

MUSIC NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2025

THE CADENCE

MUSIC AT WPC



"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul," - Plato



May's Music Message

Siblings in Christ,

As we reflect on the beautiful and meaningful journey of Holy Week, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this year's worship experience so special. From Palm Sunday to Easter morning, we were blessed to have many talented voices and musicians join together in worship. We featured the children's choir, two handbell choir pieces, a trumpeter, multiple choral anthems, liturgical dancers, and a piece beautifully done by the choral scholars. Each of these elements helped make Holy Week a deeply moving experience for our congregation. Thank you to all who helped bring these services to life through your hard work, dedication, and love for our music ministry.

April was a very busy month for our church! We had the privilege of hosting the Akron Symphony Orchestra for their "Concerts for Kids," which brought joy and music to many young listeners. On Palm Sunday, we also hosted Summit Bells as part of our concert series, offering an inspiring and unique handbell performance. Additionally, our handbell choir had the opportunity to travel to Columbus for a handbell festival on April 25 and 26, where they attended workshops and rang with 650 other ringers. It was an incredible experience, and I'm excited for you to read more about these events later in the newsletter!

Looking ahead to the final month of our choir season, I can hardly believe it's already almost over! May will be a month full of music, with the choir singing on all four Sundays, culminating in Music Sunday on May 18. That afternoon, we will have the honor of welcoming the Cuyahoga Valley Community Chorus at 4pm for a special collaborative concert. Our choir season officially concludes on Sunday, May 25, but choir will return for an extra Sunday on June 8 for Pentecost. During that festive service, we will present three choral pieces, and following the service, we'll gather outside for a picnic and a Carillon concert on the lawn. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the end of our choir season and welcome the summer with song and community.

I want to once again express my deep appreciation for everyone's hard work, dedication, and passion for our music ministry. The last month of our season promises to be filled with beautiful and exciting music. I'm looking forward to sharing this final month of singing with all of you as we continue to create inspiring worship experiences and bring our community closer through music. Thank you for everything you do!

Cheerfully in Christ,
Nik Stackpole

AKRON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

We were thrilled to welcome the Akron Symphony to our church for a special concert experience titled "Music Moves Me." This engaging performance brought beloved classical pieces to life in a way that invited children to not just listen, but move, dance, and connect with the music on a personal level. The concert centered around Dr. Seuss's *My Many Colored Days*, with each musical selection capturing the emotion and color of the story's vibrant pages. It was a joyful, interactive performance that had little ones twirling in the aisles and discovering the magic of orchestral music.

Wright-Herberich Hall was buzzing with energy as 88 children and their parents joined us for this memorable occasion. The combination of live symphonic music and a beloved children's book created a powerful and playful introduction to the world of classical music. We are grateful to the Akron Symphony for bringing their talents and creativity into our space and helping to foster a lifelong love of music in the next generation. It was truly a celebration of movement, imagination, and community!



SUMMIT BELLS

On Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday—the Summit Bells delivered an extraordinary concert that filled the afternoon with vibrant and moving music. The ensemble rang with remarkable precision throughout the hour-long performance, showcasing a wide-ranging program that highlighted both technical mastery and emotional depth. From the lively swing of Gershwin classics to the structured elegance of a Mozart Passacaglia, the concert offered something for every listener, delighting the audience with its variety and artistry.

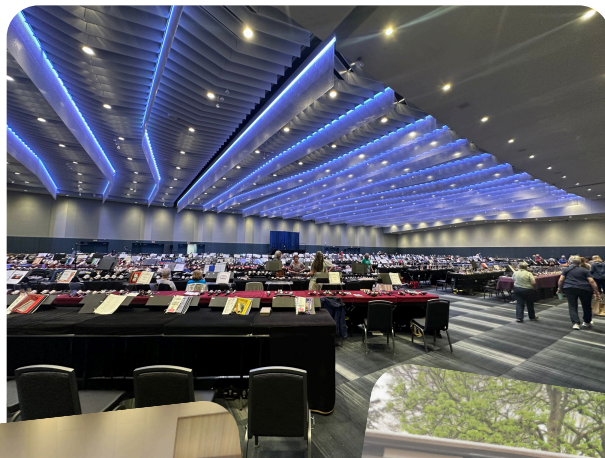
One of the most poignant moments of the concert was a tribute to a beloved local composer, Tim Waugh, whose memory was honored through a touching musical selection. Adding to the excitement of the afternoon, the group gave the world premiere of a stunning handbell transcription of an organ piece by César Franck—an ambitious and beautifully executed performance that left a lasting impression. It was truly a wonderful afternoon of music, celebrating both tradition and innovation in the world of handbells.



HANDBELLS IN COLUMBUS

The handbell choir embarked on an exciting trip to Columbus on April 25 and 26, where they had the unique opportunity to participate in a regional handbell festival. Over the course of two days, the group attended masterclasses and rehearsals led by nationally recognized conductors and composers. These sessions provided valuable insights into advanced ringing techniques, musical interpretation, and ensemble precision. The choir also had the thrill of ringing alongside 650 other musicians from Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana, creating an unforgettable musical experience filled with energy and camaraderie.

Saturday culminated in a grand combined concert where the entire assembly performed eight pieces together, showcasing their hard work and the powerful sound of hundreds of bells ringing in unison. Beyond the music, the trip was filled with fun moments and shared memories—delicious meals, plenty of laughter, and the simple joy of a road trip with friends. It was a meaningful and inspiring weekend that left the ringers energized and more connected as a group.



MAY'S CHORAL ANTHEMS

May 4: “If Ye Love Me” Tallis

May 11: “Beloved, God’s Chosen” Hobby

May 18: “Salvation is Created” McKinney

May 25: “The Lone, Wild Bird” Nelson

“Lord God, the Holy Ghost” Schalk

“Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me,” Lovelace

Updated schedules and recordings have moved to the church’s new website!

