



Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402

www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day — September 6, 2026

"Forgiveness is in our vocabulary: in the church we say it quite a bit. Our frequent use of the vocabulary of forgiveness should not dull our conscience to the fact of its importance, its absolute irreplaceable importance to all of us. We cannot have friends without forgiveness, we cannot have family without forgiveness, we cannot have lasting marriages without forgiveness. But it is difficult, very difficult. It is very difficult to turn loose pain, especially if the pain has become the center of our identity: the new definition of who I am – the wronged hurt person. Only the person that hurts, only the one who has been hurt can forgive. The rest of us are just advisors and commentators."

- Fred Craddock *Why Is Forgiveness So Difficult*

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"Now Join We All to Praise Thee"

Johann Sebastian Bach

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Hymn 356)

arr. Dale Wood

"Spirit of the Living God" (Hymn 322)

Daniel Iverson, arr. Emma Lou Diemer

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence,
actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "Come, Bless the Lord"

Austin Lovelace

Come, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord;

Lift us your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord!

*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

The Rev. Nancy S. Hodgkins

Leader: Come everyone who is fallen and fractured. Come everyone who is wandering and wondering. Come everyone who is lost and lonely.

People: We are the fallen and wandering, and lost. We have nowhere to turn but to God.

Leader: In God's hands are justice and love, and those are the very hands that made us.

People: God lifts up; God leads the wanderer home: God loves the lonely.

Leader: Then come, all of you. Worship the God of the broken hearted.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN (See page 5) - "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Nettleton

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of mercy and healing, you sent Jesus to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way of forgiveness and love. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus our Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)



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

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

H. W. Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON- Genesis 4:1-19, 23-24

Pew Bible, p. 3 OT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Children in Pre-K—Grade 3 will leave the service at this time.

An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

ANTHEM - "Sing a New Song"

Heinrich Schütz, arr. Carolyn Jennings

Sing a new song to God the Lord,

Sing and give praise with one accord.

For salvation God doth give,

That through God's mercy, we may live.

Worship the Lord in holiness,

Hymn of great joy to God address.

Honor God's works and bless God's name,

God's grace and truth to all proclaim.

Heaven above and earth below,

Ocean and field God's glory show.

All of God's creatures sing his praise,

Let us now too our voices raise.

Glory and thanks to God belong,

Honor God evermore in song.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible, p. 20 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Baxter

Embodying Forgiveness

"... And forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors."

*HYMN 303 - "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Aberystwyth

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Grant Us Peace" - Sung in Latin)

arr. Hal H. Hopson

***DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***RESPONSE** (all sing) - "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" (from Taizé Liturgy)

Jacques Berthier

The image shows a musical score for the song "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful". It is written for a choir or congregation in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score is arranged in two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of the song, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in the bass. There are some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re - joice! Look to God, do not be a -

fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near. In the

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 392** - "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

Hall

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** (all sing) - "Go with Us, Lord"
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in your Spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to you.

Tallis' Canon

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Festive Postlude
(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship. You are invited to remain in silence.)

Paul Fey

*Please rise in body or spirit.



◆◆◆◆◆
**WELCOME
BACK
RICHARD!**

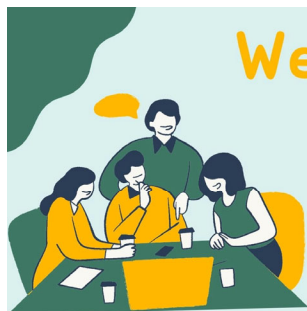
**Sabbatical Review
September 13**

◆◆◆◆◆

Richard will be returning from his sabbatical on Sunday, September 13. After worship, please join us to reflect on his time away and warmly welcome him back to our congregation. We look forward to hearing about the insights and experiences he gained during his period of rest and reflection.



