



A WESTMINSTER PUBLICATION

THE CHIMES

SPRING 2023

A SEASON OF CHANGE

Staff Changes at Westminster bring growth and goodbyes



Starting May 1, Kylie Hettinger, our former Director of Ministries for Children and Families, has accepted an increased role here at Westminster as Director of Discipleship. Her ministry will expand to be more intergenerational. Kylie will continue to lead the Children and Family ministries from nursery to 6th grade, and she will also add to her responsibilities by providing staff support to the Fellowship Committee, acting as liaison for the Prayer Wall, Labyrinth, and Earth

Stewardship Ministry Teams, and taking on a larger role in MADD Camp. Please take the time to congratulate Kylie on her expanded ministry.

On Palm Sunday, the congregation honored Anna's time at Westminster and sent her off with love to her new call in Kansas City. Anna will be truly missed; even in her short time here she contributed so much to our church. The Personnel Committee is currently conducting a staffing study that will guide their decision making to ensure Westminster's ministry continues to grow and flourish in the wake of these significant staff transitions.



Honoring over 20 years of service, the staff celebrated Craig Showalter's retirement from Westminster earlier this year. Craig is eager to more fully focus on his service as a Minister for the United Church of Christ.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

By Kylie Hettinger

Children's Ministry has had a great winter term. December included the children learning about Advent and the story of Jesus' birth. In January we celebrated Epiphany by traveling to the International Peace Museum and doing crafts at the church afterwards. (pictures) In February we went ice skating at Riverscape. Our skaters practiced their skills, and the parents enjoyed participating and observing. In March we had a fun afternoon at Kids Clubhouse, and we also enjoyed an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt! In April we visited Wegerzyn Garden for Earth Day.



A new exciting part of programming is our Sidekick Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to provide and equip volunteers to support our children with special needs. The Children's Ministry Team wants Westminster to be a place that is accessible for all. We are excited for this new phase in our ministry to children and their families.



WOMEN STRONG at WESTMINSTER

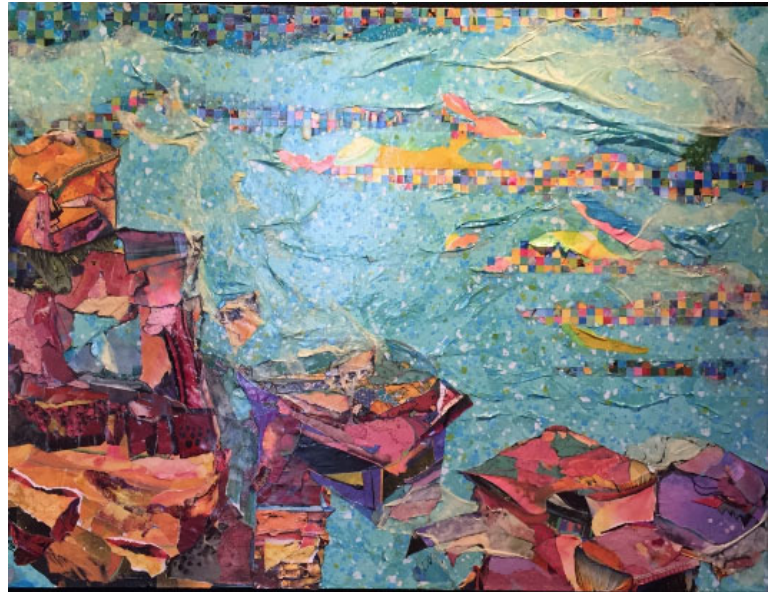
Artists Sharing Art, Building Friendship, Celebrating Diversity

You may have noticed something different at Westminster. Like spring flowers, art blossomed all over the place! This was the art

of Women Strong, a collective of women artists who have been sharing and showing together since 2018. Their paintings, collages and tapestries, sculptures and fibers were on display in the church Narthex, first floor Ladies' Lounge, Library, and downstairs in Heritage Hall during Lent. The exhibit is the brainchild of Pastor Anna Owens, who expressed a desire to showcase visual art during Lent. She spoke with Westminster member Marsha Pippenger, who is an artist and member of Women Strong. Marsha knew that the group would be honored to exhibit their art and tell their story.

In 2018, artists and friends Janet Lasley and Audrey Davis invited a select group of visual artists to come together around art. They invited women of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds who worked in a variety of media. The mission was not only to share art but to build a community around art. This is how Women Strong was born.

