

## *Westminster Staff*

Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor

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

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Pat Schumacher, Housekeeping

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Valerie Stewart, Director Children's Choir

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## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**January 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**



Secure Online Giving is available through our website,  
[www.westminsterakron.org](http://www.westminsterakron.org)  
Select "Give" and then click on  
"Give Here" [from there follow the prompts]

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313

wpcoffice1250@gmail.com - 330-836-2226

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



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

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

**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!

**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 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Lutheran 2121 6<sup>th</sup> St. Cuyahoga Falls. Oh. 44223.** Please RSVP to Gwynne, [wpcfamlyministry1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcfamlyministry1250@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](mailto:leonardrae4@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Church Building Events For January 19 – January 26, 2025

### 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**

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*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 unmask 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. 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 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 kǐfe, 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!**