



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

2016 Summer Event Calendar for WPC Youth

May 28-29 (Saturday evening to Sunday morning) - Lock-In at WPC (already scheduled) *No cost for youth.*

June 14 (Tuesday) Kalahari Water Park (8:30 am - 6:00 pm) *Youth pay \$15.00*

June 25 (Saturday) Salvation Army Block Party 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. Assembling food bags for delivery to the West High Apartments at 315 Maple Street, Akron.

June 26 (Sunday) **SCHOOL'S OUT!** Lunch at church following worship; 1:00-3:00 - pool party at JCC. *No cost for youth.* (Tentative, pending confirmation with JCC on May 2.)

July 11-July 16 (Monday-Saturday) Mission Trip to Ronceverte, WV.

August 6 (Saturday) 8:10 am- 11:30 am. Volunteer at the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank; lunch at WPC. *No cost for youth.*

August 28 (Sunday) Noon-3:00 pm. Youth Fall Kick-Off at the home of Valerie Stutler. ***Parents encouraged to attend.*** *No cost for youth.*

Save The Date - September 10-11

September 10-11 (Saturday-Sunday) Evening bowling & Lock-In so that youth can attend IGNITE 12:50 on Sunday morning. Leave church at 6:30 pm. *Youth pay \$10.00.*

Confirmation

**Congratulations to
Nick Day on his Confirmation
Sunday, April 24, 2016**



Nick is a 9th grade student at Stow Munroe Falls High School and likes basketball and snowboarding.

Christmas in June

The Salvation Army's Neighborhood Block Party is on June 25, so it's **Christmas in June...**for fundraising, that is not much time! **We need enough gifts to be in by May 15** to order the food baskets in advance. See the complete article under "SERVE" and let us know how you can help.



Vacation Bible School Construction Items Needed!!

Please look in your basement and tool boxes. We are looking for all things CONSTRUCTION for VBS this year. Do you have any extra blue or green masking tape, caution tape, rulers, graph paper, tape measurers, pieces of wood, tool boxes, PVC piping, sand paper, small vices, levels, or other safe tools? Please bring these items in and leave at Sheila's office by June 15. Thanks so much!!



Ministry Architects Update

Westminster Christian Formation Summit to be held May 13-15

With the help of Ministry Architects, we plan to build clarity and consensus on what we hope our children and youth will know, feel and do because of their experience at Westminster. We'll use a fun, interactive process that involves stakeholders in the Christian education of our children and youth. We will come away with an intentional plan for Christian formation that includes teaching calendars for the ministry programs, as well as a plan for milestones and special events to maximize the impact of the goals for Christian formation.

This Christian Formation Summit is a lot of (enjoyable!) work that's going to save days and days of work and worry for years to come. We're looking forward to seeing what is designed and appreciate the time and insight that participants will bring to the process.

We will meet on Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday afternoon. Our consultants, Jen DeJong and Louise Robison, will help lead worship on May 15 to share their experience of the work and vision for Children and Youth at WPC. We look forward to a productive and spirit-led weekend to dream and plan for the future of WPC. The teachers and leaders in this ministry have a detailed look at this weekend, so if this is something that you would be interested in attending, please contact Sheila Svoboda wpccchildren1250@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Summer Fun with Children and Family Ministry

Sunday, May 22 at 9:30 am, will be the last day of church school and Teacher Appreciation will be celebrated during worship.



Under Construction: A Habitat for Humanity

VBS runs Tuesday-Friday, July 5-8 from 9:15-12:00 pm. Children ages 4-years-old through 5th grade will enjoy the activities, and 6th grade and older can be helpers. Sign-up online at the church website www.westminsterakron.com soon.

On Wednesday, July 20 from 6:00-8:00 pm, join us for the **CHIPPEWA LAKE WATER SKI SHOW AND PICNIC**. Enjoy a potluck picnic and then sit down to watch the water ski show at Emerald Lake in Norton, Ohio. This is a great local summer family event and wonderful entertainment!!



