

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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

# The Script February-March 2021

Pastor's Corner

This year, Lent begins on February 17 with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Our service that evening typically includes the imposition of ashes. However, in the era of Covid-19, we recognize that ashes are not as readily available as the bread and juice we share during the Sacrament of Holy Communion. With this in mind, we have chosen to pursue an alternative, contemplative worship experience in the Taize tradition for Ash Wednesday in 2021. We hope that you will join us at 7 p.m. that evening on Facebook Live. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 28, and our online Maundy Thursday Communion service will take place at 7 p.m. on April 1.

Our "40 Days" Evotional series will continue this year with a focus on meaningful quotes for each of the 40 days.

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Throughout the season, you will receive daily online reflections from staff members and congregants. At a time when many of us have been separated from others within the family of faith, I hope that reading one another's reflections will bring us closer together as a church.

On a personal level, I know that we would all prefer to gather in-person this Lent. We are quickly approaching our second, consecutive Easter without the companionship and spiritual support of our shared, church family. The wait has been lengthy and painful. If you or someone in your family could benefit from a conversation with our pastor, a deacon representative, or a staff member, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here for you, we miss you, and we are praying for you often.

May God's peace be with you, Jon



# **Virtual Fellowship**

Zoom in on **Sunday**, **February 14 at 4:00 p.m.** to exchange virtual Valentines with your WPC friends. Log on again **Sunday**, **March 14 at 4:00 p.m**. Don't forget to wear a bit of green in honor of St. Patrick's Day! The link for the meeting will be provided in the weekly bulletin prior to the event.

#### **Outreach Committee - Food Distribution**

The First Sunday Food Collection will continue on February 7, 2021. The Tweens will be waiting to receive your food donation in the driveway behind the church from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Thank you for your generous donations to this ministry. Your food donations support Good Neighbors in East Akron and the Christ Woodland food pantry in West Akron. The March First Sunday Food Collection is scheduled for **March 6**.



#### Here is a list of our current needs:

- Canned Chicken
- Tuna and Hamburger Helper
- Canned Corn
- Rice Mixes like Knorr
- Pancake Mix
- Cereal (children's)
- Peanut Butter

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit, Applesauce
- Canned Green Beans
- Prepared Meals like Chef-Boyardee
- Pancake Syrup
- Cocoa Packets
- Jelly







#### **WPC Book Club**

As always, all WPC bookworms are welcome to join us for fellowship and informal discussions of a range of books. Meetings are on Zoom, second Mondays at 7:00 p.m. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Cathy Melver at chwdoc@gmail.com.



On **2/8/21** Nancy Keogh will lead our discussion of <u>The Alienist</u> by Caleb Carr, a crime thriller set in Gilded Age New York.

On **3/8/21** Ginny Melver will lead discussion of <u>The Splendid and the Vile</u> by Erik Larson, a historical novel of World War II and the Blitz.

On **4/12/21** Kristy Yates will lead us back into the world of Margaret Atwood's Handmaid's Tale with the sequel, <u>The Testaments</u>.

# **Adult Bible Study**

Looking for a way to enhance your Lenten journey this year? Try a Zoom Bible study. As we approach Easter, our Bible study group will be concentrating on the last few chapters of John's Gospel and his depiction of Jesus' death and resurrection - both how John understands these events and what they mean for each of us.



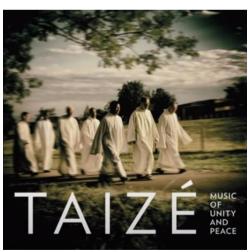
Come join us on Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316 so she can send you a Zoom link.

# **Music for Healing and Wholeness During Lent**

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We will be using prayers, scriptures, and hymns of Taizé (led by our Choral Scholars) for this meaningful and lovely candlelight service, live streamed at 7:00 pm.



Founded in France in 1940, the Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice. Ecumenism and Christian Unity are key to Taizé's appeal, making it a magnet for people of many different cultures and traditions.



The singing of distinctive and much-repeated prayer chants during candlelit prayer services is one of its hallmarks. Taizé music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, repeated or sung in canon. The repetition is designed to aid worshipers in prayer and meditation. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the music throughout Lent will be focused on the themes of Unity, Healing, and Wholeness.

~Valerie Thorson, Director of Music

## 2020 WPC Christmas Basket Delivery

This year's unique Christmas
Basket Delivery was a success! A
combination of 113 Acme gift cards and
87 food baskets were delivered on
Saturday, December 12. \$15,349 was
raised for this effort. Your generosity,
plus the efforts of 10 masked members of
the basket assembly team and 18 willing
delivery drivers ensured success this
year.

The baskets were distributed to needy families in Summit County identified by the Salvation Army. The gift cards went to families at Saferstein and Portage Trail Village apartments.



With a truck graciously donated by Stutler Leasing, a truckload of hams, canned and fresh food purchased from Acme #1 were unloaded by our intrepid volunteers, assembled and loaded into the cars of our delivery drivers eager to demonstrate the spirit of Christmas across Greater Akron. We actually loaded all baskets before all of the drivers arrived due to the willingness of so many drivers to deliver five or more baskets each.

# **Giving Tree Update**

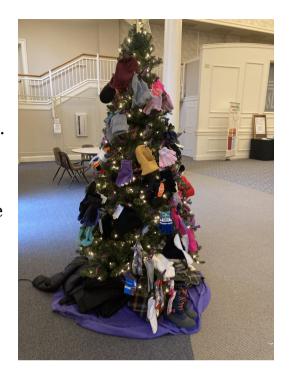
In the words of the Outreach Committee, "What A Haul". Almost 300 items were donated by Westminster members to the Giving Tree on behalf of ACCESS Inc, an agency dedicated to assisting with the many needs of homeless women and children.

