# December 2018/January 2019 Script

December/January script will be distributed on Sunday, November 25, 2018. Please have your articles and pictures about activities sent to wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by noon on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

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



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)
Alcee Chriss III, Music Director/Organist wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com (weekly workdays: Tuesday—Friday, and Sunday)

Kara Hoffman, Staff Accountant wpcfinance1250@gmail.com (weekly office days: TBD)

Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children & Family Ministry wpcchildren1250@gmail.com (weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)

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# The Script October-November 2018



# What Brings You to Westminster?

Recently, the Pew Research Center polled a group of U.S. adults who attend religious services at least once or twice per month. The poll asked about the respondents most common considerations for doing so. Some examples include:

- To become closer to God (81%)
- So children will have a moral foundation (69%)
- To make me a better person (68%)
- For comfort in times of trouble or sorrow (66%)
- I find the sermons valuable (59%)
- To be a part of a community of faith (57%)
- To continue family's religious tradition (37%)
- I feel a religious obligation to go (31%)
- To meet new people or socialize (19%)
- To please my family, spouse, or partner (16%)

The list above is far from all-encompassing. One obvious omission for me is the making and hearing of beautiful music.

Had the same poll been conducted among Westminster members, I am confident that musical and artistic worship expressions would rank highly. And while some of the reasons stated in this survey do not sound as theologically grounded as we might prefer, I am reminded of the first steps that led to my current journey. Even if some folks attend church reluctantly, as the poll suggests, they are still in a place where they are contemplating to the good news of Jesus Christ. And, if we are doing our part as faithful disciples, they are also exposed to a gracious welcome that will lead them to consider returning by means of their own choosing.

Some pastors malign the fact that fewer people attend religious services than in decades past. I confess to hint of this, myself. Even so, I am daily uplifted by the voluntary commitment of church members. Those who choose to engage with the church could truly be doing anything else (e.g. sleeping, traveling, watching television, reading, cleaning the house, going for a walk in a local park).

That people choose to come to church at all is an enduring testament to the powerful connection that community provides. It also says a lot about the God we worship. Why do we carve out the time and energy, not to mention the offering of our voluntary financial contributions? We do these things because we understand that the church matters. It matters to us. It matters to the greater community. And it matters to God. Your contribution of time, talent, and/or financial resources is never taken for granted. On behalf of our staff, Session, and greater congregation, thank you for choosing Westminster as your spiritual home.

With gratitude, Jon

Source for Pew Research Findings: Christian Century, August 29, 2018, Pg. 9.



August 2018	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$25,899.18	\$46,220.75	\$379,244.44	\$426,223.78**
Total Expenses	\$59,962.95	\$56,189.66	\$400,804.83	\$449,173.52
Net	(\$34,063.77)	(\$9,968.91)	(\$21,560.39)	(\$22,949.74)

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

As always, many thanks to our committee moderators and volunteers for providing quality ministries at a minimal cost. Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the financial report detail for the period ending August 31, 2018.

# 2019 Stewardship Campaign

The 2019 Stewardship Campaign will begin on **October 14** and conclude with the a Service for the Consecration of Pledges on **Sunday, November 4**.

As we come before God with our offerings, let us remember the words of Micah 6: "What does the Lord require of us? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God". We generously give from the abundance of our lives as an offering to our God. Please find it in your heart to increase your support for the coming year.

# **Giving Statements**

Giving Statements for the period ending September 30, 2018 will be emailed in October. If you do not receive an email and wish to have a copy of your giving statement, please contact the staff accountant at wpcfinance1250@gmail.com or call 330-836-2226, ext. 5.





Year	2017	2018
July	8:30 & 10:30	8:30 & 10:30
week 1	27 <b>(8:30)</b> 93 <b>(10:30)</b>	28 <b>(8:30)</b> 82 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 2	19 <b>(8:30)</b> 79 <b>(10:30)</b>	29 <b>(8:30)</b> 92 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 3	23 <b>(8:30)</b> 141 <b>(10:30)</b>	26 <b>(8:30)</b> 79 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 4	31 (8:30) 77 (10:30)	43 <b>(8:30)</b> 84 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 5	38 <b>(8:30)</b> 71 <b>(10:30)</b>	24 <b>(8:30)</b> 64 <b>(10:30)</b>
August	8:30 & 10:30	8:30 & 10:30
week 1	43 <b>(8:30)</b> 85 <b>(10:30)</b>	33 <b>(8:30)</b> 87 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 2	31 <b>(8:30)</b> 77 <b>(10:30)</b>	28 <b>(8:30)</b> 90 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 3	38 <b>(8:30)</b> 93 <b>(10:30)</b>	51 <b>(8:30)</b> 76 <b>(10:30)</b>
week 4	19 <b>(8:30)</b> 114 <b>(10:30)</b>	25 <b>(8:30)</b> 103 <b>(10:30)</b>



#### **Five at Five Concert**

The next Five at Five free concert will be "University of Akron Steel Drum Band" on **Sunday, October 14, 2018** at 5:00 p.m. http://www.uasteelband.com. Childcare will be provided from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the nursery.

