

**Saturday January 7, 2017 8:40 am – 12:00 pm (noon)**

Volunteer at Good Neighbors (Goodyear Heights Food Center). Meet at WPC at 8:40 am. Youth can be picked up at WPC at 12:15 pm. *Chaperones and drivers needed.*

**Saturday February 4, 2017 4:30-8:00 pm**

Balloon Bonanza. Games and sub making for Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sale. Proceeds will help fund 2017 mission trip. *Chaperones needed.*



**Adult Education Update**

Adults please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for one of our adult class options. Sunday School takes a break on December 25, 2016 and January 1, 2017.

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study**

On the three Sunday mornings before Christmas (12/4, 12/11, 12/18) come to our Adult Bible study class to gain a fresh perspective for the journey through Advent to Christmas. Using scripture and the words of Advent and Christmas hymns, we will discuss the following questions:

Sunday, December 4 - How do we wait expectantly?

Sunday, December 11 - How does Jesus fulfill all the promises?

Sunday, December 18 - What is the real heart of the Christmas message?

We will meet in room 106 at 9:30 am. Come join us and prepare yourself spiritually for all that Christmas means.

**Library Conversations**

Library Conversations will resume on Sunday, November 27 lead by Sheila with a theme of "Advent." Parents are always welcome to meet, share ideas and stay connected in the library during the 9:30 am education hour.

**Eye-Opener Bible Study**

Eye-Opener Bible Study is another option for study. Join us on Thursday mornings at 8:00 am in Room 106 at the church. Come enjoy fellowship and discussion. All are welcome!

**Presbyterian Women  
Gathering and Meetings**

**Saturday, December 3, 2016 – PW Gathering**

We will gather at 1:00 pm. **Please note:** Childcare will be provided only if requests are received by Wednesday, November 23. At this gathering we will show our support for WYDACA. Please bring your gift of a book, toy or clothing appropriate for preschool children.



**Wednesday, December 7 – Christmas Cookies for Ohio Living Rockynol** Please bring Christmas cookies to the church kitchen by noon. We need 20 dozen total.



**Circle Meetings and Leaders**

Circles are always welcoming new members. Please consider joining one of the following Circles. Contact the listed leader for more information.

**Discussion Circle:** Meets first Tuesdays at 10 am.

Contact Polly Fisher at 330-664-1022.

**Evening Circle:** Meets third Mondays at 7 pm.

Contact Ginny Melver at 330-374-1157.

**Martha Circle:** Contact Cathy Melver at 330-873-1156.

**Mary Circle:** Contact Denise Howell at 330-780-6763.

**Metanoia Circle:** Meets fourth Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Contact Mary Lou Griffiths at 330-688-7196.

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

## **Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday in Advent**

10:30 am      Worship  
4:15 pm      Pageant Rehearsal  
5:00 pm      Advent Potluck and Workshop

## **Saturday, December 3**

1:00 pm      Presbyterian Women Event

## **Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent**

10:30 am      Worship/First Sunday Food Collection  
11:30 am      Coffee and fellowship and December birthday cake

## **Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent**

8:45 am      Second Children's Pageant Rehearsal  
10:30 am      Worship/Children's Pageant/Gift Collection  
11:30 am      Congregational Meeting

## **Saturday, December 17**

9:00 am      Christmas Basket Delivery

## **Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10:30 am      Worship  
5:00 pm      Third Sunday Dinner

## **Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

5:00 pm      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
(Doors open at 4:00 pm)

## **Sunday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!**

No education classes/Nursery closed  
10:30 am      Worship (all children welcome in worship)

## **Monday, December 26 – church office closed**

## **Sunday, January 1, 2017 – Happy New Year!**

No education classes/Nursery closed  
10:30 am      Worship (all children welcome in worship)

## **Monday, January 2, 2017 – church office closed**

## **Sunday, January 8, 2017**

3:00 pm      Family Skating at Lock-3

## **A Committee is Renamed...**

### **Children and Family Ministry Team**

The Children's Ministry Renovation Team was formed when we contracted with consultants to help us build sustainable Children and Youth Ministries here at WPC. We spent 16 months working with Ministry Architects to build up our strengths and acknowledge our weaknesses. We love our annual parties, our Godly Play Sunday School and our parent support. We needed to build our Tween program and revitalize our Nursery, staff and procedures as well as our space. We needed to work on the job description and title for the staff position. We are proud to say that we have met our goals and are ready to move forward without the consultants, but with a new name. No longer a renovation team, we are the Children and Family Ministry Team. The staff member, Sheila Svoboda chairs the team and with much gratitude has a continued team consisting of: Erin and Kevin Spring, Walter Hayes, Margo Works and Char Molinaro. Sustainable ministry is our continued focus. Ask us any questions you have about our process!



