



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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

The Script

December 2021—January 2022



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.

Starting on 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.

Pastor Tom's Bio



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.

Letter from Pastor Tom to his congregation, New Covenant Community Church of Akron

Greetings, Friends,

Even though the days may be getting shorter, the light of the Lord still shines upon us and leads us to new opportunities for worship and witness. And one of the ways in which our Lord

(cont'd.)

is working is being revealed through occasions of joint worship, where we share our resources in order to praise and glorify God.

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we will again have the opportunity to collaborate with another congregation. Music is a vital element in our worship, and we are currently without a music director. Similarly, Westminster Presbyterian Church is currently without a minister to lead worship and share the sacraments. As a result, the Governing Board of our congregation (in a unanimous vote) and the Session of Westminster have agreed to participate in joint worship services through Advent and Christmas. Westminster will provide all of the music for each Sunday, and I will preach, provide the liturgy, and lead the worship services.

Our Governing Board is supportive of this approach and sees this opportunity as a favorable option because . . .

- 1) practically, it serves the need of both churches, and it will be mutually beneficial to both congregations, and
- 2) most importantly, theologically, we will embody the reality of the Advent and Christmas seasons where, through our worship, we prepare for the One who is the Prince of Peace on that glorious night when the angels sing, “Peace on earth and good will to all people.”

As we embark on this shared venture, please know that this is not a merger, nor will I be serving as Westminster’s interim pastor. This enterprise is only for a specific period of time – from November 21 (Christ the King Sunday) to December 26.

Truly, we are taking a bold, courageous, and faithful step as the people of God, and I am proud to serve such a committed and visionary congregation. May God embrace you with the gifts of love and life.

Peace,
Tom





Calendar Of Church Events

December 2021		January 2022	
Sunday, December 5 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30 AM Pastor Tom Ulrich preaching		Sunday, January 2 10:30 AM The Reverend Dr. Sandy Shelby preaching	
Sunday, December 12 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30 AM Pastor Tom Ulrich leading service Children's Christmas Pageant		Sunday, January 9 10:30 AM The Reverend Cathy Ulrich preaching and leading Holy Communion	
Sunday, December 19 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30 AM Lessons, carols & special music Pastor Tom Ulrich preaching 4:00 PM Jazz Vespers <i>Featuring Theron Brown Trio</i>		Sunday, January 16 10:30 AM The Reverend Dr. Sandy Shelby preaching	
Friday, December 24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service <i>Paragon Brass, Handbells & Choir</i> Pastor Tom Ulrich preaching		Sunday, January 23 10:30 AM The Reverend Dr. Tim Morrison preaching	
Sunday, December 26 10:30 AM Pastor Tom Ulrich preaching, lessons & carols		Sunday, January 30 10:30 AM The Reverend Dr. Sandy Shelby preaching	

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to all who participated in the Hanging of the Greens. Just as we needed help to put the greens up, we will need help taking them down. Please stay following Worship **on January 2**, to take the greens down. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

WPC Giving Tree



Once again, we will have the annual Giving Tree available to receive your donations of scarves, mittens, hats, and gloves. These will be taken to ACCESS Inc. a shelter for homeless women and children.

The tree will be available **until December 31**. Please donate freely.

Christmas Poinsettias

Your gift in memory or in honor of loved ones enables the Flower Committee to provide a beautiful setting in the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. A gift in any amount is welcome. Make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church or select “Chancel Flowers” if you give electronically. Please include the wording for your dedication with your check or email to Denise Hochevar at wpcfinance1250@gmail.com. The deadline is **Tuesday, December 16, 2021** for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The poinsettias will be on display beginning December 12. Poinsettia donors may pick up a poinsettia plant after worship on December 26. Please contact the church office if you cannot come on that day.



Christmas Food Baskets

Our annual Christmas delivery of food baskets to Greater Akronites in need will take place on Saturday, December 11. The groceries purchased from Acme #1 will be assembled in the church parking lot beginning at 7:30 a.m. with deliveries beginning at 9:00 a.m. You can help make another family's Christmas a little brighter by delivering and/or contributing money to help fill the baskets. Baskets and gift cards for apartments are valued at \$40 each, but any donation amount is appreciated. Special donation envelopes will be in the pews for your convenience, or you can give online at westminsterakron.org under "electronic giving" or send a check to the church with "Christmas Baskets" in the memo line. We also need plenty of volunteers to make this a success.

