

February/March 2020 Script

Feb./March script will be distributed on Sunday, January 28, 2020.
Please have your articles and pictures about activities sent to
wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by noon on Monday, January 13, 2020.

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

WPC Staff

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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The Script December 2019-January 2020

Pastor's Corner

Recently, my mother-in-law, Le, forwarded a message that read, “If you live in a pastor’s home - you have the right to remain silent because anything you say or do may be used in a sermon illustration.” Being well acquainted with my type, she jokingly added, “I wish I had known this a few years ago!” Stories are powerful. Long before any of us considered seminary, ministers were moved by the accounts found in the gospels and by the testimonies of other faithful disciples. As clergy, we now revisit these narratives on a weekly basis.

Telling stories, especially when the content is contemporary and the subjects are known, is freighted with risk. This is why, when sharing events involving those I love, I never intend to demean or embarrass them. Instead, I try to be thoughtful and discerning. I recognize that their story is a gift, and I view it as my responsibility to tell their story with sensitivity, fairness, and respect.

Still, I regularly take the risk of telling other people’s stories because compelling narratives

(cont’d.)

draw us in and make us want to hear more. Sometimes, a well-positioned illustration can even help to understand an ancient truth in a new way. Christmas is the time each year when Jesus’ narrative is born. Tellingly, he didn’t write a memoir and he didn’t dictate the gospels. Instead, others told his story for him, and for this we give thanks.

With expectation,
Jon



Church Events

Advent/Christmas Worship Celebrations

- ♦ **Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m.**
Children’s Christmas Pageant
- ♦ **Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 a.m.**
Lessons and Carols Service
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 24 - Two Christmas Eve Services**
 - ♦ **at 5:00 p.m.**
Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 - ♦ **at 7:30 p.m.**
Jazz Worship Service featuring Theron Brown and Friends: Christopher Coles, Jordan McBride, Zaire Darden, and Tommy Lehman.



Vespers
at Westminster

- ♦ **Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 a.m.**
Sunday Morning Worship

Stewardship 2020
Status Update as of November 17, 2019

2020 Pledge Chart:	2020 <u>Revised Goal</u>	Actual <u>@ 11/17/19</u>
\$ 0 to \$ 499	32	12
\$ 500 to \$ 999	15	9
\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,499	45	34
\$ 2,500 to \$ 4,999	25	20
\$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999	15	12
\$ 10,000 and over	3	3
Total Family Unit Pledges	135	90
Total Pledge \$	\$ 350,000	\$ 291,206

We still remain very encouraged by the results through November 17 and trust we will make our achievable Goals.

We are thankful for the generous support shown. If you haven’t pledged, please complete the pledge cards and mail or drop off at Church. A reminder letter and pledge card was mailed to 95 family members on November 20 and we expect to wrap up the Campaign by December 31.

God Is Great and with us every day!

Monthly Financial Report

October 2019	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$44,876.36	\$52,911.24	\$483,885.46	*\$507,731.46
Total Expenses	\$44,084.37	\$55,111.31	\$449,108.56	\$514,178.91
Net	\$791.99	(\$2,200.07)	\$34,776.90	(\$6,447.45)

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

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending October 31, 2019.

Year-End Gifts and Contributions

Just a reminder that your year-end gifts must be physically delivered to the Finance Office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2019 to be included on your 2019 Giving Statement according to IRS regulations regarding tax deductions allowable in a specific year.

The church offices will be closed on Christmas Eve Day and Christmas Day, December 24 and 25, as well as December 31 and January 1. **Because we will be closed on December 31 we will need all contributions by Monday, December 30.**

Contributions received during worship on December 29 will be included in 2019 giving. Thank you for your generous support of Westminster Presbyterian Church during 2019.



Education for children, tweens and youth will NOT be held on Sunday, December 22 and December 29. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Adult Education WILL be offered December 22 and December 29. Please read the article for class offerings under Adult Education/ Bible Study (page 9).

Church Office Closed

Please note when the church office will be closed over the holiday season:

- ♦ Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 , and 25.
- ♦ Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31 and January 1, 2020.



WPC Giving Tree

A Christmas tree will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 1, 2019. Handmade or store-bought scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves are welcome and can be brought to the church and placed on or under the Christmas tree during the month of December.

The scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens will be taken to Access, shelter for homeless Women and children, after Christmas.



Christmas Food Baskets

Our annual Christmastime delivery of food baskets to Greater Akronites in need will take place on **Saturday, December 14.** The groceries purchased from Acme #1 will be assembled in the church parking lot beginning at 7:30 a.m. with deliveries beginning at 9:00 a.m. You can help make another family's Christmas a little brighter by delivering and/or contributing money to help fill the baskets. Donations are of vital importance this year as we fell short of our goal last year and consumed our

available surplus. Each basket should cost \$50, but any donation amount is appreciated. Special donation envelopes will be in the pews for your convenience, or you can give on-line at westminsterakron.org under "electronic giving." We also need plenty of volunteers to make this a success. Please sign-up for basket assembly and/or delivery at the Connection Point in Wright-Herberich Hall.