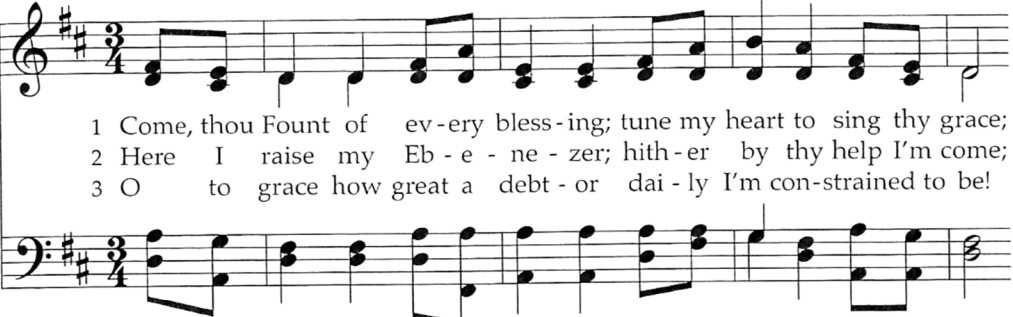
A new year is upon us, and it's the perfect time to start fresh and connect with others! We invite you to be a part of this exciting new chapter by joining us for Welcome Sunday at Westminster. Whether you're planning to attend in person or join us virtually, it's a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to experience the warmth and community of our church. Let's come together to celebrate the beginning of a new year with open hearts and a welcoming spirit. Regular class programming and all choirs resume. We can't wait to see you there!



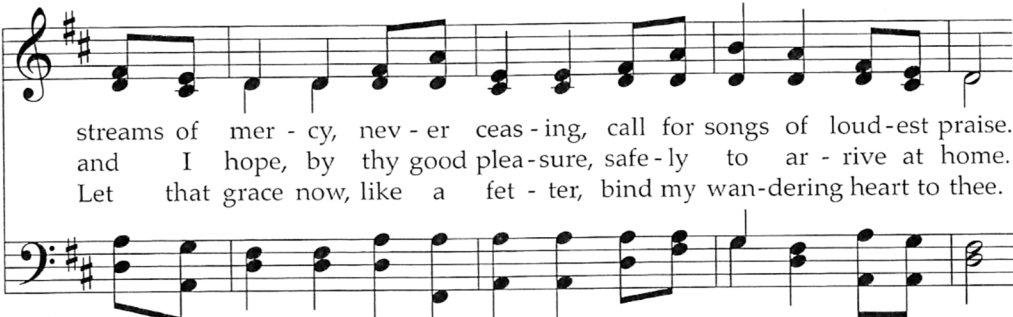
**Welcome Back
Parents
Fellowship
Class**
September 13

Parents Fellowship is back next Sunday! Whether you have been a part of the OG Parents Fellowship Class or are new and interested in connecting with other people in a similar stage of life, please join us for informal discussion and fellowship led by Pastor Caitlin. We meet in Room 211 from 11:30-12:15 while our children attend choir.

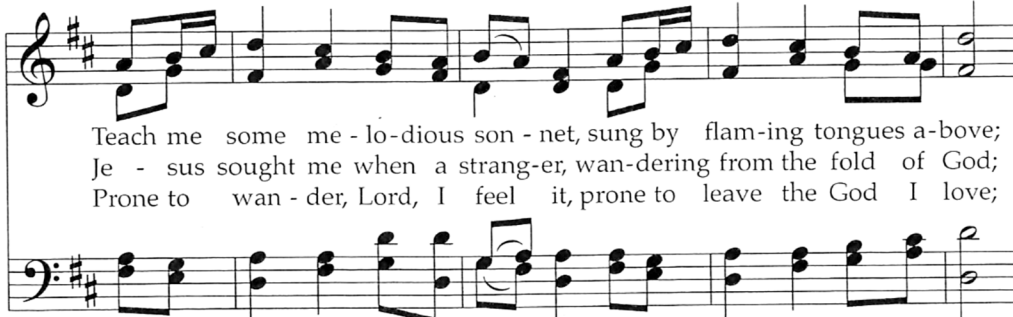
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