# The 2019 WPC Talent Show and Chili Tasting March 9, 2019



Get ready: this year, the WPC winter event's entertainment is YOU!

We hope you'll begin to think now of how you can share your God-given (and humanly honed) talents with your fellow WPC members for this evening of fun, food, and fellowship. (You have six months to prepare...)

A few ideas/possibilities for all ages:

- Culinary Arts (i.e. chili cooking!)
- **Musical Acts** (solo, group, or family; instrumental or vocal)
- Art (all media)
- Crafts
- Dance
- **Writing** (or readings from your favorite authors / poets)
- Variety Acts (magic tricks; juggling acts; comedy sketches; etc...)

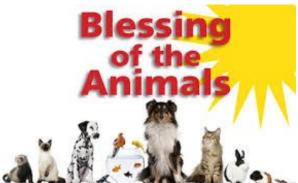
Sponsored by Discipleship. More details to come.



# **World Communion Sunday**

This year we celebrate World Communion Sunday on **October 7**.

### **Pet Blessing Sunday**



Bring your loved ones... paws and all on **Sunday**, **October 7** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the front steps of the church. Our pastor will be offering prayers for the animals you love in recognition that all creatures are of value in God's sight. We hope to see you (and your best friends) there!

# **Remembrance Sunday**

Remembrance Sunday is **October 28**. That day, we will be remembering those members of our congregation who have died in the past year, recalling the lives of many who have shaped our current path, and honoring the saints of old.

# **Acme Cash Back Program**

Please ask family and friends to save Acme receipts **from August 9 to December 29, 2018**. Drop the receipts in the boxes at the church doors. The Presbyterian Women earn 5% on all Acme products purchased and use the proceeds to support missions. Thank you for your support.

# Interim Staff Accountant

# Kara Hoffman



Kara is a member of Westminster. She grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania and lived in Pittsburgh and Tucson before moving to Akron 8 years ago. She has a degree in Finance and worked as a Senior Analyst at Intuit. She has been married for 15 years to Benjamin and is the mother of Eleanora (9), Samuel (8) and Jude (4). In her free time she enjoys hiking with her family and reading.

#### • Evening Custodian Lue Wertz



Hi, my name is Lue Wertz. I'm from Akron. I've had a lot of experience in janitorial/ custodian work. I've done this type of work at a museum in Canton Ohio and also a church/school. I'm also a yoga teacher and a licensed massage therapist. I enjoy camping, biking and hiking in my spare time. I also love music, dogs and volunteering in the community.

# Childcare providerChelsea Moses



Hi, my name is Chelsea. I am very excited to be here at the church! I work full-time at the Huntington Phone Bank as a Customer Service Associate. I also attend Arizona State University. I like studying Family and Human Development. In my spare time I like to read and spend time with my dog, Nova. She is a 4-year-old black Labrador Retriever. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends, especially my 3 nieces.

This year, Zack has taken on the additional positions of directing the Youth Bell Choir and the Adult Bell Choir as well. He became a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church last year, and is looking forward to growing in his faith through musical ministry.

# Choral Scholar Elizabeth Crabtree



Westminster member, Elizabeth Crabtree, is a new choral scholar at WPC. She currently teaches middle school and high school choir and theater at Northwestern Local Schools in Wayne county. She has her undergraduate degree from the College of Wooster and her Master's degree from Kent State University. She is married to Adam and has two sons, Paul and James.

# Youth CoordinatorMallory Gray



Born and raised in Wadsworth, Mallory is a 2005 graduate of Wadsworth High School and a 2010 graduate from the University of Akron with a Paraprofessional degree. She worked for Barberton City Schools, providing services in their special needs education program for 7 years. Mallory has also worked as a preschool teacher at Adventure Place (Advent Lutheran Church) in Hartville. She decided to step back from that world when she became pregnant

with her son, William. Mallory and her husband, James, are active members here at Westminster. They have three children; Gabrielle (12), Sam (7) and William (1). The Gray's reside in the Akron area. Mallory brings a great attitude, organizational skills and creativity to the program. She hopes to increase the youth's activities, fellowship and encourage more youth to attend.

#### **WPC New Website**

Our church website is currently being redesigned with the guidance of our Membership Committee. However, as the new site is built, the existing site will remain available to you. On our church website, you can find many important forms, policies, and communications.

At this time, we want to make you aware of the appropriate form for communicating custodial or maintenance needs. Please understand that it is important for you fill out this form rather than asking the custodian to handle something for you!

To locate the form, please use the following process. The church homepage is available at www.westminsterakron.com. Once you access the homepage, you will notice a MENU icon in the top right corner. Click the MENU box. Next, find the tab entitled "Congregational Resources." Click it. Once there, go to "General Resources" and click the link. Scroll down to the end of the options and you will find 2 links entitled "Cleaning/Maintenance Concerns." Click once more on either link to access the form for conveying concerns about cleaning and maintenance needs at WPC.