Please sign-up for basket assembly and/or delivery at the Connection Point in Wright-Herberich Hall or email elabbe@roadrunner.com if you can help.



Seasonal Community Dinners/Update

It has become necessary to cancel the Seasonal Community Dinners until further notice. The Outreach Committee will be evaluating a restructure of this program. Watch for information in the future Scripts or bulletins.



Haven of Rest

Haven of Rest has made a request for towels, wash cloths, PJ's (either sex), socks, and underwear. Items can be placed in the big wooden box in the coat room and the Outreach committee will deliver them.

First Sunday Food Collection

First Sunday Food Collection program continues on the first Sunday of each month. Food is then delivered to the Christ Woodland Methodist Food Pantry or to the Good Neighbors unit in Goodyear Heights. Self contained meals that can be heated in a microwave are encouraged like tuna or chicken in a pouch rather than a can, Hormel complete dinners in a plastic container and pudding or gelatin that does not need to be refrigerated but all non perishable foods and toiletries are appreciated. Monetary donations are also accepted.

If you are not able to donate food on the first Sunday you can place your items in the big wooden bin in the coat room at any time or make a monetary donation to the church, marking your check for Good Neighbors. Thank you for your generosity in the past and in the future.

ACME Fresh Market Community Cash-Back

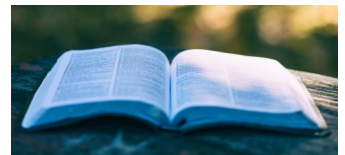
- Deadline to participate to the program is **December 25, 2021.**



Book Group Calling all bookworms!

As always, all are welcome to join the book group for fellowship and eclectic conversation guided (sometimes loosely) by a range of books.

We are reworking our format, going to quarterly meetings. We will stay with the 2nd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Locations may vary, but for December and January we will meet at El Rancho Mexican Restaurant, 1666 W Exchange St. at 7:00 p.m.



For December 13, we are meeting for fellowship with no book
- a great time for anyone who is considering joining. *(cont'd.)*

For January 10, we will be discussing Americanon by Jess McHugh, which was deferred when we did not meet in October. From there we will go to the quarterly schedule with the next meeting in April.

Education News

Adult Education

Our Thursday evening Zoom Bible study group will finish up the study of Galatians sometime in December. We will take off a little time around Christmas but plan to resume meeting with a new topic in January. Watch for announcements in coming Sunday bulletins. If you would like to be added to our Zoom Bible study link list, just contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316.

Children's Christmas Pageant

The pageant will be during worship on **December 12**. We will be bringing forth gifts for the Summit County Children's Services Holiday Toy Room Program.



Pageant rehearsals will be:

- December 5, as usual during worship
- Day of the Pageant, at 8:30 a.m. rehearsal in the sanctuary

Costumes will be turned in after the service.

Family Ice skating

Family Ice Skating at Lock 3 will be **Sunday, January 9, 2022**, between 3:00 – 5:00p.m. All are welcome to this family event.

Reverse Halloween

A great group of 21 adults and children gathered on Johnstone Patio to make both cards and treat bags to be distributed to the residents of Rockynol by staff members there.

Creative juices were flowing as the children also enjoyed using a variety of materials to decorate pumpkins that are now adorning the common areas of the facility.





Just as fun was parading over to Rockynol to deliver our gifts and leave festive chalk drawings on their sidewalks for all to enjoy!



Information to Know

Can you believe it is the same place? Dave Bodnar, our custodian, did a wonderful job in cleaning our church sidewalks. Thank you Dave!

Before cleaning



After cleaning



Memorial Garden

On the last Sunday of October each year Westminster offers a service of Praise and Remembrance. Hymns, the anthem, scripture readings and the sermon are all related to this subject, including a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace" and "Highland Cathedral" as the opening and closing voluntaries. It is a



solemn service that honors the memory of those members who have entered God's Church Triumphant in the past year. Though none of the nine remembered this past October 31st were interred in our memorial garden, they will surely be long loved and cherished.

Westminster is not alone in having memorial gardens. Faith Lutheran in Fairlawn, St Paul's Episcopal, First Congregational and Garden of Prayer in Akron are others. There are various reasons churches have memorial gardens, contemplation and reflection, enhancing church grounds and having meaningful conversations about death are some. And there are various reasons members choose to be interred there. Here's a reason a Westminster couple chose. "We have been active members of Westminster for 45 years. Our children grew up in the church and were married here. Our extended family is familiar with the church and feel comfortable here. It just made sense to choose the church as our final resting place." For more information about our memorial garden, you can contact committee members, Shelley Koutnik, Phil Fry, Marcia Holcomb, Earl Pierson, Jim or Barb Shriner or check the church literature racks.

