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Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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The Script February-March 2020

Pastor's Corner

Friends,

The holy season of Lent begins on February 26 with the observance of Ash Wednesday. That evening at 7:00 p.m., we will host a special worshipping opportunity featuring the imposition of ashes. That same day, we will also launch a series of electronic reflections for each of the 40 days. In the past, these reflections have included 40 Scriptures for 40 Days, 40 Quotes for 40 Days, 40 Words for 40 Days, and 40 Pieces of Art for 40 Days.

This year, we will highlight 40 Pieces of Music for 40 Days, along with a link including the audio and/or video. If you have a musical recommendation or recommendations for inclusion in this series, then please let me know. Selections will be in keeping with music ordinarily chosen for worship services or concerts at Westminster and will be thematically sacred.

(cont'd.)

In addition, if you would like to receive these daily reflections, then please contact our main office to be added to the list.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our next Jazz Vesper's service! On Sunday, March 29, Westminster will be offering two worshipping opportunities in our sanctuary. The theme for the day will be Healing and Wholeness. The 10:30 a.m. service that morning will feature the organ. Then, in the afternoon, we will welcome the return of Theron Brown and his team of talented jazz musicians for Vesper's worship at 4:00 p.m. May you feel God's presence this Lent.

Peace,
Jon



Church Events

Carnaval is coming!

On Saturday, **February 22** beginning at 5:30 p.m., Deacons and Discipleship will host an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and feathers for the congregation.

Come to Wright-Herberich Hall to sample traditional foods of the season from different cultures. There will be a pancake race. Wear a mask and beads if you like! Children are invited to come disguised in a costume, as is the custom in a number of countries.

Guest musician and tango dance instructor Craig Herrington will be featured at this fun-filled event. Craig is a tango teacher and dancer based out of Cleveland, Ohio. His tango studies thus far have taken him across the Midwest and Northeast US. He has studied

Giving Statements

Giving Statements have been emailed to contributors who provided email addresses. Giving statements have been sent by regular mail to those who don't have email and have given an amount greater than the IRS threshold. Please contact Debby in the finance office if you have any questions or need another copy of your statement. Debby can be reached at wpcfinance1250@gmail.com or 330-836-2226.

What is it for?

Many of you give to Westminster through your bank's online BillPay service or through electronic giving. Often we receive your contribution and do not know if it is a payment towards your pledge or a gift for a special purpose. Please help us record your gifts accurately.

If you use your bank's online BillPay service, please include a note in the memo. If there is not enough room in the memo, please send us an email. Electronic banking does not forward any information. Please mark the appropriate category and send us an email if you have special instructions.

Thank you for your gifts to Westminster and its many ministries.

April/May 2020 Script

April/May script will be distributed on Sunday, March 29, 2020. Please have your articles and pictures about activities sent to wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by noon on **Tuesday, March 17, 2020.**

Stewardship Committee’s Report

Family Members,

The Stewardship Committee and Reverend Jon “Thank You” for your generous support, pledging consideration and your continued support in so many ways to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The results are in for our 2020 Stewardship Campaign and we had a 5% increase in number of pledges and overall increase of 8% in pledge dollars.

Pledge Chart Comparison:	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>
\$ 0 to \$ 499	14	17
\$ 500 to \$ 999	11	10
\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,499	40	37
\$ 2,500 to \$ 4,999	20	23
\$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999	13	15
\$ 10,000 and over	2	3
Total Family Unit Pledges	100	105
Total Pledge \$	\$298,874	\$321,901

The 2020 Actual will be updated if we receive additional pledges before the final 2020 Operating Budget is completed for Congregational approval on March 15.

God is Great and with us every day!

intensely with the Cleveland Tango School, and has taken workshops in Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York. Craig and Director of Music Valerie Thorson will present a short program for Bandoneon (an Argentine accordion used in tango orchestras) and piano, and then Craig will be demonstrating and teaching the Argentine tango.

Five at Five Concert

March 15, 2020

Season
Twenty Two



Andrew Sords,

American violinist, has a celebrated career as a soloist on 4 continents. Having collaborated with 300 orchestras, Sords has been cited for combining visceral

virtuosity with a ravishing tone, while international critics endorse Sords as “a fully formed artist” (Kalisz-Poland News), “utterly radiant” (Canada’s Arts Forum), and “exceptionally heartfelt and soulful” (St. Maarten’s Daily Herald). Mr. Sord’s program will consist of romantic violin tunes and bohemian favorites.

