

COME

New Member Class

Five people have now signed up for a new member's class on Friday, November 6 from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm and from 10:00 am - 10:30 am on Sunday, November 8. 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.

Baptism Class

We have several families that are interested in having someone baptized. Thus we have scheduled a class to discuss baptism on Saturday, November 14 at 10 am. These children and adults will then be baptized on Sunday, November 15 during worship, if they choose. If you are interested in learning more about baptism please contact Pastor Jon at the church office at 330-836-2226.

Hanging of the Greens

Why do we do this? What does it mean?

During the Advent season we prepare for the One who has come, whom we expect to come, and who will come again. We prepare our hearts and make room for the Messiah. In the hanging of the greens we share with Christians throughout the ages the memory and anticipation of Christ's coming. We decorate our church with the symbols of love, joy, hope, and peace. Why do we do this? To tell the story again and then proclaim: Jesus is born. God is with us!

Join Us On Thursday, December 10 at 9:00 am to decorate WPC in anticipation of Christ's birth. Upon completion of our decorating, we will gather for lunch at a local restaurant. Many hands make light work, and food and fellowship increase the "fun" factor.

Children & Family Event

Sunday, January 3rd at 3 pm. Meet us at Lock 3 to ice skate. Bring your own skates or rent them there. Treats and hot chocolate provided! Sign-up will start on December 6th in WHH.



ENCOUNTER

Book Club Meetings

The book group invites you to join us as we start our 15th year! On November 9 Neal Enrick will lead *The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter* by Rod Duncan. December 14 we will have dinner out (restaurant TBA) and share our favorite children's books. January 11, 2016, Kacey Yates will lead *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson.

5@5

Season Seventeen 2015/2016 remaining Schedule

November 8, 2015	Festival Chorus with piano 4 hand Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes and Battle Hymn of the Republic
February 7, 2016	Baldwin Wallace University Motet Choir
March 13, 2016	University of Akron Steel Drum Band
May 8, 2016	Mother's Day Opera/Broadway Gala

GROW

Celtic Garden

As winter approaches, we are cutting back perennials, pulling up annuals and planting spring bulbs.

The garden again received the "Beautification Watch Award" from the City of Akron. The Beautification Board of Keep Akron Beautiful established this award in 1983 to recognize the individuals, organizations, and businesses that consistently work to keep their property clean and beautiful.

Our faithful gardeners have appreciated the kind words about the garden from members and friends. These gardeners work in hot, warm, cold, rain, sleet and snowy weather and have a great time, they are: Lou Albertson, Cindy Beidler, Kyra Bosnik, Joan Buehl, Betsy Engels, Stacy Franzmann, Phil Fry (takes care of the Memorial Garden), Lisa Bansen-Harp, Chuck LeBold, Jan Lonsdale, Ginny Melder, Earl Pierson, Marge Rearick (takes care of the patio), Chuck Wilson (takes care of the roses), Anna Marie Wilton, Karen Wren, Kristy Yates (takes care of the front cement containers). We always welcome new gardeners!

In March we will start garden clean-up and in the spring plan a perennial sale. We hope our garden will remain a place for all to visit and prayerfully enjoy.

The Men's Club of Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Men's Club will meet at the Olive Garden in Montrose on Monday, November 9 and on Monday, December 14. 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).

Monday Supper Club

Monday Supper Club Christmas dinner will be held Monday, December 7th, at Concordia at Sumner. Our program will be an instrumental performance by Mark and Cristina (Santelli) Wade. Details will follow on email or mail.

SERVE

The Giving Tree

Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent the Giving Tree will be in place in the sanctuary and ready to be adorned with hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. Please give the gift of warmth and caring to a child who has none of these essentials items to stay warm this winter. All of the items that we collect will be taken to ACCESS right here in Akron, which serves homeless women and children. They have approximately 450 clients. About 220 of them are children. ACCESS is dedicated to helping these women and children who are homeless, encouraging the development of self-esteem, and helping them attain self-sufficiency. So when you are making your Christmas shopping list be sure to add some extra hats, mittens, gloves and scarves and give the gift of warmth to a child in need.

Third Sunday Dinners

WPC members will be hosting our friends and neighbors from the community for dinner on Sunday, November 15 and December 20 in Wright-Herberich Hall. Dinner is served at 5 pm. Check with Anne Karney, meal coordinator, or Sharlene Santelli, 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.

Christmas Food Baskets

Our annual Christmas food basket delivery will take place on Saturday, December 12. We will meet in Wright-Herberich Hall at 9 AM. Our goal is to purchase, assemble, and deliver 250 baskets to people in need. You and your family can make someone's Christmas a little brighter by delivering and/or

Education News

Sunday School WILL be in session on the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 30, 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 27 and January 3, 2016.