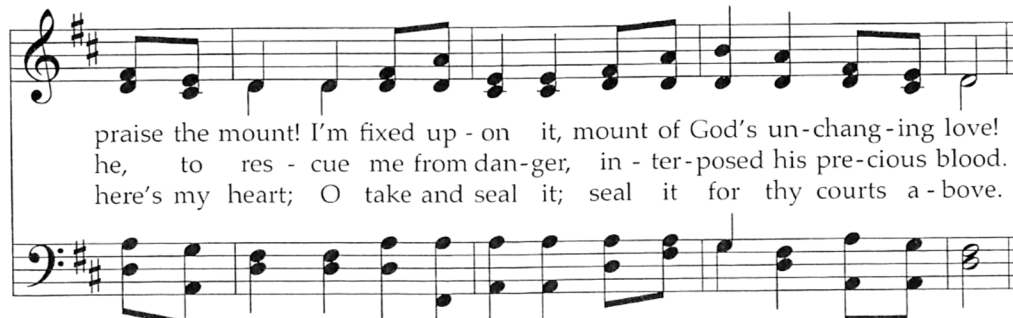
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Music Participants: Summer Choir - Brent Manley is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: Originally published under the title "In Temptation," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" has as its theme the sufficiency of Christ to give comfort, power, and grace in any circumstance. It is a plea that Jesus will provide sanctuary to the tempted (stanza 1), because there is no other refuge (stanza 2). Christ is declared to be the sole desire of the Christian (stanza 3), while Christ's grace is declared sufficient to cleanse the Christian from the plaque of sin (stanza 4).

"In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful," Copyright © 1986 by Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, published in North America by GIA Publications, Inc., all rights reserved, is reprinted by permission.

Choir schedules, 2026-2027, for children, youth, and adults may be found on the church website.

Bell Choir registration forms are now due for Knox Ringers (grade 7-12). Rehearsals are on Sundays, 11:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m., beginning next Sunday, September 13. In order to participate in a youth bell choir, registration is necessary. Contact John Neely (john@westminsterdayton.org) for more information. Additional forms are in the Church Office. A great year has been planned.

Carillon Bells, a handbell choir for beginning ringers, will resume rehearsals this Thursday, September 10, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Westminster Choir member Colleen Green will be the director. New ringers will be heartily welcomed. Please direct your questions to Colleen (colleenjgreen1984@gmail.com).

Are you interested in becoming a part of the **Westminster Choir** (college age and up)? Rehearsals begin this Thursday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m. Now is the time to speak with John Neely (john@westminsterdayton.org). Join us for great music making and fellowship.

Music brochures, listing events for the new academic year, may be found in the literature racks.

Choirs for children and youth resume next Sunday, September 13. New members are welcome.

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 101 - Hilary Toerner, Director

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater - Rachael Boezi, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) - Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) - Choir Room - John Neely, Director

Youth Fellowship Groups follow.

All are welcome!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please stop by our **Children's Ministry check-in desk** anytime between 9:40-10:05 a.m. to record your child's attendance and receive their name tag.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

Summer Programming - Theater (Pre-K-Grade 3). Children will leave the service after the First Scripture (10:20 a.m.). An adult leader for this age group will be in the Narthex to greet them and escort them to the Theater.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. - Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

The Reverend **John Neely** is on vacation and will return on September 8.

The Reverend **Caitlin Deyerle** is on vacation this week and will return to the office September 8.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given in memory of her parents, Anne D. and William C. Martin, by Susan Allen.

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Linda Kohl and Eric Scholl

During the service, if you notice someone who appears to require medical attention, please raise your hand or contact the head usher. Emergency Response Team members will care for the person.

If you have a security concern please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **One Community Church, Monroe**.

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to **add your prayer to our Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall. If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our **Westminster Prays weekly email**, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

The **Sympathy of the Congregation** is extended to the friends and family of **Wendy Sondergaard**, who passed away on Wednesday, August 5. A memorial service will be held September 26 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception to follow.

