

Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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

The Script April-May 2021

Pastor's Corner

There is great joy to be found in honoring those we love. For this reason, April is always a special month for me. My father was born on April 14. My wife was born on April 20. And my oldest son, Liam, was born on April 28. Birthdays, as you know, are one of those rare occasions when we celebrate others just for being who they are. There is no merit involved in these occasions. We can no more earn a birthday celebration than we can earn the air that we breathe. In this regard, birthdays are a gift of grace.

As a Christian minister, the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord is the great highlight of my year. And Easter, as you know, often arrives in April, just as we begin to enjoy longer days, more sunlight, vibrant flowers, and the return of wildlife. Much like birthdays and Spring, Easter is also a gift of grace. We do not earn it. It is freely given.

Suzanne Winland is the artistic director of the Infinite Legacy Project (ILP) dance studio which

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meets at Westminster. When Suzanne is preparing her students for a performance, she tries to calm their nerves by reminding them that they are giving a gift. She asks them to imagine the performance from the perspective of the audience members and inquires, "how would you like to receive this gift?"

Soren Kierkegaard, a nineteenth-century philosopher and theologian, described worship as a drama. Up to this point the common view of worship had been that the pastor was the central actor, the musicians were the supporting actors, God through the Holy Spirit was the prompter, and the congregation was the audience. The congregation was passive in this scenario and tended to evaluate worship with the question "What did I get out of worship?"

Kierkegaard, on the other hand, understood the roles in the drama of worship to be different. The central actors of the drama are the members of the congregation. We have an active participatory role in worship. God is the audience. The primary question is then, "What did God get out of my worship?"

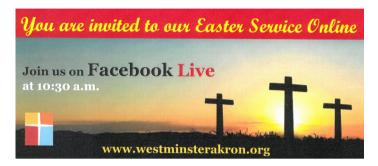
> May God bless you this Easter, Jon



Our Pastor and young liturgist Liam Hauerwas.



Holy Week Calendar 2021 on Facebook Live



Maundy Thursday: April 1

Online Service at 7:00 pm with Communion

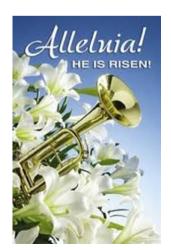
Good Friday: April 2

Online Service at noon

Easter Sunday: April 4

Online Service at 10:30 am with Communion

Music For Easter



For our Online Easter service, we will be joined by trumpeter Ethan Symonds. The Opening Voluntary will be "Deo Gracias," arranged by David Johnson, and the Closing Voluntary will be the immortal "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel.

The Offertory will feature our Choral Scholars singing "Lift High the Cross," arranged by S. Drummond Wolff. The Opening Hymn will be "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," (EASTER HYMN), and the Closing Hymn will be

"The Day of Resurrection," set to the tune LANCASHIRE.

Pentecost Offering 2021



Every year, 40% of the Pentecost Offering is reserved for local programs that benefit at-risk youth. In 2021, WPC will support Fostering Independence, an organization that helps youth who age out of foster care and are suddenly without a support network.

Fostering Independence offers mentoring to these young people, as well as providing basic items for apartment or dorm living. To find out more about the organization, or to volunteer as a mentor, as

a professional for youth to shadow, or to help with deliveries, visit: https://FosteringIndependence.net.



Task Force

From the Task Force to Address the Resuming of In-Person Worship and Activities

Today, overall conditions in Ohio are measurably improved. Testing positivity is holding significantly below the CDC target of 5%; hospitalization and fatality numbers continue to decrease; and vaccinations are underway and increasing weekly in numbers.

Hopefully and prayerfully, we believe that the continuing improvement allows us to target June 1, 2021, as a realistic date for resuming in-person worship and activities. This, of course, relies on maintaining and increasing improved conditions. (cont'd.)

Resuming in-person worship during the summer allows us to take a measured approach, since we will not be addressing concerns with Sunday School and Choir. Our approach will be directed toward the worship service and nursery activities.

We realize there will be safety concerns among our congregation. Therefore, our plans include significant measures: masks, spacing within the pews, sanitization, and directed seating are among the many steps incorporated into our plan. Nursery considerations are being carefully prepared, including steps utilized by several ongoing daycare centers.



WPC Book Club

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. Next meeting
will be on **April 12.** Kristy Yates will lead us
back into the world of Margaret Atwood's
Handmaid's Tale with the sequel, *The Testaments*.



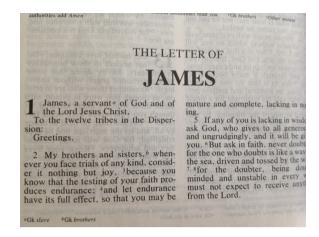
Adult Education News

The adult education Zoom group will tackle the book of James in April and May. James addresses the roles of faith and works when it comes to salvation. While agreeing with Paul that salvation is found solely through Christ, James writes with absolute conviction that concern and care for one's neighbor is important as well.

