January 2020

# THE MESSENGER



To live so that others will become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Happy New Year!

New Years and new decades put many of us into a reflective space - thinking about the past and the future.

With 2020 marking the start of a new decade, I find myself reflecting back on the previous decade. I'm surprised by how much has happened - in my own life, in the world and in the church.

Ten years, it turns out, is quite a long time. I look back at who I was a decade ago and am amazed at the work God did in my life, re-writing my story and bringing about new things in my very midst.

Mixed into the new things were difficulties - getting a divorce, losing jobs and losing my mom are some of the lows of the last 10 years. But through all of those things, God brought forth new life. I went to seminary, I got ordained, I wrote for three books, and I became an aunt three times.

That is why the changing of the calendar is such a joy to me - I know that as one thing ends, new things are born.

Sure the snow is cold and frustrating, and the nights are still too long (even though the days are finally getting longer again). And yet, the new year signifies the cycle of God's work in our midst.

As written in on of my mother's favorite hymns:

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

As we move into 2020, may we be open to the re-birth God will bring into our lives - from the small things to the big ones, may we be open to God working in the midst of our winters to bring forth new life.

May 2020 be a year to lean on God though the good, the bad and the every day.

God Bless,

Rev. Paige



#### **Suburban Campus**

27650 Center Ridge Road • Westlake, Ohio 44145 (440) 871-3088 • westlakeumc.org
Sunday Worship at 8:15, 10:00 and 11:28 a.m.



#### **Simpson Metro West Campus**

8519 Clark Ave • Cleveland, Ohio 44102 (440) 871-3088 • westlakeumc.org/simpson Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.

## News and Committee Reports

# LIVE NATIVITY PRODUCTION REMEMBERS GOD WITH US



December 20th our parking lot became a holy place where God was present with us as the story of Jesus' birth was retold. Amid the cow bellowing, goats bleating and camels parading majestically, the humble Christ was born. Over 250 people came to experience the sights and sounds of the first Christmas on a beautiful clear night.

### Many people helped to make the night possible. Here are just a few of those people:

Harry Askin, Bill & Ann Henkelman, John Thaler, Sharon Humphries, Gail & Jim Schmitz, Sam Loomis and the Children's Choir, The Garrett Family, The Peiffer family, Bruce Horrigan, Carole Miller, Gary Linch, Cody Brubaker, Gretty & Bob Myers, Jill Farkas, Kyle & Rachel Burris, Ken Wardell, Len Siwik, Zach, Ben, & Helen Willmer, Julia Kubancik, Alaina Pugh, Matthew Wolf, Lincoln Garrett, Chris Neely, Rev Paige Boyer, Doug & Rev. Mollie Brown and all our cookie bakers!

#### **Thank You Live Nativity Animal Sponsors:**

Camels: Paula & Michael Kertes, Carole Miller, Belinda St. Leger

**Donkey:** Louise Sevold **Steer:** Emory Crowder

Sheep/Goats: Diane Ahlers, Carol & Earl DeWerth, Suzanne Lamb



## AV MINISTRY HELP NEEDED.

We have an immediate need for help in both the 10 am and 11:28 services. The 10 am service requires two operators: one for video streaming and one for audio/ projector. We will provide necessary training and supervision. The only requirements are a passion to serve and commitment. Contact Bob Myers 216-701-2064 or rdmyers2@sbcglobal.net for further information.

# News and Committee Reports (cont.)

## UPDATE ON SIMPSON METRO WEST BUILDING

In October, Leadership Council approved the decision to begin the process of selling the existing Simpson Metro West building (8519 Clark Ave., Cleveland), relocating ministries and activities to other nearby sites and ceasing services and activities in the current building.

This has been approved by the North Coast District Committee on Church Location and Building and during the WUMC Charge Conference.

While decisions about the building were being made, a separate team, including active members from each of our campuses, of has been focused on assessing ministry needs and possible locations for those ministries throughout our entire mission field in the city of Cleveland.

As this work continues, we are able to provide an update of some of the work as it is in progress.

**Sale Process:** We have begun initial meetings with a realtor to prepare the building for sale. This realtor has been the realtor on the sale of several UMC church buildings in recent years and brings an important perspective to our process.