This unique gathering of women visual artists is providing a rare opportunity for artistic growth and development, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation of the diversity of the Dayton/Miami Valley region. They celebrate their diversity with every gathering and every exhibition. They range in age from thirty-something to ninety-something, live in all parts of the Miami Valley, work in different media, and come from Nordic, Jewish, Germanic, African, Asian, Middle-Eastern, and Native American backgrounds. They have gathered in one another's homes to share food, discuss difficult topics, and share working styles. They share their experiences with the public through art exhibits and panel discussions. In working together and supporting one another, they have developed loving friendships. They are truly Women Strong.



The members of Women Strong: **Janet Lasley** (painting and fibers) and **Audrey Davis** (jewelry), co-founders

Diana Barr, painting and ceramics

Yvette Walker Dalton, painting and collage

Lois Fortson-Kirk, sculptor

Cydnie King, drawing,
ink and colored pencil
Nasrin Majidi, painting
Marsha Monroe Pippenger, collage
Erin Smith-Glenn, drawing and painting
Frances Turner, fibers
Yufeng Wang, painting and ceramics
Elyssa Wortzmann, digital art



Sadly, co-founder Janet Lasley passed away unexpectedly in January 2023. Women Strong, however, will continue with subsequent exhibits in memory of our beloved Janet. -Marsha Pippenger



New Members

Westminster welcomed new members on Sunday, December 18 and Sunday, February 12. Pictured left to right: Michael Newman, Jayne Rawnsley (pictured as a class member, but is still a friend of Westminster), Leah Scholl, Eric Scholl, Colleen Green, Amelia Adams, Austin Collins, Brian Swartz, and Sally Swartz. Not pictured: Andy Bonar, Audrey Bonar, and Mayumi Hall.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MUSIC RESIDENT

By Calista Brunett

When I was a kid, I remember respectfully asking my dad, “What do you do all day?” I knew his work kept him busy, but I had no clue how the broad responsibilities of his job were broken down into his day-to-day time at the office. I have found myself asking this same question of the church musicians I look up to, and sometimes, I even ask myself. So, what does a music resident at Westminster Presbyterian Church do on an average Thursday?

Like most days, I start off my morning at the organ. Today, I sightread some hymns and work a little bit on several potential pieces for the next time I play in worship. When I finish, I help Brent set up handbells for Sunday. Then, we set up the Fellowship Hall for Westminster Choir rehearsal and put a couple of new anthems in each choir member’s box. After taking a break for lunch, I spend a few minutes praying for a member of Knox choir – an idea I read in a book about church youth choirs – as a Lenten spiritual practice. Next, I prepare for Carillon Bells rehearsal tonight by playing through each ringer’s part to anticipate potential challenges. We are starting to work on new music this week, so I have spent a particularly large amount of time preparing. After preparing for handbells, I prepare for choir. I practice the communion meditation I will direct in worship on Sunday, and then I come up with a plan for my Sunday evening rehearsal on an anthem with Knox Choir. Now, I have some down time to eat, rest, and work on this article before Carillon Bells and Westminster Choir rehearsals tonight.

Every day of the week is a little different, and some Thursdays are busier than others. I am enjoying getting to see what full-time church music ministry is like and gaining skills that I can take with me in the future. I am grateful to everyone at Westminster who has given me this opportunity and continues to make it as meaningful as possible.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MISSION RESIDENT

By Ian Clarke

My role as the Mission Resident is as the foot soldier for the missions of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where I am actively learning how to be a good representative of the church through participation in our Mission works here, namely in the WISE and ID Ministries. Every Wednesday, I am an active participant in ID Ministry, filling whatever role is not already being skillfully handled by our impassioned volunteers. The impetus of ID Ministry volunteers to help the community in an immediate, tangible, and meaningful way is apparent every week, and every week I am floored by it.

In WISE Ministry, I take an active “helping hand” role twice a week at both Eastmont Elementary School and DECA Middle School. At Eastmont, I primarily work with the 3rd grade in Mrs. Barnette and Ms. McCleary’s room, where they utilize my teacher skills to help support students academically. I also participate in their afternoon STEM Club, which meets twice a month after school and allows students space to explore STEM concepts, play games, build LEGOs, eat a snack, and generally just enjoy some time with their friends.

At DECA, I typically work with Mrs. Washington and Ms. Lester in support of their 7th grade language arts and 6th grade science classes, respectively. I also host a drum group here at Westminster once a week for DECA students, where we work on building the fundamentals for drumming and percussion. It’s fun and light while at the same time being truly meaningful practice, so that even when I’m no longer working with them, my students have a foundation of good technique and concepts to build on.