On Saturday, August 13, from 1:00-5:00 pm join us in Norton at **Silver Creek Metro Park for swimming and a picnic**. The White Spar Shelter, inside the swimming area is reserved for the day to gather, eat and enjoy end-of-summer fellowship.



Recognition of Graduating H.S. Seniors - May 29, 2016

EDUCATION NEWS

Adult Education



Adults please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for one of our adult class options:

Library Conversations It is wonderful to be able to discuss parenting in an open, supportive and safe place. Join us in the library with other parents and let's see what comes up. Our conversations will end for the summer on May 22, resuming again in the Fall.

We also presented a parent lecture on Sunday, April 17, featuring Dr. Yvonne Gustafson discussing *Raising Resilient Children*. The children enjoyed an activity entitled *Tales from the Woods*. The event was well attended with 25 adults and 15 children, some guests of our church. We finished by enjoying the Third Sunday Dinner.

B.R.E.A.D. is a Bible Study for our adult education class on Sundays at 9:30-10:15 am in Room 106. For more information, contact Rae Leonard at Leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316. Our study ends May 29 and will resume in September.

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!

Proverbs 16:3

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

On Sunday, May 29, during morning worship, the WPC Youth Ministry will recognize the following 2016 high school graduates: Jake Braumbaugh, Jordan Dawson, Sarah Moorhead and Sarah Stutler.



Spaethe Scholarships Available

The Spaethe Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in memory of longtime members Phyllis G. and William F. Spaethe, will award two scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. The purpose of the fund is to financially assist members of Westminster Presbyterian Church who are seeking to continue their education beyond the high school level.

Candidate requirements:

- Membership in Westminster Presbyterian Church
- No Age restriction
- Acceptance to and enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program
 - College/University – Two or Four-year program
 - Vocational/Technical school
 - School of Applied Arts

Application procedure:

Submission: Please submit a personal letter, which should include information pertinent to your academics, extracurricular activities, volunteer services, leadership roles, work experience and career goals.

Mail to: Attn: Ms. Kristine Spaethe Keller
Scholarship Committee
1250 W. Exchange Street
Akron, Ohio 44313

Deadline: Sunday, May 15, 2016

CELTIC GARDEN NEWS

Celtic Garden Plant Sale - May 7

Not many things brighten one's outlook more than sunshine and flowers. We have no control over the sunshine, but we can do something about adding flowers to our lives.

On Saturday, May 7, we will have the opportunity to purchase perennials and other plants at the Celtic gardeners' annual plant sale, held in conjunction with the Kiwanis' pancake breakfast. What better way to spend a Saturday morning in May than to enjoy a delicious breakfast, then to browse all the many plants that will be available for purchase at very reasonable prices, and to go home with a box full of flowers for your yard? Sale hours are from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Anyone who would like to join our garden group is always welcome - no experience necessary. We work on scheduled Saturdays starting at 9:30, and upcoming workdays will be April 30, May 7, 20 and 21, and June 4 and 18.

Flapjacks and Flowers

This annual public event is sponsored by the West Akron Kiwanis to benefit the Akron Youth Symphony. Our own Celtic Garden holds their annual plant sale the same day (see above). Please plan to attend on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$3.50 for children under 10. Check the poster in Wright-Herberich Hall for further details and plan to join us!



EBERTS LECTURE SERIES

**Eberts Endowment brings
Reverend George Murphy**

**For a lecture series on Sunday-Monday, June 5-6, 2016
to present:**

Real Creation and Real Science

How can we think in a serious way about both God as the creator of heaven and earth, and today's scientific understanding of how things in heaven and earth happen? It's best to start, not "in the beginning", but with what goes on in our lives now in our little neighborhoods of space and time. We pray for daily bread, while we know quite well that science can explain the processes - solar energy, weather, soil chemistry and all the rest - that enable grain to grow and end up with bread on our tables. We'll first try to see how to think of God's activity together with those processes that science studies, taking important clues from the way God's supreme work is accomplished in Jesus Christ.

