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
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 "Online Giving" and then click on "WPC Online Giving" [from there follow the prompts]

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church December 8, 2024 at 10:30 am.



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!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jim and Barb Shriner for their generous funding of the Firestone CLC Madrigal Choir performance this morning.

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 "Give" 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 send an to Ed Labbe, email: elabbe@roadrunner.com, if you can help.

A reminder 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 before 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.

Christmas Flower Memorial forms are available for you to make a donation in memory of or in honor of loved ones. This enables the Flower Committee to create a beautiful setting in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. For more detailed instructions, please refer to the form (insert). Deadline for donations and forms is December 16, 2024.

Join us for our "Festival of Lessons and Carols" at our Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24th. The evening will begin with a delightful prelude at 4:30 pm, setting the perfect atmosphere for celebration and reflection. The service will commence at 5:00 pm, as we come together under one roof to share in the joy and spirit of the season.

Calendar of Church Building Events For December 8-December 15, 2024

Sunday, 12/8

8:30 am Nursery opens

8:45 am Choir practice (in Choir Room)

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/Communion/Firestone Madrigal Choir & YouTube

11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)

Monday, 12/9

8:00 am Organ Schantz tuning follow-up

Tuesday, 12/10

7:00 pm Properties Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, 12/11

3:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

5:45 pm Endowment meeting via Zoom

6:30 pm PNC Meeting (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, 12/12

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

7:00 pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom

Saturday, 12/14

7:30 am Delivery of Christmas Baskets

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 Commissioning Class (Youth Rooms, upstairs)

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

10:30 am Worship & YouTube

11:40 am Christmas Cookie Exchange & Light Lunch (WHH)

11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)



Words of Institution

With thanks and praise, we offer ourselves to you, gracious God, sharing this holy meal, and remembering Christ's dying and rising. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The minister asks the Holy Spirit to bless the communion elements and all who receive them, that we may be the body of Christ in the world.

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.

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup "The bread of life." "The cup of salvation."

Music at Communion

Ava Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Prayer following Communion

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 14 Savior of the Nations, Come NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary

"Fum, Fum, Fum"

Parker Shaw

(Firestone Madrigals)

Recessional:

Personent Hodie

John Rutter

Today's Worship team is Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby (preaching);

Harriet Chapman (liturgist); Nik Stackpole (organist); Bruce Klucharich (audio-visual); Adult Choir; and Ushers

Processional:

Personent Hodie

John Rutter (b. 1945)

(Firestone Madrigals)

Voluntary

"O Radiant Dawn,"

James MacMillian (b. 1959)

*Call to Worship

Harriet Chapman

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

*Hymn 10 On Jordan's Banks the Baptists Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

Lighting of the candle of Peace- Madeline Wilson and Family

Advent Response 12

People Look East- (Vs. 2 only)

Call to Confession

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response TRISAGION (insert)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another.

*Response 579

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World, without end! Amen. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

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

Moment of Mission

Nik Stackpole

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

Psalite Unigenito-Praetorius

John Rutter

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Response 592

(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

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The First Lesson

Luke 1:68-79

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

The Second Lesson Luke 3:1-6

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

Prepare the Way

Sermon

Hymn #13

"History Lessons"

The Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts! We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of God in creation.

Therefore we join our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever praise your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord (insert)

SANCTUS

5

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.