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Westminster Presbyterian Church

April 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption**

*Psalm 130*



Online Giving

Secure Online Giving is available through our website,  
[www.westminsterakron.org](http://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](http://www.westminsterakron.org)



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

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

## 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** by the Samuel Laferty family in memory of Deb's parents, Warren & Jean Grable and Sam's parents Jeanette & Ottis Laferty.

**It is that time of the year for "Easter Memorial Flowers"**. Please follow the insert to make your contribution. Thank you, enjoy your Sunday today. **Deadline for forms is April 13th.**

**Annual Report Congregational Meeting** for 2024 will be Sunday, Today after worship in the Sanctuary. Copies will be provided.

**First Sunday Food Collection** will take place today during worship. 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.

**We had a handful of members/families call or email in letting us** know they would like to attend a comprehensive training class that includes CPR, First Aid, and AED instruction. 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 weeknight or a Saturday please contact the church so we can arrange a date for the class. [wpcoffice1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com) or 330.836.2226

**This special offering will take place from April 6th** through April 20th. One Great hour of Sharing provides relief from natural disasters, hunger and promotes the self development of all people. Your kind gifts bring love and hope to the world through three life-saving programs. 36% supports the Presbyterian Hunger Programs, which is committed to ending hunger globally. 32% supports Disaster Assistance, which is committed to help others repair from disasters and beyond the initial aftermath globally. 32% supports Self-Development of people, which is committed to helping communities around the world gain the skills they need to improve their communities.

All these programs fit together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope. This Lenten Season you can help sustain these important ministries and programs in over 100 countries. Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing. "If we all do a little, it adds up a lot!"

**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.

## Calendar of Church Building Events For April 6-- April 13, 2025

### Sunday, 4/6

- 8:30 am Childcare available
- 8:45 am Choir practice (in Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Adult Book Club (Room 106)
- 10:30 am Worship/Food Collection & YouTube Live-Stream
- 11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 11:40 am Outreach Meeting (Room 106)
- 11:45 am Coffee/Birthday Cake Fellowship (WHH)

### Tuesday, 4/8

- 9:30 am Akron Youth Symphony
- 7:00 pm Properties Committee meeting (Library)

### Wednesday, 4/9

- 3:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

### Thursday, 4/10

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 6:30 pm League of Women Voters (Room 106)
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom

### Sunday, 4/13

- 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)
- 11:45 am Personnel Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 pm Summit Bells Event (Sanctuary)

\*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,  
**hear our prayer**  
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 538 Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing SICILIAN MARINERS

\*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary Morning Song John S. Dixon (b. 1957)  
(Nik Stackpole & Bob Carlyon)

[Please No applause, thank you, enjoy your Sunday]

**Today’s Worship team is** Reverend Barry Chance (preaching);  
Margo Works(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 Come Home Charles Callahan (1951-2023)  
(Nik Stackpole & Bob Carlyon)

\*Call to Worship Margo Works

When the lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
**we were like those who dream.**  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter and shouts of joy.  
**We rejoiced: “The Lord has done great things for us.”**  
May those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
**come home with joy, carrying their sheaves.**

\*Hymn (INSERT) Not Here for High and Holy Things MORNING SONG

Call to Confession

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not  
asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return  
or restore us to former things.  
Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life.  
With confidence in God’s generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life  
offered in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Confession

**Purifying God,  
we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the  
church, and in the world.** (over)

We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ,  
 for you overturn our notions of power and protocol.  
 Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others.  
 Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us.  
 Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others.  
 Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice.  
 Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant  
 love of Christ until all are made new.  
 In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*Silence is observed.*

### Response

Kyrie

Lord have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up - on  
 us. Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous.  
 Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own.  
 Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
 The old life has passed away— and a new life has begun.  
**Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
 we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.**

### \*Passing the Peace

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

### Moment of Mission

Margo Works

### 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

### The Narrow Way

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

*Be near me, Lord, wherever I go; Teach me what you would have me do;  
 Direct whatever I think or say; and lead me in the narrow way.  
 Prevent me, lest I harbor pride, Lest I in my own strength confide;  
 Show me my weakness, let me see I have my power, my all in thee.  
 Assist and teach me how to pray; Incline my nature to obey;  
 What you abhor, oh, let me flee, And only love what pleases thee.  
 Be near me, Lord, wherever I go; Teach me what you would have me do;  
 Direct whatever I think or say; and lead me in the narrow way.*

### \*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Doxology*

**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

Break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit, O God.  
 Let your word, read and proclaimed, pour out until its fragrance fills this  
 house and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the  
 good news we received.  
 We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always. **Amen.**

### The First Lesson

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

(pew bible pg. 171-172)

### Hymn 78

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

MARTYRDOM

### The Second Lesson

John 12:1-8

(pew bible pg. 106)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### Sermon

“Extravagant Love”

The Rev. Barry Chance