

## Westminster Staff

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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

"Give Here" [from there follow the prompts]

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

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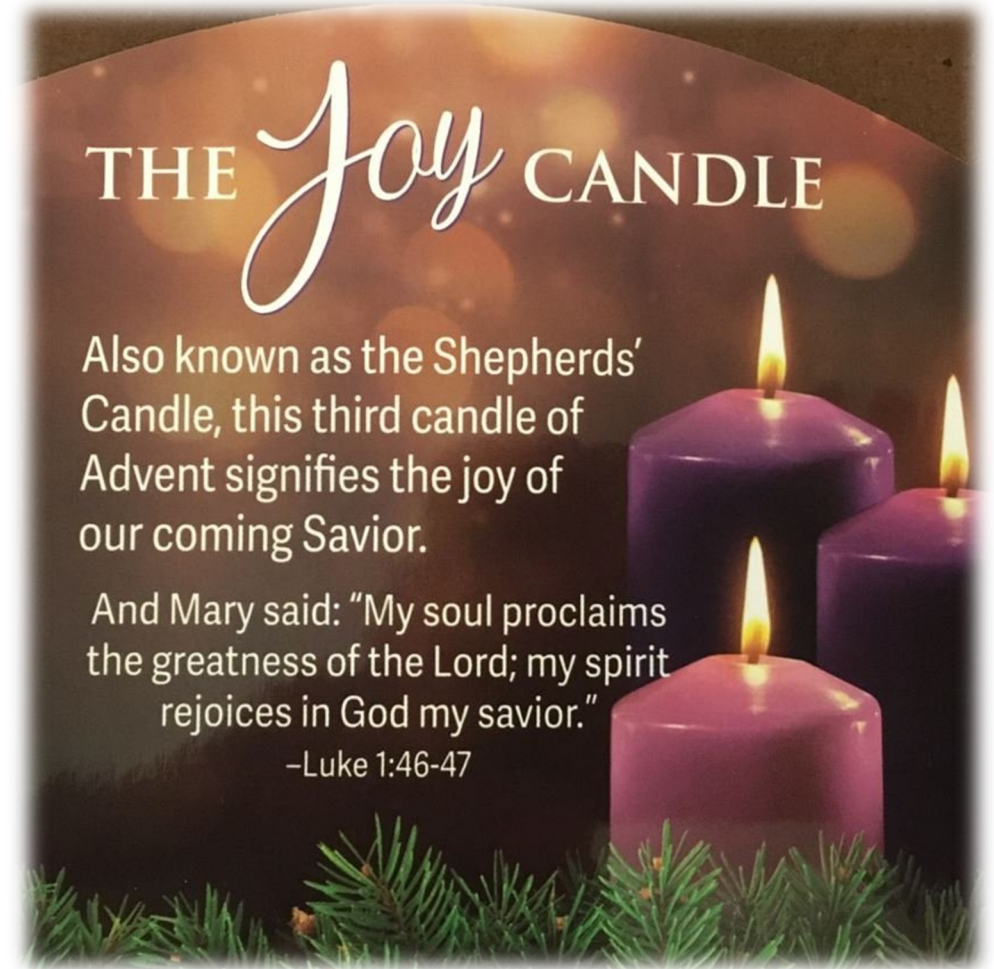


**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

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

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

**December 15, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**



### THE *Joy* CANDLE

Also known as the Shepherds' Candle, this third candle of Advent signifies the joy of our coming Savior.

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

—Luke 1:46-47

Follow Westminster on



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

## Welcome to Westminster,

We are an open and 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 on the pedestal are given** with love by Bruce and Sandy Bailey who celebrate their 65th anniversary this month.

**LAST CHANCE for Christmas Flower Memorial** donations "in memory or in honor" of loved ones. This enables the Flower Committee to create a beautiful setting in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Forms are available at the front and back of the church. **Deadline to turn in forms is Monday, December 16, 2024.**

**You're warmly invited to our festive Christmas Cookie Exchange** and light lunch taking place immediately after the 10:30 am worship service this morning! Share your favorite homemade cookies with everyone, and don't forget to pack some to take home, too! It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy delicious treats while mingling and spreading holiday cheer with your neighbors. We look forward to gathering together in the spirit of the season and celebrating with all of you!

**During this wonderful season celebrating** the birth of Christ, we invite you to join us for our cherished Festival of Lessons and Carols during the Christmas Eve service. This heartwarming event will feature a series of beautiful readings and traditional carols that capture the spirit of the holiday. The prelude of music will begin at 4:30 PM, setting the tone for an evening of joy, reflection, and festive cheer. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and your loved ones as we come together in celebration and hope.

