

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

Follow us on Social Media:

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1250 West Exchange Street Akron, Ohio 44313

Westminster Staff

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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

December 2024

THE BIRTH OF
JESUS

On December 1, we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, from the Latin “adventus,” which means, “coming.” The first verse of the first hymn in The Presbyterian Hymnal captures the meaning of this season:

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.*

Advent is a season of anticipation of the birth of Jesus and expectant hope for his coming again. Notwithstanding the Christmas carols we already are hearing, telling us that “Christ the Savior is born,” Mary will be “great with child” until after sunset on December 24. Then, with the birth of Jesus, the season of Christmas will begin, extending for twelve days until Epiphany, on January 6th.

At 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (with a musical prelude beginning at 4:30 p.m.), we will have a service of Lessons & Carols in which the story of God’s people will be told through Scripture and music, beginning in the Garden of Eden and culminating in the Incarnation of God in the child, Jesus. Until then, we live in the meantime of Advent, watching and waiting.

In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for personal reflection, as the we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus and look with hope for Christ’s return.

During our Sunday service on the four Sundays of Advent we will light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, while reading and reflecting upon Scripture that speaks to those four Advent themes. Each week, in my own time of reflection, I will focus on that week’s theme, and encourage you to do the same.

Advent 1 (December 1) - Hope
Advent 2 (December 8) - Peace
Advent 3 (December 15) - Joy
Advent 4 (December 22) - Love

In the busyness of this month, let’s all take time to look to Jesus Christ, our source of hope, peace, joy, and love, with expectation and gratitude.

Blessings, Sandy Selby
Bridge Pastor



Christmas Cookies Anyone?

It will soon be December and what better way to get into the seasonal spirit than to think about Christmas goodies. If you like to bake and/or eat Christmas cookies, mark your calendar for Sunday, December 15.

The Discipleship Committee is hosting a Christmas Cookie Exchange and light lunch after the worship service.

If you’re a cookie baker or a cookie buyer, please bring 3 to 4 dozen cookies or Christmas treats – a dozen to share for lunch and 2 to 3 dozen to swap.

Cookies should be dropped off in Wright Herberich Hall prior to the worship service. Cookie plates will be provided for you to select 2 dozen cookies to take home with you.

You do not need to bring cookies in order to come for lunch and enjoy a touch of Christmas.

~Dottie Erb

From the Clerk of Session:

The regular meeting of Session was on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

Alec reported that Westminster Presbyterian Church was represented at the Akron Area YMCA's groundbreaking for a new playground on October 7, 2024. He noted our long relationship with and support for WYDACA. An article appeared on the front page of the West Side Leader.

Updates were provided on the stewardship campaign, building repairs and various planned activities. Discussions on publicity and policies will continue at the next meeting.

Due to the holiday schedules, the November and December regular meetings will be combined into a single meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7 p.m.

Although this is a time of change and uncertainty, all members are encouraged to show their support not only financially but also by their presence at worship, studies and other events. We would like to keep our membership records up to date.

If anyone has joined another church, they are asked to let Alec Works, Clerk of Session, know that by emailing him at wpcclerk1250@gmail.com or by calling the church office. Anyone who no longer desires to receive mailings from the church should also contact Alec or the church office. (office-330.836.2226)
Next Session meeting will be Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

~Alec Works
Clerk of Session

The WPC Giving Tree

The annual Giving Tree was overflowing with donations this year. We truly appreciate the heartfelt generosity expressed to help those in need. Your contributions of scarves, mittens, hats, and gloves will ensure that others can stay warm this winter. These items will be taken to ACCESS Inc., a shelter for homeless women and children. Thank you for your support!



The Acme Grocery Store Cash Back program is in full swing. With the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, which 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. The Outreach Committee uses the income for their projects.

Thank you for your participation!



Christmas Food Baskets



Our annual Christmastime delivery of food baskets to Greater Akronites in need will take place on Saturday, December 14. The groceries purchased from Acme #1 will be assembled in the church parking lot beginning at 7:30 am with deliveries beginning at 9:00 am. You can help make another family's Christmas a little brighter by delivering and/or contributing money to help fill the baskets.

Baskets are valued at \$60 each, but any donation amount is appreciated.

