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Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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The Script April-May 2019

Pastor's Corner

It is 6 a.m. on a Tuesday. My oldest son, Liam (age 8), has joined me on the main level of our home. It is early and he doesn't need to leave the house for school anytime soon. As he finishes his breakfast, he asks for a carton of white, plastic Easter eggs that his mother purchased for him. He's ready to decorate them. I give him the carton, and he uses his imagination to color a variety of shapes and patterns onto the oblong surface.

Coloring Easter eggs by hand is a challenging undertaking. I am reminded of this when, before 7 a.m., my youngest son, Nathan (age 3), joins us and asks to color eggs of his own. Soon, his hands are encased in blue, washable marker. This wasn't intentional. It's merely a sign of his development in the long process of hand/eye coordination. When the project is completed, it's easy to identify the artist responsible for each creation. Nathan's eggs have no discernable shapes or patterns, only jagged lines going in every direction. Even so, he is proud of his work - very proud! "Daddy, look what I did!" Liam, too, is proud. But, he is also more practical. "Dad," he says, "getting ready for Easter is hard work."

It is often said that what you get out of any endeavor is in keeping with what you put into it. Oftentimes, this is true. One clear exception, however, is the theological concept of grace. In the Reformed tradition, we maintain that God showers us with grace, despite the obvious (and not so obvious) faults and failings of our lives. That this grace is freely given, rather than earned, is why we call it unmerited.

In our journey of faith, we are likely to feel more or less connected to God in relation to the effort we put into our own spiritual development and growth. In this sense, what you get out of the spiritual endeavor is in keeping with what you put into it. And yet, God's grace abounds for all. In the end, I was not more proud of Liam for creating more detailed art, or for keeping his hands more marker-free. Instead, I appreciated and respected both of my sons as individuals who had given of their time to complete a task and who took joy in the process. May you see in your own journey the marks of commitment, joy, error, surprise, and completion.

Happy Easter!
Jon



■ *Church Events*

April 21st is Easter! Please come early for the 10:30 a.m. worship service for our now annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. We will gather outside at 10:00 to hunt. Teens and Tweens can gather with Sheila at 9:30 to set out the eggs! Bring a basket if you'd like to transfer your eggs into it. Each child will get a half dozen egg carton to collect their eggs in and we will have paper bags for them to take their goodies home. The Easter Egg is a beautiful symbol of the new life of Christ that we celebrate. Join the fun! Rain or shine!

Monthly Financial Report

February 2019	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$26,655.79	\$36,123.74	\$108,405.56	**\$112,753.99
Total Expenses	\$40,857.29	\$49,415.89	\$81,025.22	\$104,856.79
Net	(\$14,201.49)	(\$13,292.15)	\$27,380.34	\$7,897.20

**Budgeted total revenues include anticipated withdrawals from Rowley investments necessary to balance the budget totaling \$40,954 for the year.

Contributions:

Pledged contributions are above budget due to prepayments in January.

Non-pledged contributions are below budget \$7,500.

Loose offering is below budget \$700.

Overall income is below budget by \$4,350.

Expenses:

Overall expenses are below budget by \$24,000.

Personnel costs are below budget by \$12,000 due to evaluations and wage increases that will occur during the year.

At February 28, 2019, revenues exceeded expenses by \$27,380.

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending February 28, 2019.

June/July 2019 Script

June/July script will be distributed on Sunday, May 26, 2019.

Please have your articles and pictures about activities sent to wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by noon on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Westminster Presbyterian Members



♦ Death - James D. Gray, March 18, 2019

 *From The Church Office*

Worship Attendance Statistics

Year	2018	2019
January	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
week 1	97	136
week 2	109	133
week 3	166	46*
week 4	120	110
February	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
week 1	159	132
week 2	151	122
week 3	135	138
week 4	158	141

* Severe snow storm

LENT AND EASTER DATES 2019

Palm Sunday: April 14
Service at 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday: April 18
Communion Service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 19
Service at noon

Easter Sunday: April 21
Communion Service (patio) at 8:00 am
& Communion Service at 10:30 am

Five at Five Concert Season Twenty Two 2019-20

- 🎵 **September 8, 2019** - Colin McKnight: Solo Organ Recital
- 🎵 **October 20, 2019** - Westminster Presbyterian Choir and Area Choirs: Choral and Organ Concert
- 🎵 **November 17, 2019** - Les Délices: Medieval Music Concert
- 🎵 **March 15, 2020** - Andrew Sords: Violinist
- 🎵 **May 3, 2020** - Wright Family Singers: Gospel Music Concert

Talent Show and Chili Tasting

The Westminster Talent Show and Chili Tasting on March 9 was a success thanks to the many artists and performers of all generations who stepped up to share their talents!





