



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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## *The Script* June – July 2017

### *Pastor's Letter*

In her new book, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, Tish Harrison Warren uses a description of her own life to highlight a habitual reality which is all too familiar to many of her readers. “My typical morning routine,” she writes, “was that shortly after waking, I’d grab my smartphone. Like digital caffeine, it would prod my foggy brain into coherence and activity.” Soon, though, Warren’s smartphone was demanding more of her time and attention than she was willing to give. “Technology began to fill every empty moment in the day. Just before breakfast, I’d quickly scroll through e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, a blog... I’d return from an errand and sit in the driveway with the car running, scrolling through news on my phone... Throughout the day I fed on a near-constant stream of news, entertainment, stimulation, likes, and retweets.”

In commenting on this trend, Mary Hess notes that “it is powerfully seductive to feed our insatiable appetite for adrenaline by living in a state of constant ‘being on’ in our digital lives. We turn to our devices as some kind of promise of security.” Then, we seem disappointed upon discovering that security is not to be found in the devices that we once hoped would free us from all human limitations.

Hess contends that “the competition over which stories will shape our common spaces, over which stories are ‘true’ and which are ‘fake news,’ is particularly volatile right now. And the temptation to enclose our meaning-making, to refuse deep connection, to find the spaces where we can hang out with like-minded individuals is very seductive.”

Christians in every generation have sought security in an uncertain and anxious world. And in every generation, faithful followers of Jesus Christ have returned to contemplation, prayer, and Sabbath. In his book, *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*, Norman Wirzba argues that the practice of the Sabbath is neither simply taking a day off from

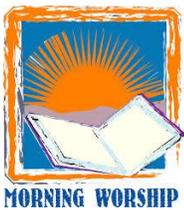
our busy routines nor is it merely a mode of rest or inactivity. Instead, Sabbath rest is “a call to Sabbath trust, a call to visibly demonstrate in our daily living that we know ourselves to be upheld and maintained by the grace of God rather than the strength and craftiness of our own hands. To enjoy a Sabbath day, we must give up our desire for total control.”

May God grant you peace for the journey,

Jon

Source: *Presbyterian Outlook*, May 8, 2017

## *Early Summer Worship*



Once again, Westminster is providing two worshipping opportunities on Sunday mornings during the summer. Our traditional service continues in the sanctuary at 10:30 am. In addition, a second, earlier service is offered each Sunday in the months of June, July, and August at 8:30 am. The early service meets on Johnstone Patio, weather permitting. In case of rain, the service is held in Wright-Herberich Hall. Guest musicians will be joining us. Communion at the early service will be administered twice per month. *Early service Communion dates for 2017 are June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 13, and August 27.*

## *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, June 4 and contribute to this special offering, or visit our website [westminsterakron.com](http://westminsterakron.com) to give electronically.

## *Pastoral Time Away*

Pastor Jon Hauerwas will be on vacation from June 9 - June 24. He will be on study leave from July 24 - July 30. In case of a pastoral emergency, you may reach our pastor on his cell phone at 330-606-4551. The Reverend Cathy Ulrich, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk for Eastminster Presbytery, will preach at both services on June 11. Her husband, The Reverend Tom Ulrich, will preach at both services on June 18 and July 30. Arrangements have also been made for emergency pastoral care in Akron, if needed.

# Ice Cream Social

with a  
West African Drummer  
Saturday, August 12 at 7:00 pm

An exciting event will be held on the Johnstone Patio and lawn of the church on Saturday, August 12. West African Drummer Sogbety Diomande will entertain us as we enjoy our ice cream social.

This will be fun for all with music and a workshop for kids!



## Memorial Garden

In the April/May Script an article about Westminster's Memorial Garden gave a background of the memorial garden, several testimonials by church members about why they have included it in their funeral plans, the steps to take to include the memorial garden in your plans and the date for the Memorial Garden June Open House.

Please join the Memorial Garden Committee and a representative from Billow Funeral Homes and Crematory on the Johnstone Patio after the **Sunday, June 11 10:30** worship service for a Memorial Garden open house. Enjoy refreshments while reviewing memorial garden literature, receiving answers to any questions you might have and visiting the newly landscaped garden area.



Please read this statement from John and Marcia Holcomb about their reasons for choosing the Memorial Garden. *"While in the process of pre-arranging our future funerals with a local funeral home, we learned about the Memorial Garden at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where we have both been active church members for many years. We knew right away that we wanted our cremains to be interred at a place where we have always found peace and comfort. Purchasing an Interment Agreement with Westminster was easy and affordable."*

In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact any of the Memorial Garden committee members: Shelley Koutnik, Earl Pierson, Marcia Holcomb, Phil Fry, Kara Hauerwas or Barb or Jim Shriner.

