

*The Script*

April – May 2018

*Pastor’s Article*

 This year, we celebrate Easter on April 1. The official Easter season then lasts for seven Sundays, concluding on Mother’s Day, May 13. Pentecost takes place on May 20, and Jim Mismas’ last Sunday at the organ and with the choir will be May 27. At this time of year, as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and the birth of the Christian church, I confess that I am longing for things to remain the same.

 I am saddened to say “farewell” to Jim in his professional capacity as Music Director/Organist at Westminster, even as I am filled with joy for him and the many, new possibilities that await him in retirement. As I contemplate my desire for stability amid the ever-changing world in which we live, I recognize and appreciate that change has always been a central part of God’s salvific plan. In time, existing leaders must depart in order to make room for a new generation of leadership. *No one ever said that it would be easy.*

 We give thanks for and celebrate Jim’s legacy of faithful leadership to the church universal. His musical gifts and personal charisma have touched the hearts of thousands of people spanning many decades. At the same time, we recognize that a season of birth/rebirth and resurrection is upon us. So as we say “farewell” to Jim, let us not forget that God is still at work in creating, re-creating, and preparing the way in us and in our community. We will never forget Jim’s many contributions. And neither will we be forgotten. Even now, God is attending to our future needs.

 With sadness and with hope,

 Jon



**Thursday, March 29 at 7:o0 p.m.**

Maundy Thursday Service

*Reflective service where Communion is served in silence.*

**Friday, March 30 at 12:00 (noon)**

Good Friday Service

*Reflective service that ends in silence in Eberts Chapel.*

**Sunday, April 1 at 8:00 a.m.**

Easter Sunday Communion Service

*Outside Easter Communion Service on Johnstone Patio*

**and 10:30 a.m.**

Easter Sunday Communion Service

*Easter Communion Service with Paragon Brass Quintet*

**Education for children, tweens, youth** **and adults**

will NOT be held on Sunday, April 1. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 8.

**Childcare** will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Easter.

Please bring your children to join us in an

Easter Egg Hunt

on Easter Sunday

on the Exchange Street church lawn at 10:00 a.m.

**WPC on Social Media** Follow us on **Facebook** at Westminster Presbyterian Church and **Twitter @**WestPresAkron.



**Easter Egg Hunt**

 Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the Exchange Street lawn on April 1, Easter Sunday. Ages 0-12 are welcome to gather for this fun fellowship time after our 8:00 a.m. outdoor worship service and before our 10:30 a.m. Easter service. If, by some unlikely chance, the weather is inclement we will be in Wright-Herberich Hall for the fun. Each child will use a half-dozen egg carton to collect eggs, and we will provide paper bags to take their goodies home. Or bring a basket to use if you’d like.

The Easter Egg is a beautiful symbol of the new life of Christ that we celebrate. Join the fun!

**Presbyterian Panel**

 The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has used the Presbyterian Panel since 1973 to find out what Presbyterians think and do and what they want for their church. Participants are asked to respond to occasional or quarterly mailed questionnaires over a three-year period.  Responses are kept confidential. They are not concerned about how active you are nor your views - they are seeking a fair representation.

 Our church is one of 1,222 chosen to participate in the current phase. A small number of members will be randomly chosen and asked by the OGA to participate. If you have any questions, you may contact Research Services at 800-728-7228, ext. 2040 or atresearch@pcusa.org. You may also contact Alec Works, Clerk of Session, at wpcclerk1250@gmail.com.

**VBS - Save the Date and**

**Some Recyclables too…**

 We will gather children 4-years-old through 6th grade on **Monday-Thursday, July 9 – 12 from 9:15 a.m. to noon**. This year we are focusing on the **parables** through music, drama, Godly Play stories and art. For some of the art projects we are looking for small recyclables that you may have at your house. We will be doing some collage work with small treasures that may have been thrown away, but that we can make something new and meaningful with. Take a look at the picture to the left and get inspired! Save your collection and bring your donations to Sheila by June 1, 2018. Thank you!