**Worship Plans:** The sale process will take time, so, for the foreseeable future, we will continue to hold Sunday Worship services at 8519 Clark Ave. We are also continuing to seek a new space for weekly worship.

**Preparing the Building:** Building clean-up and clean out has begun, beginning with gathering of historic documents and materials that will be sent to the East Ohio archives at Ohio

Wesleyan University. As clean out continues, we ask that if you have personal items stored anywhere in the church that you take them home or dispose of them as appropriate.

**Stained Glass Windows:** We have started to gather names of those people who donated to the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary so that they might be given the window they dedicated. There are a few that will be kept by the church and more details on the remaining windows will be forthcoming.

**Building Partnerships:** We have been in discussions with West Side Community House (9300 Lorain Ave.) as a possible site for some of the ministries of the Church. After several discussions, we will be partnering with them to move adult and youth bible studies into their building during January. In addition, we'll be partnering with them to offer a new women's bible study in addition to our existing study.

Community Meal: The community meal on January 5 will be the final community meal at 8519 Clark Ave. We will invite those who attend the meal, we provide at West Side Community House on the Third Tuesday of every month along with its accompanying program. We will also direct people to the weekly meal during Bread on Bridge at the Nehemiah Mission on Tuesdays at 5:30.

**Food Pantry:** Understanding the importance of the food pantry for this community, the committee is working hard to find ways to continue this vital community service. Until a solution is identified, the food pantry will continue on the last Wednesday of the month.



# Mission Opportunities & Updates

# SIMPSON UMC COMMUNITY MEAL

#### Sunday, January 5th at 4:30 p.m.

This will be the last month the monthly community meal will be served at 8519 Clark Ave. Helpers are needed to set-up, serve, and clean up. Simpson UMC is located, about 15 minutes from WUMC. Please contact Kay Martin if you can help at kcbrightm@aol.com.

We will continue to serve the Simpson MW community by asking them to join the meal we serve at West Side Community House on the third Tuesday of the month. Groups are needed to host February 18th, March 17, and May 19th. Please contact Nicki Miller to sign up or for more information at npmiller9@gmail.com.

# SMW FOOD PANTRY



will continue to serve the SMW community and operate from the church until another site can be found.

Simpson Metro West Food Pantry is on Wednesday, January 29 from 9:00-11:00am. Help is needed to unload the Food Bank delivery on Monday, January 27 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Bags are packed on Tuesday at 9:00. Food donations from the Suburban Campus can placed in the blue wagon in the lobby. This month we are collecting peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned vegetable.

#### TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE

6515 Bridge Ave, Cleveland

#### KS TWICE BLESSED

#### **DONATIONS:**

Please put your seasonal (i.e. winter) clothing and household goods in wooden box in Fellowship Hall.

\*Especially needed; diapers-baby and adult, feminine hygiene products, personal care items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo). If you have a big donation or the box is full, you can take it to Rocky River UMC, 19414 Detroit Rd during office hours (use back entrance) or Mondays 10:00-1:00 at Nehemiah Mission, 6515 Bridge Ave. Cleveland.

## RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT - FEBRUARY 1ST

- → 11:30 set-up
- → 1:00-3:00-event
- → 3:00-4:00 clean up



Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of

a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the critical resources. It only costs \$0.34 cents for each meal packed. There is a minimum of 10,000 meals to be packed, but at last our two events we packed 20,088! It takes many hands the day of the event, but it also requires many giving hearts to fund the almost 21,000 meals! We need to have \$6,897.92 raised by February 1st. There will be tin buckets around the church where you can leave change, cash, checks. Donations can always be placed in the offering plate or mailed in marked for Rise Against Hunger. There will be a sign-up on the main bulletin board for volunteers for all times.

Contact Kay Martin with questions or more information.

#### **CONTINUING MISSION PROJECT**

The Wednesday Afternoon Christ Care group is sponsoring Garfield Elementary School in Lorain. They continue to have an urgent need for school uniform pants (sizes 12. 14, 16- black, khaki, gray, navy NO denim, athletic pants) and shirts (size 12, 14 - youth L and XL- solid white, blue, gray, black, long or short sleeves, collared polo shirts with buttons or turtleneck), boys underwear size 6-10. Lists can be found on main bulletin board. Please put donations in lobby bin labeled Christ Care Mission.

