

# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



**September 5, 2021  
at 10:30 a.m.**

**Follow us also on**



**or on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://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

Amazing Grace

*Virginia Harmony, 1831  
Arr. Gilbert Martin*

\*Call to Worship

Kate Clark

Our merciful God, maker of us all,  
**pleads the cause of the poor and afflicted.**  
Open our hearts to demonstrate God's grace  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

\*Hymn #464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

# ENCOUNTER

## Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the Lord who surrounds us with favor forevermore.

## Prayer of Confession

**God of favor, we have not been true to you. You have chosen the poor in the world, but we have dishonored them. You plead the cause of the afflicted, but we crush them. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have favored the rich and despised the poor. We have dismissed the needy with empty words. Soften our hearts and make straight our ways. Heal our unbelief and turn us back to you. 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

The mercy of our God triumphs over judgment through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, who has pleaded our cause, forgiven our sin, healed our sickness, and delivered us from evil.

\*Response 567      Glory Be to the Father      *Gloria Patri*  
**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.*

Moment for Ministry

Walter Hayes/Rally Day Picnic

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

Those who are generous are blessed through the good name of Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we have received the favor of our God - better than silver or gold. From the riches of God's grace, let us present our gifts of gratitude to bless those in need.

*Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.*

Offertory Hymn #564    O Beautiful for Spacious Skies    MATERNA

\*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

Healing God, you do all things well. Illumine our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may receive your words and demonstrate your grace. **Amen.**

The First Lesson    Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23    Old Testament

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

2 The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

8 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

9 Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

22 Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;

23 for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Hymn #280    Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound  
AMAZING GRACE

The Second Lesson    James 2:1-9    New Testament

1 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?  
2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,  
3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"  
4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?  
5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?  
6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?  
7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?  
8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

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

Sermon

More Than a Slogan

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

from a Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to the God of mercy, through our savior, Jesus Christ, saying,  
**O Lord, plead our cause. Your name is good.**

God our maker, you surround your people with favor and goodness. You have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to inherit your promised kingdom through our Lord Jesus Christ, who heals the afflicted and sets the oppressed free. In your mercy, open our mouths in intercession as we bow at your feet on behalf of the church, the creation, and all those in need.

**O Lord, plead our cause. Your name is good.**

Open your church to welcome and honor the poor, meeting their needs with faith-filled deeds of love and generosity.

Uphold the land and those who labor to cultivate it, that both crops and people may be sustained by your love and overflow with the blessings of your generous provision.

**O Lord, plead our cause. Your name is good.**

Establish justice for the poor, relief for the afflicted, and compassionate care for the physically and mentally ill.

May we respect the dignity of all who struggle, showing your kindness to those in need.

**O Lord, plead our cause. Your name is good.**

Open our ears to hear the cries of the poor. Open our mouths to advocate for the afflicted. Open our hands to lift up those who are pressed down. Open our hearts to share generously with those who lack, especially those we remember now in the silence of our hearts.

Bless the faithful poor and afflicted who have passed into your presence today to receive the rich inheritance you have prepared for them in your kingdom.

**O Lord, plead our cause. Your name is good.**

We trust in you to provide for our needs through the excellent name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.**

### \*Charge and Benediction

Favored by the excellent name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, share your bread with the poor, advocate for the afflicted, show your faith in acts of kindness, love your neighbor as yourself.

Our generous God has blessed us and surrounded us with favor forever, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves through the good name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Voluntary

on “Ellacombe”

*Arr. Richard Warner*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Bill Brideweser by Margie and family.

For the most recent CDC guidance, we encourage you to visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

### **Westminster's policy presently includes the following:**

- 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.

**Script October/November** Deadline is Tuesday, September 14 . Please send your articles and pictures to the office, to Claudine Schooley at [wpcoffice1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com).

**Rally Day** Westminster Presbyterian Church celebrates Rally Day on September 12, as we kick-off a new program year of the adult choir and Sunday school for children and youth at 9:30 a.m.:

- Nursery - Infants - 3 yrs.
- Godly Play Room 202 - K - 3rd grade
- Tween Room 107 - 4th - 6th grade
- Youth Room 210-11 - 7th-12th grade

The Deacons are organizing a Rally Day Picnic to follow the worship Service. Please join us!

**Adult Education** This fall, our adult education Bible study class will be offered on Zoom again on Thursday evenings from 7-8 pm starting Sept. 16. Our first topic is the book of Galatians. Anyone interested in receiving a Zoom email link should contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316. Come join the fun, fellowship, and discussions.

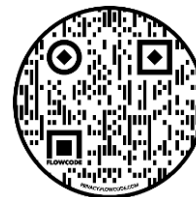
**WPC Parenting Group** is back! All parents and caregivers are invited to gather in the library at 9:30 for fellowship and refreshments during Sunday school hour. Help us determine how we can support each other as we raise young disciples! Contact Margo Works, Cathy Melver or Kara Hauerwas with questions or ideas.

**Outreach Committee** The Acme Community Cash Back program is underway. The dates are August 5, 2021 to December 25, 2021. There is a box in Wright Herberich Hall for the placement of your Acme receipts that say "Community Cash Back" on the bottom. Proceeds will go to the Outreach committee programming.

***Monday, September 6 is Labor Day; church offices are closed and there is no Bible Study Zoom meeting that day.***

Calendar of Church events for the week of September 5-11	
<p><b>Sunday, 9/5</b>  10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary &amp; on YouTube Livestream  First Sunday Food Collection (before and after Service)</p> <p><b>Monday, 9/6 Labor Day - Offices Closed</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, 9/7</b>  2:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal in Chancel  7:00 pm Presbytery Meeting via Zoom</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 9/8</b>  6:00 pm Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting  7:00 pm Discipleship Zoom Meeting</p>	<p><b>Thursday, 9/9</b>  9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in the Library</p> <p><b>Friday, 9/10</b>  1:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting in the Library</p> <p><b>Saturday, 9/11</b>  9:00 am Celtic Gardeners in the Garden  1:00 pm Deacons prepare boxed lunches for Rally Day</p>

**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 <a href="mailto:jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com">jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com</a> Cell phone 330-606-4551				
Claudine Schooley		Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley
WPC Church Office <a href="mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com">wpcoffice1250@gmail.com</a>				
	Margo Works	Margo Works	Margo Works	
Director of Children, Family, and Youth <a href="mailto:wpcchildren1250@gmail.com">wpcchildren1250@gmail.com</a>				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist <a href="mailto:wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com">wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com</a>				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian <a href="mailto:wpcbuilding@gmail.com">wpcbuilding@gmail.com</a>				

*Other Staff:*

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir

Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Traci Range, Director of Childcare [wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com](mailto: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 [wpctreasurer1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpctreasurer1250@gmail.com) for assistance.



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313  
[westminsterakron@gmail.com](mailto:westminsterakron@gmail.com) - 330-836-2226  
[www.westminsterakron.org](http://www.westminsterakron.org)