**Original Wright-Herberich Hall Chair**

**Returns as Gift**

In 1927 when our original building, now called Wright-Herberich Hall opened, over two hundred maple wicker seat chairs were part of the furnishings. These chairs were probably the most used pieces of furniture in the history of our facility. They were in constant use from that early date until the mid-1980s. Church dinners on Saturday evenings and Worship services the next morning required rearranging them into rows every week. At one time, the hardwood floor of “Parish Hall”, as it was called until 1986, was diagonally lined to easily facilitate arrangement in rows. During the 1985 renovation of the hall, the chairs were sold to members for $5.00 each. Nick and Miriam Rusanowsky purchased five of the chairs for their dining area, so that each family member had their own chair. With the passing of Nick Rusanowsky in 2017 their children decided to donate one chair back to Westminster in their parent’s memory. The chair has been placed in Eberts Chapel as an historic article.

**COME**

**Prayer Quilt Ministry**

 We hope you have enjoyed the quilts we have made recently.  We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Wright-Herberich Hall.  Just come and we will tell you about our quilts and see how you would like to help. We all have fun!

**The Eye Opener Bible Study – New Time**

 The Eye Opener Bible Study is now meeting at a new time! For years, a group from Westminster has been meeting every Thursday morning in Room 106 at 8:00 a.m. to read and reflect upon an agreed upon book of the Bible. Quarterly, the group meets for a fellowship breakfast at the Eye Opener restaurant. Beginning Thursday, April 5, the group will now be meeting on Thursdays at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us! We are currently studying the New Testament book of Acts. We will also continue to share periodic meals at the Eye Opener.

**Confirmation is May 20**

 Join us for Pentecost on Sunday, May 20 when our current confirmation class will be welcomed into membership at Westminster Church. Come celebrate this important life event for these students and congratulate them on their journey. Worship starts at 10:30 a.m.

**ENCOUNTER**

**WPC Men’s Club**

 The Men's Club continues to meet at the Olive Garden in Montrose on the second Monday of the month. Upcoming dates are April 9 and May 14. We meet at 11:30 a.m. 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).

**GROW**

**Book Discussion Group**

 Join the Book Discussion Group for a monthly lively discussion! We meet on the second Monday of the month on the church library at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 9 — *The Art of Crash Landing* by Melissa DeCarlo, led by Suzanne Grafinger.

Monday, May 14 — *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate, led by

 Jacquie Mabry.

**SERVE**

**First Sunday Food Collection/Third Sunday Dinners**

 Please continue to support our food missions by bringing items to church on Sunday, April 1 and May 6 to be collected by the children during worship.

 We continue to enjoy hosting our Third Sunday Dinners each month at 5:00 p.m. Upcoming dates are Sunday, April 15 and May 20.

**Meal Assistance from our Deacons**

 Are you expecting the birth of a child or the adoption of an infant? Will you be in need if either you or your spouse is ill, hospitalized, or recovering from surgery? There are occasions in life when we could benefit from the support of others. Our Deacons stand ready to assist you by providing some meals for you or your family in your time of need. However, *we need you to let us know if you could use our assistance*. Every family is different. Some people will welcome additional support. Others have neighbors, friends, and family members to help take care of their needs. Some folks are private and would prefer not to have a personal need disclosed to others. These meals will be provided by request to Westminster members for a limited amount of time per request. Please contact the church office if you would like to learn more.

**EDUCATION NEWS**

**Upcoming WPC Children and Family Events**

**April 2018**

ALL CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT  April 1 at 10:00 am

**Tween Earth Day Service Event** April 22, 11:30 - 2:00 pm

MAY 2018

Teacher Appreciation and

Last Day of Church School May 27

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 Join us at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday morning. Below is a list of our offerings this year. Contact Sheila Svoboda, Director of Children and Family Ministry at wpcchildren1250@gmail.com to answer any questions you might have.