# DO YOU HAVE A HEART FOR MISSIONS?



Consider being a part of the Missions
Team. New ideas are welcome! We
meet the First Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. (1/9).

# Compassion & Congregational Care





#### Thank you, Cookie Bakers!

Thanks to all the ladies who gathered at the church to bake Christmas cookies in December to deliver to shut ins and those that needed some cheer this holiday season. Your gift of time and baking was greatly appreciated.

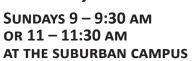
# HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAM



As our wellness journey continues at WUMC, the Health and Wellness

Team is planning monthly opportunities for our congregation to experience ways to incorporate healthy options into our lives. Watch for monthly wellness programs in future communications with topics like proper use of medications and their disposal, cultivating self-awareness and mindfulness practices, local resources to connect with as we age, youth drug and alcohol concerns, easy to enter walking groups. Please contact gretty.myers@gmail.com\_with your ideas!

# INDIVIDUAL PRAYER TIME & COMMUNION With Prayer Partners





Stephen Ministers are available every Sunday morning in Room 207 (new location) from 9-9:30 a.m. and also 11-1:30 a.m. to offer a quiet, reflective time for individual prayer and communion. We also have sets of prayer beads available for you during this time.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

# DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE

## Small Groups & Spiritual Growth

# How Happiness Happens

What would it be like to start the New Year with lasting joy in your heart? Join us as we investigate how happiness happens with Christian author Max Lucado in a 6 session DVD study where he unpacks how God has given us practical and applicable ways to experience joy.

- → Sunday Nights with Pastor Mollie 4pm begins January 12
- → Monday Ladies Group 12:30pm begins January 13

# SIMPSON METRO WEST BIBLE STUDY

#### Wednesday at 11 am beginning Jan. 8

If you've ever been curious about the shorter books at the end of the Old Testament, then this study is for you! Join us on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 8 at 11am for a look into the Minor Prophets. No book is needed for this study, just bring your bible!

#### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

#### THURSDAY MORNING

"Paul's Letter to the Galatians" by Dr. Mickey Efird Beginning January 9th at 9:00 a.m.

# Spiritual PARENTING GROUP

#### **SUNDAYS AT 9AM IN ROOM 107**

Parents, grandparents and caregivers are welcome to join this group as they continue this DVD study on Spiritual Parenting. Author Michele Anthony helps us move from attempting to control our children's behavior to creating family environments where kids can know God and be changed by God.

Questions, contact Ellie Peiffer at faithformation@westlakeumc.org

# NEW WOMEN'S 6 WEEK BIBLE STUDY IS FORMING TO STUDY THE PROPHET ELIJAH

- Participants will choose the day/time for the study.
- There will be reading & study questions to complete outside of class that enrich the experience.
- Contact Ellie Peiffer to indicate your interest in participating and learn more at faithformation@westlakeumc.org

# Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season with Melissa Spoelstra

Life is like a rollercoaster. One day it seems that everything in life is good, and the next day it can feel like everything is falling apart. Then there are those in between days when we're coasting along without much thought to the highs or lows. The prophet Elijah experienced this rollercoaster ride as well. One moment he was hiding out in the wilderness during a famine, being fed by the ravens, and the next he was on the mountaintop where God showed up in a powerful way with fire and then rain. Even Elijah grew weary of all the ups and downs, telling God, "I have had enough" (1 Kings 19:4). He needed spiritual stamina in order to keep on going and fulfill all the plans God had for his life. We do too!

In this six-week study grounded in 1 and 2 Kings, we will examine the life of the prophet Elijah, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things for God in the midst of the highs and lows of life. We'll learn some of the spiritual stamina secrets that helped him to hold on and persevere in faith, including practical habits related to making decisions, caring for the soul, accepting his circumstances, mentoring, and finishing wellwhich was his ultimate legacy. Whether we're currently in a mountaintop season where we're experiencing God's power and blessing, a valley season where we feel like running away, or somewhere in between, Elijah's life will inspire us to go the distance in the life of faith. Best of all, his story will challenge us but not shame us, because we'll discover that Elijah was just as human as we are. He doubted and struggled just as we do, but ultimately, he chose to believe God. As we study his life, we will grow in faith and develop spiritual stamina that will help us not only to survive but actually thrive in every season.

