



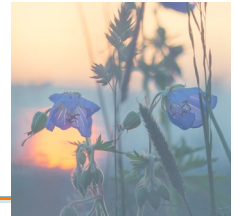
# Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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

## *The Script*

**June 2022**



It was a privilege to serve as a volunteer at 10 General Assemblies of the PCUSA, meeting Presbyterians from across the country and around the globe. The energy for Christ, the enthusiasm for the Presbyterian Church, the desire to improve the life of local congregations and clergy were hallmarks of each Assembly. Another hallmark was that across the spectrum of Presbyterians I met, from the elder who always wore a three piece suit to the blue jeans and boot wearing minister - a sincere humility was obvious among those who were extremely competent practitioners and knowledgeable in the work of the church. Humility is not a Christian trait much in evidence these days, but it is worth our time in this period of transition to consider its practical value.

One lesson I learned on humility as a minister came from a management-labor negotiator who represented Ford Motor Company in contract negotiations. We were speaking about tension in the congregation created by a few members and how to engage with them. He said that his goal sitting as management across the table from labor was not to win or lose, but to come to an agreement. He said that winning/losing made enemies and severed relationships, and to what end? To win the negotiation in a manner that drove people away from the table was actually a no win scenario.

*(Cont'd...)*

There was always going to be someone else willing to sit at the table and be disagreeable! The traditional classic virtues of our faith are forgiveness, gratitude, hope, wisdom, grace, and humility. Let's start with this: humility will encourage us to be more forgiving of one another. Psychologists who make a study of human beings can chart how we hold ourselves in high regard. Are you an above average driver? 90% will answer yes. Are you an above average teacher/professor? Again, 90% will answer yes. Are you 90% positive in your views of the church, in your assessment of the congregation, in your understanding of the past and hopes for tomorrow?

As the Holy Cow congregational assessment tool is completed, a kind of 'snapshot' of the congregation will emerge. The 'snapshot' is only a tool for presenting WPC to candidates for the vacant pulpit. It is not the final picture of the church, for that continues to change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Nor will this 'snapshot' represent 90% of your hopes and aspirations for WPC! Can we all bring a little humility to the table when we learn what our fellow members believe is best for the church? I think we can, and when we do, we will stay in communion with each other and learn to live more lovingly with one another.

Friends, it is well known in the world of church growth experts that the Holy Spirit brings a newcomer into the church the first time, but it is the loving nature of Christian fellowship that entices him/her to return again and again. Humility is a practical attitude in a time of transition and the time of change that will follow the transition!

See you in church soon, I pray.  
Pastor David

## *Information to Know*



### **New Staff Member**

**Abigail Haake**, our new Music Director and Organist, will begin her work with us on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. She will play at both services on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Welcome her!

## **Pentecost Offering**

Before there was Christmas and Easter, there was Pentecost. Pentecost began as a festival of ancient Israel to fall on the fiftieth day after the start of Passover. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the birth of the church.

The Pentecost Offering supports mission with children at risk, youth and young adults. Westminster has chosen to use the 40% of the monies collected for local programs to support the Learning Centers of Helen Arnold, Robinson, and Finlay schools here in Akron. Your generous support is appreciated.

## **Undie Sunday**

Many agencies in the area are expressing a need for under wear for their clients so the Outreach Committee is initiating a new program called Undie Sunday. It will be the First Sunday Food Collection on June 5, 2022. Under wear for all ages are requested. The children will pass through the congregation with donations to be placed in the red bags (along with food donations). Monetary donations are also accepted and should also be placed into the red bags. In addition there will be a box in the Narthex and one in WHH for collection on June 5 and June 12. If persons wish to continue to donate food that Sunday, that is appreciated. Child-age items will be donated to WYDACA, female items will be donated to ACCESS, and male items will be donated to the Haven of Rest. Thank you!

## **Why Do We Need A Stewardship Campaign?**

Recently we have been asked “Why do we need a stewardship campaign when we have a large endowment?”. The answer to that question lies in the Westminster Endowment Rules and Regulations.

*“The object of this Fund shall be: - To receive, as legacies or gifts, monies, real estate, insurance policies, bonds, stocks or other assets.*

*(Cont’d...)*

*- To invest and reinvest the principal. - To distribute the net income from to the Session of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron, Ohio. The principal so received by legacy or gift shall only be used for a perpetual endowment fund for the benefit of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron, Ohio."*

Those who donate to the Endowment do so with the understanding that the funds will be used to generate extra income for Westminster and that the principal will remain in the Endowment for years to come. To comply with fund regulations, the Endowment Committee invests the principal to generate income. ONLY income (dividends and interest) is distributed to Westminster. Contributions are generally made quarterly. The quarterly payments are made as long as the income is being generated to support them. If the income for the year exceeds the estimated amount an additional payment may be made in January. There are several gifts to the Endowment Fund that specify how the income from those gifts is to be used (special music, property maintenance, specific outreach etc.). The Session determines how any unrestricted funds are used.

For 2021, the Endowment estimated income was \$26,000 per quarter, or \$104,000 for the year. For 2021, Endowment income to Westminster represented approximately 24% of the total actual income. Pledged contributions comprised approximately 53%. Total contributions (pledged, non-pledged offerings and offerings for Outreach) met 73% of our total actual expenses. Those expenses were well below budget due largely to lower personnel costs. Clearly, neither current contributions plus the Endowment is sufficient to fund Westminster's operations.