Our offerings and locations this year are:

Nursery **0-4 years**  9:00 am-12:00 (noon)

Bible Story Room **3 years to Kindergarten**  Room 105 9:30-10:15 am

Godly Play **1st-3rd grade**  Room 202 9:30-10:15 am

Tweens **4th-6th grade**  Room 107  9:30-10:15 am

Youth **7th-12th grade**   Room 211   9:30-10:15 am

**Tweens Making a Difference**

**** On Earth Day, April 22, our WPC Tweens will gather after church for lunch. They will then walk to Will Christy Park to be part of “Keep Akron Beautiful” clean-up month. The Tweens have chosen the area where they want to make a difference in our community, our earth, God’s creation, and will put on their work-gloves and pick-up all the trash they can find. Please let us know if you’d like to help!

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**A cOlOrFuL year is winding down….**

**Youth Service Project and Lock-In**

 Join us on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14 for a special service project and lock-in at the church! We’ll meet at the church Friday night at 5:30 p.m. and head to the Haven of Rest Ministries to make cards and lead music with their guests for the evening meal. Then we’ll travel back to the church for a night of pizza, games, movies, and more, and maybe some sleep. Pick-up will be Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. We hope you’ll join us; please invite friends to come too! Sign-up is online at westminsterakron.com. It’s gonna be a great time serving and celebrating fellowship together all night!

JUNE 7: End of School Youth Trip to Kalahari Water Park.

**WPC Youth Mission Trip 2018**

* ****6th-12th grade Youth and friends
* Sunday, June 24 - Friday, June 29
* Cincinnati, Ohio
* Cost is $100 with $50 deposit due with registration
* Registration Online - <https://goo.gl/38JuYz>
* Registration deadline: Sunday, May 6

We will be participating in a GROUP Week of Hope, doing community service in the Cincinnati area for the week.

Check out our group page for trip details, schedule,

packing list, paperwork, and more!

<http://groupmissiontrips.com/pc/westminster-presbyterian-church-akron>

**Adult Education**

 Our trip through the Bible continues on Sunday mornings in Room 106. After a break on Easter Sunday, we will be journeying through the remainder of the New Testament, including Revelation in our final session on Sunday, May 27. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and come join fellow travelers at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

**Opioid Crisis Recap**

On Sunday, February 25, Andy Davis from the Summit County Opiate Task Force shared with us the sobering facts of the opioid crisis here in our community. He began by reminding everyone that this is not a moral failing, but a terrible, terrible disease. The history of over-prescribing pain medication is significant in Summit County as well as around the country. We were given very useful information and many pertinent handouts, copies of which are still available in Wright-Herberich Hall. We donated funds collected that day to the Teen Division of the Summit County Opiate Task Force to support this important work. Sixty people attended and enjoyed ten different soups provided by WPC members. Thank you to everyone who helped make this very educational program and luncheon possible.

**Directory Update**

**Pictorial Church Directory**

 The final revisions have been submitted and the Membership Committee is awaiting the final print date. We hope have our new directory in hand by mid-April. More information about distribution will come once we have more information. Extra directories will be available. Contact the church office to inquire about purchasing one.

**Church Directory App for WPC**

 One of the benefits of working with Universal Directories is a church app they offer with their printed directory package. Soon you will be able to download the free app, my UCD, which will give you access to the church directory on your phone. When the Membership Committee has more information we will share the link for all to download. Exciting times at Westminster!

**FIVE AT FIVE**

*Remaining Schedule for Season Twenty.*



Sunday, April 8, 2018   The Ohio State University

 at 5:00 p.m. Men's Glee Club

Sunday, May 13, 2018   Mother's Day Opera/

 at 5:00 p.m. Broadway Gala

**Spaethe Scholarships Available**

 The Spaethe Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in memory of longtime members Phyllis G. and William F. Spaethe, is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 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:*

* 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*: Ms. Kristine Spaethe Keller

Attn: Scholarship Committee

 1250 W. Exchange Street

 Akron, Ohio 44313

**Deadline: Sunday, May 1, 2018**

PW News

 The Annual Fund Drive is almost over.  Thanks to all of you who have already generously responded.  There is still time to send in your donation to the PW Treasurer.