As a church resident, I recognize that I am representing this church to the people outside its walls whether they are conscious of it or not. Developing relationships with the people I am in community with, young or old, tall or small, is therefore larger than just personal relationship development and can be the bridge which invites people into a positive view of Westminster Presbyterian Church. I am grateful to have this responsibility and to be able to practice meeting it as part of my daily work.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Anna Owens

On October 4, 2022, the Session approved a membership roll review and removal policy, and received the first roll review and removal in many years. This updated policy states that a roll review will be conducted annually, beginning in January and culminating in May. Those who will be considered for that roll review must meet the following criteria: they have not attended worship, church activities, or contributed financially in at least the past five years; they are under the age of 75 and/or do not have any known health or pastoral care reasons that would prohibit them from participating in the life of the church. Attempts will be made through letters, phone calls, emails, and text messages to contact each person who meets these criteria. Anyone who wishes to stay on the rolls may do so, and those who do not respond will be removed.

One hundred fifty-three members were removed from the rolls at the October Session meeting, as this process has not been completed in a number of years. Initiating an annual review keeps those numbers much smaller, saves the church money on the amount of per capita we pay to the presbytery, Synod, and national office, and helps the church to better program and staff to the members we have and not those who have moved on to other cities or worshipping communities.

The 2023 roll review is in its beginning stages and includes only 23 people, many of whom, we can presume, will indicate that they would like to remain on the rolls.

You can help us in this process by making sure your contact information remains up to date in the Church Office, reaching out to those whom you know have fallen out of the habit of participating in church life, and encouraging your adult children or other family members to reach out to the church office if they have moved or joined another worshipping community.

LIBRARY UPDATE

By Anna Owens

In the Fall, the Session voted to give permission to the Education and Practice Committee to repurpose the Library to an updated resource center, downsizing the amount of books we keep in order to better organize what is there and increase the ability to use the room for meetings. You will notice that while there are fewer books, the resources will be kept up to date with more efficiency. In an effort to be good stewards of that space, we ask that you kindly contact one of the pastors if you would like to make a donation of books to the space and coordinate a drop-off time, rather than leaving donations in the Library unattended. Thank you for your help in creating a resource room that is useful and usable for all!

SPRING CLEANING

By Laurie Leach

Spring is on the way! As you plan your spring cleaning this year, Earth Stewardship Ministry Team would like to remind you to remember God's creation in the process. Please do not throw away anything that could be reused or recycled!

If you have clothes or household goods you no longer need, please find a place to donate instead of throwing them out. Many folks could benefit from these items. Furniture or appliances? Call ReStore or other charities. If you find food you won't consume, donate to a food bank. Medical supplies? Westminster has a closet of these items that can be used by members with temporary needs. In addition, these items can be donated to Goodwill on South Main.

Electronic items, such as remotes, phones, screens, printers, and batteries can be brought to church on the first Sunday of each month. For many years, ESMT members Stan Herr and David Leach have faithfully disposed of hundreds of these items at Montgomery County Solid Waste, 1001 Encrete Lane. If you are a Montgomery County resident, you can easily take these items on your own without waiting for the first Sunday. Non-hazardous waste (misc. electronics, cardboard) can be dropped off any day. Place in labeled spots. Hours for household hazardous waste (batteries, paint, poison, unbroken CFL and fluorescent bulbs) are 1:00-7:00 every Tuesday, from March through October.

Another way you can help is to volunteer a few times a year to do this needed job for WPC. If interested, please contact David Leach.

Worshipping Online? Join us for Communion!

By Caitlin Deyerle

One of the ways that Covid-19 has forever changed the world is that providing an online option for meetings, shopping, and even worship is now considered essential! Westminster's worship services are professionally live-streamed each Sunday, and providing that option increases our worship attendance each week by a healthy amount. There are many reasons that our members use the



online worship option. They might be recovering from a surgery or illness. They might be snowbirds joining us from sunnier places. They might be caregivers for someone who is not able to worship in person or themselves have physical limitations that make worshipping from home more accessible. The Stated Clerk of the P.C. (U.S.A.) Rev. J Herbert Nelson writes, "We recognize that church is not a building. It is a place of worship. We are able to worship remotely, and we've found opportunities to have worship through other venues that do not require us to leave our homes. We desire to fellowship and worship the Lord our God together as the body of Christ."

We are so grateful for the ways that online worship extends our ministry to those who would not otherwise be able to participate in our weekly worship, including the sacrament of communion. During Lent, our Deacons and Church Partners reached out to bring communion to our special care members, as is our annual tradition. In addition to our home communion ministry, we took some extra time this Lenten season to remind those worshipping online that they are also welcomed and encouraged to participate in communion each time it is celebrated in worship.

Westminster member Jeanne McIver writes of her own communion experience, "I miss seeing my friends there each Sunday and being able to take communion in the worshipping community. I have found that I can experience that communion fellowship by preparing the elements for myself before the worship begins. I only need some bread and a beverage—juice and a leftover roll or toast works well."

