



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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

MAY-AUGUST 2014

**Education for All Ages
Sundays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
(through May 25)**

3's thru Kindergarteners:
Bible Story Room, 104

Grades 1-6: Feasting
on the Word, Temple
Room, 110-111

Adult Education:
Room 106

Conversations in the
Library for Parents with
School-Aged Children:
Library

*The infant and toddler
nursery is open every Sunday
from 9 a.m.-12 noon.*

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

1250 W. Exchange Street
Akron, Ohio 44313

www.westminsterakron.com
(330) 836-2226

Find us on Facebook under
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron and on Twitter at
@WestPresAkron

Conley Zomermaand
Interim Pastor

pastorz.wpc@gmail.com

Sheila Svoboda
Director of Christian Education
sheilasvoboda@gmail.com

James Mismas
Director of Music/ Organist
jamismas@gmail.com

Germaine Wilson
Director of Communication
gwilson1250@gmail.com

Robin Bennett
Financial Manager
rbennetsings@gmail.com



Summer Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

8:30 AM – Worship on the Johnstone Patio (weather permitting) or Wright-Herberich Hall. Join us in this informal setting, where we use the *Sing the Faith* hymnal, accompanied by piano or keyboard. Each week we celebrate the Lord's Supper.



9:30 AM – Church-wide Fellowship in Wright-Herberich Hall, with intergenerational fellowship and programming. Our early worshippers hang around, and late worshippers come early to share the time and space.

10:30 AM – Worship in the Sanctuary, following our usual worship format, along with special musical offerings. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on June 8, July 13, and August 10.

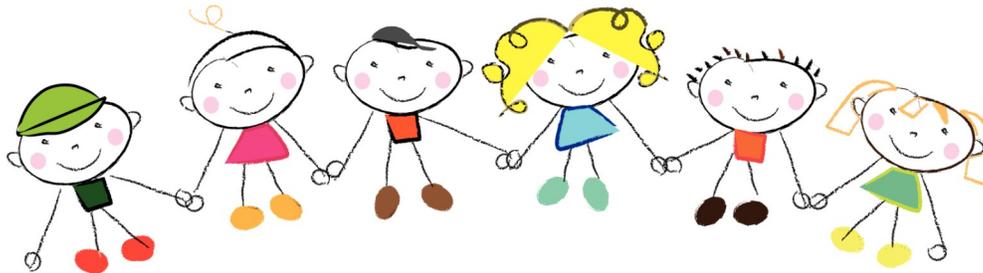
WPC Summer Vacation Bible School *Cultivating Compassion and Creativity*

July 7th-10th, 9:15 AM - Noon

Ages 4 years to 5th grade

See page 2 for more details!





WPC Vacation Bible School
Cultivating Compassion and Creativity

Monday-Thursday, July 7th-10th, 9:15 AM – Noon
Potluck and Arcade Thursday night at 6:00 PM
Ages 4 years to 5th grade

During our first two days together, we'll learn about livestock and environmentally-sound agriculture as a tool to help families around the world move toward greater self-reliance. On the next two days, we will be collaborating to make a cardboard arcade to raise money for our Mission focus, Heifer International. To learn about Heifer, go to www.heifer.org. To learn about the inspiration for our cardboard arcade, go to cainesarcade.com. To help, please join our volunteers meeting after church in the Student Center on May 18. All are also welcome to come to the Potluck and Arcade Thursday, July 10 at 6:00 PM.

In June we'll be collecting recyclables (please put in Temple Room) to build the arcade. We'll need:

Wagon -- Large and small cardboard boxes -- Clear packing tape
Balls, all sizes -- Cardboard tubes, all sizes -- Cloth remnants, all sizes
Magazines -- Yogurt containers
Anything you've been collecting that needs a creative outlet!

Godly Play

Westminster Sunday School is proud to announce the addition of a second Godly Play classroom for 1st-3rd graders. Godly Play is a method of Christian formation and spiritual direction for children based on Montessori principles. The goal is to teach children the art of using religious language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – to help them become more aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Bible stories are told with objects and encourage children to enter into the stories and relate them to their personal experience. The class also has an art response, prayer, feast (snack) and gathering time. We already have this type of classroom for preschoolers and kindergarteners in Room 104. Now, they will move into a deeper exploration in this next classroom, Room 202.