Flower Memorials 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 Debby Evrard. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The deadline is **Tuesday, December 17, 2019.** You may also give electronically under "chancel flowers". Email Debby at wpcfinance1250@gmail.com with your memorial wording.

Westminster Presbyterian Baptism

- ♦ Owen Andrew Walston was baptized on November 10, 2019.



Polly Fisher Long-Time Member

- ♦ Congratulations, Polly, on your birthday (100 year-old) on December 7, 2019.

Worship Attendance Statistics

Year	2018	2019
September	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
week 1	95	109
week 2	150	132
week 3	153	127
week 4	133	122
week 5	193	146 (10 a.m.) 91 (4:00 p.m. Vespers)
October	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
week 1	154	127
week 2	159	131
week 3	138	125
week 4	129	162

Music Director/Organist Search Committee



The August - September Script outlined the committee's progress toward filling the position of Westminster's permanent Music Director/Organist. Our initial task was to secure an interim director. We

have been fortunate to find the talented, energetic and very experienced Valerie Thorson to fill that position. She has been doing a wonderful job since joining us on September 1. Our search is ongoing for a permanent replacement.

We have been receiving applications and are in the process of reviewing them. However, the response to our search is moving slowly. We have not received the number of qualified applicants that we expected. Therefore we have extended Valerie's position as interim to August 1, 2020. This will allow for continuity of our wonderful music program at Westminster and she will be able to work on planning our next 5@5 season. Our goal is to select the right person who will continue the outstanding tradition of music at Westminster. To help us find the right candidate we have researched all the possible job sites and have posted the position on multiple sites.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress. But in the meantime, please keep the committee in your prayers and continue to enjoy and participate in, if you like, the marvelous Westminster music programs.

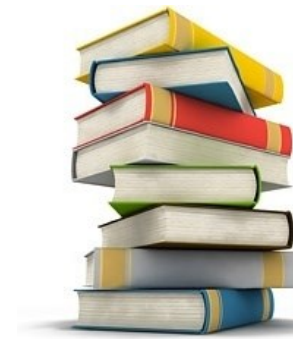


Hanging of the Greens

On December 1, following our worship service, you are invited to join fellow Deacons, Discipleship, and Worship committee members in Wright-Herberich hall for this yearly event. Upon completion of everyone's hard work lunch will be provided with tremendous appreciation for those who are able to contribute a small portion of their time and talent. And put Sunday, January 5 on your calendar for clean-up!

 *Grow*

WPC Book Group



12/09/19 Harry Finds A Good Murder, Neal Enrick.

Informal discussion with the author. We will be reading the first of a series of mystery novels by Neal Enrick (WPC's very own author). The series is set in the 1950's and features private eye Harry Bittercress. Join us for our holiday tradition of a less formal dinner meeting, this year at El Rancho

Mexican restaurant just down Exchange street from the church. Note that we will be meeting at 6:30 rather than 7.

1/13/20 The Other Einstein, Marie Benedict.
Led by Suzanne Grafinger.

A historical novel based on the life of Mileva Maric, Albert Einstein's first wife who was his professional collaborator and a brilliant physicist in her own right.

2/10/2020 The Giver of Stars, Jojo Moyes.
 Led by Cathy Melder
 A historical novel about the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky, a group of women who ran mobile libraries in the 1930s.

As always all bookworms are welcome to join in our informal and wide-ranging discussions.



Church Leadership

We are grateful to the leaders of our congregation who have completed their terms of service (ending in 2019).

Elders

James Gray
 Alec Works
 Ed Labbe
 Marcia Holcomb

Deacons

Sandra Gruneich
 Marian Wahl
 Margo Works
 Susan Shellito
 Eric Jopperi
 James Lee
 Barbara Thackeray

Endowment Trustees

Tom Koutnik
 Art Schooley
 Ralph Davis

Nominating Committee

Phil Fry
 Ginny Melder
 Ed Labbe
 Marian Wahl
 Margo Works
 Marge Rearick
 Ellen Daugherty

At the same time, we are thankful for those who have agreed to serve in leadership for the coming year. With deepest appreciation, they are:



Reverse Halloween Party at Ohio-Living Rockynol.