## **Youth Ministry Update**

**December 2016-February 2017**

### **Sunday, November 27, 2016 4:15 pm**

Youth Volunteers needed for reading and help with Children's Pageant Rehearsal. Contact Denise Howell at [dmilnerhowell@gmail.com](mailto:dmilnerhowell@gmail.com).

### **Sunday December 11, 2016**

Youth Volunteers needed for Children's Pageant during 10:30 am Worship. Need to be able to attend rehearsal on November 27 at 4:15 pm. Contact Denise Howell at [dmilnerhowell@gmail.com](mailto:dmilnerhowell@gmail.com).

### **Saturday, December 17, 2016 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Youth are invited to help with Christmas Basket Delivery on Saturday, December 17. Meet at WPC at 8:30 am. After deliveries, youth can enjoy some fun and fellowship and be treated to lunch at Rockne's. Parents can pick up their child at 1:30 pm at WPC. Friends welcome! *Chaperones and drivers needed.*



## Children and Family Ministry Update

### Advent Potluck and Workshop

Our Annual Advent Potluck and Workshop following the Pageant Rehearsal is Sunday, November 27. The rehearsal begins at 4:15 pm, the potluck at 5:00 pm and our Advent Workshop is at 5:30 pm. The meat is provided for the potluck, so please bring a salad, side or dessert along with place settings. There is a sign-up in Wright-Herberich Hall. Let us know you're attending. All are welcome!!



### Gifts for Summit County Children's Services accepted at the Pageant

Once again we will be bringing gifts forward to the Chancel as part of our Children's Christmas Pageant. The gifts will be brought to the Holiday Toy Room directly after the service. This is a place where foster parents, kinship caregivers and client families "shop" for toys and gifts for their families. Please consider giving: baby dolls (all ethnicities), new stuffed animals, educational toys, infant care items, large sized cars and trucks, activity books, craft kits, action figures, brightly colored slippers, headphones, infinity scarves and sports jerseys (L & XL). We are given much, so we have the privilege to give much!



### Christmas Pageant

Come Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 am and join in the fun this Advent Season by participating in the Children's Christmas Pageant during Worship. The final pageant practice will be Sunday, December 11 at 8:45 am.

## OTHER NEWS

### Birthday Cake

2016 has been another successful year of monthly birthday cake sponsorships with cakes being sponsored each month. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. Now it is time to focus on 2017, and the birthday cake sign-up sheet is now posted on the bulletin board across from the coat room just outside Wright-Herberich Hall. The cost to sponsor a cake is \$50. You may choose how to designate the cake. It might be in honor of that month's WPC birthdays, for a particular person's birthday or possibly in memory of someone whose birthday is that month. But don't wait. The sponsorships will go quickly.



### Flower Memorials and Gifts for Christmas

Your gift in memory or in honor of loved ones enables the Flower Committee to provide a beautiful setting in the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Send the name of the person(s) you are remembering along with your donation (there is no set amount) to the church office, attention Eileen Martinez. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The deadline is Friday, December 9, 2016.



### Good Neighbors/First Sunday Food Collection

The demand for food at Good Neighbors remains high. Remember their need by bringing food to church on December 4 and January 1. They also can use your paper and plastic grocery bags. Place them in the box marked Good Neighbors that is in the coat room.

### ACME Receipts for PW

Please ask family and friends to save ACME receipts from August 11 – December 31, 2016. Drop the receipts in the boxes at the church doors. The Presbyterian Women earn 5% on all ACME products purchased and use the proceeds to support missions. Thank you for your support.

# **YOUNG VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Library Coordinator Needed**

We are looking for someone to take over as Library Coordinator for our library. The library coordinator schedules the weekly library volunteers and also catalogs any new books or magazines that come in. If you are interested, please contact Jamie Willis at willisjm1@gmail.com or 330-338-2544 for more details.

