

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

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1250 West Exchange Street Akron, Ohio 44313

Westminster Staff

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The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday



Westminster Presbyterian Church
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westminsterakron@gmail.com - 330-836-2226
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Making Sense of Life

Austrian psychiatrist Viktor Frankl spent three years in Auschwitz and other concentration camps. After being liberated from Auschwitz in 1945 he wrote his classic book, *Man's Search for Meaning*. In Auschwitz, Frankl had learned from his own experience and by observing those around him that “a person’s main concern is not to gain pleasure or to avoid pain, but to find a meaning in life.”

In her book *The Power of Meaning: Crafting a Life That Matters* (2017), Emily Esfahani Smith says that a meaningful life “makes sense,” is driven by a sense of purpose, is significant and worthwhile, and is part of something bigger. She identifies four “pillars of meaning”: belonging, purpose, transcendence, and storytelling.

Citing numerous studies, Smith identifies *belonging* as the most important driver of meaning. Relationships of mutual care; frequent, pleasant interactions with others; intimate, high-quality connections; and reaching out to others are all aspects of belonging.

Those who have a *purpose* in life have a stable and far-reaching goal, an organizing principle that is aimed at making a difference in the world by contributing to matters larger than the self.

To “transcend” means, literally, “to climb across.”

Transcendence is the experience of a higher reality or principle that provides a source of meaning and well-being. For Christians, God is transcendent; for secular humanists, humanistic values such justice, dignity, and equity may be considered transcendent.

Through *storytelling*, we bring disparate parts of our lives together into a unified narrative, allowing us to understand our lives as coherent and meaningful. Storytelling is an important part of “making sense” of everyday experience.

One of the gifts of being part of a faith community is that religious life weaves together these four pillars of meaning. We belong to a faith community, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and we belong to each other as fellow travelers on life’s journey. As Christians, we have intrinsic purpose: to grow into the knowledge and love of God, and to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in service to others. For us, God is both a transcendent, constant, surpassing reality and an immanent, sustaining presence.

Amplified Youth UPCOMING EVENTS!

SEPT-JAN

'25-'26

FALL/WINTER



Sept.
SUNDAY
21ST
4-7 PM

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SCAVENGER HUNT

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1250 WEST EXCHANGE, AKRON, OHIO, 44313

CVNP DAY
OF SERVICE
CLEANING THE FREEDOM TRAIL

Oct
SUNDAY
19TH
TBA

Nov
SUNDAY
16TH
3-5 PM

PROJECT FEED
KENT UMC, 1435 E. MAIN ST., KENT, 44240

GAME DAY
WITH SENIORS

HERITAGE CROSSING, N. CLEVE-MASS. RD.

Dec
SUNDAY
28TH
1:30 PM

Jan
MONDAY
19TH
9-1 PM

BACK2SCHOOL
SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
AND SOCIAL, TBD

SOUTH ST. MINISTRIES, 798 GRANT ST., AKRON, 44311

“AKRON PRIDE”

According to the Beacon Journal, Westminster was among the nineteen Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish congregations that participated in the equity march at Akron Pride on August 23, 2025.

According to the Beacon Journal,

“It was faith organizations – Protestant churches and a synagogue – that may have outnumbered any one category of marchers. The overwhelming message to the community was love and acceptance, including signs that read: “Love wins,” “Love your neighbor,” and “You’re loved as you are.”

The Akron Pride Festival and Equity March is one of the largest events in Akron, attracting over 40,000 residents and guests.

This year's event took place on a perfect day with mild temperatures and sunny skies. The theme for this year was “United As One.” The festival offers something for everyone, with plenty of food, drinks, music, and entertainment filling Main Street.



And, we are storytellers, telling the story of our faith journey, and doing so within the context of the master narrative in which we anchor our faith journey: the story of God’s love and faithfulness made known in Scripture and experienced in the lives of God’s people through the ages.

We all struggle, at times, to “make sense” of what is happening in our lives and in the world around us. Being mindful of the four pillars of meaning can be a helpful way to get our bearings when we feel adrift. Some questions to ponder:

Belonging: to whom do I belong? How can I reach out to others to form communities of belonging?

Purpose: what does life expect of me, today?
How can I make a difference?

Transcendence: what Being, values and principles are central, for me? How does that impact my daily experience?
For what do I hope?

Storytelling: how has God been present for me and those dear to me over the years?
How is God present for me, today?

Blessings for the journey,
Sandy Selby
Bridge Pastor



Community Dinner

On Thursday, July 31, Chef Raphael Peoples and his friend, Chef David Cinco treated 55 diners to crispy chicken, corn pudding, rolls and biscuits, and a salad of mixed greens with grilled peaches and pecans, frosted brownies and homemade sweet tea.

There was a great variety of people who attended including several church members, numerous residents of a group home, and many needy folks who also attend the weekly dinner at St Paul's where the volunteers of that dinner also promote our dinner.

Last but not least, it was great to have a few WYDACA day camp participants enjoy the tasty food!

Volunteers that made this happen were:

Marian Wahl, Bob Carlyon, Earl Pierson, Kris Keller, Lisa Bansen-Harp, Suzanne Grafinger, and Margo Works.