Remembering what we've learned there, we'll take another clue from the way science has gradually expanded our horizons going outward in space and back in time. We'll arrive very close to the beginning of our universe about fourteen billion years ago, a beginning that the Bible talks about in quite different ways. But science and the Bible both speak about the same universe.

Then we'll turn around and move from the Big Bang forward to the present, focusing now on the creation and development of life on earth, including human life, through the processes of evolution. We'll need to consider the problem of sin that emerges in our history, and the way God deals with it in Christ to bring about the promised renewal of creation.



OTHER NEWS

Good Neighbors/First Sunday Food Collection

The demand for food at Good Neighbors remains high. Please respond to their need by bringing food to church on May 1, June 5, July 3 and August 7. They also can use your paper and plastic grocery bags. Place them in the box marked Good Neighbors that is in the coatroom.

Sewing Group

The group is in need of adult size bath towels to make bibs for local nursing homes. A box for your donated towels is in the coatroom. Thank you for your support.

Greeting Card Ministry

Please contact the church office if you feel anyone needs to be contacted by this ministry. If you have any cards to donate, please drop them in the Library in the box provided.

Befrienders

Contact the church office if you or someone else you know would enjoy a friendly visit!

Handicap Parking

We are making an effort to have plenty of parking for those with handicap permits behind the church. Please observe the parking spots as marked for the handicapped. Those without permits are asked to park across the street.

Sermons/Bulletins

Sermons and bulletins are posted on our website westminsterakron.com under the bulletin/sermon tab. Printed sermons are on the literature racks.

Church Database

We are constantly updating our church records. Please email new information to Germaine Wilson at gwilson1250@gmail.com.

Pastor Jon's Office Hours

Pastor Jon will be out of the office during daytime hours on Wednesdays, but will continue to attend evening meetings on Wednesdays as scheduled. In case of an emergency, he can always be reached by cell phone at 360-510-1750.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GATHERING AND PROGRAMS

PW Lunch and Good Neighbors Presentation

Please join us for lunch and a presentation by Good Neighbors on Saturday, April 30, 2016. The presentation will focus on family, food and recipes for you to try. Discussion and Metanoia Circles are the hosts, with lunch served at noon. Mary Circle will give Devotions. We will also be installing new officers for 2016-2017. Childcare is available and snacks provided in the nursery. All ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to join us. Please RSVP to Ginny Melver at 330-374-1157 or ginnymelver@gmail.com.



Circle Meetings And Leaders

- Discussion Circle:** Meets 1st Tuesdays at 10:00 am
Contact - Polly Fisher 330-664-1022
- Martha Circle:** Meets 2nd Thursdays at 7:00 pm
Contact - Cathy Melver 330-873-1156
- Metanoia Circle:** Meets 4th Thursdays at 1:00 pm
Contact - Mary Lou Griffiths 330-688-7196
- Evening Circle:** Meets 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm
Contact – Ginny Melver 330-374-1157
- Sewing Circle:** Meets 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
Contact - Peggy Messaros 666-9086
- Mary's Circle:** Meets 1st Fridays at 9:15 am at the church.
Contact Denise Howell; childcare is available.

New Members



Bevan and Tia Haynes moved to Akron in 2011 after they were married in Dayton, Ohio, where they met in college. Bevan grew up in Akron and is currently a software developer for Progressive Insurance. Tia is a stay-at-home parent corralling a lively 16-month old daughter, Margaret, and working on their second daughter, Phoebe, due in July 2016.



Susan Hudson of West Akron is mother of two children, Lillian, age 7, and William, age 1. She and her husband, Daryl, are natives of Canal Fulton. Susan is a legal assistant and graduate of The Ohio State University.

Church Life

We mourn with Susie, Kimberly and Susan, wife and daughters of Robert Bly, a member of Westminster Church, who passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2016. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, April 25 at Westminster Church with Pastor Hauerwas presiding.

