look for a large amount, but every little bit counts. As Chairman of the C.A.R.E. Committee I would like to present this idea to our congregation for consideration. If you feel that this is something you might be able to do, please contact me either at church or at 216-212-5181. Thanks, Florence Boughner

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.

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!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



2	Jillian Mincik	16	Chuck Kline
4	Cindy Ellsworth		Betty Miller
	Margaret Houser		Felix Miranda
	Hannah Szabo	17	Larry Rennette
6	Lisa Gibson	19	Debbie Schuerger
7	E. Jim Zmina	20	Kim Kozlak
10	Florence Boughner	22	Pat Rust
	Janice Jones	23	Doris Sloane
	Judy Sommer	24	Ivonne Marin-Miranda
12	Margaret Borrelli	26	Donovan Condosta
13	Bill Vogt	29	Corey McFadden
15	Michael Carter		

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

of 40 Years or More

Helen and Sam Saccone 01-05-34

John and Myrtle Ittu 01-15-49

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

Save these Dates

Jan 2 & 3	Youth Group Lock-In here at church
Jan 4	Annual Reports Due
Jan 9	Saturday Work Morning
Jan 10	Installation of Council Officers and New Board Members
	Brunch after church, Confirmation Class after Brunch
Jan 13	Friendship Guild Officer Installation at regular meeting
Jan 16	Volunteer your time at Zion UCC's Kitchen!
Jan 17	Confirmation Class, Committees and Boards meetings
Jan 27	Church Council
Jan 29-30	Overnight Free Campout – see Christian Ed pages for more details
Jan 31	Confirmation Field Trip to Leek Organ Company after church