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Online Giving

Secure Online Giving is available through our website,  
[www.westminsterakron.org](http://www.westminsterakron.org)  
Select "Give" and then click on  
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### Westminster Presbyterian Church

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[www.westminsterakron.org](http://www.westminsterakron.org)



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.**

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

**December 22, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**



Follow Westminster on



or on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)

## Welcome to Westminster,

We are an open affirming congregation sharing God's love in West Akron.  
No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

**During this joyous season celebrating** the birth of Christ, we warmly invite you to join us for our beloved Festival of Lessons and Carols at the Christmas Eve service. This uplifting event will feature a beautiful sequence of readings and traditional carols that truly embody the spirit of the holiday. The musical prelude will begin at 4:30 pm December 24th, 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.

**We invite you to join us in taking down** the Greens on January 5, 2025. Your help after worship would be greatly appreciated, and together we can accomplish this important task efficiently.

**Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich** will make a presentation on "Senior Safety" on Tuesday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m. in Wright Herberich Hall. The presentation will cover internet "phishing," "scams," checking and bank fraud, and other safety issues that Seniors face. The presentation will last approximately one hour.

**Music at WPC presents: Organ Day, has been changed to** Saturday, January, 18th at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. in the sanctuary. Have you ever wondered what goes on inside the heart of the pipe organ? Come explore the organ with Nik Stakepole and get an up close look at the pipes, the console, and the mechanisms that make our mighty instrument sing! Get a chance to play the organ and get pictures sitting at the console! For more information: email Nik Stackpole, [stackpolemusic@gmail.com](mailto:stackpolemusic@gmail.com)

### This Week's Music at WPC:

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



## Calendar of Church Building Events For December 22–December 29, 2024

### Sunday, 12/22

8:30 am Childcare opens  
8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)  
9:30 am Godly Play/Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship & YouTube Livestream  
11:40 am Outreach Meeting  
11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)

### Tuesday, 12/24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Childcare open (available for Christmas Eve service)  
4:30 pm Festival of Lessons & Carols (in Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, 12/25

#### *Merry Christmas*

Office Closed

### Thursday, 12/26

Office Closed

### Sunday, 12/29

8:30 am Childcare opens  
8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)  
10:30 am Worship & YouTube  
11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “Recognize and Respond” The Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby

\*Affirmation of Faith

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People

We pray silently...

And finally, together, as the people of God, we offer the prayer that Christ taught us, saying in one voice:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn 15 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers LLANGLOFFAN

\*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen Gail Leven Pollock (b.1947)

(Bob Carlyon, organ. Nik Stackpole, piano)

**Today's Worship team is** Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby (preaching);  
Madeline Wilson (liturgist); Nik Stackpole (organist);  
Bruce Klucharich (audio-visual); Adult Choir; and Ushers

*At the ringing of the carillon, please silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God.*

***Bolded text is read or sung by all.** \*Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.*

Voluntary “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

\*Call to Worship Madeline Wilson

Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

**He shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

**God's mercy extends from generation to generation.**

**Holy is God's name!**

\*Hymn 2 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

Lighting of the Candle of Love— The Jopperi Family

Advent Response 12 People Look East- Vs. 4 only

Call to Confession

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own.

We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our hearts and mind and strength.

Trusting in God's grace, let us pray.

## Prayer of Confession

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.

Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.

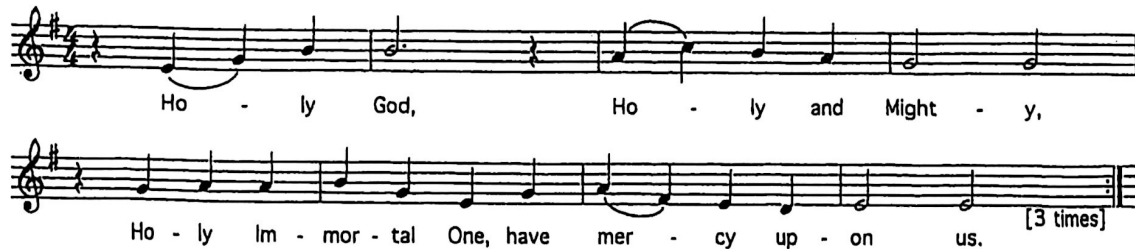
We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

*Silence is observed.*

## Response Trisagion



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us. [3 times]

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, God is for us and not against us.

For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world— not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

\*Response 567

Glory to the Father

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying,

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

## Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

*Please sign the friendship pad and pass it to those seated near you.*

*Last one to sign, please leave at the end of the pen. Thank you.*

## Offertory

“People Look East,”

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

*People, look East, the time is near of the crowning of the year,*

*Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.*

*People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:*

*Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.*

*People, look East, and sing today. Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Birds though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.*

*Even the hour when wings are frozen He for fledging time has chosen.*

*People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim.*

*Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun the moon together.*

*People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.*

*Set every peak and valley humming with the word the Lord is coming.*

*People, look East, and sing today. Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

\*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Doxology*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Prayer of Dedication

## Prayer for Illumination

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Amen.

The First Lesson

Luke 1:39-45

Hymn 17

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

WACHET AUF