

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

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Westminster Staff

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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

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westminsterakron@gmail.com - 330-836-2226

www.westminsterakron.org

The Script

January 2025



The Twelve Days of Christmas

Merry Christmas! How fortunate we are that we will be able to say that not just on December 25, but on the twelve days of the Christmas season that extends until Epiphany on January 6. From the many people for whom Christmas is essentially a secular holiday, we'll overhear comments like, "I always feel depressed when Christmas is over: all the anticipation and excitement, the joy of the season, and then it's back to the same old stuff until Christmas rolls around again next year. Why can't Christmas last more than a day?" Well, for observant Christians, it does!

I have great fun during the twelve days of Christmas following the journey of the Magi, day by day, across my living room: a few days making their way from end table to coffee table, and a couple of days moving across the top of the piano. They will spend January 5 on the cat condominium over in the corner, and will finally arrive at the nativity scene on Epiphany, January 6.

Whew! What a journey!

I have a good time with the Magi doing the trek across my living room during the Christmas season. But I've found something else about that practice--something quite unexpected, really. The silliness of picking up the Magi every day and moving them along to a new place on their journey focuses my attention, again and again, on the ultimate goal: the child in the manger.

At Westminster, we will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 5. We'll hear words from Isaiah 60, "Arise, shine; for your light has come!" On Epiphany, the symbolism of light is important, not only because of the star that guided the Magi, but also because light represents the bright dawning of God's revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ's light in the world.

Blessings to you all, this joyous season!

Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor



Christmas Cookie Exchange

The Cookie Exchange, held on December 15th, was a delightful gathering attended by approximately 45 guests. They enjoyed a charming light lunch that fostered friendly conversations and a festive atmosphere. At the end of the event, everyone left with a beautiful plate filled with an assortment of delicious cookies, each one ready to be savored with family and friends.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dottie Erb and Gwynne Rearick for their incredible effort in organizing these type of events all year round. Their dedication and hard work are instrumental in ensuring the success of such programs, which play a vital role in supporting our families and promoting community growth.

From the Clerk of Session:

The regular meeting of Session was on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 (combined November/December).

Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby reported she has been busy with visits, and that staff has been very supportive. The Pastoral Nominating Committee has received positive feedback on the new church website and suggestions for improvements. Jim Cole said staff will consider those suggestions. The November meeting of Eastminster Presbytery included a report on mission activities in Lebanon and several service projects planned by Presbytery (watch for details!).

Session approved some musical events for next spring along with a "Senior Safety" presentation in January. Watch for more details. Preliminary unaudited data through November 30, 2024: actual revenues \$405,822; budgeted \$364,084. Actual expenses \$518,736; budgeted \$598,701. Net (actual revenues less actual expenses) is a deficit of \$112,914. Overall contributions are \$16,858 below budget; interest/dividend income is \$36,430 above budget; endowment income is \$24,656 above budget. Personnel expenses were \$47,715 below budget largely due to not having a full-time pastor.

Pledge cards and year-end contributions are still being accepted. The 2025 proposed budget will be presented to Session in January.

With flood repairs completed, WYDACA has moved back into their regular space below the sanctuary. They have asked to use additional space in the Christian Education building (current nursery and toddler room) for additional regular programs. There have been some problems and concerns based on current/past usage that would have to be addressed, particularly how to control access for both church and WYDACA staff and visitors. The men's bathroom need major repairs. The length of any contract, any improvements, conflicting events, Child Protection, etc. would have to be addressed. Session is open to discussing issues and processes; this likely would entail time and a task force.

The new construction at the Ohio Living site is for an eldercare facility subcontracted to McGregor PACE. They have asked to install a large sign on our parking lot. Per discussion, Session's preference would be for a sign on a pole with the three names listed, Westminster's on top. Properties was asked to pursue negotiations.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7 pm.

~Alec Works
Clerk of Session

Advent is a meaningful season that serves as a preparation for the celebration of Christmas. It signifies the "coming" of Jesus Christ and offers an opportunity for reflection and anticipation. During this time, individuals can engage in various traditions and practices that foster a sense of hope, renewal, and community. By embracing the spirit of Advent, we can constructively prepare ourselves for the joy and significance of the holiday season.



Thank you for Giving!

Our beautifully decorated Giving Thanks Tree was adorned with 133 hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks. Thank you to Barb and Jim Shriner who delivered the items. ACCESS was deeply grateful to Westminster for the generous donations!