Hope Squad T-Shirt Drive

W.I.S.E. Ministry



provide a shirt for one student Squad Member. Donate online or make a donation to W.I.S.E. Ministry with a "T-Shirt Drive" memo!

DECA Middle, one of the W.I.S.E. Ministry partner schools, is teaming up with Hope Squad to support the mental health of their students. Hope Squad is a schoolwide, student-led, peer-support program that strengthens connection, promotes well-being, and aims to prevent suicide. To help purchase T-Shirts that identify Hope Squad members among their peers, DECA is asking for donations to their T-Shirt drive. Every \$20 raised will pro-



Calling all chefs! A cookbook commemorating the building centennial will be included as part of this year's celebration. **We're asking all interested to submit their recipes for inclusion no later than September 14.** So, tempt us with your terrific tiramisu! Have us howling for your ham and bean salad! Surprise us with your superb soups! Be a part of the longstanding tradition of Westminster Cookbooks as we mark this historic moment for the

church. Fill out the form online or contact Brittany Campbell (birttany@westminsterdayton.org).



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, September 13

8:45 to 12:30

Nursery and Toddler Care (Infant - age 3) - *Room 108*

9:00 to 9:45

Confirmation (Grades 9-12) - *Room 209*

9:15 to 9:45

Westminster Choir - *Choir Room*

10:00 to 11:00

Worship - *Sanctuary*

10:20 to 11:30

Sunday School (Pre-K & K) - *Room 101*

Sunday School (Grades 1-2) - *Room 109*

10:40 to 11:30

Sunday School (Grade 3) - *Room 103*

Sunday School (Grades 4-5) - *Room 105*

Sunday School (Grades 6-8) - *Theater*

11:00 to 11:20

Coffee and Conversation - *Fellowship Hall*

11:20 to 12:15

Adult Education Class (grades 9-adult) - *West Parlor*

Parents Fellowship - *Room 211*

11:30 to 12:15

Genesis Singers (ages 4 and 5 - pre-K) - *Room 101*

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - *Theater*

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - *Choir Room*

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) - *Room 203-205*

5:00 to 6:00

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) - *Choir Room*

6:00 to 8:00

Youth Dinner and Fellowship (grades 7-12) - *Fellowship Hall*

OCT 04

WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCT 18 -25

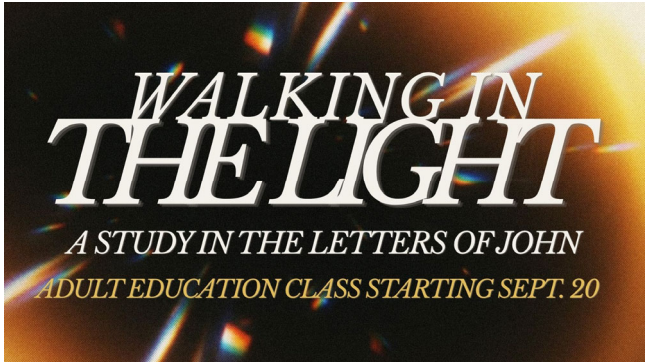
FAITH &
CIVIC LIFE
DR. MIRANDA CRUZ

OCT 25

MEMORIAL
ORGAN
RECITAL

NOV 15

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
CHORAL VESPERS
& HARVEST DINNER



The Apostle John's letters are among the most personal writings in the New Testament. They are short and direct, but also full of pastoral warmth and insight.

Written to communities John had known and cared for across decades, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John carry the weight of an eyewitness who has seen everything and remained faithful to the end. While the Apostle Paul is well-known for writing like a lawyer building a case, the style of John's

letters has a quality that is hard to name but easy to feel. It is less like a lecture and more like someone who loves you grabbing your arm and saying: "Hey, this is really important; don't let go of it."

Each session aims to mirror the pastoral feel of John's letters, working through their core themes and asking what they mean for how we live, love, and believe together. This class will be led by Deacon Sam Morgan.



