

MUSIC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2025

THE CADENCE

MUSIC AT WPC



*"Music in the soul can be heard by the
universe."
- Lao Tzu*



September's Music Message

Siblings in Christ,

I am very excited to welcome a vibrant and busy fall season in the music program at Westminster! Our choirs will resume on Sunday, September 7, and our handbell choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3 at 3:15 PM, with lunch at the Mustard Seed Market Cafe at 2:00 PM. We are always looking for new members of both our choir and handbell choir! After a restful summer, I look forward to making music together again and stepping into a full schedule of worship and events that will inspire and enrich our community.

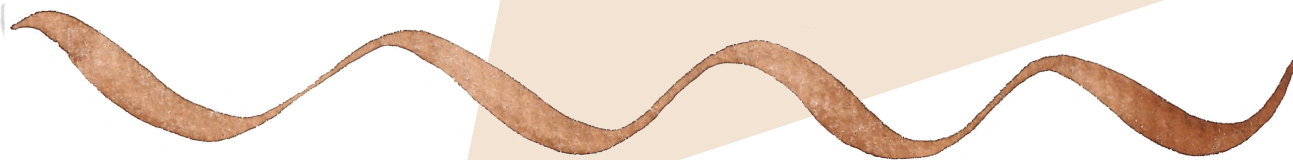
We have a ton of events coming up this fall, and I hope you will join us for as many as you are able! Please read more about each of these later in the newsletter. Highlights include Music at WPC Community Day on Sunday, September 14, a five-week class on hymnody beginning Sunday, September 21, a beautiful Taizé service on Wednesday, September 24, and our Organ Day on Saturday, September 27. Our fall calendar also features major concerts and guest ensembles, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our performance of the Rutter Requiem with 120 singers and chamber orchestra on Sunday, October 26. In December, we will welcome the Firestone Madrigal Singers in worship on Sunday, December 7, gather for a joyful Christmas Carol Sing on Sunday, December 21, and conclude 2025 with our cherished Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, complete with a half-hour of prelude music. It is shaping up to be a truly exciting season, and I am grateful for all who make this ministry possible!

Cheerfully in Christ,
Nik Stackpole

MEET OUR NEW *Choral Scholars*

Molly Raimondi is so excited to be joining the choir here at Westminster! She hails from sunny South Florida, having just moved to Cleveland last summer. Molly holds a degree in Music Education from the University of South Florida and is the choral & theatre director at Richmond Heights Secondary School. She is married to Frank Raimondi, a trumpet player & band/orchestra director in Akron. Together, they have a 1-year-old daughter, a puppy, and another baby on the way. We look forward to Molly leading our alto section beginning this year!



Miguel Vasquez is 17 years old and a senior at Woodridge High School. His hobbies include playing piano, singing, dancing, listening to music, playing video games, and reading comic books. He loves alternative rock music, though he listens to many different genres and is always looking for recommendations for new songs. Miguel is a member of two of his school's choirs, Rhapsody Show Choir and the Tenor/Bass Choir, where he serves as the Tenor section leader for both. He has been singing since the 6th grade. Miguel hopes to pursue Computer Science in college, which connects to his work in the school's IT department—a job he greatly enjoys. Coming from a Puerto Rican/Dominican family, he has three sisters who have been his best friends since birth, as well as a younger cousin he has always treated like a brother. We are excited to have Miguel leading out tenor section beginning this year!

Hymnody Class!

Beginning Sunday, September 21 and continuing for five weeks through October 19, we will be offering a special hymn class series following the Sunday morning service. This series is an invitation to explore the rich and diverse world of congregational song—from ancient origins to modern-day expressions. Each session will focus on a unique theme, combining listening, discussion, and reflection to deepen our appreciation of the hymns we sing and the ways they shape our worship and faith. Light refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome to attend—whether you are a lifelong hymn lover or just curious to learn more.

Throughout the five weeks, we'll examine how hymns have evolved through the centuries, how they express our deepest spiritual longings, and how they respond to the challenges of our contemporary world. Topics will include the history of hymnody, hymn texts addressing creation care, gender-inclusive language in song, and the impact of the digital age on congregational singing. These sessions will be informal, engaging, and open to a range of perspectives. Come be part of this meaningful conversation on the music that gives voice to our faith.

Class Schedule and Titles:

- September 21: How We Got Here: A History of Congregational Song (Before Things Got Weird)
- September 28: Faith in Full Voice: Exploring Spirituality Through Hymns
- October 5: When Creation Groans: Hymns at the Crossroads of Faith and Climate
- October 12: Every Voice Lifted: Gender-Inclusive and Expansive Hymnody
- October 19: What We Learned in the Silence: Singing after the Pandemic

TAIZE SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary for a special candlelight Taizé service—an evening of gentle music, prayer, and quiet reflection. This service offers a peaceful and contemplative space in the middle of a busy week, where worshippers are invited to rest in the presence of God through stillness, silence, and song. The entire service will take place by candlelight, creating an atmosphere of calm and reverence as we gather in the chancel together as a community of prayer.