## **Greeting Card Ministry~can you help?**

We are looking for additional volunteers for our greeting card ministry. Volunteers send greeting cards to 3 or 4 homebound members of our congregation each month. Cards and postage are provided. Please contact Jamie Willis at willisjm1@gmail.com or 330-338-2544 to volunteer.

## **Baby Rockers Needed**

Our Nursery is thriving and we could use some help from 10:30- 11:30 am on Sundays. Do you love babies? We have a opportunity for you! Please stop in and give Kayla Elefritz your name and we can put you on a schedule to do some rocking. You will need a background check. We will put a schedule together and get back in touch with you!

## **Sound Team Help Needed for Sundays**

We are currently in need of volunteers who could operate the sound system on Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. Please contact Pastor Jon for more information.

## **Volunteers – thank you!**

Westminster would like to offer our most sincere thanks and appreciation to the following people for their previous commitments and efforts in serving our children and youth ministries.

*The Children's Ministry Renovation Team:* Walter Hayes, Char Molinaro, Susan Shellito, Erin Spring, Kevin Spring and Margo Works.

*The Youth Ministry Design Team:* Todd Brown, Kate Clark, Ellen Daugherty, Betsy Engels, Laurel Labbe, Bill Melver and Sharlene Santelli. Sharlene Santelli also carried a great load by organizing and coordinating the day-to-day responsibilities of our youth ministry.

Thank you all! Peace,

Jon

## **WPC Children & Family Events 2016-17**

*More events will be added ☺ We'll keep you updated!*

### NOVEMBER 2016

Children & Youth ***Pageant Rehearsal,  
Advent Potluck and Workshop***

Nov 27, 4:15-7:00 pm

### DECEMBER 2016

***Christmas Pageant/Gift Collection***

Dec 11 during worship

### JANUARY 2017

Children & Family Ministry ***Ice Skating*** Jan 8, 3-5:00 pm

### FEBRUARY 2017

Tween ***Service Event with  
Good Neighbors*** Feb 25

### MARCH 2017

All Church Event ***St. Patrick's Day Party***  
March 18, 5:30-8:00 pm

### APRIL 2017

All Church Easter ***Egg Hunt*** April 16, 10:00 am  
Tween ***Earth Day Service Event*** April 22

### MAY 2017

Last day of ***Sunday School & Teacher Appreciation*** May 21  
All Church ***Memorial Day Picnic*** May 28

### JULY 2017

***Vacation Bible School*** July 10-13

## SERVE

### Our Giving Tree

At the beginning of Advent, Westminster will be beautifully decorated for Christmas by our volunteers. But there will be one thing in the front of the sanctuary left bare for all of us to decorate – **Our Giving Tree** – ready to be adorned with our gifts of colorful **mittens and gloves, hats and scarves for children** in need of their warmth and comfort this winter. After Christmas, all our gifts will be taken to ACCESS right here in Akron. ACCESS serves our area's homeless women and children, providing emergency shelter and support services for 400 clients each year, more than half of them children. It is dedicated to helping these women and children through programs of housing, advocacy and empowerment, encouraging the development of their self-esteem, and helping them attain self-sufficiency. So as we do our own Christmas preparations in the next few weeks, please remember these children and consider adding some colorful and much needed gifts to **Our Giving Tree**.



### Third Sunday Dinners

WPC members will be hosting our friends and neighbors from the community for dinner on Sunday, December 18 and January 15 in Wright-Herberich Hall. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Third Sunday Dinners, please feel free to contact Betsy Melick, volunteer coordinator, at [betsy@melick.net](mailto:betsy@melick.net) or come enjoy a meal with fellow church members and our community guests.



## WPC EDUCATION NEWS

**Sunday School WILL be in session** on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, at 9:30 am, as we begin our journey to Bethlehem. Please make a point to begin the season with this beautiful story. Sunday School takes a break on December 25, 2016 and January 1, 2017.



### Attendance Statistics

September	2015	2016
	10:30	10:30
week #1	121	105
week #2	195	176
week #3	165	170
week #4	160	171
week #5		158
<b>October</b>		
week #1	181	196
week #2	135	159
week #3	127	164
week #4	145	192
week #5	101	162



Celebration for the baptism on October 9, 2016 of Evie Karney, daughter of Mike and Anne Karney.