Over 90 church members gathered to enjoy the show and the delicious chili. Many thanks to all the cooks!



Special congratulations go to those crowned winners in the categories of **'Best All-Around Chili'** (Harriet and Harlow Cutler); **'Most Creative'** (Shirley Werner), and **'Spiciest'** (Helen Preebe).



 *Encounter*

Presbyterian Women

PW Spring Gathering **Saturday, April 6** at noon.
at Bravo Restaurant (Summit Mall). Any questions? Call Margo at 330.396.0408.

 *Church Life*

Graduate Recognition

May 19 is a special day for the congregation to recognize members for their accomplishments during the academic year. This could be a student receiving a high school diploma, college degree, seminary, graduate school, medical school, law school etc. Please contact the office to share your accomplishments with us! Be sure to tell your family and friends to join us in worship on May 19 to help us celebrate your accomplishments.

Greeting Card Ministry

We started card signing before and after Sunday Services in February. Cards signed by church members show how much we care. There will be cards for Thinking of You, Illness, Sympathy, Birthday, and Birth of a Baby. There also may be occasion for other reasons to send cards. The cards will be on the first round table as you enter Wright-Herberich Hall from the Sanctuary. Each week there will be new cards on the table. Please join in signing the cards and filling them with your signatures.

Information to Know



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 would enjoy helping with this project 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 May 11.

Perennial Sale

Saturday, May 11 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. our Annual Celtic Garden Perennial Sale runs concurrently with the West Akron Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. The sale this year is the day before Mother's Day.



Plan to stop by and purchase some freshly dug perennials from our garden for gift giving. Please consider dividing perennials from your own garden to donate to our sale. Plants (please indicate the variety) should be brought to the Celtic Garden on or before Friday, May 10. Any plants remaining will be available for purchase on Sunday morning after Worship. Proceeds will be used to purchase the annuals that we add every year; adding/replacing perennials; supplies and water required to maintain healthy plants.

Announcements

Artistry In Worship

Are you interested in deepening Westminster's connection with artistry in worship? Would you like to take part in a dramatic presentation, assist with costumes, direct participants, or write a script for adults to enact? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Nancy Keogh or Earl Pierson, co-Moderators of the Worship Committee, to express how you might like to become involved.

Interested In Preaching?

If our pastor was to become ill on short notice, which is more than possible with two small children at home, finding a suitable clergy replacement may not be possible. Having the congregation sing hymns on such an occasion is one option. Another is reaching out to the congregation. If you have written a sermon (or might be willing to write one) to deliver on short notice, or are interested in preaching when our pastor is on vacation or study leave, then please contact Reverend Hauerwas.

Spring Cleaning Time

Please join fellow members on **Saturday, April 13** from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. as we embark on a much needed church Spring Cleaning. Sign up to volunteer in WHH today... your help will be greatly appreciated!



There will be items for trash, donation, recycling and 'up for grabs'. Some items are decades old! Those who come may get a 'treasure' to take home. We have metal folding chairs, tables, cabinets, coat racks, etc...

Earth Care Corner

Did you know that there are 46,000 pieces of plastic per sq. km. in Lake Erie? Remember: skip the plastic straw, the bottle, and the bag! For more ideas to lessen your footprint: www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent-lent-calendar/.

Recycle CD's & DVD's

Have old CD's or DVD's laying around the house? At the Connection Point in WHH during the month of April, there will be a collection box so that we can keep these out of the landfill and support The CD Recycling Center of America.



Adult Education

In-Depth Conversations

This Lent, daily evotionals have focused on pieces of art intended to engage your senses, stimulate your mind, and strengthen your faith. On **April 7 and 14**, Pastor Hauerwas will be leading more in-depth conversations on these pieces of art. We look forward to hearing your perspectives at 9:30 a.m. in room 106.