Advent Potluck and Workshop

This year after the first pageant rehearsal at 4:15 on November 29 we will have a mouthwatering Family Potluck at 5 pm followed by an Advent Workshop for one & all!! This year we will be making Advent Kindness Chains. These are paper chains with printed acts of kindness to be unhooked each day in Advent. This year Advent starts on Nov 29th and ends Dec. 24th, so there are 26 acts of kindness to perform. Come, pick the chain links of kindness that work best for your family, create the chain and start your month of kindness! Sign-up begins November 8th.

Christmas Pageant

Come Sunday, December 13 and join in the fun this advent season by participating in the Children's Christmas Pageant. Stacy Franzmann and Denise Howell have many roles to fill from shepherds and angels, to the stable animals and of course Mary and Joseph. We also need narrators to help tell the story of that very special night, the birth of Jesus. There will be a table set-up on November 8 at the Presbyterian Pandemonium following church for signing-up. We will have our first rehearsal on November 29 at 4:00. All parts will be assigned prior to that day. We will finish in time to head to Wright-Herberich Hall for the festivities of the Advent Dinner and Workshop. The Christmas Pageant will take place on December 13. Come and take part in the telling of this beautiful story, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the pageant on December 13, during worship, the children will bring presents to the chancel for children in need. Slippers, dolls, trucks, cars, puzzles, cloth or board books, baby blocks, Star Wars toys are all needed. These do not need to be wrapped and will be given to Summit County Children's Services directly after worship for their Holiday Toy Room Program.

Youth Ministry Update October 2015-December 2015

October 31, 2015 from 3-5 pm for the Halloween Party

Youth are invited to dress in costumes and help with the Halloween Party for families and children.

November 29, 2015 from 4:15 pm for Children's Pageant Rehearsal

Come and help with our youngest members.

5:00 p.m. - Advent potluck (meat provided)

5:30-6:30 p.m. – Participate in Advent Workshop

December 12, 2015 from 9:00 am at WPC for Christmas Baskets

Come help deliver 250 food baskets to Summit Co. residents.

December 13, 2015 Children's Christmas Pageant during worship.

Help with rehearsal before worship at time to be announced.

December 20, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Enjoy dinner, games, and fellowship and White Elephant Gift Exchange (\$10 maximum).

Adult Education

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

Library Conversations has had a great start! 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...

B.R.E.A.D. is a new Bible Study for our adult education class on Sunday's at 9:30-10:15 am in Room 106. If you would like to sign up contact Rae Leonard at (leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316).

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!

contributing money to help fill the baskets. Each basket will cost \$50 but any donation is appreciated. Please consider donating baskets in honor of a loved one. Simply fill out the Christmas Basket insert in the upcoming Sunday bulletin, or in the literature racks and place it in the offering plate. Special donation envelopes will also be in the pews for your convenience.

Presbyterian Women Gathering Programs

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015 – Christmas Tea

1:00 p.m. in Wright-Herberich Hall

“Focus on the Spirit” Handbell Ensemble - Sing Along

Mission - WYDACA

Host - Evening Circle Devotions - Metanoia Circle

Saturday, March 5, 2016 10:00 a.m. in Wright-Herberich Hall

“Focus on our Community” Battered Women's Shelter

Mission - Toiletries, toy collection for Battered Women's Shelter

Host - Martha Circle Devotions - Evening Circle

Dedication of PW Birthday Offering

Saturday, April 30, 2016 12:00 p.m. in Wright-Herberich Hall

“Focus on our PW Family” Food Preparation - New Concepts

Mission: Canned food drive for local project

Host - Discussion and Metanoia Circles Devotions - Martha Circle

Circle Meetings and Leaders

Discussion Circle Meets 1st Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

contact - Polly Fisher 330-664-1022

Martha Circle Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

contact - Cathy Melver 330-873-1156

Metanoia Circle Meets 4th Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

contact - Mary Lou Griffiths 330-688-7196

Evening Circle Meets 3rd Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

contact – Ginny Melver 330-374-1157

Sewing Circle Meets 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

contact - Peggy Messaros 666-9086

Mary's Circle Meets 1st Fridays at 9:15 a.m. at the church.

contact Denise Howell, childcare is available.

OTHER NEWS

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 blue green card and return to the church office.

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 Monday, December 14, 2015.

Good Neighbors

The demand for food at Good Neighbors remains high. Don't forget their need by bringing food to church on November 1, and December 6. They also can use your paper and plastic grocery bags. Place them in the box marked Good Neighbors that is in the coat room.

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.

Greeting Card Ministry

Please contact the church office if you feel anyone needs to be contacted by this ministry.

Acme Receipts for PW

This fundraiser goes to our mission program - both locally and globally. Please look for the boxes in the Narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall. Thank you again for your continued support.

Befrienders

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

EDUCATION CLASS INFORMATION

Westminster Presbyterian Church Children's Ministry Major Events Calendar November 2015-May 2016

Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:30 AM.
Sunday School takes a break on December 27 and January 3, 2016.