Celebration for the baptism on November 6, 2016 of MacKensie and Cooper Lee, daughter and son of Katie and Chris Lee.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Jean Mercer who passed away November 13, 2016.



### Monthly Financial Report

October 2016	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$51,598.07	\$60,465.25	\$447,631.16	**\$553,402.50
Total Expenses	\$53,063.85	\$60,944.02	\$490,297.23	\$541,305.89
Net	*(\$1,465.78)	(\$478.77)	*(\$42,666.07)	\$12,096.61

\*Rowley Funds spent to support current operations. \*\*Budgeted total revenues include anticipated withdrawals from Rowley investments necessary to balance the budget totaling \$116,400 for the year.

Revenues: Contributions to support general operations are short of budget by \$6,361 at October 31, 2016. Endowment Distributions for the year provide \$43,785 to the general operating budget. Another \$24,140 from the Dickinson Endowment supports building and maintenance expenses excluding utilities. Through the generosity of our congregation, \$12,484 funds a variety of outreach projects such as Christmas in June, Third Sunday Dinners and Food for Life as well as three Presbytery projects, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost and Peacemaking. Building Use Receipts contribute \$13,547 to our operating revenues. Budgeted total revenues (noted with an asterisk) include anticipated withdrawals of \$116,400 from Rowley investments to balance the budget for the year. As of October 31, \$42,666 has been expended from the Rowley account.

Expenses: Total expenses at October 31, 2016 are \$51,000 below the amount budgeted. The majority of this expense reduction is the result of two unfilled staff positions. Total expenses related to Properties are also under budget by \$8,600 due to lower heating bills for the first half of 2016 and a conscious effort by the Properties Committee to reduce costs. Recognizing the need to reduce expenses to match sustainable revenues, Session decided to cut costs by 5% and reduce the dependence on Rowley funds. This more conservative approach will help reduce the overall deficit and related expenditure of Rowley funds during the remainder of 2016 and throughout 2017.

## ENCOUNTER

### Book Discussion Group

WPC Book Discussion Group invites all interested bookworms to join us for fellowship and book discussion on the second Monday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Anderson Library. Our upcoming books are:

December 12: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. This will be our annual pot luck with brief discussion and viewing the movie of the book. We will be starting **at 6:30 pm at Kristy Yates' house**, 541 Aqueduct St, Akron.

January 9: *My Life in France* by Julia Child, led by Kristy Yates.

February 13: *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. Leader to be determined.

March 13: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, led by Kacey Yates Gable.

## FIVE AT FIVE

### Season Eighteen Schedule

March 12, 2017

John Sherer, *organist* at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago with Cole Seaton, *tenor*

May 14, 2017

Mother's Day Opera/Broadway Gala

## GROW

### The Men's Club of Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Men's Club will meet at the Olive Garden in Montrose on Monday, December 12 and on Monday, January 9, 2017. We meet at 11:30 am. All men of Westminster are welcome. If you would like to be added to the reminder list, please call Art Schooley (330-666-3816) or Joe Henninger (330-867-5938).

### Congregational Meeting to Elect New Officers

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11 after worship. Changes to the Code of Regulations will be presented and a slate of Elders, Deacons, Endowment Trustees and Nominating Committee members will be elected at this meeting.



**COME**  
**new MEMBERS CLASS**

**New Member Class**

Eleven people have now signed up for a New Member Class from 9:00 am to 10:15 am on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 from 9:00 am to 10:15 am. The class will then be accepted into membership on December 4 during Worship. Do you have an interest in learning more about Westminster? If so, please contact Pastor Jon at 330-836-2226. We would love to add you to this existing class or schedule another one that will work with your calendar.

**Prayer Quilt Ministry**

If you are interested in sewing, designing, cutting squares or just seeing how a quilt is put together, come join our group. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in Wright-Herberich Hall. We also will accept any cotton fabric that you would like to donate or money to buy batting. For more information contact Marian Wahl at 330-475-4340 or Ellen Daugherty at 330-666-5645.



**Children & Family Event**

*2017...Oh my!*

Yes, we have Ice Skating at Lock 3 planned again this year. This is a great opportunity to get out in this GREAT Akron community for some winter fun! We will meet at Lock 3 at 3:00 pm on Sunday January 8. Bring skates or rent them. Snacks will be provided. See you on the ice! All are welcome, *please* join us!