**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.

### *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 trivia.



## Calendar of Church Building Events For December 15–December 22, 2024

### Sunday, 12/15

- 8:30 am Nursery opens
- 8:45 am Choir practice (in Choir Room)
- 9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)
- 9:30 am Sunday School (Godly Play Room, upstairs)
- 10:30 am Worship & YouTube Livestream
- 11:40 am Worship Committee Meeting
- 11:45 am Coffee/Christmas Cookie Exchange Fellowship (WHH)

### Tuesday, 12/17

- 5:30 pm ILP Studio

### Wednesday, 12/18

- 3:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
- 5:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 91442

### Thursday, 12/19

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom

### Saturday, 12/21

- 8:00 am Food For Life (kitchen)

### Sunday, 12/22

- 8:30 am Nursery opens
- 8:45 am Choir practice (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)
- 10:30 am Worship & YouTube
- 11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)



## 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](http://westminsterakron.org), selecting "Give," 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*

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

Voluntary "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," Cynthia Dobrinski (1950-2021)  
(Handbell Choir)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Adeste Fideles)  
Transcribed by F. Oakeley Wade's "Cantus Diversi"  
(Tori Gable, Harp)

### Call to Worship

Marcia Holcomb

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name  
of the most high God.

**The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

**The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

Trust and do not be afraid.

**The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

**The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.**

\*Hymn 9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting of the Candle of Joy- The Labbe Family

Advent Response 12 People Look East- (Vs. 3 only)

## Call to Confession

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now,  
we turn to the one who is both judge and savior,  
trusting that repentance opens the door to new life,  
and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us.  
Let us confess our sins.

## Prayer of Confession

The Lord is near.  
**In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance.**  
**We have broken your commands against idolatry.**  
**We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.**  
**We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.**  
**Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,**  
**for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news**  
**and for the sake of all the world. Amen.**

*Silence is observed.*

## Response TRISAGION (insert)

## Assurance of Forgiveness

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us,  
you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgements against you.  
Do not worry. Live in peace.

\*Response 579

Glory Be 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.**

# ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

*Opening Prayer :*

**O GOD, BLESS THIS ADVENT WREATH.  
MAY IT HELP US PREPARE TO WELCOME JESUS, YOUR SON,  
INTO OUR LIVES.  
MAY THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE SHINE THROUGH US. AMEN.**

## **WEEK 1- First Sunday of Advent** (Light candle # 1) – *HOPE*

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU, LORD.  
WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN HELP US  
TO LOVE AND RESPECT EACH OTHER MORE.  
YOU ARE OUR LIGHT,  
THE LIGHT THAT OVERCOMES DARKNESS.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

## **WEEK 2 – Second Sunday of Advent** (Light candles #1 & # 2) – *LOVE*

**COME, LORD JESUS.  
WARM OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LOVE.  
HELP US TO PREPARE FOR YOUR COMING.  
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS WE CAN DO.  
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS OTHERS DO.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

## **WEEK 3 – Gaudete Sunday** (Light candles #1, #2, #3) – *JOY*

**JESUS, WE WANT YOUR COMING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN HOW WE LIVE AND LOVE.  
OPEN OUR HEARTS TO HEAR YOUR TELLING US  
HOW WE CAN BRING PEACE AND JOY TO OTHERS.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

## **WEEK 4- Fourth Sunday of Advent** (Light candles #1, #2, #3, #4) – *PEACE*

**LORD JESUS,  
QUIET THE WORRIES AND FEARS IN OUR HEARTS.  
GIVE US YOUR PEACE.  
THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE YOU SHARE WITH US.  
HELP US TO SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH OTHERS.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

\*Charge and Benediction

“The Holly and the Ivy” (Old Carol) transcribed Bernard Dewagtere  
(Holden Labbe, French Horn; Laurel Labbe, Piano)

Voluntary “Savior of the Nations, Come,” Paul Manz (1919-2009)



**Please Join Us Tuesday December 24th, Christmas Eve,  
Prelude starts at 4:30 pm and service is at 5:00 pm.**

\*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying,  
**The peace of Christ be with you.**

Children’s Choir Presentation and Youth Performances

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” L.H. Redner Tori Gable, Piano

“An Angel Told Mary” Diane C.G. Garrison

“Christmas Is Such a Happy Time” Folk Tune arr. Nyles L. Butler-Moore

“Children, Go Where I Send Thee” African-American Spiritual  
arr. John D. Horman

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” African-American Spiritual  
arr. John W. Work III

Children’s Choir: Tori Gable, Daisy Render, Desi Stewart, Kior Render,  
Audrielle Wilson

Director: Valerie Stewart; Accompanist: Gwynne Rearick

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Adeste Fideles) John Francis Wade  
(Tori Gable & Claire Jopperi)

“Christmas Concerto” Op 6 No. 8, Last Movement Pastorale A. Corelli  
(Pierce & Jensen Ehrler, Viola)

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 “Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending,” R. E. Martin

*Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
Thousand saints attending swell the triumph train:  
Alleluia! Christ, the Lord returns to reign.*

*Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty,  
Those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.*

*Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;  
With what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!*

*Yes, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone. Amen!*

\*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

Holy Word, you are a guide and ultimate assurance.  
By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of your love. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Philippians 4:4-7

Hymn (insert) “A Stable Lamp is Lighted” ANDUJAR

The Second Lesson Luke 3:7-18

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

Sermon “Surprised by Joy” The Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby

\*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

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 20 “Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night” ABERYSTWYTH