# COME

## Memorial Day Picnic

Our Annual Memorial Day Picnic will be Sunday, May 28 immediately following the service in Wright-Herberich Hall. Come enjoy a congregational picnic with food and fun!

## Countryside Conservancy Farmer's Market at Will Christy Park This Summer!

We are welcoming a new neighbor this summer on Thursdays from 4:00-7:00 pm right across the street from the church where local produce and products will be sold in Will Christy Park. The farmer's market that has been in Highland Square has moved! On Thursday June 15, we will have representatives from our Children and Family Ministry at the market to register local students for VBS, hand out informational brochures about our church and offer some crafts for children. Come visit our table and let all the visitors see how welcoming we are here at Westminster Presbyterian!

The farmer's market runs every Thursday through September 28. Customers will park along the side streets; vendors have permission to park their vehicles in our parking lot across the street near Ohio Living.

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting at 11:30 am on June 25 to elect officers needed to fill vacancies on Session and the deacon board.

# ENCOUNTER

## Book Discussion Group

As usual the WPC book group has been enjoying a variety of books. We meet the second Monday of the month in the Westminster library at 7:00 pm. Our upcoming books and discussion leaders are:

June 12 *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman led by Cathy Melver

July 10 *1984* by George Orwell led by Neal Enrick

# GROW

**Thinking ahead...join us in the fall!** *September 3* - Labor Day Picnic after worship and *September 10* - Rally Day!! Education begins again!

# **SERVE**

## **Good Neighbors/First Sunday Food Collection**

Over the last several weeks the office has received many phone calls for help with food assistance. Please continue to support our food missions by bringing food to church on June 4, July 2 and August 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.

## **Third Sunday Dinners**

Join us this summer on June 18, July 16 and August 20 as we welcome and host members of our local Akron community for a free warm meal. WPC members are encouraged to come and get to know our neighbors while dining with them. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm. Enjoy a summer meal with fellow church members and our community guests.

## **Christmas in June/July Is Discontinued**

The Salvation Army has new leadership and an exciting new direction for outreach. The block party will no longer be held, therefore we will not have Christmas in June/July. The Salvation Army will be informing us of how we can partner with them in the future. The December Christmas Basket project will continue.

## **Presbyterian Women**

The Coordinating Team will be meeting on Saturday, June 3 at 9:00 am in the library. We will be making plans for the next year 2017-2018. All are welcome. Come join us and get involved!

Ohio Living Spring Bazaar was held on April 7; it actually snowed! We don't have the final figures from the other participating groups, but our table brought in over \$200! Special thanks to Mary Lou Griffith, Harriet Cultler, Joan Beuhl, Barb Davis, Shirley Werner and Kara Hauerwas who helped with both set-up day and sale day. We could not do this without their help and support.

On Sunday, April 23 our PW officers were installed. Thanks to Pastor Jon for doing a wonderful job during the worship service and allowing our leaders to stand up and be recognized for all the good work they do throughout the year.

# EDUCATION NEWS

## THE FEST

Hold this date! On **Sunday, August 6**, the youth are going to "The FEST," a FREE music festival in Wickliffe, Ohio! Bands of the day include: for King and Country, Crowder, Laura Story and Matt Maher, all while an Adventure Zone activity area awaits you! Please contact Kimberly Cheng if you are interested, [wpcyouth1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcyouth1250@gmail.com).

### **Attention Church Members and Those Interested in Volunteering for Youth Ministry!**

Look for a 'Signup Genius' e-mail introducing you to a new way of participating and helping in the Youth Ministry! Contact Kimberly Cheng for more information.

### **Attention Parents and Youth 13+ !**

If you would like reminder messages about WPC Youth Events to be sent either to your e-mail or phone, from 'Remind':  
Enter this number: 81010 and text this message: @wpcyouthg  
or alternatively, send an e-mail to: [wpcyouthg@mail.remind.com](mailto:wpcyouthg@mail.remind.com)

### **Youth Group Hunger Walk Wrap-Up**

The Hunger Walk held Sunday, May 7 had 226 walkers and raised over \$9,200. In years past a good portion of profits from the Crop Walk were sent overseas. Someone had the idea to do a more locally focused walk instead. Hence, through the Akron Area Interfaith Council, we see the benefit to the local Akron community of the Hunger Walk.