We mourn with Dorothy and Fiona, wife and daughter of William Christie, a member of Westminster Church, who passed away Thursday, March 17, 2016 at Concordia. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, March 21 at Concordia with Pastor Hauerwas presiding.

We rejoice in the birth of Nathan Scott Hauerwas, son of Pastor Jon and Kara Hauerwas, and younger brother to Liam, born Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 11:42 pm. Nathan weighed 9 lbs. 1 1/2 oz. and was 22 inches long.

We rejoice in the birth of Georgia Charlotte Vuchak, daughter of Kyle and Kathryn Vuchak, and younger sister to Xavier, born Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:55 am. Georgia weighed 10 lbs. 3 oz. and was 21 inches long.

New Staff

Katie Lepley, our Temporary Office Assistant, has lived in the Akron area her whole life. She lives with her fiancé, 10-year-old daughter, Celina and son Buzz, an 8th grader at Hyre CLC. Contact Katie at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com with any church needs you have.

GROW

Eberts Endowment Brings Reverend George Murphy for lecture series on June 5-6, 2016

Reverend Harry Eberts Preach and Teach Series will continue June 5-6 with an outstanding theological scholar sharing his insights with us. The Reverend George L. Murphy served nine years at Akron's St. Paul Episcopal Church, various Lutheran Churches, and taught in a number of Lutheran seminaries.

Reverend Murphy has published six books and many articles in theology. His last book is entitled *Models of Atonement*. He is known to present his theology in understandable and clear terms.

Sunday, June 5, 2016

8:30 am Early Service
10:30 am Service
5:00 pm Dinner
6:00-8:00 pm Discussion

Monday, June 6, 2016

7:00-8:30 pm Discussion/Dessert

SERVE

Third Sunday Dinners

WPC members will host our friends and neighbors from the community for dinner on Sundays, May 15, June 19, July 17 and August 21 in Wright-Herberich Hall. Dinner is served at 5 pm. Check with Anne Karney, meal coordinator, or Betsy Melick, volunteer coordinator, to see if your services are needed. Or come to serve as table hosts and share a fine meal with our church family and guests. Please invite a neighbor who may need a warm meal, or more importantly, friendly conversation.

Christmas in June...Christmas Is Coming Early This Year!!

Due to the success of the Outreach Committees' 2015 summer food security ministry we will be repeated it in 2016. But since the Salvation Army's Neighborhood Block Party is on June 25, it's **Christmas in June...**for fundraising, that is not much time!

Because the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank requires a fully-committed food order 5 weeks before delivery, **we need enough gifts to be in by May 15** so we can place our order. We ask you to give very generously and *very soon*. Special CIJ donation envelopes are in the pew holders. Volunteers are needed the day of the event, with shift times and sign-up sheets at Connection Point soon.

ENCOUNTER

Book Discussion Meeting

Our intrepid group of bookworms continues to read an eclectic range of books, from historical fiction to fantasy, mystery and classic literature. Come join us in the Anderson Library monthly on 2nd Mondays from 7 - 8:30 pm. Completing the book is preferred, but not mandatory to enjoy the discussion. Our upcoming books are:

Tuesday, May 9, *A Wilder Rose* by Susan Wittig Albert.
The June book is *Eruption: Untold Story of Mount St. Helens* by Steven Olson



FIVE AT FIVE

Season Seventeen 2015/2016

Last Concert

Sunday, May 8, 2016 Mother's Day Opera/Broadway Gala

Come and enjoy a thrilling concert of operatic and Broadway music on Mother's Day, May 8, 2016 at 5pm. This is the final concert in the 17th season of 5@5, concerts of universal inspiration on Sunday afternoons at 5:00 pm. This concert has become a tradition for many families to celebrate with their mothers on this special day. Be prepared to laugh, shed a happy tear and just be thrilled beyond your wildest imagination!! The concerts last only an hour and are presented without intermission. Make this Mother's Day special for the whole family. You will be absolutely thrilled that you did! Doors open at 4:00 pm and professional childcare is available. There is no cost for the FIVE AT FIVE events, but a free-will offering will be taken.

