

10:30 am Service In-Person &  
on YouTube **LIVESTREAM**

Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook at Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
Twitter and Instagram @WPCAkrn



1250 West Exchange Street Akron, Ohio 44313

### ***Westminster Staff***

Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor	wpcpastorselby@gmail.com
Dave Bodnar, Custodian	wpcbuilding@gmail.com
Lou Camerato, Staff Accountant	wpcfinance1250@gmail.com
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Pat Schumacher, Housekeeping	wpcoffice1250@gmail.com
Nik Stackpole, Director of Music/Organist	wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com
Valerie Stewart, Dir. Children's Choir	wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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)

## The Script March 2025





## *“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”*

This familiar petition appears at the midpoint of Psalm 51, which we will read responsively at the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. on March 5.

Psalm 51 is an appropriate psalm for the season of Lent, as it speaks both to our sinfulness and to God’s “mercy” and “steadfast love” (verse 1). In the Western tradition, Lent is a forty-day period of prayer, reflection, and penitence in imitation of Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness prior to his public ministry. A period of prayer and fasting leading up to Easter and, for some, Baptism at the Easter Vigil, was part of the practice of the early Church and was formalized in the early 4th century.

On the first day of Lent, it became customary for the faithful to be reminded of the need for penitence and of their own mortality by receiving ashes, either sprinkled on top of worshippers’ heads or marked in the shape of a cross on their foreheads—hence the name Ash Wednesday.

Christians choose to observe Lent in a variety of ways. Some choose to give up particular pleasures such as sweets, or to fast from Facebook. Others prefer not to “give up” but to “take on” particular practices during Lent—spending twenty minutes each day in contemplative prayer, or reading a book specially written or compiled for the season of Lent (*Show Me the Way*, a compilation of writings by the late Catholic priest Henri Nouwen, is a favorite of mine).

Lent is a time for growth in our faith as we prepare for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. A key theme of this season is reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ. While solemn in tone, Lent is also a season of healing and hope.

I plan to pray these verses from Psalm 51 each morning, and to repeat and reflect on one of the lines from these verses as I go about each of the forty days of Lent:

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit (Psalm  
51:10-12).*

With blessings for a holy Lent,  
Sandy Selby, Bridge Pastor



### The Senior Protection Unit:

Works in the community throughout the year to educate our seniors on how to stay safe. This includes speeches to senior groups, self-defense classes designed specifically for seniors, scam alerts, and our Senior newsletter.

Conducts trainings for law enforcement on senior abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

Produces a Senior Safety Awareness calendar featuring a different safety tip each month.

Collaborates with community organizations to better understand the needs of seniors.

Participates in monthly I-Team meetings—consisting of a group of Summit County organizations focused on assisting seniors.

### **Stop Crimes Against the Elderly**

1 in 10 older adults are abused  
1 in 24 cases of elder abuse  
are reported

#### **See Abuse— Report it!**

Summit County  
Sheriff Senior  
Service Division  
330-643-2181

Summit County  
Adult Protection  
Services  
330-643-7217

### **24 hour hotlines**

[www.prosecutor.summitoh.net](http://www.prosecutor.summitoh.net)  
53 University Ave.  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
330-643-2800



**Elliot Kolkovich**

Summit County Prosecutor

### **FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS**

**Certified Instructor  
Chad Cunningham**

Learn simple techniques that could save your life!



- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a choke-hold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps



### **March 18 - Twinsburg**

6pm - 8pm  
Twinsburg High School  
10084 Ravenna Rd. Twinsburg,  
OH 44087

### **April 15 - Norton**

6pm - 8pm  
Norton High School -  
Main Gym  
1 Panther Way Norton,  
OH 44203

May - Copley / Fairlawn

June - Stow

August - Akron / North

September - Bath / Richfield

October - Tallmadge

November - Green

**If you suspect fraud,  
call the National Fraud  
Information Center at  
(330) 876-7060**



## A letter from Christina Hodgkinson, Executive Director of the International Welcome Center:

“Because of you, something beautiful happens every day at the International Welcome Center: Your generosity creates moments where faith meets action, where understanding bridges cultural divides, and where our country's newest families find not just help – but hope.”

“Yet, as we celebrate the good that's happening, we also face an urgent and heavy reality. The recent executive order suspending the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program has left refugee families in limbo.

This decision weighs heavily on all of us.”

“Now more than ever, let us stand united in prayer and action for the vulnerable individuals and families navigating this uncertainty.”

“Your generosity does more than support our mission – it breathes life into it, creating hope and connection when it's needed most”

In light of these new developments, our collection of household goods will be in limbo until further notice.