**Let's Talk Taxes**

*Just a reminder that your year-end gifts must be physically delivered to the Finance Office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2016 to be included on your 2016 giving statement. We follow this policy to be in compliance with IRS regulations regarding tax deductions allowable in a specific year. Thank you for your generous support of Westminster Presbyterian Church during 2016.*

**Pledge Cards**

Our annual Stewardship mailing was sent out in October. If you did not receive a copy contact the church office at 330-836-2226 and we will send you a letter and pledge form. Please fill out the green card and return to the church office.

**Stewardship**

If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider your year-end gifts to Westminster and your pledge for next year, 2017.

*Thank you for your continuing financial support!*

*Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending October 31, 2016.*

**NEW STAFF**

**Part-time Custodian, Perry Wynn**

Perry was born in Akron, Ohio and graduated from Kenmore High School in 1985. He is the father of four daughters and three sons. He played pee wee football for the South Rangers and also tiny tots basketball for Ed Davis Community Center. Later in life he became a basketball coach for the community center. Hobbies are fishing, swimming, all sports, landscaping and watching old movies. His favorite actors are Samuel Jackson and Jack Nicholson. Favorite meals are Gino's Pizza and all the meals my Aunt Jeannie prepares. I have a loving brother Raymond Hamilton and a sister Kelley Hamilton and a little brother Joseph Wynn. I would like to thank Westminster for opening your doors to me and my family. "Dream your dreams. Look Forward to new tomorrows and reach for all you can be."



## Weekly Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 am-Childcare available  
9:15 am-Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room  
9:30 am-Christian Education for all ages  
10:30 am-Worship in the Sanctuary  
11:30 am-Fellowship in Wright-Herberich Hall

**February /March 2017 Script deadline: January 18, 2017.** Please have your articles about activities into the church office by 12:00 (noon) that day. The publication date will be Sunday, January 29, 2017.

**WPC on Social Media** Follow us on **Facebook** at Westminster Presbyterian Church and **Twitter** @WestPresAkron. Evotionals and Sunday Updates are posted on these social networking sites, as well as upcoming events, pictures, and information. If you would like to be added to our email list please contact gwilson1250@gmail.com.

### WPC Staff:

The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor (cell phone 360-510-1750) (Weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)	jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com
Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children and Family Ministry (Weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)	wpcchildren1250@gmail.com
Sean Williams, Youth Ministry Administrator (cell phone 717-271-1221)	wpcyouth1250@gmail.com
James Mismas, Director of Music/Organist	musicdirectorwpc@gmail.com
Germaine Wilson, Director of Communication (Weekly office days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)	gwilson1250@gmail.com
Eileen Martinez, Staff Accountant (Weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)	wpcfinance1250@gmail.com
Jeremiah Ward, Daytime Custodian (M-F)	wpcbuilding@gmail.com
Kayla Elefritz, Childcare Director (cell phone-330-564-7580)	kayla_elefritz@yahoo.com
Samuel Olin-Hitt, Director of Children's Choir (cell phone-330-936-8489)	wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com
Perry Wynn, Evening and Sunday Custodian (Sunday-Friday)	



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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# Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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## *The Script*

December - January, 2016

### **Our Need and the Coming of Christ**

Calvin Chinn cuts to the heart of the Advent narrative when he writes, “we do not define reality. If there is anything we need to be reminded of time and time again, it is that there is something larger than human beings.” Chinn continues, “I read the Bible for many reasons - for wisdom and counsel, for knowledge, for poetry and stories and myth. But most of all, I read the Bible to be reminded that I should stop trying to think and act like a god.”

As it has become more fashionable to think of ourselves as a society of managers, consultants, leaders, and coaches, we are more apt to believe that life revolves around us, and that our ideas alone are capable of fixing the many problems in our communities and in our world. The good news is that this tendency leads us to pursue sustainable solutions for the long-term. But, danger emerges when we fool ourselves into believing that we possess either the best or only possible answers, solutions, and ideas in a given context. When this dynamic occurs, we have elevated ourselves to the position of a god.

In Advent, we are waiting with hope and expectation for the only one who is capable of setting our lives, our communities, and our world on the right course. In the Christmas event, God sent the Son into the world because our human agendas, answers and solutions were not enough. Because we cannot define reality, we turn to God. And each Advent, we bask not in the glory of human strength, but in God's answer to human weakness.

Peace and best wishes,

Jon