

3rd Sunday after Epiphany



January 23, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Follow us also on



or on our church website at westminsterakron.org

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.*

COME

Voluntary

Aria

Flor Peeters

*Call to Worship

Kate Clark

Leader: The work of God our Creator is visible wherever we look.

People: Let us respond with worship and praise.

Leader: Christ calls us to follow in his ways.

People: Let us respond with obedience.

Leader: The wind of the Spirit blows within us, among us, around us.

People: Let us respond with joy.

*Hymn 460

Holy God, We Praise Your Name
GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Leader: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us.

PEOPLE: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.

Leader: God promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weaknesses and shame.

PEOPLE: When we acknowledge our weaknesses and shame, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us.

Prayer of Confession

Unclutter our lives, Lord. Grant us perspective to see this world through others' eyes than just our own. Grant us compassion so that where there is need, we engage in action and not turn aside. Grant us gratitude for what we have: our daily bread and the gift of life. Work with us as we strive to unclutter our lives so that we might recognize and enjoy

simplicity and practice compassion. May we do all these things with thankful hearts. 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 Pardon

This is the covenant I will establish . . . declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. I will forgive their [sins] and will remember their sins no more. Hebrews 8:10, 12

*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.

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

In important ways, money is power. God, who has more power than anyone, shares with us freely so that we can experience this wild and interesting life with God. To be in vital communion with God and in alignment with God's intention for all of creation and humankind, God calls us to care for one another, for our community, for the least, the lost and the lonely in the world. Let us give so that God's power can flow through us to heal the broken in our church, in our community, in our nation, and yes even throughout the world.

Offertory

Praise the Name of the Lord

P. Ivanoff

*Praise ye the name of the Lord, O praise it ye servants of the Lord.
Alleluia. Prais'd be the Lord out of Sion, who dwelleth at Jerusalem.
Alleluia. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious, and his mercy
endureth forever. Alleluia. O give thanks unto the God of Heav'n,
for His mercy endureth for ever. Alleluia!*

Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.

*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

Lisa Bansen-Harp

*Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to
remain with their families, participate in the children's K-6 choir
rehearsal in room 207 or visit with our childcare staff in the nursery.*

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Most Holy God, open our hearts and minds through the power and presence of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with openness of heart and mind what you say to us this day. Amen.

The First Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 4-6, 8-12

Old Testament

1 all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.

2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.

3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

4 The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.'

12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Hymn 366

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

The Second Lesson

Luke 4:14-21

New Testament

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

Sermon Caught between “Oh My,” and “You’ve Got to be Kidding”
The Reverend Dr. Tim Morrison

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God: Who has created and is creating, Who has come in the true Human, Jesus, To reconcile and make new, Who works in us and others by God’s Spirit. We trust God.

God calls us to be God’s church: To celebrate God’s presence, To love and serve others, To seek justice and resist evil, To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

Prayers of the People,

Most Holy, Gracious and Loving God, Remember this your people known as Westminster Presbyterian Church. We acknowledge that our whole being is dependent upon your presence in our lives. We turn to

you for comfort, for healing, for help and hope, especially in troubled times. Guide us in all that we do as a gathered faith community but also as we move about as individuals in our daily lives. Fill us with humility as we seek to be your people at work and witness in the communities we call home. Grant us the wisdom and insight for which we hunger in all that we do.

We thank you and praise you for allowing this nation formed by a disparate gathering of people to survive armed conflicts, cold wars, threats and rumors of war, and the uncertainties of life in a nuclear age. We ask that you urge women and men alike in all levels of government to pursue always the search for human freedoms. Stimulate them and us to seek always your truth in all that we do. Give us judges who are wise, raise up legislators who serve with integrity. Help all of us to hold your law, your politic of preaching good news, proclaiming release to captives, healing the sick, and freeing the oppressed. May all that we do proclaim our love for you, your claim upon us, and our commitment to meeting the challenges you set before us.

Almighty God, listen now to the individual prayers of these your people. Fulfill now the hopes and petitions of these your servants as may be most suitable for them; granting each of us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Silent Reflection

We pray silently...

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

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage.
Hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted.
Honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and upon all those whom you love, prayer for and remember.
And give you joy and peace and strength in this day and all the days to come. Amen.

Voluntary

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Dr. Tim Morrison's Bio

Tim Morrison grew up in Greenville, PA, and earned a BA in social psychology from Lehigh University. In the ensuing years he earned additional graduate degrees. Tim has served in a variety of ministry settings which resulted in him residing in seven different states and Ghana, West Africa. He has written and had published seven books as well. Tim retired in March 2019 after having been a hospital chaplain for a number of years. Tim is married to Marta Morrison, who became a member of Westminster Akron in 2021.

The White Rose in the Chancel Today is in memory of Eleanor Humphrey who entered eternal life on January 12, 2022 at the age of 101. Eleanor was the last surviving charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Families and Youth Babysitting will be provided by youth Saturday, February 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy an early Valentine's date with your spouse!

***Families Skating Event at Lock 3, today, on January 23,
has been canceled.***

Monthly Financial Report

December 2021	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Total Revenues</u>	\$55,273.53	\$101,346.74	\$556,949.48	\$575,896.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$40,643.65	\$54,530.76	\$481,052.48	\$575,896.00
Net	\$4,629.88	\$46,815.98	\$75,897.00	\$0.00

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



***Please dispose of your used masks in the trash receptacles
located in the narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall.***



Calendar of Church Events week of January 23—30, 2022

Sunday, 1/23

- 8:30 am Nursery Opens
- 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
- 9:30 am Sunday School - Parenting Group
- 10:30 am Worship Service & YouTube Livestream
The Reverend Dr. Tim Morrison Preaching
Children's Choir in the Choir Room

Tuesday, 1/25

- 2:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal in Chancel
- 7:00 pm Hybrid Session Meeting on Zoom & in Room 106

Thursday, 1/27

- 9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in the Library
- 7:00 pm Adult Education Zoom Meeting

Sunday, 1/30

- 8:30 am Nursery Opens
- 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
- 9:30 am Sunday School - Parenting Group
- 10:30 am Worship Service & YouTube Livestream
The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby Preaching
Children's Choir in the Choir Room



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.
- For the protection of our children, all nursery workers are fully vaccinated and wearing masks.
- 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.



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 wpchildren1250@gmail.com				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com				
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 wpchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

Laurel Labbe, Youth Music llabbe@roadrunner.com

Traci Range, Director of Childcare wpchildcare1250@gmail.com

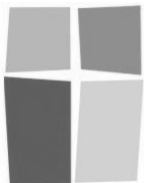
Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir

Shelley Koutnik, Head of Staff

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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