Progress in our Church Offices



For the past year, our employees have been struggling with outdated computer equipment and slow internet connections. We are pleased to report that new computers were installed in our offices at the end of March. Please have patience while our employees learn a whole new computer operating system, network and data file structure.

Attendance Statistics

	2015	2016
January		
week #1	112	134
week #2	115	144
week #3	141	146
week #4	139	159
week #5		160
February		
week #1	125	192
week #2	155	152
week #3	51*	175
week #4	145	158
March		
week #1	86*	148
week #2	143	115
week #3	144	184
week #4	132	334**
week #5	202**	
*bad weather		
**Easter		

Room 101 Mailboxes

Mailboxes in Room 101 have been cleaned out. On the left hand side of the Communication Rack are mailboxes for each Elder and Deacon. In the middle of the rack at the top are mailboxes for the committees. Moderators please remember to check your committee mailboxes regularly. At the top right in the rack for Committee Moderators are the white envelope mailboxes for approving committee expenses. Church clubs, task force groups and PW Circles have mailboxes on the second shelf of the rack. If you lead or hold one of the mentioned positions please check your mailbox on a regular basis, mail and pieces of communication are being left for groups in these mailboxes.



ROCKYNOL

Maintenance Position Available

Rockynol is looking to fill positions in their Environmental Services Department. The Maintenance Worker I is responsible for performing the day-to-day activities of the Maintenance Department in accordance with current federal, state and local standards, guidelines, and regulations governing the facility and as may be directed by the Director of Maintenance or Housing Manager, to assure that the community is maintained in a clean, safe, and comfortable manner.

Educational requirements include a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent. No prior experience is required...on-the-job training will be provided. Previous plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and mechanical experience are helpful, but not required. Candidates must possess a valid Ohio driver's license with an acceptable driving record and must be insurable and meet OPRS insurance carrier's underwriting standards. Background check and drug screening are part of the hiring process.

Interested candidates, please inquire with the HR department at Rockynol (330) 867-2150 and reference the Maintenance Worker position.

COME

The Men's Club of Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Men's Club will meet on Monday, May 9 at 11:30 am at the Olive Garden in Montrose. All men of Westminster are welcome. This will be our last meeting of the Spring. Our next meeting will be in September 2016. Enjoy your summer! If you would like to be added to the reminder list, please call Art Schooley (330-666-3816) or Joe Henninger (330-867-5938).

Memorial Day Picnic - May 29

We will hold our annual church-wide picnic on Sunday, May 29, after worship in Wright-Herberich Hall. The Deacons will be preparing a delicious picnic meal.

Summer Faire - May 29

Following worship and during the Memorial Day Picnic we will hold "Summer Faire" which highlights WPC groups that have ongoing and new volunteer opportunities during the summer...groups such as VBS, Gardeners, and Outreach Committee (Salvation Army Block Party and Third Sunday Dinners). We welcome all groups that would like to set up a display during the Memorial Day Picnic. Please let Denise Howell (dmilnerhowell@gmail.com) know by May 17 if you wish to have a table at the "Summer Faire" on May 29.

Ice Cream Social and Outdoor Concert with the Akron Big Band

Saturday, August 20 from 7:00-8:30 pm on the WPC lawn, it's a summer shindig!! The Ice Cream Social and Outdoor Concert with the Akron Big Band is a first time event and sure to be fun. More details to come, but plan to join us!



Ice Cream Social

Pentecost Offering

The annual Pentecost Offering, collected by Presbyterian congregations nationwide, provides Presbyterians the opportunity to invest in the future of the church by supporting ministries that encourage, develop, and support its young people, as well as provide assistance to at-risk children. 40% of this offering is kept by individual congregations for use in their own communities in support of children and youth. Please come to worship on Sunday, May 15 and contribute to this special offering, or visit our website westminsterakron.com to give electronically.

