#### Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- We do our best to answer your phone calls weekday mornings.
- You may be directed to our automated answering service at other times.
- We strive to provide access to the church building during office hours through our callbox in the rear of the church building.
- Please call ahead and inquire about building access if you are coming after 2:00 p.m.

WEEKLY DEADLINE for information to be included in the Sunday *Update and Sunday bulletin is Tuesday at noon.* 

#### **WPC Staff**

ihauerwas.wpc@gmail.com The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor (office hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 9:30-11:00 am)

(cell phone 330-606-4551)

wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com Valerie Thorson, Interim Music Dir./Organist

(weekly office days: Tuesday—Thursday)

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

(weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)

Mallory Gray, Youth Coordinator wpcyouth1250@gmail.com

(weekly workdays: Tuesday and Thursday)

Claudine Schooley, WPC Church Office wpcoffice1250@gmail.com

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

Debby Evrard, Staff Accountant wpcfinance1250@gmail.com

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

wpcbuilding@gmail.com Dave Bodnar, Daytime Custodian

(weekly workdays: Sunday—Thursday)

Zack Troyer, Director of Adult & Youth Bells, and Children's Choir

wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com (cell phone 330-285-0213) Traci Range, Director of Childcare wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com

(cell phone 330-459-1177)



Westminster Presbyterian Church 1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313 westminsterakron@gmail.com - 330-836-2226 www.westminsterakron.org



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

1250 W Exchange • Akron, Ohio • westminsterakron.org • 330-836-2226



At the ringing of the carillon please silence your cell phones and conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God. Bolded text is read or sung by all. \*Please rise in body or spirit.

To the parents of our young children Sit toward the front, where it's easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

## **COME**

Voluntary Three Settings of "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Wayne Barlow - J.S. Bach - Dietrich Buxtehude

\*Call to Worship

**Brad Hall** 

My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. The Mighty One has done great things. Holy is God's name!

Choral Introit Soon and Very Soon

Andrae Crouch

\*Hymn 14 Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Polly Fisher** 

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by making straight all that is crooked. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Let us prepare for Jesus, the Christ, who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.

For as a garden causes seed to grow, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

# **ENCOUNTER**

**Prayer of Confession** 

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless

# Calendar of Church Building Events For December 15—22, 2019

Sunday, 12/15 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Pageant Children Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8:45 am Child Care Center Opens

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

9:30 am Education for All

10:30 am Worship/Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)

11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship/Celebrating Polly Fisher (WHH)

5:00 pm 3rd Sunday Dinner

Monday, 12/16

3:00 pm Beyond Suffering/Disability Class (Room 106)

**Tuesday**, 12/17

9:30 am Prayer Quilt Ministry (WHH)

Wednesday, 12/18

1:00 pm Sewing Circle (Room 106) 4:15 pm Adult Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

**Thursday**, 12/19

9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting (Library)

12:00 pm Bible Study (Library)

Friday, 12/20 No Activities Planned

**Saturday**, 12/21

8:00 am Food for Life (Kitchen)

Sunday, 12/22 4th Sunday of Advent

8:45 am Child Care Center Opens 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

9:30 am Education/Adults Only (Room 106)

10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)

11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (WHH)

#### Welcome to our worship this morning!

Join us after worship today in Wright-Herberich Hall for coffee, fellowship, and to celebrate Polly Fisher.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES, HYMNALS, CHILDREN'S BIBLES AND ACTIVITY BOXES are available. Please ask an usher.

USHERS are Bob Leonard (Head Usher), Raphael Peoples, Earl Pierson, Don Rearick, and Phil Fry.

VISITORS If you are new to Westminster, please pick up your welcome bag that is in the entrance to the church.

## **COME - ENCOUNTER - GROW - SERVE**

FLOWER MEMORIAL FOR CHRISTMAS The deadline is Tuesday, **December 17, 2019**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 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 NOT be offered on Sunday, **December 29**.

GIVING TREE Please donate new gloves, hats, scarves and socks this holiday season to benefit adults and children in the Access Shelter. Place all donations on or under the giving tree in the sanctuary this December.

YEAR-END GIFTS 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**, **2019**.

CHILDREN ICE SKATING Please join us **January 5**, **2020** at 3:00 p.m. at Lock 3 for a Family Ice Skating outing. \$2.00 if you have your own skates and \$4.00 if you need to rent them. This is an annual event and refreshments are provided.

To be continued, see the insert

when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response 574 Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Assurance of Forgiveness** 

\*Response 479, verse 1 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven LAUDA ANIMA++

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; Glad of heart your carols raise; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who, like me, should sing God's praise? Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

\*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying, "The peace of Christ be with you."

Time for Church Life

Please sign the friendship pad and pass it to those seated near you. If you are the last person to sign on that page, please tear it out and leave it on the pew for the ushers to pick up after the service.

We invite parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and admirers to sit back during the pageant and take in the full message the children are working so hard to give us. We have a volunteer who will be videotaping it and is willing to send you a link if you request. Send your link request to: kyates.gable@gmail.com

The Christmas Story

See the list of participants in the insert

Following the pageant, children are to return to their families. During the time for the offering, children are to bring their gifts forward for the Children Services Holiday Toy Room.

Call for the Offering

Offertory Mary, Did You Know?

Arr. Jack Schrader Zachary Troyer, soloist

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kissed your little baby, Then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again; The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the great, the great I AM!

\*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

After the OFFERTORY, 3 through 5 year-olds are invited to Room 104 for age-appropriate activities. Kindergarteners through 6th graders are invited to children's choir rehearsal in Room 207 of the Education Building. Parents and guardians, please pick up your children following worship in WHH.

**GROW** 

Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson Isaiah 35:1-4c, 5-8d

Pew Bible, Old Testament Pg. 663

The Second Lesson Luke 1:46b-55 Pew Bible, New Testament Pg. 57
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!** 

Sermon Rejoice

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

#### **SERVE**

\*Affirmation of Faith

from Westminster Confession

God was pleased, in God's eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, to be the mediator between God and human beings. As the mediator, he is the prophet, priest, and king, the head and Savior of the church, the heir of all things, and the judge of the world. God gave to him, from all eternity, a people to be by him, in time, redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

Prayers of the People, Silent Reflection and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*Hymn 600 Song of Mary

**MORNING SONG** 

\*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

++ This response takes the place of the *Gloria Patri* during Advent.