Infant's Nursery (Infants through age 4) 9:00 AM to Noon
Nursery- PreK (Ages 3-5) - Room 105, Bible Story Room
Grades Kindergarten through 3rd - Room 202, Godly Play
Grades 4 through 6 - Room 210/211, Tween Room
Choir Rehearsal 11 AM - Children's - Kindergarten - 3rd Grade - Ms. Franzmann
Youth Choir - 4th-8th Grade - Ms. Howell
*or when church ends

	2015	
October 31	3-5:00 PM	Family Halloween Party
November 8	11:30*	Presbyterian Pandemonium
November 29	4:00 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
	5:00 PM	Potluck Dinner
	5:30 PM	Advent Workshop
December 13	10:30 AM	Children's Pageant
	2016	
January 3	3pm	Ice Skating @ Canal Park
February 6	5:30-8 pm	Mardi Gras
March 27	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
April 17	11:30 AM	Kids day @ WPC
		Fun After Church! Nooks & Cranny Tour & More
May 22	9:30 AM	Last day of church school
May 29	11:30*	Memorial Day Picnic after church

Presbyterian Pandemonium

Are you new to Akron...looking for a way to connect with the community? Maybe you are recently retired with some extra time on your hands.

On Sunday, November 8, 2015, 11:30 am Westminster is providing an occasion for learning more about the church and opportunities for involvement. Every group at WPC has been invited to share information about ministry and fellowship groups, to discover and to celebrate the diverse opportunities at Westminster for connecting with one another, with the community, and with the world.

Each group will provide food (American style tapas) to share as folks browse. We hope that every group has received information about this event via email, and we look forward to hearing from you so that we can organize the set-up in Wright-Herberich Hall. If you are the leader of a group and did not receive information, please contact Denise Howell at dmilnerhowell@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Pandemonium



Red Kettle Bell Ringing

On Saturday, November 21, members of WPC will be manning the Salvation Army Bucket in the new lobby of Acme #1.

We have signed-up to ring the Salvation Army bell from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm. Several people have expressed interest in participating in this event.

The mission of the Salvation Army is to “preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without

discrimination.” There are plenty of slots open for individuals, families, and church groups to sign up to help this very worthy cause. The church’s sign up sheet is on the sign-up table in Wright-Herberich Hall. If have questions, or wish to sign-up by phone, contact Pat Santelli at 330-825-

7583

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Report (through September 30)

Income: \$408,152

Expenses: \$466,335

Deficit: \$58,183

Income for the year is lower than expected at September 30 and contributions are \$15,985 less than a year ago. Any deficit at year end must be funded from our reserve fund or through the use of special gifts such as the Rowley Fund. Please check the contribution statement that was recently mailed or emailed to you. If you are behind in your commitment, now would be a good time to catch up as many of our year-end bills are due in the next two months.

The base budget for 2015 (\$617,321) included a modest 3.3% increase from 2014 actual income and expenses. Our preliminary figures for 2016, show that another 3% increase will be needed to cover the current level of building expenses, personnel and ministries. We depend on gifts from the congregation to provide 55% of the total income for church operations and ministries. Any growth in our youth programs and outreach ministries are dependent on your generosity.

Please prayerfully consider your year-end gifts to Westminster and your pledge for next year.

Just a reminder that your year-end gifts must be physically delivered to the Finance Office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2015 to be included on your 2015 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 2015.

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

February Annual Report/Script deadline: January 9, 2015. Please have your articles about activities in to the church office by 12:00 (Noon) that day.

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.

Westminster member Alexandra Walker is currently in the Peace Corps. You can follow her adventures at her blog:allyinethiopia.tumblr.com

WPC Staff:

The Rev. Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor (cell phone 360-510-1750)	jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com
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

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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The Script

November-December, 2015

Where Generosity Abides

Generosity can flow from a variety of motivations. One may be generous in an effort to garner God's favor in the future or from a desire to be reconciled with God based upon a sense of guilt for past misdeeds. Some people are generous because they believe that "what goes around comes around," and that what they give to others in this life will be returned to them in some way, either in this lifetime or in the life to come. Some are generous because there are tax implications for sharing what they have, or because they wish to garner social or political allies. Still, others are generous primarily out of a sense of duty, given their status as wealthy, powerful people in this world.

Any of these motivations could still lead to the kind of generosity which would allow great things to emerge. But, in each case, such generosity would lack the foundational motive by which all good things flow from the lips, hands, and wallets of Reformed Christians like us. As faithful Presbyterians, we believe that everything we do and everything we give to others is a response to God's love for us. God acts first and we respond to God's grace, in kind, by reflecting that goodness back into the world.

Surely, generosity comes in many forms. This is why we are wise to question our motivations, and to ask if our gifts are calculated grasps for power or control or, if we, having experienced God's love in Christ, wish to make that love known freely to others. Finally, freed from all self-serving motives, a truly joyful and generous life may emerge. This is what leads to peace within and to peace with God – the heart of all hopefulness.

Peace to you this stewardship season,

Jon