This summer we will be readying the space and training teachers. We have master teacher and trainer Becky Stewart coming from Virginia on July 19th for a day of Godly Play. Our teachers are pretty sure they get more out of the curriculum than the children, and that says a lot! Please contact Sheila Svoboda if you have any questions about this extraordinary curriculum. 330-836-2226 x 105 or sheilasvoboda@gmail.com.



Just Another Church Program Year...

Hardly! It's been quite a year. Unusual. Challenging. Filled with blessings! Back in September (when program years begin), you were mourning the fact that your pastors had left and you were worried because for a month no one was sitting in the captain's chair. You got the year started with most of the usual activities on the calendar. When I sidled in at the beginning of October, I was pleased to see how smoothly most things were operating. I got settled, replaced that tall desk that Derek used with one suited to a shorter sort, and off we went.

Now, we are preparing for summer, 2014. Program year activities will slow down some, and early summer worship will gear up, as will VBS planning. Unlike the olden days, church life really never slows down any more. I am looking forward to journeying through the summer months with you. Before we tackle warm-weather tasks, I'd like to remind you that last September, you were mourning and worried. And you still are, to some degree. Derek and Amy's ministry remains in your memories, so mourning is not complete. As much as you've gotten a bit accustomed to my ways, you also know that my days in Akron will come to an end at some point in the near-ish future. Vital members of WPC have passed or wandered away for a variety of reasons. Membership numbers and regular income have diminished more than we would like. So worry still inhabits our communal spirit.

Ah, but we've had a good year! Not stellar or outstanding, but a good, stable year just the same. Even more of you have stood up and stepped in since September to contribute your time and talents to our work. Babies have been born and baptized and new members have joined. Your Discipleship Committee, chaired by Sharlene Santelli and staffed by Sheila Svoboda (Huh, SS and SS!), is working on a marvelous VBS program **and** expanding our Godly Play Sunday morning curriculum for the next age group in the fall. While we can't say that *everything* went on without a hitch, it's been a pretty good year!

We're still worried, but *differently* worried. Your Pastor Nominating Committee will soon be in the thick of their work, reviewing candidates and discerning which of them best fits this ministry in the years ahead. You're as accustomed to me as you need to be and are approaching the summer with a bit more confidence. And, I believe, God trusts you to carry on this vital work as you, inspired by the Holy Spirit, imagine what you might yet become.

So give yourselves a hand! We're still here. Plan on taking a little break this summer (even God rested); but not too much! September...and another program year...will be here before you blink twice.

Blessings,
Pastor Zomermaand



SPAETHE SCHOLARSHIP

The Spaethe Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in memory of longtime members Phyllis G. and William F. Spaethe, will award a scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year. Please send a personal letter, which should include information pertinent to your academics, extracurricular activities, volunteer services, leadership roles, work experience, and career goals. Submit to:

Kristine Spaethe Keller
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 W. Exchange St.
Akron, Ohio 44313

WPC ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

The church office sends out electronic communications on a regular basis: Prayer Chain (weekly on Monday), Evotional (weekly on Wednesday), Sunday Update (Weekly on Friday), and funeral and special announcements as needed. If you are presently not receiving these communications and would like to do so, please email Germaine Wilson at gwilson1250@gmail.com or call the church office at 330-836-2226.



WE LOVE OUR YOUTH AT WESTMINSTER AND WE'RE MISSING YOU!



Wow! End of year time! It was a long hard winter, but spring has arrived with gusto and we're trying to keep up!

Please mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, May 25 at our 9:30 AM Student Center gathering. We're proposing a new look for the Sunday 9:30 time with youth and we want your input. We'll be looking ahead to fall, but also want to make some summer plans to

gather with Akron area mission work and some fun fellowship time as well. After the meeting, we'll worship together, then enjoy a delicious picnic right here with the whole congregation at Westminster.

Let us know if you will make it!!

Pastor Z and Sheila Svoboda
Pastorz.wpc@gmail.com or sheilasvoboda@gmail.com

Celtic Garden News

The committee of the Celtic Garden would like to thank everyone who donated plants from their garden for our annual sale that was recently held on the Johnstone Patio. Proceeds from the plant sale will benefit the Celtic Garden in purchasing new plants and supplies for the garden. Our heartfelt thanks to all who donated plants, and the members who put in many hours getting ready for our sale. With the help of everyone it made our annual sale once again a success!

The gardeners will be working in the Celtic Garden on the following dates:

May 16, 17 and 31

June 14 and 28

July 12 and 26

August 9 and 23

We start at 9:30 AM, and all are welcome to join us – no experience necessary!

