

**10:30 am Service In-Person &
on YouTube **LIVESTREAM****

Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook at Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Twitter and Instagram @WPCAkron



1250 West Exchange Street Akron, Ohio 44313

Westminster Staff

Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor

wpcpastorselby@gmail.com

Dave Bodnar, Custodian

wpcbuilding@gmail.com

Lou Camerato, Finance Office

wpcfince1250@gmail.com

Jim Cole, Treasurer

wpctreasurer1250@gmail.com

Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

wpcoffice1250@gmail.com

Dawn M. Pokorny, Office Administrator

wpcoffice1250@gmail.com

Traci Range, Director of Childcare

wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com

Gwynne Rearick, Dir. Family Ministry

wpcfamilyministry1250@gmail.com

Pat Schumacher, Housekeeping

wpcoffice1250@gmail.com

Nik Stackpole, Director of Music/Organist

wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com

Valerie Stewart, Dir. Children's Choir

wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday



Westminster Presbyterian Church

1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313

westminsterakron@gmail.com - 330-836-2226

www.westminsterakron.org

The Script

2025

HELLO
February



Experiencing Awe

Social psychologist Dacher Keltner defines awe as “the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends your current understanding of the world.” During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we heard several stories from Luke and Matthew about people who experienced awe: Elizabeth, when her child, John, leaped in her womb upon hearing Mary’s greeting; Mary, when responding to Elizabeth’s blessing with her song of praise, the Magnificat; the angels and shepherds, when hearing the Messiah had been born; the Magi, when they saw the star that fulfilled an ancient prophecy and guided them to the house where Mary and her child, Jesus, were.

We each may have experienced awe as we heard these stories from Scripture or listened to or sang carols and hymns of the season, here at Westminster and elsewhere. Such experiences can be profound, transcending the ordinary and making us feel closer to the Divine.

Awe is important not only to our religious and spiritual life, but also to our psychological wellness. In his 2023 book *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*, Dr. Keltner presents the findings of his international research, with 2,600 participants, on how people all over the world experience awe, and how it affects them. He identifies what he calls “eight wonders of life,” the ways in which people from a variety of nations, cultures, and religions experience awe. These “eight wonders,” in order of frequency of mention by the research participants, are:

Moral beauty: other people’s courage, kindness, strength, or perseverance. Jim and Barb Shriner experienced this recently, as described in their article, “The Gift of Hospitality.”

Collective effervescence: when people collectively experience an event or force that “merges” them into a “we.” Think about what it was like to watch the solar eclipse last April. Nature: cataclysmic events, night skies, natural beauty.



Sweets and Treats BRUNCH

FEBRUARY 9TH. 2025

JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE FOR QUICHE, TOMATO SOUP SHOTS WITH GRILLED CHEESE DIPPERS, FRESH SALADS, AND VALENTINE’S TREATS FROM WESTSIDE BAKERY. WE’LL ALSO HAVE STATIONS SET UP AROUND THE ROOM WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A CARD FOR YOUR VALENTINE, LEARN TO ARRANGE FLOWERS, AND SAMPLE DELECTABLE CHOCOLATES!

Are you tired of these freezing temperatures? Are you getting a touch of cabin fever? If so, come out on Friday, March 7th, at 6 pm, and join us by the fire as we enjoy a delectable meal prepared by dinner group members.

Our event will be hosted by Gayle at the exquisite O'Neil House in the Garden Room. Whether you are a current member of a dinner group, a hopeful member of a dinner group, or you'd just like to get out of the house, please be sure to reserve your spot soon as we are limited to 40 guests.

Talk to Gwynne or Dottie after church or email Gwynne at wpcfamlyministry1250@gmail.com



Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of Westminster Presbyterian Church through its governing bodies (Eastminster Presbytery, Synod of the Covenant, General Assembly) to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while strengthening the sense of community among Presbyterians.

Westminster's per capita amount per person for 2025 is \$33.00 and is composed of \$18.76 for Eastminster Presbytery; \$3.40 for Synod of the Covenant; and \$10.84 for General Assembly.

Consider paying your per capita to help Westminster offset the amount being used from our budget.

Please write "per capita" on your check's memo line. ~Jim Cole

Music

Visual design: art, photography, geometric patterns.

Mystical, religious and spiritual experience.

Life and death: being present for a birth, a rite of passage, or a death.

Epiphanies

We can experience awe in our daily life in many ways—in community, in church, in nature, at a concert or museum, and in our home. Such experiences remind us that wherever we are, the God of love, beauty, and glory is with us, sometimes in astounding ways!

Blessings for an "Awe-some" year,
Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor



"The Gift of Hospitality."

The day after Thanksgiving, Barb and I were driving back from Rochester, NY after a visit with our son, Scott, and his family. It's usually a six-hour drive. It ended up taking four days. About 15 miles east of Erie, PA we encountered an unexpected lake-effect snowstorm that stopped traffic on Interstate 90.