#### Our Mission:

TO LIVE SO THAT OTHERS WILL WANT TO BE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

## Kid's Ministry News

# MISSION:POSSIBLE FAMILY NIGHT Good Stewards of the Earth

#### Friday, January 10 at 6pm Suburban Campus Education Wing

Families will have a chance to learn more about creation care while enjoying time together, sharing a meal and engaging with the challenges of caring for our planet. Please RSVP your attendance at https://forms.gle/rRKZaYwKfKMuRLCr9

# WHAT ARE THE KIDS LEARNING ABOUT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS MONTH?

January's Sunday School Lessons and Scripture Reference:

#### **JANUARY 5**

Chosen as God's Children - Ephesians 1:3-14

#### **JANUARY 12**

A light to the Nations - Isaiah 42:1-9

#### **JANUARY 19**

The Lamb of God/Follow - John 1:29-42

#### **JANUARY 26**

United in Christ - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18



#### **Reverse Advent Calendar Collection**

Thanks to all the families that participated in our reverse advent food collection. Every day in December they added a needed food item to their box as we counted down the days til Christmas. Your generosity will feed many other families in January, spreading the warmth & love of Christmas into the New Year. Thank you for being a blessing!



## Youth News

#### SIGN UP FOR TEXT MESSAGES TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT YOUTH GROUP!

This year, we'll also be using "Remind" to send texts to youth and parents.

For <u>SC Youth Group</u> updates, text **@youthwumc to the number 81010.** 

For <u>SMW Youth Group</u> updates, text @smwyouth to the number 81010

For <u>Donuts and Discussions</u> updates, text **@donutswum to the number 81010.** 

For <u>Confirmation</u> updates, text **@confirmwum to the number 81010.** 

Both parents and youth should sign up for these texting tools.

We will still use email for longer updates and you can sign up for emails by going to http://bit.ly/WUMYFEmail

#### YOUTH LOCK-IN!

We will have a mid-winter Youth Lock-in on Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, leading up to project. We'll have time for games and fellowship and work on planning for our Youth Sunday services (March 8 and 15). Start time and more details will come in January Emails.

#### Suburban Campus January Youth Group Schedule

JANUARY 5 - No Youth Group

JANUARY 12 - 5:30 to 7:30 pm - Regular Youth Group

JANUARY 19 - No Youth Group (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)

JANUARY 26 - 5:30 - 7:30pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting - at the Suburban Campus of Westlake UMC

JANUARY 31 - Youth Lock-in at Suburban Campus

#### SMW Campus January Youth Group Schedule

JANUARY 8 - 5:30 pm - Wednesday Night Bible Study Restarts after new year

JANUARY 15 - 5:30 pm - Wednesday Night Bible Study

JANUARY 22 - 5:30 pm - Wednesday Night Bible Study

JANUARY 26 - 5:30 – 7:30pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting - at the Suburban Campus of Westlake UMC

JANUARY 29 - No Wednesday Night Bible Study (Food Pantry Day)

JANUARY 31 - Youth Lock-in at Suburban Campus

## Kid's Ministry & Youth News

#### **ACOLYTE SCHEDULE SIGNUP:**

Please sign your child up to participate as an acolyte in the 10am Sunday worship at the Suburban Campus. Acolytes should report to the narthex at 9:55am to robe and receive any special instructions for the day from the Usher Team.

Sign up via link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4DA8A72DA6F85-acolyte

# PROVIDE DINNER FOR SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GROUP!

Sunday Evenings from 6-6:45 pm, we will have dinner and worship. The worship time will lead into separate discussion time for middle and high school students. We need your help!

Parents, sign ups for the first half of 2020 are now up, so please sign up to prepare the meal at https://signup.com/go/bkAqvcG.