The Taizé style of worship comes from the ecumenical Taizé Community in the Burgundy region of France. Founded in 1940 by Brother Roger during the turmoil of World War II, Taizé began as a place of refuge for those fleeing the conflict—especially Jews. In the years that followed, it became an international center for reconciliation and spiritual renewal. Today, thousands of pilgrims—many of them young adults—travel each year to Taizé to take part in its simple rhythms of communal prayer, work, and silence. The community is widely known for its deep commitment to unity across Christian traditions and its focus on simplicity, peace, and justice.

Music is central to the Taizé tradition. The songs, often simple chants based on scripture or lines of prayer, are sung repeatedly to help move worshippers into a spirit of meditation. This repetition allows the music to become a form of prayer itself—quiet, reflective, and accessible to all, regardless of musical background. In our upcoming service, all of the music will be sung a cappella and led by a few of our choral scholars. Without the support of the organ, the music will have a pure and intimate beauty, echoing through the candlelit space with warmth and clarity.

This Taizé service is open to everyone, whether you are familiar with this tradition or simply seeking a space of calm and spiritual grounding. Come as you are. No expectations, no pressure—just an invitation to pause, breathe, listen, and pray together. We hope you will join us for this meaningful time of worship.

Music at WPC

COMMUNITY DAY!

Mark your calendars for Community Day at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 14, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service! This special event is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a church family for food, fellowship, and fun. After enjoying a shared meal, we'll turn our focus to music with engaging, lighthearted activities designed for all ages. Whether you've been part of the music program for years or are just curious about how music shapes worship at WPC, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

As part of the celebration, we'll highlight the many ways music is woven into the life of our church. You'll have the chance to learn more about the various choirs and music ministries at WPC, meet some of the people involved, and even join in a group sing with our choir! It's a great way to experience the joy of making music together in a welcoming, low-pressure environment. We hope you'll join us for this joyful day of connection, discovery, and song.



CHORAL ANTHEMS:

Sunday, September 7: “Laudate Dominum” Gordon Young

Sunday, September 14: “For Everyone Born,” Tom Trenney

Sunday, September 21: “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven,” James Kirkby

Sunday, September 28: “All Glory Be to Thee Most High,” Rachel Aarons

Updated schedules and recordings are on the church’s website. Recording links of each piece are available at westminsterakron.org under the “Events and Newsletter” tab, scroll to the bottom.

SEPTEMBER NORTHEAST OHIO MUSICAL EVENTS

Sunday, September 14- 12:00 PM: Music at WPC

Community Day- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron

Sunday, September 21- 12:00 PM: Music at WPC Hymn

Sessions Begin

Sunday, September 21- 4:00 PM: A Chorus for a Cause- St.

Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Massillon

Sunday, September 21- 4:00 PM: Choral Evensong- St.

Paul's Episcopal Church Cleveland Heights

Sunday, September 21- 4:00 PM: Astralis Chamber

Ensemble- St. Sebastian Parish, Akron

If you need an address for any concert, please reach out to
Nik Stackpole!



Music at WPC Presents **COMMUNITY DAY**

Join us after morning services for a delightful lunch and an afternoon filled with fellowship and uplifting singing! No music experience required—just come as you are and enjoy the day with us! This event is free and open to everyone—bring your friends and family!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER
14, 2025 AT 12:00 PM**





Hymnody SERIES



**BEGINNING SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
AT NOON**

1250 W. EXCHANGE ST. AKRON OH 44313

**SIGN UP BY EMAILING
NIK STACKPOLE OR ON THE
CHURCH WEBSITE**



Music at WPC Presents:

Organ Day



**Saturday, September 27
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

In the Sanctuary

Ever wondered what makes the pipe organ sing? Join Nik Stackpole on Saturday, September 27 for Organ Day! Come anytime between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm to explore the pipes, see the console up close, ask questions, and even try playing. Photos at the console encouraged—everyone is welcome!

For More Information :

Nik Stackpole

wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com





Music at WPC
Presents

JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM



Featuring the WPC choir
Woodridge High School's Rhapsody Choir
Cantate Singers
Firestone CLC's Symphonic Choir

OCTOBER | 26 | 4:00 PM

1250 W. Exchange St.
Akron, OH 44313

Free Parking across from the church



MUSIC AT WPC PRESENTS:

FIRESTONE CLC MADRIGAL CHOIR

Music offered during our 10:30
church service on the First
Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
10:30 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH,
1250 W EXCHANGE ST.
AKRON, OH 44313



MUSIC AT WPC PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS
CAROL SING



21 DEC
2025

4 00
PM

FREE
ENTRY

Come celebrate the season with us on
Sunday, December 21, as we sing all
your favorite Christmas classics
together!

1250 W EXCHANGE ST.
AKRON, OH 44313





Music at WPC

2025-2026 CONCERT SERIES

1250 W. Exchange St.
Akron, OH 44313

Sunday,
September 14
12:00 PM

Music at WPC Community Day

Sunday,
October 26
4:00 PM

Rutter's Requiem

Sunday,
December 7
10:30 AM

Firestone Madrigals

Sunday,
December 21
4:00 PM

Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday,
January 25
4:00 PM

Ensemble Mercury

Sunday,
April 26
4:00 PM

Stow Heritage Ringers

Sunday,
May 24
12:00 PM

Picnic and Carillon Concert



wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com



(330) 836-2226 EXT. 104



westminsterakron.org