Finally, if you are not computer savvy, then you are always welcome to pick up an appropriate form to fill out by hand in our church office.

#### **Sound Team Volunteers**

Our sound team is responsible for operating the sound board during worship services, weddings, memorial services, and special events, such as our ongoing concert series. We are very much in need of additional volunteers who would be willing to be trained for these purposes. You need not be a technological guru or have operated sound equipment in the past. We simply need committed, thoughtful people

who are willing to learn and serve. We understand that everyone travels, and we will work around your schedule, even if you are only in Akron on a part-time basis. Please contact our pastor to learn more.



#### **First Aid Kits**

There are two First Aid Kits, stocked with band aids. One is in the Narthex, the other in Room 101. Each box contains incident forms. These forms are to be used in the event of an injury, such as a fall. Anyone observing a mishap can fill out the form and return to the church office for follow up. Thank you for your help. If there are any questions, contact Ginny Melver.

#### **Historical Documents**



The Membership Committee is currently compiling some of Westminster's historical documents. Do you have photographic images or videos of our shared life together? Please contact our pastor.

#### **New Members Class**

If anyone is interested in joining Westminster Presbyterian church and in becoming a member, please attend a new member class. We don't know the next date but you can email Pastor Jon at jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com and check our bulletin regularly for more information.

#### **New Staff Members**

We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to our staff team:

Music Director/Organist
 Alcee Chriss

Westminster is pleased to welcome Alcee Chriss III as our new Music Director/Organist. Alcee's first Sunday with us on September 30 was accompanied by a reception.

 Director of Adult and Youth Bells, Children's Choir, and Vocal Scholar

# Zack Troyer



Zachary A. Troyer is a sophomore music education major at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. He graduated from Firestone Community Learning Center and from the Akron School for the Arts in 2017, with a focus in vocal music. His senior year, he became a choral scholar here at Westminster, and in the 2017-2018 season, became the director of the Children's Choir.

#### **Celtic Garden News**

Sadly, the season for the beautiful Celtic garden is once again coming to a close.





It seems as though the flowers were just beginning to bloom - where did the summer go? A heartfelt salute to all those faithful volunteers who planted, weeded, deadheaded, and watered throughout the season and in all kinds of weather. God can supply the raw materials, but volunteers are needed to nurture them. When the cold winds of winter blow, we can look forward to spring and the upcoming plant sale on **Saturday**, **April 27**, in conjunction with the Kiwanis pancake breakfast.

### **Weddings**

Congratulations to

- Heather Keane and Vivek (Vik) Bhalla, on 9/01/18
- Katie Baker and Todd Downing, on 9/08/18

#### **Presbyterian Women, Fall Gathering**

ALL women are welcome to enjoy this relaxing activity, on **Saturday, October 13, 2018** at 11:30 a.m. in the Wright-Herberich Hall. The gathering includes lunch, followed by a chance to try inspired meditative drawing.



# **WPC Book Group**

We meet in the Anderson Library on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Our October meeting is on **October 8, 2018.** 

We are reading:

The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish



# **Third Sunday Dinners**

Join us this fall on **October 21, November 18** and **December 16** as we welcome and host members of our local Akron community. We encourage our members to attend and invite a friend or neighbor. We also want to encourage you to form relationships with those in need. Westminster is a serving church...dinner is served at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer as a cook, server or dishwasher contact Gert Wilms at gertrudewilms@gmail.com.



# **Adult Education/Bible Study**



In October and November, the adult education class will be studying what the Bible has to say about God's people learning to trust God to save them. Starting with the story of the Exodus, God's continual gift of the salvation of his people runs throughout the Bible. We will trace that theme through some Old Testament

stories as well as God's saving act in Jesus Christ, God's deliverance of the early church, and God's promise of deliverance in the future as seen in Revelation. We can learn how to trust God more by exploring "God's Saving Acts."

Come join us in room 106 at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. See Rae Leonard for more details.

# **Youth Ministry**



On October 21, the Youth Ministry (7th – 12th grades) will be heading to Ramseyer Farms for corn mazes, pumpkins, and more fall fun. Please join us. Looking ahead to the holidays, we will be ice skating at Lock 3 in conjunction with our Christmas party on December 9. We are looking forward to a great year!

#### **Children's Ministries**

### **Tween Trip to Sky Zone**

Calling all WPC Tweens! (4th-6th graders)

We will have lunch after church here on **Sunday, October 7**. Then, we will drive over to Sky Zone. We will leave here at noon and return by 2:30 p.m. Please join us. Contact person: Sheila Svoboda at wpcchildren1250@gmail.com

#### **Reverse Trick or Treat**



For all families! **Saturday, October 20**, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come in costume to WPC at 2:00 p.m. We will practice some songs, get our treats together and parade over to Rockynol to brighten the day for residents there.

This is a great event to live 'It's better to give than receive'. We will bring our joy and share it abundantly.