The Garden Table will be in Fellowship Hall today! Bring surplus to share, or make a donation to the hunger fund in exchange for a variety of good things from the good earth. Plenty of peppers and tomatoes are available.

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr..... Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely.....Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins..... Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Caitlin T. DeyerleAssoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
Jenne GrossMission Associate
Kylie Hettinger Director of Discipleship
Brent ManleyMusic Associate
Curtis T. Baxter..... Pastoral Affiliate

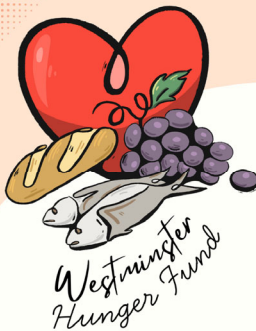
Mattie Pennington.....Congregational Care Coordinator
Tim Francis.....Business Manager
Zoey Wang.....Part-time Bookkeeper
Brittany Campbell..... Director of Communications
Donna Schoonmaker.....Office Manager
Wayne King Facilities and Technology Coordinator
Keith Spencer.....Sexton
Will Leary.....Part-time Sunday Sexton
George H. McConnel..... Pastor Emeritus

EARTH STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Electronic, Disposable
Razor, Oral Care Product
Recycling & Fair Trade Sale



This Sunday and every first Sunday of the month—sponsored by the Earth Stewardship Ministry Team (ESMT). Bring old power cords, cell phones, remote controllers, even fax machines and laptops, and ESMT will ensure they are properly recycled. Limited Fair Trade items will be sold in Fellowship Hall as well. Consider also supporting the Oral-B/Crest program offering to recycle oral care products. You can bring in used toothbrushes, brush heads, toothpaste tubes, mouthwash containers, floss containers, floss string, and floss picks.



Hunger Sunday Today

Please consider making a financial donation to support people in our community living in food insecure homes. All gifts to the Hunger Fund will support the Dayton Foodbank.



WPW Period Justice



**Donate to Remove Barriers
for Those in Need!**

Period justice isn't just about a lack of access to menstrual products. It's a complex issue intertwined with social and economic inequality. When people who need them can't afford or access these essential items, they may miss school or work, face health risks, and experience stigma and shame. The WPW Period Justice Program aims to break down these barriers and empower them to thrive. You can support the WPW Period Justice Program by donating menstrual products or making a monetary donation. Simply leave products in the box beside the "bus" in the hallway, just outside the office, or mark your monetary donation "WPW Period Justice".

Church Calendar

September 6 – September 12

Sunday, September 6

8:30am-12:30pm Nursery Birth-Age 3, Nursery
10:00am-11:00am Worship, Sanctuary
10:15am-11:15am Children's Class Pre K-3rd Grade,
Theater
11:00am-12:00 pm Coffee & Conversation,
Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 7, Office Closed for Labor Day

7:15pm-9:15pm Bach Society Rehearsal,
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 8

5:00pm-6:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting,
West Parlor

Wednesday, September 9

9:00am-12:00pm Staff Meeting, West Parlor
10:00am-12:30pm ID Ministry, 101, 103, 105
6:00pm-7:00pm Children's Ministry Training,
Zoom

Thursday, September 10

6:00pm-7:15pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal,
301
6:15pm-7:15pm Carillon Bells, 207, 203, 205
7:30pm-9:30pm Westminster Choir Rehearsal,
Choir Room

* Please note these dates and times are subject to change. This calendar does not include all private meetings and events in the church. Please contact church staff to reserve meeting space.

What is worse than finding a worm in your apple?
Finding half a worm in your apple!

What is a robot's favorite after school snack?
Computer Chips



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love!
Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" (303)

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want
More than all in thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
Freely let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" (392)

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly
pray;
Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ, they are thine
own;
Come thou within our souls and claim thy
throne;
Help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
Use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full
sway;
Have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
Guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
Guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and
will;
Through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee—time, talents, all;
We hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.