Fortunately, we were near an exit and ended up in a small town, North East, PA. After getting stuck several times in the snow, we were directed to a church, North East Alliance Church, which had opened to shelter the many stranded travelers.

For the next two days, their fellowship hall/gym was our "home."

We, along with about another 120 people were the "guests" of the church. And we use the term "guests", because that's how we were treated. The gracious church members had breakfast, lunch, and dinner for us. And they contacted the Red Cross to have cots and blankets for us. We specifically want to thank church members Ramon Smith, Stuart Gruber, and Officer Abbey Woodard for their help.

(over)

The true meanings of caring, understanding, and love were on full display by the people we met at North East.

The third and fourth days we spent at a nearby Holiday Inn Express. On the third day, 90 was slowly opening, but still snow-covered because of the continuing snow. But as we cautiously headed out, our windshield wipers stopped working. So that meant a repair shop stop and another night at the hotel. We finally headed home on December 2nd with rerouting directions provided by Ramon and Stuart.

As we look back on the experience, we are reminded of two things. First, a similar experience we had in 1971 when we were living in the Baltimore area and headed back to Cleveland for Thanksgiving. And second, there are so many good, caring, and loving people in this country.

Jim/Barb



KINDNESS



Impressions of Romans

A banquet of thought, a feast of delights,
A tapestry rich and intricately woven,
A towering score of contrast and counterpoint.

Such is Paul's thinking,
Such is his "Romans."

God's wrath against humankind's selfish desires,
Was deserved by the Jew and the Gentile alike.
But as Abraham taught an example of faith,
So we too, through our faith, are by God justified.

From Adam and sin to obedience in Christ;
Adoption as heirs-our redemption and hope.
Rescued from bondage and slavery to flesh,
Creation is freed, and God's grace brings us joy.

God, always righteous and gracious and faithful,
Working for good in all who would love him,
Gave us the Spirit, to God interceding,
Promising shelter and a share in Christ's glory.

Threads of old covenant woven with new,
Contrasting colors of law and grace.
A prelude of despair that rises to hope,
A chorus ascending from death to life.

Such is God's power.
Such is God's love.

--Rae Leonard

Have you made any New Year's resolutions?

Now is a good time to resolve to spend more time reading and studying the Bible. Our Thursday evening Zoom Bible study group is a great way to get regular Bible study on your calendar every week. No prior knowledge is expected and all you need is your Bible.

Lately, the group has been concentrating on the book of Romans where Paul thinks through many of the implications of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. He answers questions like "what was God up to?" and "where is this all going?" The start of this new year would be an excellent time to pause for an hour each week and consider what the Bible has to say to you personally.

**Come join us Thursday evening 7-8pm via Zoom.
Contact Rae Leonard, leonardrae4@gmail.com for more information and Zoom link.**

Staff Schedules

Staff	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Rev. Sandy Selby	Call	Office	To	Make	Appt.
Dave Bodnar	8:00am-12:30pm	8:00am-12:30pm	8:00am-12:30pm	8:00am-12:30pm	
Lou Camerato	8:30am-12:30pm				8:30am-12:30pm
Jim Cole	Call	Office	To	Make	Appt.
Dawn Pokorny	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm
Gwynne Rearick	Call for	Appt.		10-11am	
Pat Schumacher	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm
Nik Stackpole	Call	Office	For	Avail.	Times

Searching For Hope

As we start a new year, many people are feeling stressed out and worried about where our world is heading. It is difficult for many to feel a sense of hopefulness.

We wonder where God is in all of this, so it is important that we understand what the Bible can tell us. Our Thursday Bible study group is starting a series on "Hope."

We will look at how the central hopes in the Old Testament can be understood and how they were later redefined in the New Testament. Much of the biblical message on hope is tangled up in apocalyptic literature such as Daniel, several of the prophets, Mark 13, and Revelation, so we will spend some time learning how to understand these confusing writings. We will also discuss how Presbyterians, in particular, think in terms of the future.

Come join us as we search for hope.

Contact Rae Leonard for the Zoom link, leonardrae4@gmail.com



Save The Date:

- ◆ Next two Community Dinners are Jan. 30th and March 27th at 5:00 pm. in Wright-Herberich Hall, Westminster Church.
- ◆ “Sweets and Treats” Brunch at Westminster, February 9th, after 10:30 am. worship.
- ◆ “Progressive Dinner” at O’Neil House/Garden Room. Friday March 7th at 6:00 pm. BYOB affair. (more details on page 7 & 14).
- ◆ WPC Music “Community Day” May 4th at 12:00 pm. (Free event)

Congregational response has been great as far as donating household goods for the International Welcome Center immigrants. Many of these families come to this country with absolutely nothing, and IWC sets them up with housing and the basic necessities for everyday living. Ten families are scheduled to arrive during the next few months, so the needs are ongoing. The Outreach committee purchased pillows and sets of cookware, dinnerware, and kitchen utensils to be donated, but much more is always needed. There is a list of needed items—new or gently used—on the table above the IWC collection bins for your convenience. Anyone interested in working directly with the immigrant families can contact Marge at marger2732@gmail.com.

