

## 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

The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor (office hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 9:30-11:00 am) (cell phone 330-606-4551)	jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com
Valerie Thorson, Interim Music Dir./Organist (weekly office days: Tuesday—Thursday)	wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com
Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children & Family Ministry (weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)	wpcchildren1250@gmail.com
Mallory Gray, Youth Coordinator (weekly workdays: Tuesday and Thursday)	wpcyouth1250@gmail.com
Claudine Schooley, WPC Church Office (weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday)	wpcoffice1250@gmail.com
Debby Evrard, Staff Accountant (weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)	wpcfinance1250@gmail.com
Dave Bodnar, Daytime Custodian (weekly workdays: Sunday—Thursday)	wpcbuilding@gmail.com
Zack Troyer, Director of Adult & Youth Bells, and Children's Choir (cell phone 330-285-0213)	wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com
Traci Range, Director of Childcare (cell phone 330-459-1177)	wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com



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    Schlafe, mein Liebster (Christmas Oratorio)  
J.S. Bach/Arr. Pavel Bakovsky  
Stephanie Blaha, horn

\*Call to Worship    Luke 1:46-50    Jensen Ehrler

Our souls magnify the Lord!  
**Our Spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**  
The mighty One has done great things for us!  
**Holy is God’s name!**  
Let us worship God.  
**For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

Choral Introit    Soon and Very Soon    Andrae Crouch

\*Hymn 6    Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending    HELMSLEY

Lighting of the Advent Candles  
Mike Grau, Kate Huisinga, Sam and Ellie Grau

The advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God’s unending love and faithfulness.  
**The shepherds were the first to hear the joyful announcement of Christ’s birth - the good news of great joy for all the people.**  
Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.  
**We have also heard this wonderful news. We welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.**  
Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.  
**And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.**

Calendar of Church Building Events  
For December 22—29, 2019

**Sunday, 12/22    4th Sunday of Advent**  
8:45 am    Child Care Center Opens  
9:15 am    Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
9:30 am    Education/Adults Only (Room 106)  
10:30 am    Worship/ Volunteer Appreciation Sunday (Sanctuary)  
11:30 am    Coffee & Fellowship (WHH)

**Monday, 12/23**    No Activities Planned

**Tuesday, 12/24    Christmas Eve: 2 Services—Church Office Closed**  
3:45 pm    Adult Bell Choir (Sanctuary)  
4:00 pm    Chancel Choir and Brass Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
4:30 pm    Child Care Center Opens for Family Candlelight Service  
5:00 pm    Family Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)  
7:30 pm    Jazz Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

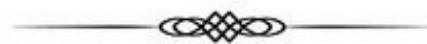
**Wednesday, 12/25    Merry Christmas—Church Office Closed**

**Thursday, 12/26**  
11:00 am    WPC Staff Meeting (Pastor’s Office)

**Friday, 12/27 & Saturday, 12/28**    No Activities Planned

**Sunday, 12/29    1st Sunday of Christmas**  
10:00 am    Child Care Center Opens  
10:30 am    Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30 am    Coffee & Fellowship (WHH)

- ♦ In Loving Memory of their parents from Arthur and Jean Schooley
- ♦ In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fortney, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sprinkle, Mr. Ron Gangle, Mr. George Schumacher, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schumacher, and Beatrice Hoefler by Patricia Schumacher and family
- ♦ In celebration of what would have been the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary for George & me on December 23<sup>rd</sup> from Patricia Schumacher
- ♦ In Loving Memory of John D. Thackeray from Barbara Thackeray, Amy & Brian Ketler, Laurie & Dan Hayes and their children
- ♦ In Loving Memory of Robert J. “Bob” Werner from Shirley Werner and family
- ♦ In loving memory of H.N.W. Willoughby (Maj. USAF Ret.) from Edie Willoughby
- ♦ In Memory of Martha & Woody Wilson from their family – Chuck, Holly & Dave Wilson
- ♦ In loving memory of Claude Wilton from Anna Marie & family



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY: IN DECEMBER WE HIGHLIGHT, **The Service and Outreach of Westminster Church.** Anyone who has been involved with service to the local, national, or global community through the work of this congregation. A small sampling of projects include: Donations of time and/or talent for First Sunday Food Collection, Third Sunday Dinner, Christmas Baskets, Giving Tree, Bridges Out of Poverty, Food for Life, Hope Totes, and Youth Earth Day. We also wish to recognize those who have provided gifts to special offerings of our denomination and Outreach Committee members.

## ENCOUNTER

Prayer of Confession

Jensen Ehrler

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**

*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

Jensen Ehrler

\*Response Hymn 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

Sam Gray

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.*

Offertory

Gabriel's Voice

Ian Higginson

*Mother most blessed with arms full of love Cradled the Saviour sent from above  
Born so that we may always rejoice At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice  
As he proclaimed before the dawn, Unto a virgin a child will be born.*

Warm in a manger there would he lay  
Sleeping so soundly safe in the hay  
Born so that man may always rejoice  
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice  
As he proclaimed after the dawn  
Unto a virgin a child will be born.

Shepherds kept watch over flocks in the night  
Gazing in awe,  
Their eyes filled with delight,  
Here was the Saviour; they would rejoice  
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice.