Ohio Living/Rockynol Spring Bazaar will be held on Friday, April 13, 9:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the Carrell Center.  Come and support this worthwhile event.

 Our Spring Gathering will be held at Bravo Restaurant in Summit Mall.  This year we are having a Children’s Fashion Show with clothing from the Kid’s Gap.  Come, enjoy lunch and see young models from our church. We will also be voting on the slate of officers for the coming year. Join us on Saturday, April 14 at noon.  The cost is $19 for women and $7 for children.  Make your reservations ahead of time in Wright-Herberich Hall after worship on Sundays or call Margo Works at 330-396-0408.

 Installation of officers will be on Sunday, April 29 during worship service.

**Celtic Garden**

 By this time, most of us have had enough of winter and yearn for the balmy breezes of spring. It won’t be long until it is warm enough to start planting our gardens, and the Celtic gardeners are looking forward to once again being able to help create a beautiful oasis at the corner of West Exchange and Mull. Anyone who would like to join our fun group and enjoys mucking in the dirt is most welcome - no experience necessary! Our first major project will be our **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** in conjunction with the Kiwanis pancake breakfast that will be held on Saturday, April 28. We’re hoping that all of you home gardeners will have perennials that can be divided and contributed to the sale. All proceeds will be used towards purchasing the plants and flowers that make our Celtic garden beautiful. For more information, please contact Anna Marie Wilton at amwilton@neo.rr.com.

**Information to Know**

**Membership Inquiry**

 Interested in deepening your relationship with Westminster? We are offering a membership class on Monday, April 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and an accompanying meeting with Session from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 22. Those desiring membership would then be received during worship on Sunday, April 22. Contact Pastor Jon.

**Session to Continue Discussion of Vision**

 Session plans to meet quarterly to form a vision plan for Westminster. The next meeting is planned on Saturday, April 28 from from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the church.

**Borrowing Policy from Properties Committee**

 The church gets requests from members to borrow items. More commonly, items are borrowed without a request. This creates problems when items are missing. Was there a theft?  Is something just misplaced? Our renters and other groups use items at the church and the expectation is that items belonging to the church will be there. Properties was asked to come up with a borrowing policy last fall. After much discussion, it was decided that WPC will have a *no borrowing policy.* We are not equipped to monitor lending of items. Potential damage to items is another concern. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Properties. Thanks for your understanding.

**Birthday Cakes**

  Would you like to donate a cake to honor one of your relatives?  Or just for the congregation to enjoy?  You can sign-up on the calendar that is hanging on the bulletin board in the hallway between Wright-Herberich Hall and the back door.  We still have several months to fill.  Once you sign-up, you will be contacted to decide the cake flavor and if *you* want to serve the cake on the appointed Sunday. If you want someone else to serve the cake, that can be arranged.  The donation is $50.00 and can be sent to the church office. The cake magically appears on the first Sunday of the month! It's easy and a sweet way to serve the church members.

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 Sympathy is extended to Dorothy Davies and her family upon the death of her husband, Lee Davies, on December 14, 2017. A Memorial Service was held at Westminster on March 10, 2018.

 Sympathy is extended to the family of Dawne Crotts upon her death on January 29, 2018.

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**Worship Attendance Statistics**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **January** | **2017** | **2018** |
|  | **10:30** | **10:30** |
| week 1 | 68 | 97 |
| week 2 | 136 | 109 |
| week 3 | 158 | 166 |
| week 4 | 150 | 120 |
| week 5 | 147 |  |
| **February** | **10:30** | **10:30** |
| week 1 | 173 | 159 |
| week 2 | 175 | 151 |
| Ash Wednesday | \* |  50 |
| week 3 | 121 |  135 |
| week 4 | 190 | 158 |

\*not recorded

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The Pentecost Offering will be received on Sunday, May 20 during worship.