# SUBURBAN CAMPUS 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

NURSERY INFANTS THROUGH AGE 3
Kids begin & end in the nursery room 202

PREK & KINDERGARTEN
Ages 4, 5 & K
Kids begin & end in classroom 201

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Grades 1, 2, & 3

Begin in worship, pick up in Room 102-103

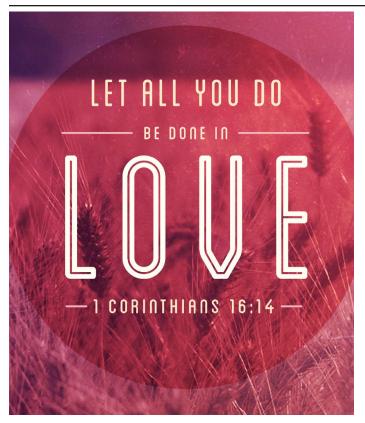
UPPER ELEMENTARY

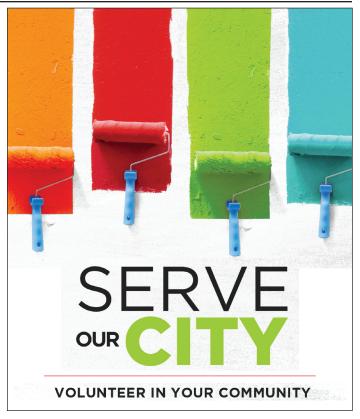
Grades 4, 5 & 6 Begin in worship, pick up in room 106-107

**SPECIAL NEEDS** 

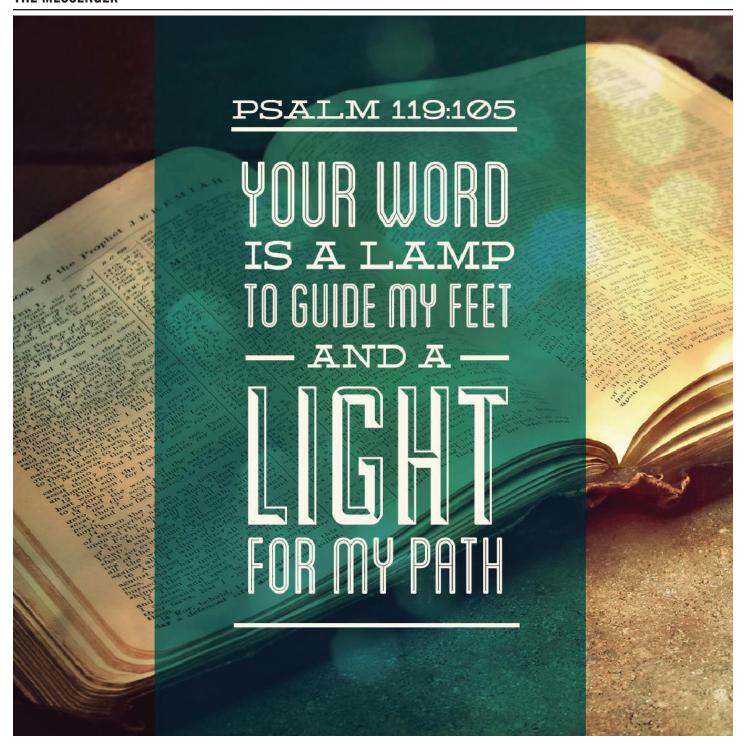
Children begin & end in room 203

11:28AM SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS & ENDS IN WORSHIP











# YOU CAN JOIN WESTLAKE UMC AT THE 10:00AM SERVICE WITH LIVE STREAMING\*\* FROM OUR SUBURBAN CAMPUS.



Traveling? Can't make it to church on a Sunday morning? Worship with us via our website: westlakeumc.org for the 10:00 service. You will see the link to the broadcast in the lower left corner of the home screen. You are also invited to register your attendance, send prayer requests, and/or make contributions online.

\*\*Please note that due to copyright & licensing restrictions, not all music or multimedia presentations may be broadcast.



