

12th Sunday after Pentecost



**August 15, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.**

Follow us also on



or on our church website at westminsterakron.org

*At the ringing of the carillon please silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God. We also ask that you power off your cell phones to prevent interference with our livestreaming and recording equipment. Please note that hymns are no longer being printed in the bulletin. You may find a hymn book on the back of the pew in front of you. **Bolded text is read or sung by all.** *Please rise in body or spirit.*

COME

Voluntary Shall We Gather at the River? Arr. Dale Wood

*Call to Worship Acts 19 Kinsie Willis

In Ephesus, Paul found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard of the Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn #364 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God GRAND ISLE

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

When we gather to praise the Lord, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to God's. Accepting the power to become new people in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have been so concerned with mundane matters that we have missed the life you have set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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	Romans 8
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You have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*Response 567	Glory Be to the Father	<i>Gloria Patri</i>
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.		
Amen.		

*Passing the Peace

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

During this time of pandemic, a nod of the head and wave of the hand will suffice.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Vaughn Vuchak

son of Kyle and Kathryn and brother of Xavier and Georgia

Presentation of Prayer Quilt

Marian Wahl

Sung to the tune of Hymn 498

**Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace
divine.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

With thanksgiving we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.

Offertory

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Paul Stewart, soloist

Text may be found at hymn #387

*Response 592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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

Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to remain with their families or to visit with our childcare staff in the nursery.

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

O God, our guide, set your path clearly before us and lead us to follow you willingly for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,
26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.
27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Hymn #497

With Grateful Hearts Our Faith Professing

ST. CLEMENT

Please remain seated for the singing of this hymn.

Second Lesson

Acts 8:26-31 and 35-38

New Testament

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)
27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."
30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"
38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Unless Someone Guides Me

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

Joining the mission of God, the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom to call everyone to know and follow Christ, and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name of Jesus that there is forgiveness of sin. The Spirit calls all members to embrace God's mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner. We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.

Prayers of the People

A prayer especially appropriate for children.

Lord God, thank you for making us part of your family and for giving us our own families. Help us to love each other as you love us. Keep us safe and healthy, and help us to enjoy being with each other.

Thank you for giving us all kinds of people to teach us - our parents and grandparents, babysitters and friends, Sunday school leaders and school teachers, ministers and many more. Make them excited about what they teach and make us all excited about learning more about you.

Lord, we can't even thank all of the people who help us each day. Lead our president and government leaders to make good decisions. Please guide our firefighters, police officers, and all other people who work to keep our city safe. Thank you for these and other strong people who take care of us.

We also pray for people who need help - for everyone who is sick or scared. We know that you heal better than anyone on earth. Give your strength to everyone who is suffering.

We ask you to bless each of us. You are the great shepherd who loves us. Help us to know that you will always give us everything we need, and help us to be happy with what we have. Continue to watch over us, and teach us to live for you all of the time. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

We pray silently...

And finally, together, as the people of God, we offer the prayer that Christ taught us, saying in one voice:

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 #341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! ASSURANCE

Charge and Benediction

Go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong.

May the love of God surround you,
the wisdom of Christ guide you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit encourage you
as you joyfully proclaim:
our world belongs to God!

Voluntary “*Restoration*” Southern Harmony, 1854 Wilbur Held

Funding for today's soloist was provided by the Seiberling Music Endowment fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Bill and Kay Welsh in memory of Verna Zelaney and in honor of Inky Malone.

Finance Committee Notes - July 31, 2021

Pledged Gifts - \$22,500 in prepayments paid in 2021
Nonpledged Gifts - \$22,200 from households that already fulfilled 2021
pledge commitment.
Endowment Distributions – received \$7,265 more than budgeted.
Expenses are below average but beginning to increase with fall
program staffing and expenses.

COVID-19 Protocols:

- Masks are now optional for all vaccinated adults. Unvaccinated adults are asked to continue masking.
- Masks are also optional for children and youth of every age, whether they have been vaccinated or not. This is at the discretion of the parent or guardian of the child or youth.
- Solos and congregational singing will continue both with and without masks.
- We will continue to observe social distancing measures, and the ushers will assist worshippers with seating in the sanctuary. The pews where worshippers are asked to sit are marked with a green sticker. If you would prefer to sit at a greater distance from others, please inform an usher who can guide you to a place where you will feel more comfortable.
- We have returned hymnals, Bibles, and giving envelopes to pews with green stickers. Offering trays and fellowship pads will not be passed at this time. Offering trays may be found at the entrance to the worship space.
- Livestreaming services will continue on YouTube.
- The narthex doors will remain locked for the time being. Please access the sanctuary through the education wing.

Calendar of Church events for the week of August 15-21

Sunday, 8/15

10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary
& on YouTube Livestream/
Vaughn Vuchak's Baptism
11:30 am Godly Play Teacher's Meeting

Monday, 8/16

1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

Tuesday, 8/17

9:30 am Quilt Ministry Meeting in WHH
2:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal
in Chancel

Wednesday, 8/18

7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting in
Room 106

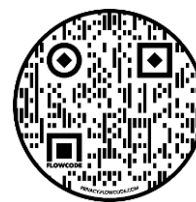
Thursday, 8/19

9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in
Library

Saturday, 8/21

8:00 am Food For Life in the
Kitchen

Giving Online During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on the WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



The Church Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Staff Schedule in the Office:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pastor Jon	Pastor Jon		Pastor Jon	Pastor Jon
The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com Cell phone 330-606-4551				
Claudine Schooley		Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley
WPC Church Office wpcoffice1250@gmail.com				
	Margo Works	Margo Works	Margo Works	
Director of Children, Family, and Youth wpcchildren1250@gmail.com				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir
 Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician
 Traci Range, Director of Childcare wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir
 Finance Office: Shelley Koutnik. Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Contact wpc treasurer1250@gmail.com for assistance.



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