**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.

~Jim Cole

## *From the Desk of the Clerk of Session:*

*The regular meeting of Session was on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.*

The following corporate officers were re-elected for 2025:

Alec Works, Clerk of Session; James Cole, Treasurer; and Marcia Holcomb, Assistant Treasurer.

Average in-person attendance in December was 89, including 190 on Christmas Eve. Average YouTube viewings were 72. Official membership on 12/31/24 is 221. Dottie Erb and Brian Rodabaugh were elected as commissioners to the March 11th meeting of Eastminster Presbytery.

*April 6 was set as the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting.*

Ed Labbe reported that the Pastoral Nominating Committee continues to review profiles and speak with prospective candidates. Larger contributions in December and interest/dividend income, along with lower personnel costs, reduced the projected 2024 year-end deficit to approximately \$36,000. A preliminary 2025 Operating Budget was also distributed. With lower pledged contributions and budgeting for a full-time pastor for 9 months, over \$290,000 is currently budgeted from reserves to cover the projected deficit.

There is significant work to be done on the church building. The largest expenditures continue to be personnel and properties. Several motions were approved, including several collections by Outreach and events sponsored by Discipleship and Worship.

[Watch for announcements in the Script and bulletins.]

~Alec Works  
Clerk of Session



## Preparing For Lent:

### 1. Prayer for Ash Wednesday to Begin Lent with Strength

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way.

And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will, aware for our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

### 2. Prayer to Protect from Any Temptation

O Christ, Son of God, for our sake you fasted forty days and allowed your self to be tempted. Protect us so that we may not be led astray by any temptation. Since one does not live by bread alone, nourish our souls with the heavenly food of your Word; through your mercy, O our God, you are blessed and live and govern all things, now and forever. Amen.

### 3. Lent Prayer for Protection

Lord God, heavenly Father, you know that we are set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection, to support us in all danger, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 4. Prayer for God to Bring Beauty from Ashes

Life can feel overwhelmingly dark, filled with grief and pain.

In our weakness, we seek Your strength, Lord. Let Your Spirit shine through our brokenness and transform our struggles into beauty, joy, and hope. We choose gratitude, trusting that this darkness will fade. Thank You for being with us, greater than our trials. We have faith in Your sovereignty and the victory in Christ Jesus, confident that You create something beautiful from our ashes. We praise You for making all things new.

# TETÉLESTAI

Luke 14:23

"IT IS FINISHED"  
A MUSICAL PORTRAYAL OF THE  
TRIAL, EXECUTION, AND  
RESURRECTION  
OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

SCRIPT & LYRICS BY JOEL NAGY  
MUSICAL SCORE BY RUSS NAGY



St. Luke's Lutheran  
Church  
2121 6th Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Friday, April 11th at 8:00pm  
Saturday, April 12th at 8:00pm  
Sunday, April 13th at 2:00pm

CLEVELAND PERFORMING ARTS MINISTRIES  
LIVETHEPASSION.ORG (440) 944-0635  
TETÉLESTAI IS A REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF  
TETÉLESTAI INC.





# BIBLE STUDY

Come join us Thursday evening 7-8pm via Zoom.  
Contact Rae Leonard, [leonardrae4@gmail.com](mailto:leonardrae4@gmail.com)  
for more information and Zoom link.

Let's Dig In together

## Staff Schedules

Staff	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Rev. Sandy Selby	Call	Office	To	Make	Appt.
Dave Bodnar	8:00am-12:30pm	8:00am-12:30pm	8:00am-12:30pm	8:00am-12:30pm	
Lou Camerato	8:30am-12:30pm				8:30am-12:30pm
Jim Cole	Call	Office	To	Make	Appt.
Dawn Pokorny	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm	8:30am-4pm
Gwynne Rearick	Call	Office	For	Avail.	Times
Pat Schumacher	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm	8:30am-12:30pm
Nik Stackpole	Call	Office	For	Avail.	Times

## January Community Dinner

On Thursday, Jan. 30, Raphael Peoples treated about 32 diners to hearty chili, potato soup, rolls, a salad of mixed greens, and dessert.

Although the usual group home residents who typically fill our tables didn't make it this time, there was good fellowship amongst church members/volunteers, a couple WYDACA families and several regulars who look forward to a good meal!

Leftover food was left in the fridge for staff members, the WYDACA director and custodian, and the rest went home with several people quite grateful to have it!

Volunteers that made this happen were: Marian Wahl, Earl Pierson, Peg Messaros, Lisa Bansen-Harp and daughter Sarah, Jennifer Vicarel, Suzanne Grafinger., and Margo Works.