# January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE Closed	2 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100)	3 7am Men's Breakfast (Sammis Deli) 5:30pm 3MB - (SMW)	4 12pm Eagle Scout Ceremony (FH/Sanctuary) 6:30pm AA (SMW)
5 9am Confirmation Class (205) 4:30pm Comm Meal (SMVV)	Q	7 5:30pm Bread on Bridge Meal/Worship Nehemiah) Messenger Deadline	8 II am Bible Study (SMW) I:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 2pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 5:30pm Youth/Grp SMW 6pm Blue Bus (SMW) 7:30pm II:28 Rehearsal	9 9am Bible Study (207) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 6pm Mission Team (207) 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7am Men's Breakfast (Sammi's Deli) 3:30-6:30pm Theater Group (FH) 5:30pm 3MB - (SMW) 6pm Mission Possible	1.1 6:30pm AA (SMW)
9am Confirmation Class (205) 4pm Bible Study (207) 5:30pm Youth Group SC	13 12:30pm ChristCare-EP (100) 12:30pm Games N Such (FH) 6pm Trustees Mtg. (207) 7pm Stephen Ministry	14 5:30pm Bread on Bridge Meal/Worship Nehemiah) 6pm G. Scouts-Rachael (FH)	8am Staff Meeting (Panera) 11 am Bible Study (SMW) 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 3-8pm Theater Group (FH) 5:30pm Youth/Grp SMW 6pm Blue Bus (SMW) 7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal	16 9am Bible Study (207) 1pm Luncheon Club 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 6pm G. Scouts-Susan (FH) 7pm Choir Rehearsal	77  7am Men's Breakfast (Sammi's Deli) 3:30-6:30pm Theater Group (FH) 5:30pm 3MB - (SMW)	18 6:30pm AA (SMW)
9am Confirmation Class (205) 4pm Bible Study (207) 5:30pm Youth Group SC	20 Office Closed 7pm Finance Mtg. (207) 7pm ChristCare-G/J.L (205)  Actin Juliar 9(178 31- D19)	21 5pm WSCH Meal 5:30pm Bread on Bridge Meal/Worship Nehemiah)	22 11 am Bible Study (SMW) 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 5:30pm Community Meal 5:30pm Youth/Grp SMW 6pm Blue Bus (SMW) 7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal	23 9am Bible Study (207) 10:30am UMW Missions (107) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24  7am Men's Breakfast (Sammi's Deli) 3:30-6:30pm Theater Group (FH) 5:30pm 3MB - (SMW) 6pm Mission Possible (FH)	25 I-9pm Westlake Music Recital Sanctuary/FH) 6:30pm AA (SMW)
26 9am Confirmation Class (205) 4pm Bible Study (207) 5:30pm Youth Group SC	27 I0am Food Pantry Truck (SMW) 12:30pm ChristCare-EP (100) 7pm ChristCare-G/J.L (205)	28 5:30pm Bread on Bridge Meal/Worship Nehemiah)	99m Food Pantry (SMW) 11:30am Purl Girls (100) 6pm Blue Bus (SMW) 7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal	30 9am Bible Study (207) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7pm Choir Rehearsal	31 3:30-6:30pm Theater Group (FH)	

#### **WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Mollie Brown, Senior Pastor mgbrown@westlakeumc.org Rev. Paige Boyer, Associate Pastor phoyer@westlakeumc.org Rev. Don Lefelar Volunteer Visitation Pastor Mario Clopton-Zymler Worship Leader, SMW Jill Farkas Custodian, SC Finance Manager Stacey Johnson Jeanne Halaby Nursery Assistant, SC **Betsy Kaiser** Nursery Assistant, SC **Gretty Myers** Stephen Ministry Coordinator Chris Neely **Director of Music Ministries** Ellie Peiffer Director of Faith Formation Anna Judkins Organist

Samantha Loomis Children's Choir Director & Program
Coordinator for Outreach and Faith Formation

Lynne Wolf Office Coordinator

WUMC Volunteer Librarian: Katie Salis, SC

#### **OTHER PASTORS CONNECTED TO THIS CONGREGATION:**

Rev. Judy Wismar Claycomb

Rev. Ron Dietrich

Rev. Dr. Richard Lehto

Rev. Bob Remington

Rev. Diana Guyette

Rev. Tom Taylor

Rev. Don Lefelar

Coming Up

1/5 Simpson UMC Community Meal (p. 4)

1/8 Simpson Metro West Bible Study (p. 6)

1/9 Pastor's Thursday Morning Bible Study (p. 6)

1/10 Mission: Possible Family Night (p. 7)

1/31 Youth Lock-In! (p. 8)

2/1 Rise Against Hunger (p. 4)

SC – Suburban Campus SMW – Simpson Metro West Campus

#### \* MESSENGER ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY: DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH\*

Mailed January 1, 2020 DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY



westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org (440) 871-3088

Simpson Metro West Campus 8519 Clark Ave Cleveland, Ohio 44102 www.westlakeumc.org/simpson

> Suburban Campus 27650 Center Ridge Road Westlake, Ohio 44145 www.westlakeumc.org

WESTLAKE
CHURCH