### **Adult Education/Eye Opener Bible Study**



The Eye Opener Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 8:00 am in Room 106 at the church. Come enjoy fellowship and discussion with Pastor Hauerwas leading. All are welcome! During the summer we will be studying Hebrews. We will meet Thursdays, May 25 - June 20, 2017, taking a break on Thursday, June 8 to enjoy breakfast at the Eye Opener Restaurant Starting in the fall we will again have breakfast at the Eye Opener on September 7 and start the study of the Old Testament book Isaiah on Thursday, September 14, 2017. Join us!

# Vacation Bible School

## VBS 2017, *The Beatitudes*

Please join us for mornings Monday through Thursday, July 10-13 from 9:15 am to noon. We invite ages 4-years-old through 5th grade with student helpers in grades 6-12. Bring a neighbor or a friend! VBS is a great time to introduce Westminster Children and Family Ministries to the wider community.

This year we are providing an opportunity for the children to learn the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 5:3-11) These blessings are a cornerstone for living the radical love of God that Jesus shares with us. We will incorporate art, music, storytelling and body work (yoga-to learn ways to find peace) each day. On Thursday, July 13 at 6:00 pm we will have a potluck dinner to share what has been learned and to come together for a meal in community.

Please contact Sheila [wpcchildren1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcchildren1250@gmail.com) for more information.

Blessed are



## Celtic Garden

The Annual Celtic Garden Perennial Sale, in conjunction with the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, was a huge success! In spite of the rainy day, many people came out and bought plants to the tune of \$960!! A portion of the proceeds went toward repairing the fountain, and the rest will go toward purchasing the new plants and other items that will make our garden beautiful. Thanks to all who donated and bought plants! On another note, the children of Jim and Rosemary Spindler are donating a lovely garden bench in memory of their parents. The bench will be installed within the next few weeks and will be a lovely addition to the Celtic Garden. Our upcoming garden workdays will be Saturdays, June 3 and 17, and July 1, 15, and 29. Everyone is welcome to help - no experience necessary.





## **Picture Directory**

Professional photographers from Universal Church Directories will be present on Thursday-Saturday, September 14, 15, and 16 for the purpose of photographing you or your family for our upcoming pictorial directory. Be on the lookout for further instructions to sign up for your preferred time, either electronically through the week, or at the Connection Point on the weekends.

## ***New Building Policy***

For quite some time, Westminster has hired evening, special event, and Sunday morning custodial staff that was tasked with cleaning the facility in addition to addressing a number of facility needs. These needs have included unlocking doors, arming and disarming the building, unlocking the main entry door of the church just prior to meetings and locking it again after the meeting began, adjusting thermostats, closing windows, checking exterior doors, etc. Our Session believes that the time has come for a change. Going forward, we are asking committees to take greater responsibility for ensuring that the facility needs are addressed. Our daytime custodian will check the exterior doors before leaving for the day. After that, groups will be instructed to exit through the main doors of the Christian Education building near Ohio Living and the back parking lot. This is to ensure that doors are not left ajar throughout the facility when the building is armed. This will allow cleaning staff to devote more time to cleaning the facility. Questions? Please contact the Personnel or Properties Committee.

## ***Volunteer Facilities Coordinators Wanted***

Westminster is currently in need of volunteers who are willing and able to serve as facility coordinators on Sunday mornings. Beginning at 8:00 am, these individuals will be responsible for unlocking and disarming the church, unlocking classrooms and meeting spaces, turning on lights, adjusting thermostats, flipping parking signs, setting up cones, as well as other duties to be determined. At noon on Sundays, facility coordinators are then asked to secure the building. This includes locking classrooms, turning out lights, adjusting thermostats, flipping parking signs back, putting away cones, and arming the building. A paid custodian will still be present to attend to the cleaning, and snow removal will be provided by the daytime custodian. If interested, please contact our pastor at [jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com](mailto:jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com).



Sympathy is extended to the family of James Phares, who died on March 29, 2017.

Sympathy is extended to the family of William Strough, who died on April 10, 2017.

Congratulations are extended to the son of James and Mallory Gray, William, who was baptized on April 2, 2017 during worship.

Congratulations are extended to the sons of Tracy and Doug Ehrler, Pierce and Jensen, who were baptized on April 30, 2017 during worship.

Congratulations to the new members received in worship on May 7, Sue Larson, Pat Schumacher and Gregory Works.

