Westminster Staff

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Dave Bodnar, Custodian
Lou Camerato, Staff Accountant
Jim Cole, Treasurer
Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician
Dawn M. Pokorny, Office Administrator
Traci Range, Director of Childcare
Gwynne Rearick, Director Family Ministry
Pat Schumacher, Housekeeping
Nik Stackpole Director of Music/Organist
Valerie Stewart, Director Children's Choir

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Secure Online Giving is available through our website, www.westminsterakron.org
Select "Give" and then click on
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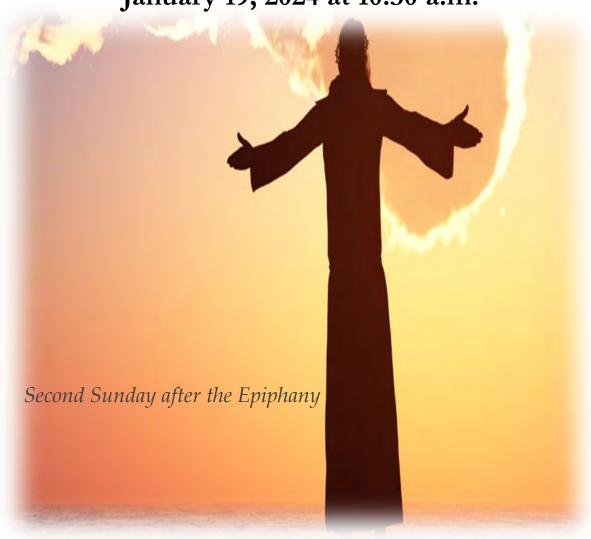
Westminster Presbyterian Church

1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313 wpcoffice1250@gmail.com - 330-836-2226 www.westminsterakron.org



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

Westminster Presbyterian Church January 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



Follow Westminster on



or on our church website at 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!

The flowers in the chancel are given in loving memory of Rosemary Bramley by Bill Bramley and family.

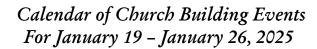
Godly Play and Confirmation Class will now be on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month so that youth can usher on the first Sunday of the month.

Amplified Youth is a group of multi-denominational teens from across the Akron area that comes together to create a group of diverse, compassionate youth who love to have fun. The Youth are tying fleece blankets to give to ailing kids at Akron Children's, in addition to having a game night and a meal together. 4-6 pm January 19th at St. Luke's Lutheran 2121 6th St. Cuyahoga Falls. Oh. 44223. Please RSVP to Gwynne, wpcfamilyministry1250@gmail.com.

Westminster Church Office will be Closed Monday, January 20th for observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Community Dinner, scheduled for Thursday, January 30th at 5:00 pm. The event will take place in Wright-Herberich Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow community members over a delicious meal. Whether you're looking to make new friends, catch up with old ones, or simply enjoy great food, we would love for you to join us. Come hungry and ready to share in the warmth and camaraderie of our community!

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



Sunday, 01/19

8:30 am Childcare available

8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)

9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)

10:30 am Worship & YouTube Live-Stream

11:40 am Deacon's Meeting (Room 106)

11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)

4:00 pm Amplified Youth -Blanket Tying (St Luke's Lutheran)

7:00 pm PNC Meeting

Monday, 01/20

Office Closed- MLK Jr. Day

Tuesday, 01/21

9:30 am Quilt Ministry Meeting (WHH)

5:30 pm ILP Studio

Wednesday, 01/22

3:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, 01/24

10:30 am Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

7:00 pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom

Sunday, 01/26

8:30 am Childcare available

8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)

9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)

9:30 am Commissioning Class (Youth Rooms, upstairs)

9:30 am Sunday School (Godly Play Room, upstairs)

10:30 am Worship & YouTube Live-Stream

11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)



Sermon

"Party Time!"

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

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for the life of the world, saying, O Christ our Light,

hear our prayer

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 186

Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord

TALLIS' ORDINAL

*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary

Prelude in "F" Major

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Today's Worship team is Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby (preaching); Harriet Chapman (liturgist); Bob Carlyon (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

The Gift to Be Simple

Dale Wood (1934-2003)

*Call of Worship

Harriet Chapman

How precious is the steadfast love of God.

All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace.

Christ is the fountain of life.

In Christ we behold the Light of God.

*Hymn (INSERT)

Thou Whose Almighty Word

MOSCOW

Call to Confession

In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's saving love, let us confess our sins.

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.



Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world.

We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace.

We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources.

We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit.

Forgive us, we pray.

Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response 574

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news:

Christ unmasks the idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of 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.

*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 pew. Thank you.

Offertory He Comes to Us as One Unknown John Ferguson (1941 - 2025)

He comes to us as one unknown, A breath unseen, unheard

As though within a heart of stone, Or shriveled seed in darkness sown

Or shriveled seed in darkness sown, a pulse of being stirred

He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;

Half seen upon the inward eye, A falling star across the sky

Of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;

Yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees,

A wind that stirs the tops of trees, a voice to call us home

A voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;

To bear within our mortal frame a kife, a death, a saving name

For ev'ry child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored:

The Christ in all the scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown

As yet unseen, but not unknown, Our Savior and our Lord.

*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

(Children may exit with Ms. Valerie to attend choir rehearsal)

Prayer for Illumination

Heavenly father, Holy Wisdom came to dwell with us in Jesus, filling our world with her light and life. May she also dwell within your word this day, that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us, through the One who is close to your heart, Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Psalm 36:5-10

Hymn 2117 Spirit of God

DOVE SONG

The Second Lesson John 2:1-11

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