**New Custodian**

**Damon Horner**

 Damon is a forty-four year old father of four, three daughters and one son, from Copley, Ohio. Earlier in his career he worked construction but switched to church maintenance five years ago working for Church of Our Savior. Recently Dave Foerester, our substitute organist, mentioned the opening at Westminster. The timing was perfect, Damon was looking for a new challenge. He appreciates the warm welcome that has been extended and looks forward to working hard for the Westminster congregation. His goal is to clean and beautify the building and Sanctuary where the congregation will be proud to worship. Damon can be reached at wpcbuilding@gmail.com or call the church office at 330-836-2226.

**Missing Coat**

 At a recent worship service or church event a black men’s coat was taken inadvertently and a larger coat was left. Please check your coat at home to make sure you took the correct coat home. Contact Bill Bramley if you discover the discrepancy at 330-715-0743.

**From the Finance Office**

**Foster the Future**

 The members of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the greater community appreciate and sincerely thank you for years of faithful giving that has sustained our important ministries. Another way you can preserve our Church and continue its work is through a charitable bequest. When planning your estate, please search your heart to find a place for Westminster Presbyterian Church in your will or living trust. Let your bequest be a testament to future generations of the faithful. Thank you for remembering Westminster Presbyterian Church with your future gifts.

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**Monthly Financial Report**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| February 2018 | Actual | Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
| Total Revenues | $63,057.49 | $46,170.79 | $122,966.66 | \*\*$110,254.08 |
| Total Expenses | $51,343.69 | $48,385.06 | $98,471.90 | $104,895.12 |
| Net  | $11,713.80 | ($2,214.27) | $24,494.76 | $5,358.96 |

\*\*Budgeted total revenues include anticipated withdrawals from Rowley investments necessary to balance the budget totaling $53,801 for the year.

Contributions received in January and February exceed the amount budgeted by $27,855. This is similar to last year with many annual pledges paid in full or in part within the first few months of the year. The Endowment Trust released the annual distribution from the Telford Fund to the church in February. The first quarter distribution of the remaining general operating endowment funds in the amount of $10,467 will be transferred to the church in March. Of this distribution, $4,757 is from Rowley Designated Endowment Fund.

Overall, expenses are under budget by $6,423. This is partly due to timing of budgeted expenses. Personnel expenses are under budget with the transition in custodial staffing. Our cold, snowy winter has increased snowplowing costs. To date, no funds have been expended from the Unrestricted Rowley Fund principal for operating costs.

If you are in the kitchen, you will notice a brand new refrigerator. The Patterson PC(USA) Fund and The Kitchen Renovation Fund were expended on this emergency purchase just in time to store the sub sandwiches for the Youth Mission Trip Fundraising Project.

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the

detailed financial report for 2018.

**June/July 2018 Script**

 June/July 2018 Script will be distributed on Sunday, May 27, 2018. The Script will cover activities between May 27 – July 29, 2018. Articles will be due Wednesday, July 18, 2018.

**Attention Graduates**

 On Sunday, May 20 we will be honoring Westminster graduates during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Are you graduating from high school, college, or graduate school? Please let us know. We would love to recognize you! Contact the church office at westminsterakron@gmail.com.

**WPC Staff:**

The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com

 (cell phone 330-606-4551) (weekly office hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9:30-11:00 am)

Damon Horner, Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com

 (weekly work days: Sunday-Thursday)

Eileen Martinez, Staff Accountant wpcfinance1250@gmail.com

 (weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)

James Mismas, Director of Music/Organist musicdirectorwpc@gmail.com

Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children and Family Ministry wpcchildren1250@gmail.com

 (weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)

Germaine Wilson, Director of Communication gwilson1250@gmail.com

 (weekly office days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Sean Williams, Youth Ministry Administrator wpcyouth1250@gmail.com

 (cell phone 717-271-1221)

Zack Troyer, Director of Children’s Choir wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

 (cell phone 330-285-0213)

Ron Hazelett, Director of Tween/Youth and Adult Bell Choir wpcbellchoir@gmail.com

 (cell phone 330-701-7523 )

Kayla Elefritz, Childcare Director kayla\_elefritz@yahoo.com

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