## Worship Attendance Statistics

<b>March</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
week 1	148	150
week 2	115	169
week 3	184	161
week 4	8 (8:00) 334 (10:30) Easter	193 (Youth Sunday)
<b>April</b>		
week 1	128	156
week 2	142	211 (Palm Sunday)
week 3	152	53 (8:00) 335 (10:30) Easter
week 4	174	108
Week 5		143

## The Congregation Is Invited

Former Associate Pastor Jim Collier and his wife, Janelle, are celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio. Friends and former congregants are invited to share in their joy at the reception being held between 2:00-4:00 pm. No gifts please, your presence will be the blessing.

# Did You Know?

## What Is Per Capita?

WPC sends an apportionment per member to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly each year. Asking the members of the congregation to pay their per capita is similar to:

- contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- paying to be connected to the Internet
- paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone
- pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip
- participating in community supported agriculture (CSA) or a similar co-op

Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (General Assembly Minutes, Part I, 1995).

In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

## Why Per Capita?

Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to give meaning to the interdependent nature Presbyterian polity. Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian. They include our theological identity, our connectedness, our system of mid councils that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ, our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal, our core structures that keep us together as a church and our call to work for full participation in decision making.

Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Per Capita for 2017 is \$32.00 and includes:

- General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): \$7.33
- Synod of the Covenant: \$3.25
- Eastminster Presbytery: \$21.42

Help us fulfill our Per Capita obligation with your \$32 per person contributions. Checks may be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Include "Per Capita" on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.



FINANCIAL  
REPORT

**Monthly Financial Report  
Financial Report for  
January through April 2017**

April 2017	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$63,898.83	\$46,804.74	\$242,804.36	**\$205,089.14
Total Expenses	\$51,278.94	\$59,833.33	\$192,096.88	\$208,736.46
Net	\$12,619.89	(\$13,028.59)	\$50,707.48	(\$3,647.32)

\*\*Budgeted total revenues include anticipated withdrawals from Rowley investments necessary to balance the budget totaling \$63,138 for the year.

Contributions year-to-date are \$35,800 above budget due to prepaid pledges and unpledged gifts. The Telford Endowment provided a one-time distribution in the amount of \$11,000. As of April 30, accumulated revenues exceed budget by approximately \$37,715.

Expenses year to date are \$16,639 below budget. For budgeting purposes, large dollar expenses are budgeted in the month of expenditure. However many of the lesser expense items are budgeted by one-twelfth per month. To date there are no major deviations between actual and budgeted expenditures.

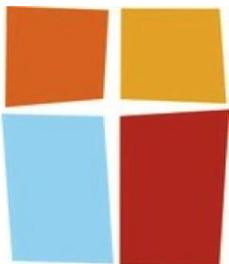
Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the financial report detail for the period ending April 30, 2017.

**August/September 2017 Script deadline: July 19, 2017.** Please have your articles about activities into the church office by 12:00 noon that day. The publication date will be Sunday, July 30, 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](mailto:gwilson1250@gmail.com).

### **WPC Staff:**

The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor (cell phone 330-606-4551) (weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)	<a href="mailto:jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com">jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com</a>
Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children and Family Ministry (weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)	<a href="mailto:wpcchildren1250@gmail.com">wpcchildren1250@gmail.com</a>
Sean Williams, Youth Ministry Administrator (cell phone 717-271-1221)	<a href="mailto:wpcyouth1250@gmail.com">wpcyouth1250@gmail.com</a>
Kimberly Cheng, Youth Coordinator (cell phone 908-283-0489)	<a href="mailto:wpcyouth1250@gmail.com">wpcyouth1250@gmail.com</a>
James Mismas, Director of Music/Organist	<a href="mailto:musicdirectorwpc@gmail.com">musicdirectorwpc@gmail.com</a>
Germaine Wilson, Director of Communication (weekly office days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)	<a href="mailto:gwilson1250@gmail.com">gwilson1250@gmail.com</a>
Eileen Martinez, Staff Accountant (weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)	<a href="mailto:wpcfinance1250@gmail.com">wpcfinance1250@gmail.com</a>
Jeremiah Ward, Daytime Custodian (Monday-Friday)	<a href="mailto:wpcbuilding@gmail.com">wpcbuilding@gmail.com</a>
Kayla Elefritz, Childcare Director (cell phone-330-564-7580)	<a href="mailto:kayla_elefritz@yahoo.com">kayla_elefritz@yahoo.com</a>
Samuel Olin-Hitt, Director of Children's Choir (cell phone-330-936-8489)	<a href="mailto:wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com">wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com</a>
Toy Wilkson, Evening and Sunday Custodian (cell phone-234-716-4716)	
Arthur Jefferson, Evening and Sunday Custodian (cell phone-330-433-3356)	



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