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He addresses such issues as social class discrimination and disciplining the tongue. How will others know we are Christians by our love?

You are invited to join our study and discussion at 7-8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings.



Contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316 for a Zoom link.



First Sunday Food Collection/April & May

The Tweens will be waiting to receive your food donation in the driveway behind the church from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, April 4, and May 2. Here is a list of our current needs:

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

Canned Tuna
Canned Fruit, Applesauce
Prepared Meals like Chef-Boyardee
Pancake Syrup
Soup
Jelly
Toilet paper

Thank you for your generous donations to this ministry.

Third Sunday Food Distribution/Free Hot Dinner

The Third Sunday Food Distribution will continue on April 18 and May 16, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

The Third Sunday Free Hot Dinner is scheduled on the same dates at 5:00 p.m.



Youth Group

Even in the age of Covid-19, the church did not "close." Instead, we found new ways to be the church. Like all others in the life of our congregation, the youth group adapted. And for the duration of the 2020-2021 church year, we met via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. I am grateful to Mike Grau and Andi Jopperi for their continued dedication as youth group leaders amid the challenges of the pandemic.

In addition to our regular, Sunday morning conversations about faith and life, the youth have also engaged in fellowship opportunities and service projects. During the winter, we enjoyed snow tubing at Brandywine. And our campfire outing at the end of March was great fun.

This year, the youth have assisted with food collections, sorting items in the food room, Third Sunday dinners, yard work for a community member in need, and writing cards to the homebound. I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about our students and to share this journey of faith with them.

Confirmation



At a West Area Collaboration meeting, a representative from the United Presbyterian Church of Cuyahoga Falls explained that their congregation is currently between pastors and asked if any others had plans to offer a confirmation class this year. I shared that we had just begun ours, and said that I would be happy to partner with them if the governing boards of both churches were in agreement.

These conversations progressed and, soon, five students from Westminster were joined by five additional students from United for our Sunday evening Zoom gatherings. It has been a great joy to hear the unique perspectives of our

students and to engage with them regarding matters of faith.

I am grateful to Marian Wahl for participating in these weekly conversations with us, and to the confirmation mentors who have journeyed with the Westminster students this year. They are: Lou Albertson (confirmand, Gabby Gray); Shelley Kounik (confirmand, Kinsie Willis); Ed Labbe (confirmand, Pierce Ehrler); Pat Santelli (confirmand, Sam Grau); and Kevin Spring (confirmand, Holden Labbe).

The confirmation program includes ten Sunday evening classes, homework assignments, conversations with mentors, and the presentation of a written Statement of Faith at a special meeting of Session. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for **May 9**, **2021** and, on that date, the Westminster students will be officially received into membership in the life of the church.

Please join me in celebrating their accomplishments,

Jon Hauerwas

Earth Day 2021



The Tweens have an annual tradition of clean up on Earth Day. Last year and this year we haven't been able to gather as a group, but that doesn't mean we can't have an impact.

I'd like to challenge all of our families to do trash pick up in their neighborhoods or favorite trails and parks. If you do this, send us a picture of you and your trash bags!

Let's do what we can to take care of our only, precious home.

Children's Ministries/VBS 2021



Yes! We are having VBS this year. Yes! It is being run by a familiar face, Ms. Susan Shellito. Yes! It has a loving topic: COMPASSION CAMP. Yes! It is in July. **July 12—15**, M—Th., 9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We are not sure yet if it is going to be in person or virtual, we will keep in touch.

Church Life

Congratulations to our Members



Vaughn Edward Vuchak, son of Kathryn and Kyle Vuchak, was born on March 17, 2021.



Eleanor Humphrey celebrated her 100th birthday on January 9, 2021.

Our Friends Who Have Entered Eternal Life

Mary Swartzlander, a long-time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, entered eternal life on January 31. She was 96 years old.



Dianne Hall Allison, member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, entered eternal life on February 4. She was 84 years old.



Edie Willoughby, a long-time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, entered eternal life on March 2. She was 97 years old.



Monthly Financial Report

February 2021	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$40,908.43	\$34,835.16	\$132,415.47	\$88,982.82
Total Expenses	\$43,100.21	\$48,455.81	\$80,261.23	\$97,611.62
Net	(\$2,191.78)	(\$13,620.65)	\$52,154.24	(\$8,628.80)

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending February 28, 2021.



June/July 2021 Script

June/July script will be sent on May 27, 2021. Please have your articles and pictures ready to be sent to wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by noon on **Tuesday**, **May 11**, **2021**.

Pastor Jon on Study Leave

Pastor Hauerwas will be taking some time away from April 5-18 and May 27-June 1. Please contact our main office for emergency pastoral care during these times.

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby will serve as our guest preacher on April 11 and April 18, and The Reverend Dr. George Murphy will provide the sermon on May 30.

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)

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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