We are indeed blessed to have the endowment funds we do, but they should not leave us with a false sense of security. Although our next stewardship campaign is still a few months away, during this time of transition we need to look at where we want to be. Post-COVID, we are returning to more normal operations and expenses. Do we need to pay more staff or can we rely on more volunteers? How do we factor non-pledged contributions and one-time large gifts into our budgeting and planning processes?

Alec Works  
*President, Westminster Endowment Fund*

## Memorial Garden

On a beautiful Spring Sunday morning, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the ashes of Eleanor Humphrey were interred in the Westminster Memorial Garden, adjacent to the Johnstone Patio. Eleanor, 101 years old, was the last remaining charter member of Westminster. She was represented at the ceremony by daughter Leah Holden with Pastor David Aber presiding. Approximately thirty church members and friends attended. Born in Pittsburgh, PA on January 9, 1921, Eleanor moved to Akron with her family in 1933 where she continued her education, began working and volunteering careers at Goodyear, the United Way and the Junior League and raised a family. She remained in Akron until moving to Florida with her husband Ed. After Ed's death, Eleanor returned to Akron in 2009. Eleanor was an active member of Westminster serving as both Deacon and Elder and continued to be an active member of the community.



Eleanor is the ninth person to be interred in WPC's Memorial Garden since its 2011 inception. For more information about the Garden, you can read the brochures located in the literature racks. You can also speak with any of the committee members; Marcia Holcomb, Earl Pierson or Jim and Barb Shriner. There will also be a Memorial Garden open house later this year.

In closing, please consider this Memorial Garden thought. *"When a face that is dear no longer is here and a voice that we loved has been hushed, it seems that time went by too quickly, it seems as if things were too rushed. But there's a great feeling of comfort when our hearts are grieving and sad, we can remember again and be thankful for the sweet hours we had."*

## Men's Luncheon

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am, at Olive Garden in Fairlawn. Olive Garden provides a selection of food from the menu with excellent service. I will send out an email and call those without emails the week before and ask that you reply as to whether you can attend. All men of Westminster are welcome. If you have not attended before and would like to attend or have questions please contact me, Bob Leonard at [leonardbob29@gmail.com](mailto:leonardbob29@gmail.com) or call me at 330-848-1170.

## Children's Ministries

**VBS Registration is Open!** Sign up on our website. Participants will enjoy an interactive, energizing Bible-based good time through crafts, science, recreation and more!



**Tweens News:** Six tweens recently spent 2 hours playing together at Urban Air Adventure Park.

Ah, if we could have harnessed that energy!

## Celtic Garden News



Our annual Celtic garden plant sale that was held on April 30 was a great success! Many people came with the idea of getting a head start on their gardens and purchasing plants at bargain prices. There was

also a surprise Treasure Table. The sale netted a total of \$1,226!

The money will be used wisely, as maintaining our beautiful Celtic garden comes at a price. It will go toward buying annuals and perennials, fertilizer, mulch, a portion of the water bill, (Cont'd...)

maintenance of the sprinkler system and the fountain, and other various expenses. Thanks to all who helped to make the sale a success! Upcoming garden workdays will be June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to help – no experience necessary!

**Baptismal Font**

The baptismal font, symbolic of entrance into the Kingdom of God, stands in front of the pilaster at the right of the chancel arch as we face the chancel. Its white Italian Carrara marble symbolized the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us upon baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Of its eight sides, seven represent the six days of creation and the day of rest; the eighth is symbolic of the period of Grace. On four of the sides of the font is carved the cross of faith, speaking of the fourfold gospel of repentance, confession, remission, and redemption.



 ***From the Church Office***



**Farewell to Staff Member**

**Claudine Schooley**—Main Office Administration  
Claudine and her husband David are moving to Arizona. Her last day working in the church office will be June 30.

**Church Attendance**

Month	YouTube Views	In-Person	Total Average
Average for 3/6 to 3/27	75	75.75	150.75
Average for 4/3 to 4/24	72	95.4	167.4

**WPC Worship Services In-Person & on YouTube**  
**LIVESTREAM every week at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

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

 **WPC Staff**

The Reverend David Aber, Interim Pastor	wpcpastordavidaber@gmail.com
Dr. Abigail Haake, Music Director/Organist	wpcmusic1250@gmail.com
Claudine Schooley, Church Office Administrator	wpcoffice1250@gmail.com
Meaghan Diaz, Finance Office	wpcfinance1250@gmail.com
Dave Bodnar, Daytime Custodian	wpcbuilding@gmail.com
Traci Range, Director of Childcare	wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com
Valerie Stewart, Children's Choir Director	wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com
Laurel Labbe, Youth Music Director	llabbe@roadrunner.com
Kristy Yates, Volunteer Handbell Choir Director	ksjyates@gmail.com
Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician	wpcoffice1250@gmail.com

**July Script**

Please have your articles and pictures submitted to Claudine at  
wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by **Tuesday, June 14, 2022.**

**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](http://www.westminsterakron.org)