Behold a star above in the sky,  
Telling the Maji the Christ child is nigh.  
Bearing their gifts so precious and rare,  
Kneeling in homage in a stable so bare  
Jewels that shone and hearts that rejoiced  
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice.  
Amen, amen on this wondrous morn,  
Unto a virgin a child has been born.

\*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.**

Time with Young Disciples

*After the Time with Young Disciples, 3 through 6 year-olds are invited to  
the Nursery for age-appropriate activities. Grades K-8 will stay in worship  
with their family.*

GROW

First Lesson	Genesis 3:8-15	Josh Hayes Old Testament Pg. 3
Carol 1	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	STUTTGART
Second Lesson	Genesis 22:15-18	Dean Gable Old Testament Pg. 18
Hymn 601, verses 1, 3	Song of Zechariah	KINGSFOLD

- ♦ In Loving Memory of Jon Daugherty from Ellen Daugherty and family
- ♦ In memory of my wife Eileen O. Field and my parents, Frank L. Field, Sr. & Virginia C. Field from Frank L. Field, Jr.
- ♦ In loving memory of Thomas W. Fisher from Polly Fisher
- ♦ In honor of Duane & Joann Switzer, Doyle & Virginia Greene from Susan and Wayne Greene
- ♦ In memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Sears from Sandy Gruneich and family
- ♦ In loving memory of our parents, Dwight & Ariette Keller and William & Phyllis Spaethe from Phil and Kris Keller
- ♦ In loving memory of her husband, Jack Keogh, and her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Jones, Jr. by Dr. Nancy Jones Keogh
- ♦ In loving memory of Marilyn Labbe from Ed and Laurel Labbe
- ♦ In Loving Memory of Kaye Lebold from her family
- ♦ In memory of Fred Mathias from the Malone family
- ♦ In loving memory of our parents, Ann & Bob Tutt and Grace & Bob Melver from Bill and Ginny Melver
- ♦ In memory of our grandparents Hanna, Mever, Tutt and Ward from Catherine, Kevin & Zoe Mever
- ♦ In loving memory of our parents: Jess & Katherine Messaros and Carl & Fran Matthews from Marc & Peggy Messaros
- ♦ In Memory of Jarema and Maria Porchowsky, Frank and Dorothy Preebe, Ernest Biegacki and Anna Firko by Mark and Helen Preebe



**2019**  
**Christmas Poinsettias Memorials and Gifts**

- ♦ In loving memory of sister-in-law, Marilyn Albertson from Lou Albertson
- ♦ In honor of our grandchildren: Rob & Catherine Culp; Sarah, Hannah & Rebecca Stutler; Lauren & Kent Bailey
- ♦ In honor of Jo Barnes from Bruce & Pookie Barnes, Brittany Barnes, Nikki Barnes & Justin Catoni
- ♦ In memory of Hilda Love, our Gigi, from the Blaha family
- ♦ In Loving Memory of William B. Brideweser M.D from his family
- ♦ In loving memory of Phil Buehl and Dan D’Avello from Joan Buehl
- ♦ In loving memory of Henry & Mary S. Manton, Laurance & Sylvia Chapman, J.P. & Harriet Seiberling and John D. & Mary S. Chapman from Harriet D. Chapman
- ♦ In Loving Memory of Harold C. Colley from Jean Colley and family; also in loving memory of my parents, James and Emma Hodge
- ♦ We honor Harriet & Harloe Cutler as they celebrate their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Third Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Sam Gray Old Testament Pg. 638
Hymn 4	Creator of the Stars of Night, verses 1-3 CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM	
Fourth Lesson	Isaiah 11:1-9	Liam Hauerwas Old Testament Pg. 640
Carol 48	Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming	ES IST EIN’ ROS’
Fifth Lesson	Luke 1:26-38	Caden Labbe New Testament Pg. 56
Carol 16	The Angel Gabriel	GABRIEL’S MESSAGE
Sixth Lesson	Matthew 1:18-23	Holden Labbe New Testament Pg. 1
HYMN 5	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	PICARDY
Seventh Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	Sam Grau New Testament Pg. 58
Carol 36	In the Bleak Midwinter	CRANHAM
Eighth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-11	Pierce Ehrler New Testament Pg. 2
Carol 53	What Child Is This	GREENSLEEVES
Ninth Lesson	John 1:1-14	Gabby Gray New Testament Pg. 91
Carol 44	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ST. LOUIS
Solo:	Christmas Day	Gustav Holst/Don Abernathy <i>Stephanie Blaha, horn</i>

SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

After we refused to live in the image of God, Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of God. Being united in Christ’s humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in him. Come, Lord Jesus: We are open to your Spirit. We await your full presence. Our world finds rest in you.

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 12      People, Look East      BESANÇON

\*Charge and Benediction      2 Peter 3:13-15

Voluntary      Fughetta on “People, Look East”      Richard Shepherd

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

Welcome to our worship this morning!  
Join us after worship today in Wright-Herberich Hall  
for coffee and fellowship.

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

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.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! The last day for Presbyterian Women to earn community cash back for Acme receipts is **December 28**. Please turn in all your receipts to the box in WHH.

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**.

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL on **December 29, 2019 and January 5, 2020**.

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.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER Save the Date! We are offering an adult fellowship dinner (restaurant location TBD) on **Saturday, January 25, 2020**. Free childcare will be available at Westminster.