We hope you always take time and walk through the gardens here at Westminster Presbyterian Church and reflect on their beauty and the beauty of our Heavenly Father's flowers and shrubs.

..... COME & ENCOUNTER

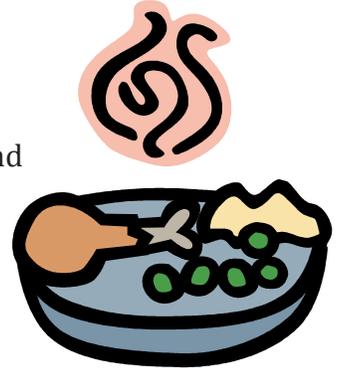


MEN'S GROUP

The Westminster Men's Group will meet on Monday, May 12 at 11:30 AM at the Olive Garden restaurant in Montrose. This will be our last official meeting until Monday, September 8, 2014.

THIRD SUNDAY DINNER

Join us Sunday, May 18 at 5:00 PM as we share a meal with our local neighbors. Bring your neighbor, bring a friend, grab a family member and join us in Wright-Herberich Hall. We look forward to seeing you! The summer dates are June 15, July 20, and August 17.



BOOK CLUB

Join us in the church library at 7:00 PM and join in the conversation. Monday, June 2 for *The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker, led by Cathy Mever, and Monday, July 7 for *Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro, led by Harriet Cutler.

SUMMER FUN!

ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We're planning at least three outings this summer, though the details are still being finalized.

June 21: Activities and Picnic on the Church Grounds

3:00 PM – Games and fun stuff for everyone

5:00 PM – Picnic on the Patio, with burgers and dogs. Meats and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share.

Sign-ups will be online at westminsterakron.com

July ??: An adults-only outing to the Blossom Music Center. Time and date to be established.

Aug. ??: A family-friendly outing to an Akron Rubber Ducks baseball game. Stay tuned for time and date.

..... GROW & SERVE

WE VOLUNTEERS

THIRD SUNDAY DINNER VOLUNTEERS

The next Third Sunday Dinner schedule will be mailed in August. The upcoming schedule will cover October 2014 through May 2015. If you are not on the current rotation, and you wish to volunteer at these dinners or provide a dessert, please contact Sharlene Santelli at 330-825-7583 or ssantelli@sbcglobal.net. We could use more bakers and additional folks to work clean-up. There are usually two to

three people on each clean-up team, and one of them needs to learn to operate the dishwasher. The clean-up crew arrives at 5:00 PM and is usually finished by 6:45 PM.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS

As in past years, during the months of July and August we will be collecting school supplies for the kids of our neighborhood at Portage Path Elementary. Watch for the school supply sales at local stores and help fill the big yellow collection tubs in Wright-Herberich Hall and the Narthex.



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 coat room. Thank you for your support.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Our food collection happens at Westminster on the first Sunday of the month during worship. The need is great and this is a small way to help. Canned fruit and peanut butter are always in short supply. Please add an extra can or two to your grocery cart while you are shopping and bring them to the church, placing the items in the designated bins in the coat room. You can also bring them to worship on the first Sunday of the month. Plastic and paper bags continue to be needed.



Church Family Stories



Welcome to Our New Members!

Richard Peebles
Laura Perez
Johannes Von Aured

Teri Zolman
Lisa Van Zuylen

Congratulations

Erin and Kevin Spring on the birth of their son, Ian Webster, born Friday, April 18.

Member as part of the Peace Corps

Alexandra Walker, a member of Westminster, will be serving with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia for two years. She will be teaching English to high school students and also helping local English teachers improve their language skills. She feels the Peace Corps is an excellent way to gain experience doing international development work and build upon her experience working with refugees in the United States.

Alexandria is a graduate of DePauw University with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology. Also as part of her education at DePauw, she traveled to study at the University of Cape Town and volunteer in refugee camps. After graduating, she volunteered for AmeriCorps VISTA, a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty in the United States. Phrases like women's empowerment, navigating life as a refugee, the developing world, are a large part of her vocabulary.

She will leave home June 30, 2014 for a three-month training period, living with a family in Butajira, Ethiopia, and will then be assigned to a village. She will return in September 2016.

If anyone would like to contact Alexandra to wish her well, mail should be sent to her parents at 184 Corunna Ave., Fairlawn, OH 44333.



Like us on Facebook under [Westminster Presbyterian Church Akron](#)