<http://www.andrewsords.com>

Announcements

Our Music Director and Organist Search Committee is pleased to announce that Valerie Thorson has been hired to serve as Westminster’s new Music Director and Organist. Val, who originally joined us in an interim capacity, has been a wonderful fit for our community. She has developed a great rapport with our choir, staff, and congregation. In time, it became increasingly clear that Val was the right person to lead our music ministry forward, and she was officially hired by Session on January 28, 2020. Please extend your congratulations and appreciation to Val for her service to our church.

Memorial Garden



In past Script articles, the Memorial Garden committee has updated you on the history of the garden, those interred there, its location, how to purchase the Interment Agreement, statements from members as to why they have chosen the garden and have hosted two open houses. But now it is time to meet the committee. Shelley Koutnik is the moderator. Jim and Barb Shriner, members of WPC for forty-four years, head up publicity. Phil Fry, Earl Pierson and Marcia Holcomb, also long-time church members, head up garden maintenance and planning (Phil and Earl) and secretary respectively. Kara Hauerwas heads up finance and other administrative duties. You can feel free to ask any of us questions you might have about the garden.

Also, in each article we include a Memorial Garden Thought. This one is entitled "To Those I Love And Those Who Love Me".

"When I am gone, release me, let me go. I have so many things to see and do, You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears. Be thankful for our beautiful years. I gave to you my love. You can only guess how much you gave to me in happiness. Thank you for the love you each have shown. But now it's time I travel on alone. So grieve awhile for me if you must. Then let your grief be comforted by trust. It's only for a time that we must part, so bless the memories within your heart. I won't be far away, for life goes on. So if you need me I will come. Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near. And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear all my love soft and clear. And then, when you must come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile and say ... Welcome Home!"

Pastor on Study Leave

The pastor will be on Study Leave from February 10-16. The Reverend Ben George will be speaking with the congregation on February 16 regarding camping ministries. For emergency pastoral care needs, please contact our office.

Pastor Jon was recently elected to serve on the Committee on Ministry for Eastminster Presbytery. You can find more information about the work of this committee at <https://www.eastminsterpresbytery.org/committees/ministry>.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please save the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, March 15.**

 *From the Finance Office*

Monthly Financial Report

December 2019	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$77,906.97	\$72,048.80	\$590,294.15	*\$620,979.01
Total Expenses	\$60,736.57	\$57,688.81	\$553,486.82	\$620,979.01
Net	\$17,170.40	\$14,359.99	\$36,807.33	\$0.00

*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 financial report detail for the period ending December 31, 2019. The final Financial Report for 2019 will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Worship Attendance Statistics

Year	2018	2019
November	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
week 1	131	133
week 2	115	149
week 3	107	112 5@5 (5:00 p.m.) 160
week 4	122	126
December	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
week 1	136	155
week 2	164 5@5 (5:00 p.m.) 251	146
week 3	222	194
week 4	158 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. 424	138
week 5	91	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. 351 7:30 p.m. 114

Befrienders' Bake Sale and Valentine's Flowers Delivery

The Deacons would like to thank all the bakers and buyers who made the Befrienders' bake sale a success. The funds collected, \$389.50, will be used to hand-deliver a vase of Valentine's flowers to each of the residents in Ohio Living-Rockynol's Assisted Living and Memory Care units, as well as to homebound WPC members and to those living in the Rockynol apartments and at Concordia, etc. If you are interested in helping with deliveries on Valentine's Day, contact Lisa Bansen-Harp at 330-836-5726 or at lbansenharp@hotmail.com.

Presbyterian Women

PW Spring Gathering

Save the Date: Saturday, April 25
at Rockynol's Carrell Center with luncheon,
discovery shop, and fashion show.



Adult Fellowship Dinner - January 25 at Spaghetti Warehouse



Adult Education

A Spiritual Journey Through Holy Week

Need a booster shot for your faith journey this spring? On the first five Sundays of Lent, our topic of study will focus on the main events of Holy Week: the Triumphant Entry, the Cleansing of the Temple, the Last Supper, the Arrest and Trial of Jesus, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. These bedrock events of the Christian faith were so important to the Gospel writers that they each devoted nearly a third of their writings to these topics.

Come explore the different ways to view and understand what God was doing in these events so that you are better able to receive this work of God for yourself and to celebrate it with new understandings. This series will begin on March 1 at 9:30 a.m. in room 106. If questions, contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com.