Family Ice Skating

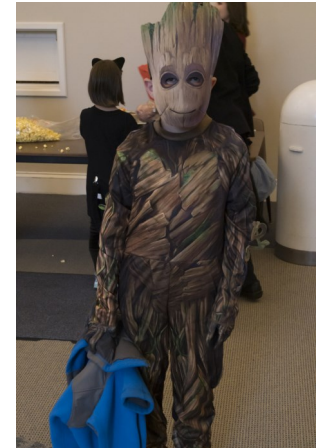
Sunday, January 5 is the day for our Annual Ice Skating Event for families from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Lock 3 has Ohio's largest seasonal ice skating rink. Skating is \$4 (includes rental) or only \$2 with your own skates. (Must sign waiver).

Also there are other activities at Lock 3 including: 9 holes of indoor putt-putt golf that winds through festive holiday decor. \$3 for 9 holes. Ages 3 and under are free. You can putt-putt for \$1 with the purchase of ice skating.

Reindeer Run is an all-season polymer coated slide designed to provide a fun ride for children 14 and under. Adults may accompany children on the slide. Only sleds provided by Lock 3 may be used and are rented for \$3.

The Akron Children's Museum will also be open asking a \$5 admission fee for all over 12 mos. There's a lot to do! We will provide snacks and fellowship. Join us!



Youth Ministry 2019-2020 Calendar

- Advent Family Night—December 1, 2019
Following the Family Potluck, the youth are hosting the movie “The Star” and a hot chocolate bistro for everyone along with a Nativity making project.
- Youth Tubing/Sledding + Super Bowl Sub Sale—February 1, 2020
- Youth Service Project and Lock-in—April 3-4, 2020
- End of Year Youth Outing (TBA)—June 8, 2020



Youth Hike at Nature Realm FA Sieberling (October 13, 2019)



Movie Night “The Star”

Children’s Ministries

Our first pageant rehearsal is at 4:00 p.m. on December 1. Everyone involved with the pageant should attend! Directly following we have a mouthwatering Family Potluck at 5:00 p.m. followed by movie night ...for one and all! The movie ‘The Star’ will be played up in the youth room with a hot chocolate bar and goodies. We will also be putting together Nativity scenes that you can take home.

The Children’s Pageant is during worship on December 15.

Terms Beginning January 2020

Elders		Expiring
Rob Gilbert	1 st Term	2022
James Gray	2 nd Term	2022
Sandra Gruneich	1 st Term	2022
Ginny Melver	1 st Term	2022
Deacons		Expiring
David Allison	1 st Term	2021
Bill Bramley	1 st Term	2021
Walter Hayes	1 st Term	2021
Marcia Holcomb	1 st Term	2021
Andi Jopperi	1 st Term	2021
Kris Keller	1 st Term	2021
Kevin Spring	1 st Term	2021
Nominating		Expiring
Diane Allison	1 st Term	2020
Ed Labbe	2 nd Term	2020
Marge Rearick	2 nd Term	2020
Marian Wahl	2 nd Term	2020
Margo Works	2 nd Term	2020
Endowment		Expiring
Ralph Davis	3 rd Term	2022
George Leidy	1 st Term	2022
Alec Works	1 st Term	2022



History Project



The Membership Committee has organized and sorted the annual reports and is currently compiling some of Westminster's historical documents.

Our history has been documented for 60 years, from 1936-1996. We now have annual reports from 1999-present. That means that we are missing the annual reports from 1997 and 1998.

We need assistance in compiling the information. If anyone is interested, please contact our pastor.



Acme Cash Back Program

Please remember to continue to save Acme receipts until **December 28, 2019** to help support the missions of the Presbyterian Women.

Adult Education/Bible Study

December/Christmas: God's Promises Fulfilled

The advent hymn "Come Thou Long-expected Jesus" describes him as "Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth." How do we interpret this extravagant claim? In December we will be studying how God's promises throughout the Bible have been fulfilled in Jesus' coming. We will explore the connections between God's promises made in Old Testament times and the ways Jesus linked himself to those promises. We will also see how the New Testament explains Jesus' establishment of a "new" covenant as a fulfillment of the "old." Come join us at 9:30 a.m., on Sunday mornings, in room 106.

January Bible Study

Have you ever noticed that some scriptures are troubling, at best? Not long following the joy and excitement of Jesus' birth, we learn, for example, of the slaughter of the innocents. Bring your curiosity, questions, and observations and join Pastor Jon each Sunday morning in January at 9:30 a.m., in Room 106, for spirited discussions of these texts of terror.

WPC Men's Club

The WPC Men's Lunch Group has had great meetings already this fall. Now as we approach the winter season, we will be meeting on the second Monday of each month - December 9 and January 13. The staff at the Olive Garden in Montrose look forward to providing us with friendly service and excellent food. All men of Westminster are invited and welcome to lunch from the menu. While our purpose is social, some of the discussions may be about activities of the Church. Pastor Jon joins us whenever his schedule permits. Mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing you at our 11:30 meetings. For more information please call Art Schooley at 330-666-3816.