We had some new faces in our industrious volunteer crew for Community Dinner: Dan Vicarel, Ellen Daugherty, Lisa Bansen-Harp and daughter, Sarah, Bob Carlyon, Earl Pierson, Marian Wahl and Margo Works. The food was well-received as evidenced by the many who returned for seconds! Sixty-two people feasted on pork ribs, sauerkraut, Three Sisters Stew (black beans, squash, corn) and tossed salad. It was nice to see some church members join us and mingle with the crowd. **Our next dinner is Thursday, January 30, 2025.**

With the upcoming Christmas holiday usually means extra shopping, be sure to check your Acme receipts for the **"Cash Back"** line at the bottom. Boxes are available in WHH and in the narthex for your deposit of the receipts. The program will run through February 15, 2025. Thank you for your participation!

Christmas Food Baskets



This year, our goal was set at a minimum of \$6,000, which would allow us to provide 100 Christmas baskets filled with holiday essentials for those in need.

We also aimed to allocate any additional funds raised toward purchasing gift cards for residents of local apartment complexes who could benefit from them.

We are delighted to share that this year's Christmas Basket event exceeded our expectations and was a tremendous success. On Saturday, December 15, led by

Ed Labbe, his family and church volunteers we proudly delivered all 100 baskets to individuals and families in our community.

Furthermore, we managed to raise enough additional funds to purchase 50 gift cards, which will be distributed to apartment residents in Akron who require extra support during the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this initiative and helped make a difference in the lives of those in need.

A gift much needed and appreciate it!

“A Festival of Lessons and Carols”

Sunday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve at Westminster

The musical prelude will begin at 4:30 pm. showcasing the full spectrum of our music program, including the choir, handbell choir, soloists, instrumentalists, piano/organ duets, organ duets, and the talents of our choral scholars.

Music of WPC presents:

Organ Day

Here is your chance to learn about and play the organ with Nik Stackpole.

wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com

Saturday, January 25
at 10:00 am & 4:00 pm.
in the Sanctuary

Scan or take a picture of the QR code with your smart phone and learn some musical history and context.



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



Save The Date:

- ◆ “A Festival Of Lessons and Carols,” Musical prelude starts at 4:30 pm and Christmas Eve celebration at 5:00pm. (Sanctuary)
- ◆ Church Office will be **Closed** December 25th & December 26th.
- ◆ Church Office will be **Closed** December 31st & January 1, 2025.
- ◆ Presentation for Senior Safety (phishing/scams), Jan. 14 at 2pm.
- ◆ Church Office will be **Closed** January 20, 2025 (MLK Day).
- ◆ Music of WPC presents: Organ Day, a chance to learn about and play the organ. Saturday, January 25 at 10:00 am & 4:00 pm.

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.

February 2025 Script Deadline

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



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



Merry
Christmas
& Happy New Year
2024





The enchanting voices of the children, along with the impressive skills of those playing various instruments such as the horn, violin, harp, and piano, truly enriched the atmosphere of Sunday's worship service.

Under the talented guidance of Valerie Stewart, the Children's Choir Director, their harmonious music brought a joyful and uplifting spirit to the congregation, creating a memorable experience for everyone in attendance. Each instrument contributed its unique tone, showcasing the children's diverse talents and dedication, captivating the hearts of all who gathered to worship.

Additionally, the adult choir, bell ringers, and special guest musicians led by our passionate Music Director Nik Stackpole, have performed throughout the year, filling the walls and rafters of the Westminster sanctuary with elegant harmony.

We are so grateful to have all of you and what you bring to the table. Thank you and Happy Holidays to you and yours!



Giving & Stewardship

A Fresh Start-2025

1250 W. Exchange Str. Akron, Ohio 44313

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Beginning January 2025, I plan to give \$ _____ each
() Week () Month () Year: for an annual total of \$ _____.

() need offering envelopes

Online Pledge option at www.westminsterakron.org (select "Online Giving").
I understand my commitment can be changed at any time by contacting church Treasurer.
wpctreasurer1250@gmail.com

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Westminster
Presbyterian
Church





Your generous gift, made in memory of or in honor of your loved ones, plays a vital role in enabling the Flower Committee to craft an exquisite and uplifting atmosphere in the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. We deeply appreciate your support, which helps us celebrate these meaningful times with beauty and reverence.

Additionally, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Westminster Flower Committee. Their dedication and artistic talent ensure that all floral arrangements throughout the year are not only stunning but also create lasting memories for our community and members. Each arrangement reflects their hard work and commitment to enhancing our worship experience and special occasions. Thank you for recognizing and supporting their wonderful contributions.