

Christ the King/Reign of Christ



November 21, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Follow us also on



or on our church website at westminsterakron.org

Welcome Reverend Tom Ulrich and the Congregation of New Covenant Community Church!

Beginning November 21 and continuing throughout the Advent season the congregations of New Covenant Community Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church are coming together to share the gifts of New Covenant's Pastor, The Reverend Tom Ulrich, and Westminster's Music Ministry under the direction of Interim Music Director and Organist, Bob Carlyon. Members and Elders of both congregations will participate in lighting the Advent candles during Sunday worship services and the lighting of congregational candles for the traditional singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve.

Beginning November 28, each Sunday following worship, refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Please spread the word of Peace, Joy and Love this holiday season as these neighboring churches celebrate the birth of Christ together.

COME

At the ringing of the chimes 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 live-streaming and recording equipment.

Bolded text is read or sung by all.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Voluntary

“Nun danket alle Gott”

Max Reger

*Call to Worship

Alec Works

Leader: Rejoice, the Lord is King! He is the King over all the earth

(Psalm 47:7)

People: Rejoice, the Lord is King! Let us serve the One who teaches us that His kingdom is among us (Luke 17:21)

Leader: Rejoice, the Lord is King! His kingdom belongs to children and those who practice solidarity with the vulnerable (Mark 10:14)

People: Rejoice, the Lord is King! He establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9:7)

Leader: Rejoice, the Lord is King! And He summons us to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)

People: Let us worship Jesus Christ, who is the faithful King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)

*Hymn #551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

The God we know in Jesus Christ is rich in mercy, and even when we were dead through our trespasses, out of God's great love for us, God made us alive together with Christ. Yet, in spite of the good news of our salvation, we still fall short of God's glory for us, and we not only struggle to find our way, but we also fail to follow the One who is the Way. Therefore, trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin to God using the prayer which is found in the bulletin, and after our corporate prayer we will have an opportunity to offer our own silent confessions as well. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, who set aside Your crown to walk beside us, who taught us that greatness is conveyed through humility, and who laid down Your life so that we might live, while we acknowledge that You are the King of heaven and earth, we confess that we do not always welcome Your rule in our lives. Because we have failed to embrace Your reign, we ask Your forgiveness when we have been more concerned with controlling power than engaging in service. Because You have blessed us with Your love and grace, we pray for Your mercy when we have neglected to share Your love and forgiveness with our fellow human beings. Deliver us from our tendency to live in mediocrity and sin without bearing witness to the light of Your holiness. Forgive us, Lord, and renew us through Your grace, so that through our words and actions, we may testify to the truth of Your kingdom inaugurated by Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to God who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

People: Through Jesus Christ we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*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

Ed Labbe/Christmas Baskets

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

We honor the Lord through the work of our hands, the love in our hearts, and the service of our lives. So let us now praise and worship the Lord with a commitment of our time, our talents, our gifts, and our devotion to the One who gave His life for us.

Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.

Offertory

Simple Gifts Shaker Tune

Arr. Mark Sweizer

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free

'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be

*And when we find ourselves in a place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
'Tis a gift to be loving, 'tis a gift to be kind,
'tis a gift to leave our bitterness behind,
'Tis a gift to be thankful, 'tis a gift to forgive,
'Tis a gift to find out how we ought to live,*

*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Doxology*
**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

Dottie Erb

*Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to remain with
their families, participate in the children's K-5 choir rehearsal in room 207
or visit with our childcare staff in the nursery.*

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ, You have given us a King like no other. Grant that, as we read and hear Your holy word, we may be illumined with a truth that transforms us, so that with every kindred and tribe upon the planet we may honor and worship You as Lord of all, for we ask it in the name of the One who is the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The First Lesson

Psalm 93:1-5

Old Testament

1 The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved;
2 your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.
3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.

4 More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD!

5 Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Hymn #554

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

The Second Lesson

Revelation 1:4-8

New Testament

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,

6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Sermon

Changing Our Focus

The Reverend Tom Ulrich

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

from *A Declaration of Faith*, 3.2 and 3.5

We declare God’s steadfast love and sovereign power. The Lord can be trusted to keep promises. The Lord still acts in the affairs of individuals and nations to set oppressed and persecuted people free. We testify that God is faithful. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. The Lord still

brings from oppressed and uprooted peoples riches of insight and daring visions that can judge and bless the world. We can have confidence in God's coming kingdom even in the darkest times.

Prayers of the People

God of the gracious and the grieving,
Lord of the lively and the lonely, King of every creature and culture,
as You have poured Your divine love upon humanity, we pray that our culture and community would be blessed by Your grace and peace.