And please reflect on this memorial garden thought that comes from the anthem sung by the choir that day. It's entitled "Let the Life I've Lived". *"Let the life I've lived speak for me. When I come to the end of this road, and I lay down my heavy load, let the life I've lived speak for me. Let the friends I've made speak for me. Let the work I've done speak for me. Let the love I've shared speak for me."*

Notes from September 8, 2021 Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Pastor Jon Hauerwas and Clerk of Session Alec Works participated in the September 8, 2021 Zoom meeting of Eastminster Presbytery. Highlights included:

- The Reverend Patti Moats was welcomed as the new minister of the Goodyear and North Springfield Churches, Akron.*
- The Reverend Dr. Diane Moffett from Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA delivered the message.*
- Minister members celebrating 55, 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, and 5 years of ordination this year were recognized during the COM report. Reverend Jonathon Hauerwas was recognized for his 15 years of service.*
- The ministries of closed churches Liberty and First-Girard were recognized and their merger forming Guiding Light Presbyterian Church in Girard was celebrated.*
- Scott and Elmarie Parker shared updates on their work in Lebanon and Syria. The offering was designated to support the Parkers' ministry.*

Additional information may be found at www.eastminsterpresbytery.org



Staff Welcome



• **Denise Hochevar as Staff Accountant**

Denise lives in Uniontown, Ohio. She is married to Dale Hochevar and they have two children, Riley and Reagan. In her spare time she enjoys scrapbooking, traveling and being with family.

Members and friends of Westminster,

As I am sure you are aware, Reverend Jon Hauerwas' last Sunday at Westminster was November 7. Before he left, he worked with staff and committees to help ensure many responsibilities would be addressed. Session had already approved having members of New Covenant Church join us to celebrate the Advent season, with their pastor, Reverend Tom Ulrich, preaching. The Worship Committee has been diligent in lining up supply pastors to preach through the end of February. The church office is aware of persons available to provide pastoral care if needed.

Session met with representatives from Eastminster Presbytery on Sunday, November 14. We approved a job description for an interim pastor, which next goes to COM for approval.

A motion also prevailed to elect Shelley Koutnik to serve as Head of Staff until the appointment of an interim pastor. This motion authorizes Shelley, with the support of Session, to provide any day-to-day oversight which does not fall under the responsibilities of a staff member nor a committee. Such oversight has typically been performed by the pastor.

We ask for your patience and consideration throughout this process, particularly for those who have assumed more responsibilities. Throughout this time of transition, the leadership of Westminster will do its best to keep you informed of the steps we are taking to help guide the congregation through the interim process, until we have a new regular pastor in place. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of Session.

In Christ - Alec Works, Clerk of Session

February/March Script will be online on January 30, 2022. Please have your articles and pictures submitted to wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by **Tuesday, January 11, 2022**.

 *From the Finance Office*

Let's Talk Taxes

Just a reminder that your year-end gifts must be physically delivered to the Finance Office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2021 to be included on your 2021 giving statement. We follow this policy to be in compliance with IRS regulations regarding tax deductions allowable in a specific year. Thank you for your generous support of Westminster Presbyterian Church during 2021.

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 Report

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.

**WPC Worship Service In-Person
& on YouTube **LIVESTREAM** every week at 10:30 a.m.**

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



Bob Carlyon, Interim Music Director/Organist (weekly office days: Tuesday—Thursday)	wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com
Claudine Schooley, WPC Church Office (weekly office days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday)	wpcoffice1250@gmail.com
Margo Works, Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (weekly office days: Tuesday—Thursday)	wpcchildren1250@gmail.com
Denise Hochevar, WPC Finance Office (weekly office days: Monday—Thursday)	wpcfinance1250@gmail.com
Dave Bodnar, Daytime Custodian (weekly workdays: Sunday—Thursday)	wpcbuilding@gmail.com
Traci Range, Director of Childcare (cell phone 330-459-1177)	wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com
Valerie Stewart, Children's Choir Director	wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

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



Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313
westminsterakron@gmail.com - 330-836-2226
www.westminsterakron.org