

Westminster Staff

Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor

Dave Bodnar, Custodian

Lou Camerato, Staff Accountant

Jim Cole, Treasurer

Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Dawn M. Pokorny, Office Administrator

Traci Range, Director of Childcare

Gwynne Rearick, Director Family Ministry

Pat Schumacher, Housekeeping

Nik Stackpole Director of Music/Organist

Valerie Stewart, Director Children's Choir

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Westminster Presbyterian Church
March 23, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Lent



“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are
your ways my ways, says the Lord”



Online Giving

Secure Online Giving is available through our website,
www.westminsterakron.org
Select “Give” and then click on
“Give Here” [from there follow the prompts]

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313

wpcoffice1250@gmail.com - 330-836-2226

www.westminsterakron.org



Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Follow Westminster on



or on our church website at westminsterakron.org

Welcome to Westminster,

We are an open affirming congregation sharing God's love in West Akron.
No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

The flowers in the chancel are given in loving memory of my husband, Whitey Wahl, and my parents, Glenn & Ruth Clark, by Marian Wahl.

Annual Report Congregational Meeting for 2024 will be Sunday, April 6, 2025 after worship in the Sanctuary. Copies will be provided.

We encourage everyone to join us for our Mardi Gras feast/Community Dinner on Thursday, March 27th, at 5:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share ideas, and strengthen our sense of community. Please consider inviting a friend to be part of this enriching experience. Together, we can create a more supportive and inclusive environment for all.

Westminster is planning to schedule a comprehensive training class that includes CPR, First Aid, and AED instruction for members and their families. We believe it is essential to learn life-saving techniques and understand how to use medical equipment in case of an emergency. If you are interested in attending, and prefer a week-night or a Saturday please contact the church so we can arrange a date for the class. wpcoffice1250@gmail.com or 330.836.2226

Those members who have ordered contribution envelopes, can pick them up from the table at the front of the church.

Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of Westminster Presbyterian Church through its' governing bodies (Eastminster Presbytery, Synod of the Covenant, General Assembly) to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while strengthening the sense of community among Presbyterians.

Westminster's per capita amount per person for 2025 is \$33.00 and is composed of \$18.76 for Eastminster Presbytery; \$3.40 for Synod of the Covenant; and \$10.84 for General Assembly. Consider paying your per capita to help Westminster offset the amount being used from our budget. Please write "per capita" on your check's memo line.

Everyone is invited to Coffee fellowship in
Wright-Herberich Hall after 10:30 am. worship
to say hello, visit and catch up with your neighbor.

Calendar of Church Building Events For March 23– March 30, 2025

Sunday, 3/23

- 8:30 am Childcare available
- 8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)
- 9:30 am Commissioning Class (Youth Rooms, upstairs)
- 9:30 am Sunday School (Godly Play Room, upstairs)
- 10:30 am Worship & YouTube Live-Stream
- 11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)

Tuesday, 3/25

- 7:00 pm Session meeting (Room 106)

Wednesday, 3/26

- 3:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, 3/27

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 4:45 pm Community Dinner (WHH)
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom

Saturday, 3/29

- 9:00 am Celtic Garden clean-up

Sunday, 3/30

- 8:30 am Childcare available
- 8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)
- 10:30 am Worship & YouTube Live-Stream
- 11:45 am Coffee Fellowship (WHH)

This Week's Music at WPC:

Scan or take a picture of the QR code with your smart phone and learn some musical history and context.



*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God:
God makes my path straight.
I live by faith, not by sight.
God will guide me forever.
I am victorious in Christ.
God wants me to prosper in all things.
I am more than a conqueror.
I am loved by God.
I am heard by God.
I trust in God's timing.
God has great plans for my life. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Out of the ashes, up from the dust, we bring our prayers to God saying:
In your steadfast love, O God,
have mercy on us.
We pray silently...
And finally, together, as the people of God, we offer the prayer that Christ
taught us, saying in one voice:

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.**

*Hymn 85 What Wondrous Love is This WONDROUS LOVE

*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary Fugue in E Minor J. S. Bach

Today's Worship team is Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby (preaching);
Raphael Peoples (liturgist); Nik Stackpole (organist);
Bruce Klucharich (audio-visual); Adult Choir; and Ushers



*At the ringing of the carillon, please silence your conversations and prepare your
hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God.*

Bolded text is read or sung by all. *Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

Voluntary Prelude in E Minor J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Call to Worship Raphael Peoples

Everyone who thirsts:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return
so that you may live.**

All who are hungry for righteousness:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return
so that you may live.**

All who need the help of God:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return
so that you may live.**

*Hymn 282 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN

Call to Confession

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God,
who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon
God who is near.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you.
You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.
You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires.
Our ways are not your ways;
our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.
Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life.
Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.
We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response	Lord, Have Mercy	<i>Kyrie</i>
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.		

Assurance of Forgiveness

God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.
Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him. With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.

*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

*Please sign the friendship pad and pass it to those seated near you.
Last one to sign, please leave at the end of the pew. Thank you.*

Offertory	Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley	Scott Soper
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*Jesus walked this lonesome valley; He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; He had to walk it by himself.
You must go and stand your trial; You have to stand by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; You have to stand it by yourself.*

*Response 592	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	<i>(Doxology)</i>
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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.

Prayer of Dedication

(Children may exit with Ms. Valerie to attend choir rehearsal)

Prayer for Illumination

We seek you in your word, O God,
as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul.
Then with our mouths, we will praise you;
and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. **Amen.**

The First Lesson	Isaiah 55:1-9	(pew bible pg. 685-686)
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Hymn 363	I Want Jesus to Walk With Me	SOJOURNER
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The Second Lesson	Luke 13:1-9	(pew bible pg. 76)
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This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon	"Bearing Fruit"	The Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby
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