This year, our minimum goal is to raise \$6,000 to cover 100 baskets, but anything raised above that will again go to gift cards for apartment dwellers in need. Special donation envelopes will be in the pews for your convenience, or you can give on-line at westminsterakron.org under "electronic giving" or send a check to the church with "Christmas Baskets" in the memo line.

We also need plenty of volunteers to make this a success.

Please sign-up for basket assembly and/or delivery at the connection point in Wright-Herberich Hall or email to Ed Labbe, elabbe@roadrunner.com if you can help.

A gift much needed and appreciate it!



Flower Memorials for Christmas



Your gift, given in memory or in honor of loved ones, allows the Flower Committee to create a beautiful setting in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Please print the names of the individuals you would like to remember along with your donation (there is no set amount) and send it to the Church office, Attn: Finance Office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, or you can donate online by visiting westminsterakron.org, selecting "Online Giving," and donating under "Christmas Flowers." Please return this form to the church so we can include your loved ones on the Memorial List insert.

Thank you!

Options:

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Your name: _____

Donation amount: _____

Deadline to turn in your form/donation will be December 16, 2024

Remember your loved ones or special occasion with a flower arrangement (in the chancel) at Westminster's 10:30 am Sunday worship. Please contact Kristy Yates at ksjyates@gmail.com to

finalize, your special message, date desired, and donation. Your donation goes to offset the cost of the beautiful arrangement created by our own arrangers, who use some commercial flowers, but mostly the blooms from our own Celtic Garden, which is maintained by our Westminster gardeners.



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 |



MUSIC AT WPC PRESENTS:

FIRESTONE CLC MADRIGAL CHOIR

Music offered during our 10:30 church service on the second Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
10:30 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH,
1250 W EXCHANGE ST.
AKRON, OH 44313



Save The Date:

- ◆ For Thanksgiving holiday; Church office will be **Closed** Thurs. Nov. 28th and Fri., Nov. 29th.
- ◆ ETC performing a “Holiday Cabaret,” on Saturday, December 7th in Westminster Wright-Herberich Hall at 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Firestone CLC Madrigal Choir Sunday December 8, at 10:30 am. worship Westminster Sanctuary.
- ◆ Christmas Cookie Exchange/Light Lunch, Sunday, December 15th after 10:30am worship.
- ◆ “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.
- ◆ 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.

Sunday Food collection will take place the first Sunday of every month during the service. Much needed items are bread, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce and personal care items such as bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, toilet paper, paper towels etc.

Some of these items cannot be purchased with food stamps. The items collected will be taken to the Goodyear Heights Good Neighbors unit which has expanded their service and now serves the majority of the areas located on the eastern side of Akron. Monetary donations are always welcomed.

January 2025 Script Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures submitted to the church office at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by **Tuesday, December 10, 2024.**



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

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.
wpc treasurer1250@gmail.com

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Westminster
Presbyterian
Church





WE ARE WESTMINSTER: A FRESH START

This year's Stewardship theme, "A Fresh Start" reflects our positive outlook for the future of Westminster!

Stewardship is a grateful response to all that God has given us by fulfilling our mission to further God's Kingdom in our church, our community, and our world!

We are grateful to all who have made a commitment to support of Westminster and its programs. Pledges received to-date were consecrated with a blessing by Reverend Selby during worship on Commitment Sunday, November 17th.

If you haven't yet notified us of your commitment, you can still return a pledge card to the church, or securely pledge online through our website: www.westminsterakron.org.

With the commitment of all of us, we can successfully make this a new beginning and fresh start for Westminster Presbyterian Church!

Thank you!

"...the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
 Acts 20:35

-Marcia Holcomb



Trunk or Treat was a "smashing" success, thanks to our fabulous pumpkin catapult built by Mike and Sam Grau, Kacey's Girl Scout Troop, and all of the wonderful volunteers of Westminster!!

God blessed us with perfect weather and even made sure that the water was turned back on after the water main break. Parents, children, and their siblings from the "Y" program all attended, as well as 15 local teenagers, thanks to our new digital sign. A big thank you goes out to our staff also, who worked tirelessly until late in the evening.

~Gwynne Rearick



TRUNK OR TREAT

2024

Thank you Gwynne Rearick & Dottie Erb for putting on another fun event. We appreciate all your hard work!