The 4 Gospel Writers with their respective symbol.

Chancel Flowers

Anybody interested in donating the chancel flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, should put his name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Wright-Herberich Hall and call Barbara Blackfan at 330-391-8868 (cell phone number) or at 234-466-8414 (home number).



Please note that Barbara will move to a new address on February 11, 2020. Those phone numbers will be in service at this date.

WPC Men's Lunch Group

The WPC Men's Lunch Group meets on the first Monday of the month - in this case February 10 and March 9. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden in Montrose.



ALL MEN of Westminster are invited and are welcome to select their lunch from the menu. We would love to see new additions to our group! While our purpose is social, some of the discussions may be about activities of the Church. Pastor Jon joins us whenever his schedule permits.

For more information please call Art Schooley at 330-666-3816.

New Member Class

Are you interested in membership? Please contact Pastor Jon at jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com to set up a date.

Spaethe Scholarships Available

The Spaethe Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in memory of longtime members Phyllis G. and William F. Spaethe, is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of the fund is to financially assist members of Westminster Presbyterian Church who are seeking to continue their education beyond the high school level.

Candidate requirements:

- ♦ Membership in Westminster Presbyterian Church
- ♦ No Age restriction
- ♦ Acceptance to and enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program
- ♦ College/University – Two or Four-year program
- ♦ Vocational/Technical school
- ♦ School of Applied Arts

Submission: Please submit a personal letter, which should include information pertinent to your academics, extracurricular activities, volunteer services, leadership roles, work experience and career goals.

Mail to: Attn.: Ms. Kristine Spaethe Keller
Scholarship Committee
1250 W. Exchange Street
Akron, Ohio 44313

Deadline: Sunday, May 3, 2020.



Spirited Discussions

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. Scriptures address topics including slavery, the subjugation of women, violence, and homosexuality in ways that have had a damaging and lasting impact on the lives of many.

Bring your curiosity, questions, and observations and join Pastor Jon each Sunday morning in January and February at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 for spirited discussions of these texts of terror.

WPC Book Group

2/10/2020 *The Giver of Stars* - a novel based on the story of the "pack horse librarians". This group of women distributed books on horseback in rural Appalachian Kentucky in the 1930s. *By Jojo Moyes*
- Cathy Melver

3/9/20 *The Nightingale* - a historical novel of World War II, from the point of view of women in Nazi-occupied France. *By Kristina Hannah*
- Nancy Keogh

Ushers Meeting

On Wednesday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. in room 106, there will be a meeting of all existing ushers, in addition to those who would like to learn more about our ushering teams. The Safety, Security, and Medical Task Force has been meeting regularly over the past year, and recently made a series of recommendations to Session that were adopted. In order to implement these recommendations, we will need to recruit and train additional ushers as well as expand the existing job description. To this end, we would really appreciate your participation and support. Please plan to join us!

Youth Ministry

* **Super Bowl Sub Sale**
Sunday, February 2,
 WPC Youth are raising funds for mission trips. On this date, you may pick up pre-ordered sandwiches. What a great addition to your Super Bowl party!

* **Youth Service Project at One of a Kind Pets and Lock-in**
Save the date: April 3-4



Children's Ministries

* **Tween Service Event with Good Neighbors**
 We have a service day for our Tweens on Saturday, February 8 at Good Neighbors. This food pantry is where we send the food we collect on the 1st Sunday of the month. It is great to bring the students here after all their years of collecting the food! We are scheduled to work there from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at 1453 Goodyear Blvd, Akron, OH 44305. If you have a Tween, let me know if you can join us. Sheila Svoboda wpcchildren1250@gmail.com.

* **VBS 2020**
Save the Date: July 6-9
 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, Monday—Thursday.

* **Camp Wakonda**
 Wow! We took a drive to Camp Wakonda in Sherrodsville, OH and we were impressed. It is well run, the grounds are beautiful, they have modern facilities (for a church camp) and dedicated staff.

The director of the camp, Rev. Benjamin George has a long history with the camp and was married there. We will welcome him here on Sunday, February 16, to talk to the Library Conversation crowd, preach at worship and be here after worship for questions. If you're looking for a camp for your child 4 yrs. to high school this is worth considering! There is already interest in a group of 3rd-5th grade children to attend the July 19-24 week called Treasure Hunters. Take a look at their website. <http://wakondacamp.org/index.html>.



Family and Children at the ice skating rink event Sunday, January 5.