## Save The Date:

- ♦ Ash Wednesday Service, March 5th at 7:00 pm. (Sanctuary)
- ♦ “Dinner Party” at O’Neil House/Garden Room. Friday March 7th at 6:00 pm. BYOB affair. (more details on page 7).
- ♦ WPC Music presents “Music Moves Me” by the Akron Symphony, Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 9:30 & 10:45 am (WHH), more on pg. 10.
- ♦ WPC Music presents “Summit Bells” Sunday, April 13, 2025 in (WHH), at 4:00 pm. Free and open to public.
- ♦ WPC Music “Community Day” May 4th at 12:00 pm. (Free event)

### FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

First Sunday Food Collection will take place on first Sunday of each month. Non-perishable items requested are chicken and tuna in a can, prepackaged dinners, fruits and vegetables in a can, pudding, toilet paper, paper towels, and personal care items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, body soap, deodorant etc.

Monetary donations are also appreciated. Help fill the “red bags” to help those who are less fortunate.

*Westminster offers access for those who have difficulty with mobility.*

The church’s private driveway off of West Exchange Street, will take you into the back of the church property. You will find a small parking area which provides handicap parking. Across from the parking area is a wheelchair ramp to access entry at door #8. From this point you will be able to enter Wright-Herberich Hall and continue to a wheelchair/mobility elevator. This lift/elevator will allow those to enter the Sanctuary for worship or concert events.

### April 2025 Script Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures submitted to the church office at [wpcoffice1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com) by **Monday, March 10, 2025.**



I hope you are enjoying “*The Script*”, your feed back and entries are appreciated. ~Dawn M Pokorny, Editor



Music at WPC Presents

# Summit Bells

**Sunday, April 13  
at 4:00 PM**

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1250 W Exchange Street  
Parking across the street

Free and open to the public!





Music at WPC Presents

# AKRON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONCERTS FOR KIDS: "Music Moves Me"

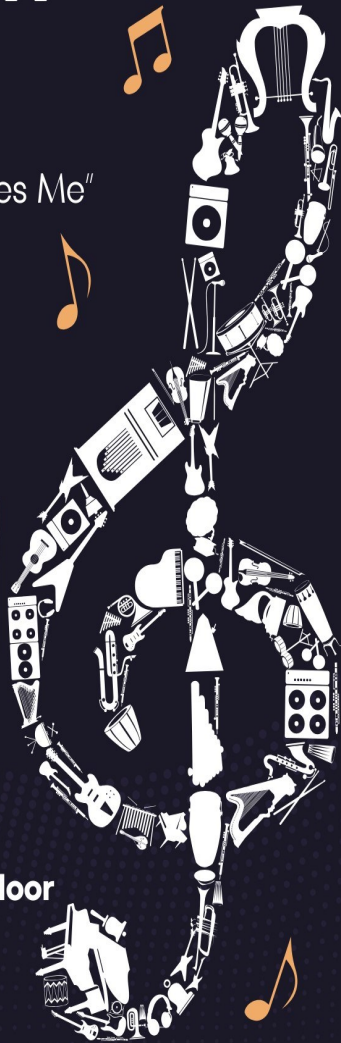
**Tuesday, April 8**  
**at 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM**



Tickets \$6.00 each for  
Adults and children over 2 years old

**Tickets available online and at the door**

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1250 W Exchange St. Akron, OH 44313  
Wright-Herberich Hall



## Discipleship Doings:

The *Sweets & Treats* brunch, hosted on February 9th, was a charming occasion that captivated the hearts of many attendees following the morning worship service. A warm and inviting crowd of friends and community members gathered in a beautifully decorated hall, filled with cheerful decorations and the sweet aroma of baked goods.

Many enjoyed the chocolate fountain, which flowed generously alongside an assortment of fresh fruit. One of the standout attractions was the flower arranging table, where attendees could unleash their creativity by crafting stunning bouquets with fresh, vibrant blooms. It certainly was a "lovely" time.

Coming soon, is our *"Dinner Party"* hosted by my dinner group. Other dinner groups will be invited to bring a component of the dinner to this event. Raphael Peoples plans to make Billionaires Meatloaf as the main course.

My daughter will make a vegetable Wellington for any vegan or vegetarian member. This is also a BYOB sort of affair. It is scheduled to be on Friday, March 7th, at 6 pm, at the exquisite O'Neil House in the Garden Room.

This will give us a chance to reorganize. New people can join existing dinner groups and some can move to other dinner groups based on personal preferences. Everyone is invited, even if they cannot commit to a monthly dinner meeting. This event is first come, first served. O'Neil House can seat 40 of us. Talk to Dottie or myself after church or email me at [wpcfamilyministry1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcfamilyministry1250@gmail.com). Thank you,

~Gwynne Rearick







*Sweets & Treats*  
2025