**BON
Appetit!**



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

Save The Date:

- ♦ Office Closed Monday, September 1st, Labor Day.
- ♦ Sunday, September 7th, RALLY DAY at Westminster.
- ♦ Sunday, September 14th in WHH after 10:30 am worship, Music at WPC presents, "Community Day."
- ♦ Sunday, September 21st starts Hymnody classes at Noon. (for 5 weeks)
- ♦ Sunday, September 21st, Random Acts of Kindness, Scavenger Hunt 4-7 pm. Westminster Church, with Amplified Youth.
- ♦ TAIZE Service, Wednesday, September 24th, at 7:30 pm, candlelight, half hour service, in the chancel.

October, 2025 Script Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures submitted to the church office at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com by **Wednesday, September 10, 2025.**



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



Save The Date Thursday, September 11

Fall is almost here and it's time to think about fitting some Bible study into our schedules.

One easy way to accomplish this is to attend our Thursday evening Zoom Bible study from 7-8 pm.

On September 11, we will begin

exploring the gospel of Luke which shows us a Savior whose love is good news for everyone, even those marginalized by society.

If you would like to be added to the email list to receive links to our Bible study group, contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com.

No prior knowledge is necessary. All you need is your Bible.

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

Westminster News:

First Sunday Food Collection will take place on the first Sunday of each month. Non-perishable items requested are chicken and tuna in a can, pre-packaged dinners, canned fruits and vegetables, 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.

The Discipleship Committee and Deacons hope you are able to attend a Rally Day Luncheon after church on September 7. We will be serving chicken and desserts to celebrate the start of fall programming and share some memories from our successful summer events. If you are able, bring a fruit, veggie, or pasta salad to share. Everyone is welcome – with or without a salad.

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 our music program for years or are just curious about how music shapes worship at WPC, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Beginning Sunday, September 21 and continuing for five weeks through October 19, we will be offering a special hymn class series starting shortly after church around Noon. 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.

For many years Westminster has been supporting PCUSA missionaries that have been serving in countries around the world. However, as of March of this year, PCUSA has retired all of their missionaries in order to restructure their global mission programs. The Outreach committee had been supporting two mission families of late, which no longer need our support. Since there is still money budgeted for this program, it has been decided to use that money to continue with global mission. This money is going to purchase a cow, a pair of goats, a family of chickens, beekeeping equipment, and some immediate need vouchers to be supplied to selected families living in poverty in developing countries.

Back to School Carnival

On August 16, Westminster welcomed immigrant families from the International Welcome Center for a Back to School Carnival. Families enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course, outdoor games, bubble blowing, balloon creations, face painting, a fishing pond, popcorn and ice cream treats while they socialized with Westminster folks and each other. Each child was blessed to be able to go home with a new school backpack filled with school supplies and surprises to help them make a successful transition to the start of the school year.

One IWC volunteer who brought one of the Afghani families commented that this was the first time she had seen the 12-year-old daughter smile.

The dictionary defines the word *blessing* as something that brings happiness. While the generosity of our church was a blessing for these children and their families, the experience was also a blessing for all of the Westminster members and friends who contributed to helping to make the event successful. This included members who contributed basic school supplies along with Highland Square Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Acme, members who went shopping for new backpacks and school gear for their “adopted” IWC families, the Discipleship and Outreach committees, the Deacons, and the many volunteers who worked to set-up, run, and clean up the carnival.

A total of 20 immigrant families and 49 children from seven different countries were the recipients of Westminster’s generosity and love. Blessings all around!

Rally Day Luncheon

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family
is forever



WE ARE ALL IN THIS
Together

VBS

*"Soulful Sprouts" Finale
served with Pasta*



**Soulful Sprouts, our brand-new VBS program,
was a wonderful success!**

We were blessed to welcome 16 children, ages 3 to 10, including neighbors within walking distance of Westminster as well as kids from Resnik and even Arrowhead Elementary (my alma mater!). Throughout the week, we sang, created art, learned from the teachings of Jesus, baked biscuits, prepared homemade soup, and wrote encouraging notes to our adopted families with IWC.

Parents shared that their kids woke up bright-eyed and eager each morning, excited to come to camp.

We closed the week with a joyful Family Celebration Dinner, featuring a pasta and salad bar, garlic bread, and cake topped with fresh berries and cream. The children even harvested tomatoes, basil, and oregano from our garden out back to help make the marinara sauce! The evening concluded with a lively song and dance performance by the kids and a beautiful display of their artwork created throughout the week.

This week would not have been possible without the talents and efforts of **Dottie Erb, Marian Wahl, Lisa Bansen-Harp, Jennifer Vicarel, Kristy Yates, Sophia Louise and Ron Zito, Dave Bodner, Dawn Pokorny, Ariel Smith, Marge and Don Rearick, Suzanne Winland, Madeline Wilson, Valerie Stewart, Erica Smith, Katie Archbold, Tori Gable, and Sandy Gruneich.**

We are also deeply grateful to **Barb and Jim Shriner and Bill Bramley and Joan Buehl** for coming out to meet and support the wonderful families.

Vacation Bible School

Welcome IWC Families Back To School Carnival