We will be collecting personal care items and women's underwear on February 2 and 9. RAHAB provides basic needs to women and children who have been affected by human trafficking. The items requested are: full-sized shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, and deodorant (Ethnic hair care products are also needed), new women's bras, underwear, and socks. Your kind donations help to give a sense of dignity to those in need.

March 2025 Script Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures submitted to the church office at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by **Monday, February 10, 2025.**



I hope you are enjoying “*The Script*”, your feed back and entries are appreciated. ~Dawn M Pokorny, Editor



Organ
Day

Explore
Learn
&
Play

Sat. Jan.18, 2025

Westminster, nestled beneath a shimmering blanket of snow, brings a sense of calm and peace to the community of Akron. Its striking architecture stands proudly against the winter landscape, inviting quiet contemplation.

The beautiful bells toll softly, echoing through the crisp air and calling the townspeople to pause and reflect. They resonate like gentle whispers from heaven, urging individuals to turn their thoughts toward God’s loving embrace.

We invite the community and members to come together on Sunday mornings under one roof—God’s house—to thank and praise Him for being there for us. We gather to show our gratitude for His mercy and to seek guidance in navigating this troubled world together, rather than apart. ~Dawn





Music at WPC Presents COMMUNITY DAY

Join us after morning services for a delightful lunch and an afternoon filled with fellowship and uplifting singing! No music experience required—just come as you are and enjoy the day with us! This event is free and open to everyone—bring your friends and family!

SUNDAY, MAY 4,
2025 AT 12:00 PM



Discipleship Doings:

The New Year is off to a good start. I met last week with our Godly Play teachers to flesh out the rest of the year and Confirmation Class is still going strong.

Discipleship is hosting two social events in February and March:

A *"Sweets and Treats"* Brunch will be served after church on February 9th that will consist of heart-shaped quiche, tomato soup cups with heart-shaped grilled cheese "dippers," fresh fruit salad, greens with sliced pear, candied pecans, goat cheese, dried cherries and a champagne vinaigrette and assorted pastries/desserts from Westside Bakery.

We will have a flower arranging station, led by Kristy Yates, a chocolate-tasting station with a chocolate fountain, and a card-making station.

The second event is a *"Progressive Dinner"* hosted by my dinner group. It's not technically progressive in that we will not progress from one home to another for each course, but each of the existing dinner groups will be invited to bring a component of the dinner to this event.

My daughter will make a vegetable Wellington for any vegan or vegetarian member. It is scheduled to be on Friday, March 7th, at 6 pm at the O'Neil House in the **Garden Room**. This will give us a chance to reorganize so that new people can join existing dinner groups and some can move to other dinner groups based on personal preferences. Everyone is invited, even if they cannot commit to a monthly dinner meeting, however, this is first come, first served. O'Neil House can seat 40 of us. This is also a BYOB sort of affair.

~Gwynne Rearick

Tips to stay safe everyday!

- Only answer phone calls from recognized phone numbers.
- Sometimes you will get a text/phone call/emails from a number/address that reads/ states it is from a local institution, but really it is not. How would you know?

Steps to protect yourself!


- **Don't answer!** But if you do ...
- Don't give information, Get information!
- Verify, verify, verify. For example, if someone calls and says they are from PNC bank do not give them any of your information, hang up and call someone you know and trust at that institution and inquire if the call was legitimate.

Have two email addresses:

- One for personal emails to family, friends etc.
- One to use in signing up for services, ordering things on the internet, etc.

Check your online accounts daily!

- Bank, credit card(s), investments.
- look out for out-of-the-ordinary expenses or withdrawals (call that institution immediately).
- Never give out your pin number.
- Do not put checks in your personal mailbox with the red flag up. Take directly *into* US post office. Outside postal boxes are being compromised and mail is being stolen.



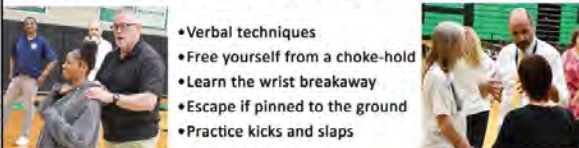
Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

**Certified Instructor
Chad Cunningham**

Learn simple techniques that could save your life!



- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a choke-hold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps

February 18, 6-8 pm. Kenmore Community Center
March 18, 6-8 pm. Twinsburg High School



Reverend Sandy Selby took the initiative to invite Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich to deliver an informative presentation on senior safety, which he provides throughout the county. This opportunity is particularly relevant for our church and local organizations, especially in light of recent phishing incidents that have affected our communities. We believe this presentation will empower our members with valuable knowledge and tools to stay safe. Reverend Sandy was pleased and surprised to see at least 25 participants trudged through the snowy cold weather Tuesday afternoon January 14.