Memorial Day Church Picnic

We will hold our annual picnic on Sunday, May 29, after worship in Wright-Herberich Hall.



The Deacons will be preparing a delicious picnic meal.

Along with the meal will be displays describing the many activities planned at Westminster for the summer months. Please stop by, see what's going on and sign-up to help.

Summer Worship Schedule

Once again this summer Westminster will add an early Sunday morning service to our worship schedule. In addition to our regular 10:30 am service, we welcome you to join us on the Johnstone Patio at 8:30 am for worship from June 5-August 7. Reverend George Murphy, the Eberts' Lecture Series presenter for this year will start us off by preaching on June 5. Communion will be served each Sunday and the sermons will be more participatory in nature. Plan to join us for one, several, or all ten weeks.



Finance Report (through March 30)

March 2016	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$41,384.94	\$50,865.25	\$150,573.35	\$174,445.75
Total Expenses	\$49,372.10	\$47,798.51	\$142,623.65	\$149,564.89
Net	(\$7,987.16)	\$3,066.74	\$7,949.70	\$24,880.86

Revenues: Contributions at March 31 are up from last year by \$9,058, but they are still short of our budget and financial needs for this year. Interest and dividend income also exceeds the amount received at March 31 of last year by \$4,245. Unrestricted Endowment distributions contributed \$29,844 to the general operating budget for the first quarter. We expect to receive distributions in the amount of \$12,694 in each remaining calendar quarter in 2016.

Expenses: Administrative expenses are over budget by \$2,538 at March 31, due to the timing of payments. Some unexpected property maintenance items caused our property and building costs to exceed budget this first quarter, too. Hopefully other building maintenance items will be under budget as the year progresses. Overall expenses at the end of the first quarter are \$6,941 under budget. Unfortunately, they still exceed last year's first quarter expenditures by \$5,508.

As always, we need the financial help of the congregation. We are a growing church, bringing in new members every quarter. We are also dedicated to growing our children, family and youth ministries. We count on you to provide generously for the ongoing support of our facilities and programs as well as helping us to grow and serve our community. **Thank you for your support.**

Giving Statements for the first quarter were emailed on April 11. If you did not receive an email and wish to have a copy of your giving statement for the first quarter, email Eileen at wpcfinance1250@gmail.com (330-836-2226 ext. 5)

Weekly Sunday Morning Schedule

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

August/September Script deadline: Tuesday, July 13 please have your articles about activities in to the church office by 12:00 pm that day. The plan is to distribute on Sunday, July 31.

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 Rev. Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor (Weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)	jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com cell phone 360-510-1750
Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children and Family Ministry (Weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)	wpcchildren1250@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
Pat Schumacher, Evening Custodian (M-F)	ps2ctldy@gmail.com
Amanda Schumacher, Sunday Custodian	schumacher.amanda@gmail.com
Kayla Elefritz, Childcare Director (cell phone-330-564-7580)	kayla_elefritz@yahoo.com
Katie Lepley, Temporary Office Assistant	wpcoffice1250@gmail.com



Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313
westminsterakron.com ~ 330-836-2226



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

1250 W Exchange • Akron, Ohio • westminsterakron.com • 330-836-2226

The Script *May-July 2016*

From Our Pastor

This year, the church universal celebrates Pentecost on May 15. On this day, we remember that fifty days after Christ's resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples. Pentecost was an established Jewish Festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Lev. 23:15-21; Deut. 16:16).

Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel. The traditional color for Pentecost is red, in keeping with the flames described in Acts 2:3.

This Pentecost, I am pleased to welcome representatives from Ministry Architects (MA) who will be leading us in worship. During the interim pastorate of Reverend Conley Zommermann, Westminster entered into a contractual agreement with MA consultants in an effort to build our youth ministry and strengthen our existing children's ministry. These efforts have been extensive and have resulted in the involvement of dozens of Westminster members who have graciously given of their time and abilities. On Pentecost, we will learn more about how the Spirit is at work at Westminster through our ministry to all ages.

Thanks be to God,
Jon