Recordings of each piece are available at westminsterakron.org under the “Events and Newsletter” tab, scroll down to the bottom.

MAY NORTHEAST OHIO MUSICAL EVENTS:

Sunday, May 4: David Lines, Organ recital at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron- **4:00 pm**

Sunday, May 4: High School Choir Festival at Fairlawn Lutheran Church- **4:00 pm**

Sunday, May 10: Children's Choir Program at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron- **4:00 pm**

Friday, May 16: Choral Evensong at Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton- **7:30 pm**

Saturday, May 17: Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church- **2:00 pm**

***Sunday, May 18:** Cuyahoga Valley Community Chorus at Westminster Presbyterian Church- **4:00 pm**

***Sunday, June 8:** Picnic and Carillon Concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church- **12:00 pm**

If you need an address for any of these concerts, please reach out to me and I am happy to send it to you!

PENTECOST

PICNIC AND CARILLON CONCERT



Mark your calendars for a special celebration on Pentecost, June 8! Following the morning service, we invite you to join us for a picnic and a carillon concert by our organist and director of music Nik Stackpole. The festivities will begin at noon, with the concert starting at 12:15. Enjoy a delightful afternoon outdoors as the carillon fills the air with well-known favorites, featuring everything from Star Wars to The Sound of Music! This is a wonderful opportunity to gather in fellowship, enjoy great food, and experience the unique beauty of live carillon music. Don't miss this joyful and memorable event!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Nik Stackpole at wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com

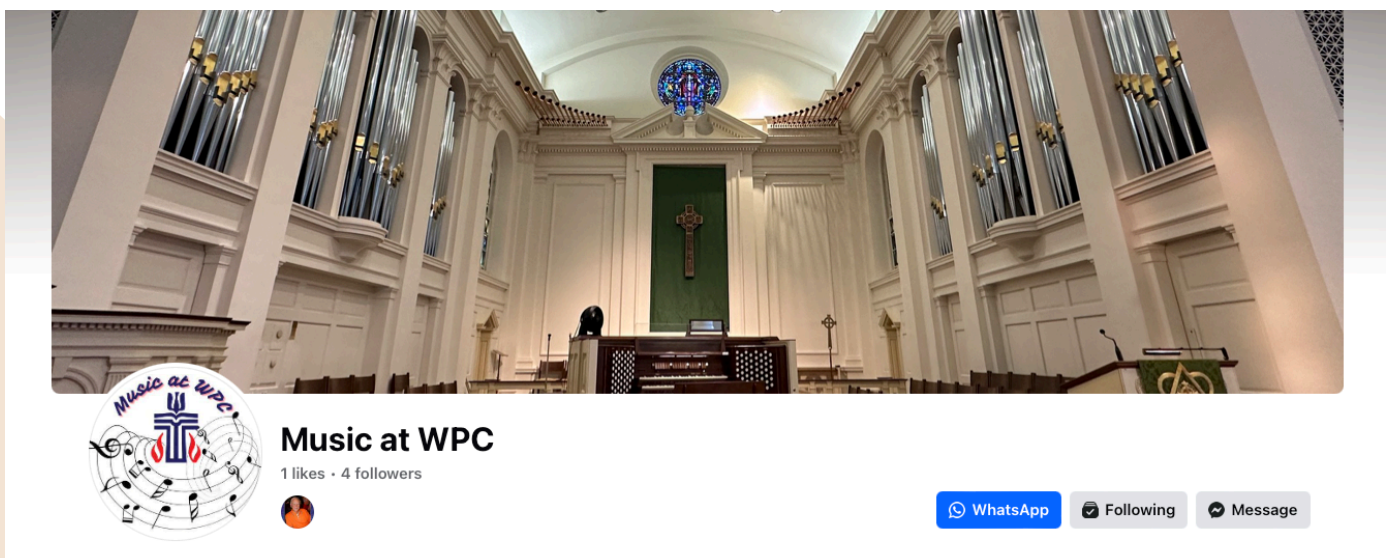
NEW MUSIC AT WPC FACEBOOK PAGE!



In addition to the recent launch of the new website, I am so happy to get the new “Music at WPC” facebook and instagram pages off the ground! These will be utilized to advertise musical events and other news in our program. I encourage you to follow and like both of these pages, and most importantly: share the posts advertising our musical events! This is one of the best and most efficient ways to spread the word around the community!

Facebook: Music at WPC

Instagram: music_at_wpc



Music at WPC

2025 Recital Series

I am thrilled to announce the musical events happening at Westminster this year under the new name of “Music at WPC!” There will be a variety of interactive music events and concerts/recitals. Donations at these events are greatly appreciated to help fund future concerts/recitals.

Sunday, May 18 at 10:30am- Music Sunday at WPC

Sunday, May 18 at 4:00pm- Cuyahoga Valley
Community Chorus

Sunday, June 8 at Noon- Picnic and Carillon Concert on
the Lawn after the 10:30 service.

**NEXT YEAR’S CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE WILL BE
ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8!**

Music at WPC Presents

CUYAHOGA VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS

Edward Arthur Shure,
Artistic Director

Join us on
Sunday, May 18, 2025
at 4:00PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1250 W Exchange St. Akron, OH 44313

Free and open to the public!





PICNIC AND CARILLON CONCERT

**NIK STACKPOLE,
CARILLON**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8
PICNIC AT NOON
CONCERT AT 12:15**

**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH LAWN**

**1250 W EXCHANGE ST.
ALRON, OH 44313**

**ALL KINDS OF MUSIC
RANGING FROM STAR
WARS TO THE SOUND
OF MUSIC!**