Tween Service Project

April 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Tween Earth Day Service Event

April 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May 2019 Teacher Appreciation and
Last Day of Church School **May 26**

Godly Play Parent & Teacher Training

Godly Play Training recap

15 adults and 10 children were able to attend the workshop on the Spirituality of Childhood on Friday March 1st. Rev. Emily Griffith, a certified Godly Play trainer, was able to look at what children need from us to support their ongoing spirituality. The acronym SPIRIT helps us remember: S space, P process, I imagination, R relationship, I intimacy and T trust. On Saturday Rev. Griffith returned to help train 9 teachers (Kara Hoffman, Susan Hudson, Kyle & Kathryn Vuchak, Kevin Melver, Jamie Willis, Lisa Bansen-Harp, Jon Hauerwas and Sheila Svoboda) in this wonderful curriculum. As I drove her to the airport she raved about the quality of persons we have teaching. We are indeed blessed!

April 28 is our Tween Environmental Service Event.

We have teamed up with Keep Akron Beautiful to clean up Hardesty Park. You don't need to be a Tween to help. All are welcome. We will have some pizza in the Tween room and then walk over to Hardesty. Keep Akron Beautiful give us safety guidelines and materials for collecting the trash. There are other groups all over Akron during the month of April cleaning shared community space. Many hands make light work!

Our last day of Sunday School for the children will be **May 22**.

VBS - The Gospel according to Dr. Seuss
July 8-11 9:15-12 noon 4^{YRS} - 6th grade

Youth Ministry

Sub Sale

The Sub Sale was a great success. Thank you to all who ordered and donated to the Youth Ministry!

Annual LockIn

On April 5-6th the Youth will be having their annual LockIn and Service project. We will meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. for dinner. Then from 6:00-8:00 p.m., we will go to One of a Kind Pets for our service project. After that we will head back to church for games, snacks, movies and painting!

Upcoming events

June 6: Cedar Point

Children's Ministries

WPC Children & Family Events 2019
April 21, 2019 all church Easter Egg Hunt



Who Is God?

Starting on Easter Sunday (April 21), and continuing for six weeks, the adult education class will tackle the intriguing question, "Who is God?" We will see what ancient Israel understood about God including God's identity as the Creator. Then we will consider the problems posed by the apparent conflict between God's love and God's justice, including the problem of suffering and evil in the world.

Finally, we will discuss how the unknowable God has become known through Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. Join us on Sundays in room 106 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Rae Leonard.



3rd Sunday Dinner Volunteers Needed

Please join WPC Outreach and volunteer at one of the monthly third Sunday dinners. Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, clean and donate desserts. Reach out to Gert Wilms at (330)501-7483 or gertrudewilms@gmail.com to sign up for a date and an assignment.

2 Cents for Hunger

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat."

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger.

Whenever our congregation gathers to share a meal, you may notice a can on your table marked "2 Cents for Hunger." If you are interested in making a contribution of any amount, your donations will be gratefully received.

Westminster sends the “2 Cents for Hunger” collection directly to the Akron-Canton Foodbank every quarter. The Finance Office does not accept checks to be forwarded. Thus, checks payable to the Foodbank should be mailed directly to the organization by the donor. Checks written to Westminster Presbyterian Church with “2 Cents for Hunger” in the memo will be deposited into the WPC bank account and added to the cash collected for the quarterly payment to the Foodbank.

Mission Service

Are you interested in participating in hands-on mission service? If so, then please join members of Westminster at the Haven of Rest, located at 175 E Market St. in downtown Akron from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., each fourth Wednesday of the month. On those evenings, our team is responsible for setting up tables, serving, and cleaning up a meal for 30 women and some teenagers/children and approximately 150 men.

The Haven of Rest offers residential services as part of its ongoing ministry. However, all of the individuals who are served by our team on the fourth Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. are entering the facility from off the street. For this reason, all volunteers must be at least 15 years old to participate. For additional opportunities available to those aged 6 - 14, please contact Jan Pluck at Haven of Rest at 330-535-1563. If you have questions about Westminster's involvement on the fourth Wednesdays, please contact Becky Harlow at becky buc33@gmail.com or simply ring the bell at the back door near the loading dock at the appointed time to be granted access to the facility.

Your help is appreciated even if you are available for only part of the evening. Parking can be found in an adjacent lot.

Flowers for Easter Sunday



Your contributions, given as memorials of loved ones, will enable the Flower Committee to provide a beautiful setting in the Sanctuary for our Easter celebration. A list of the donors together with the names of loved ones will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and send it to the attention of Debby Evrard. There is no set amount.

You can give electronically on WPC website, under “online giving.” at: www.westminsterakron.org

The deadline is Monday, April 8, 2019.

- Options are: ☐ In Loving Memory of
(Please check one) ☐ In Memory of
☐ In Honor of

Your name: _____

Donation Amount: _____