Fashion among us a kingdom of faithful Christians who serve each other in Your name . . . and strengthen us to follow Your example and live as faithful witnesses in the world, so that all people may expect to see You, not just when You return in the clouds, but through Your present-day disciples who reach out with care, compassion, and commitment.

Especially touch our hearts with a deeper compassion for all people everywhere who suffer in some degree, whether because of cancer or COVID, an accident or anxiety, or indifference or despair . . . and establish Your reign among us, so that every nefarious phrase and every evil act would be eliminated from the earth.

Grant that all people would forever refrain from violence and brutality . . . and instead inspire all people on the planet to work for peace and unity, so that we will confront the world's common foes of poverty and prejudice and ignorance and sin.

As we seek to live within the covenant of Your kingdom, fill us with the faith to always point to Your hope in the midst of any disillusionment . . . and inspire us to engage the future with Your truth and wisdom, so that the unproductive propaganda of the world's cynicism and despair may be discarded, and difficult questions may be asked and new ideas greeted with joy.

In all that we seek to do, govern us with Your grace . . . and through Your kind and caring kingship, inaugurate a world of peace and fellowship . . . institute justice and peace for all humanity . . .

and rule with the righteousness that forges a new future built on the teachings of the One who is King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught His disciples, when praying, to say together –

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 #555

Now thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Charge and Benediction

Now as you go into the world to proclaim with your words, your actions, and your lives, that Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of lords, may the living Lord, Jesus Christ go with you. May He go above you to watch you, beside you to befriend you, behind you to encourage you, within you to give you peace, and before you to show His way, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Voluntary

Variations on Elvey's Tune "St. George"

F. Cunningham Woods



Our USHERS Today are Donna Gorrington, Dan Gorrington, Bob Leonard, Don Rearick, and Dave Stobbs (head usher).

Greeters from New Covenant Community Church Today are Ken Williams and Nancy Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Tom Ulrich

Tom is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and he is delighted to serve New Covenant Community Church. Not only has he served churches in Arkansas and Colorado, but he is also involved in the work of Solar Under the Sun (a mission organization in the Synod of the Sun) that teaches individuals to install small solar arrays in villages and communities in the developing world, where access to electricity is unreliable, unaffordable, or unattainable. He has participated in mission trips to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Mexico, and Haiti, and he has served on the boards of the Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity. Tom earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in mathematics at Louisiana Tech University before attending Columbia Theological Seminary where he obtained his Master of Divinity.

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Bruce and Pookie Barnes in honor of Jo Barnes' 94th birthday on October 23 and in memory of Bill Barnes' birthday on October 21.

The Flowers on the Pedestal are given in loving memory of Mary Seiberling Chapman by her daughter, Harriet D. Chapman.

Advent Pizza and Movie On Sunday, November 28, join with others in our church to mark the beginning of the Season of Advent! First, is the children's first Christmas Pageant rehearsal at 4:00 p.m. Stay to enjoy food, fellowship, fun, and focus on the reason for the season as we eat pizza, veggies and watch the movie, Lucy Shimmers and the Prince of Peace.

Church offices are closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.

There is no Zoom Bible study on Thursday, November 25.

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.

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.



Calendar of Church Events for the week of November 21 to 27, 2021

Sunday, 11/21

8:30 am Nursery Opens
 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
 9:30 am Sunday School
 9:30 am Parenting group
 10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary & on YouTube Livestream
 Children's Choir in the Choir Room
 11:30 am Hanging of the Greens Followed by Luncheon

Tuesday, 11/23

7:00 pm Session Meeting in Room 106

Thursday, 11/25 & Friday, 11/26 Church Offices Closed

Monthly Financial Report

October 2021	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Total Revenues</u>	\$34,143.72	\$36,547.66	\$477,506.08	\$435,401.60
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$36,146.66	\$48,268.30	\$377,036.74	\$474,346.94
Net	(\$2,002.94)	(\$11,720.64)	\$100,469.34	(\$38,945.34)

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending October 31, 2021.

Stewardship As of November 16, sixty-eight (68) households have pledged \$229,900 towards our 2022 Operating Budget. Pledge cards are in the literature racks in the Narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall. If you haven't responded yet, please turn in your pledge card today. Thank you for your generous support of Westminster and our ministries.

Staff Schedule in the Office:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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				
Denise Hochevar	Denise Hochevar	Denise Hochevar	Denise Hochevar	
WPC Church Finance wpcfinance1250@gmail.com				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Traci Range, Director of Childcare wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir

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



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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