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In addition to the usual donated items of hats, gloves, scarves and mittens, some of you took to heart our request to be imaginative. Thus, other items such as toothbrushes and floss, books, toys, boots and clothing came in.

All items were taken to ACCESS and were greatly appreciated by them. So the tree has been put back in storage awaiting a 2021 event that will hopefully be a little more normal.

The Outreach Committee appreciates all WPC members who helped make this event such a success.





# **Third Sunday Dinner**

Our passionate volunteers continue to give of their time and talents to prepare a homemade meal, free to anyone who comes, on the Third Sunday of every month. If you want to join this great group of volunteers, please sign up on our website, westminsterakron.org or contact Bridget Gilbert by email at bgilbert@gmail.com or by phone at 330.416.2127. Third Sunday Dinner is scheduled for February 21 and March 21, 2021.

http://www.westminsterakron.org/deacons-volunteers/free-third-sunday-dinner/



# **Monthly Financial Report**

The Finance Office continues to receive invoices and contributions relating to the 2020 budgeting year due to the postal delays recently experienced in our area. To insure that you receive an accurate accounting of 2020, the preparation of committee reports and the monthly financial report is delayed. The 2020 Financial Statements will be published in the Annual Report. Thank you for your patience.

# **Giving Statements**

Giving Statements will be emailed to contributors who provided email addresses. Giving statements will be sent by regular mail to those who don't have email and donated an amount greater than the IRS threshold. Please contact Debby in the Finance Office if you have any questions. Debby can be reached at <a href="wpcfinance1250@gmail.com">wpcfinance1250@gmail.com</a> or 330-836-2226.



#### Children's Ministries

## 1st Sunday Food Collection

We have tried to maintain certain activities at Westminster. Our monthly food collection is a meaningful and useful one. Every first Sunday the Youth or Tweens are stationed at the back doors from 1-2:30 p.m. to collect dry goods from church members. It is usually a pretty steady stream of cars with their donations and the helpers stay quite busy collecting the food and storing it in a classroom on the first floor.

Our schedule for helpers is as follows:

# February 7 — Youth March 7 — Tweens April 4 — EASTER Tweens May 2 — Tweens

We'd love to see you bring your canned food!

#### **Lent and Easter**

Our 2nd Covid Easter! Did you think last year that we'd be still doing this? I must say I am impressed that we've all adapted as best as possible and we continue to worship on Sundays (virtually) and mark the High Holidays of the Church Year.



Like our Advent/Christmas bags we will drop a bag of activities at the homes of families with children to remind you to spend Lent in a thoughtful way again this year. They will be dropped off the week of Feb. 15th. Ash Wed. is February 17th!

## **Youth Program**

Our seven youth (Caden, Kinsie, Gabby, Holden, Sam, Pierce, and Dean) have been meeting weekly via Zoom for Sunday school discussions with leadership from Mike Grau, Andi Jopperi, and Pastor Jon.

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They have also engaged in service projects, such as the first Sunday food collection, in rotation with the Tweens and adult volunteers. While Covid-19 has slowed some of our fellowship activities, the group is still going strong, especially considering the present limitations.

#### Confirmation

A new confirmation class began on January 10 with leadership from Pastor Jon and Marian Wahl. Westminster participants include Kinsie, Gabby, Holden, Sam, and Pierce. Not long after the class began, our pastor was approached by the Christian Education Committee at United Presbyterian Church of Cuyahoga Falls. UPC has been without pastoral leadership for two years and asked if their five students could join us this year. Following conversations with our Discipleship Committee, confirmation parents, and Session, the new students were gladly welcomed into our class.



# **Positively Speaking**

We encourage all members of the church to be open and active on our social media channels. During these difficult times, it is one of the many ways to communicate to each other. If you have feedback to share that may shed a negative depiction or have a concern about Westminster, please contact the appropriate committee and/or staff member



as social media comments are not only shown to members, but anyone in the community with access to our pages. We can all do our part to display a positive worship experience to visitors in our surrounding communities and the world!

#### Thank You Adam

Adam Kalcic has capably served as our part-time communications coordinator since September. We are grateful for his skill and attention to our website, Script newsletter, social media presence, and video needs. Adam recently accepted a full-time position at Hiram College where he will serve as their Website Administrator. His last date in Westminster's office will be Friday, January 29. We are grateful to you, Adam, for your good work on behalf of our congregation. While we are saddened to see you go, we wish you all the best in this next stage of your journey.

#### **Our Friends Who Have Entered Eternal Life**



**Arlene Pierson**, a long-time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, entered eternal life on December 2. She was 97 years old.

**Frank Field**, a long-time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, entered eternal life on December 20. He was 91 years old.



# WPC Worship Service is on Facebook Live every week at 10:30 a.m.

Follow us on Social Media: **Facebook** at Westminster Presbyterian Church, **Twitter** @WPCAkron and **Instagram.** 



The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com (weekly office days: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) (cell phone 330-606-4551)

Valerie Thorson, Music Director/Organist wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com (weekly office days: Tuesday—Thursday)

Sheila Svoboda, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries wpcchildren 1250@gmail.com (weekly office days: Tuesday and Thursday)

Adam Kalcic, Communications Coordinator wpcsmedia1250@gmail.com (weekly office days: Thursday and Friday)

Claudine Schooley, WPC Church Office wpcoffice1250@gmail.com (weekly office days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday)

Debby Evrard, Staff Accountant wpcfinance1250@gmail.com

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

Dave Bodnar, Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com (weekly workdays: Sunday—Thursday)

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

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

(cell phone 330-459-1177)

#### The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday



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