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So look for the reminders about upcoming communion Sundays in the Westminster Notes and join in at home by preparing communion elements from whatever might be easily available to you. We say in our prayers that Christ's presence unites us with the Church in every time and place—and this is a very practical extension of that belief. So we hope those of you who are worshiping with us online will feel welcome to participate in communion each and every time.



**Deacons past and present
caroling at Brookhaven
Retirement Community.**

JAY STRONG has joined the building staff as a custodian. Jay comes to us after a long season of using cleaning services for the church. We are already seeing an improvement around the building. Besides these skills, Jay has worked in a school for nursing, worked with handicapped children, and has worked as a teppanyaki chef. He is Keith Spencer's partner.



BALCONY PROJECTS

In the ongoing effort to restore all the stained glass windows, the balcony window is complete. The project includes the replacement of the storm window with a new frame that has been designed to follow the pattern of the stonework, which will be installed with the arrival of fairer weather.

Though, there is still dust in the balcony as we take this opportunity to fully enclose the sound booth to better accommodate our new sound and video coverage of our services. And, we are still awaiting the repaired organ pipes and installation of a new balcony console.

SMALL GROUP FILIA AT THE YWCA

By Kay Berg

On February 2, several members of small group Filia volunteered at Hope's Closet in the nearby YWCA of Dayton. Hope's Closet is a small "store" in the YW where, once or twice a week, long-term and temporary residents can shop for free for donated clothing, toiletries, and household items. Felicity Nolder, (fnolder@ywcadayton.org) Community Relations Director, gave us a tour of the first floor of the facility, including the big indoor playground where the swimming pool used to be, and explained about Hope's Closet. We sorted through donations, choosing seasonal clothing to hang and display, just as in any thrift store. Women's clothing predominates, but sometimes men seek shelter at the YW from domestic abuse situations, so Hope's Closet stocks some men's clothing. There are also sections for babies' and children's clothing, and toys for the little ones who come with their moms seeking shelter, and a room for dishes, cookware, and linens for when residents leave the YW to set up housekeeping again.

Dayton's YWCA has been in existence for 152 years, is open 365 days a year, and serves 10,000 women and girls annually. Their mission is *To eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen our community.*

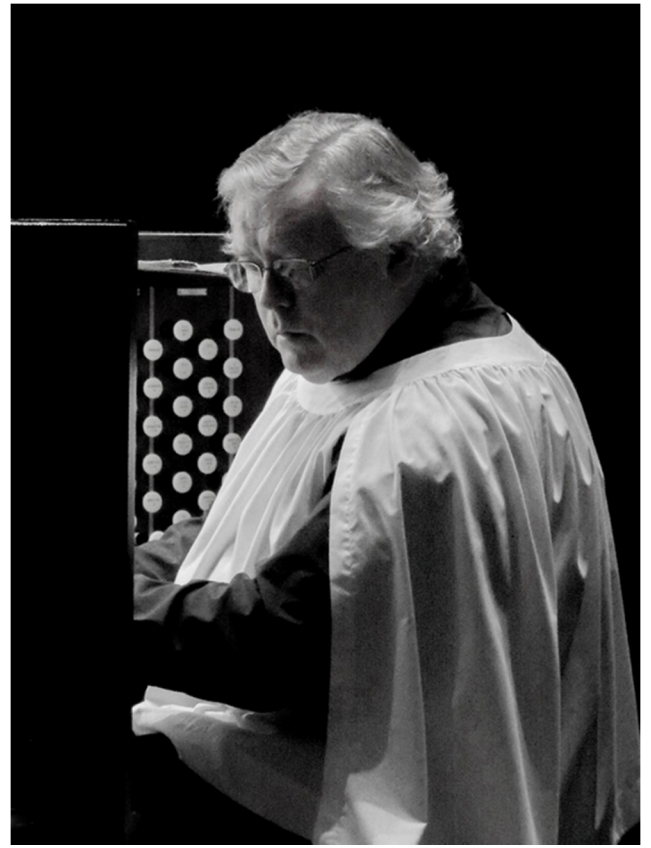
Volunteering is easy and fun, especially for a group. Donations are always welcome. Check out the website at ywcadayton.org for details on how to help or what is needed.



JOHN & NANCY ANNIVERSARIES

A Note from John Neely

Thanks, everyone, for a wonderful 40th anniversary Sunday. Your kind words and remembrances meant a great deal. Honestly, it does not seem that long. I suspect that this is a good thing. Onward!



With Gratitude, from Nancy Hodgkins

I was overwhelmed, in the best possible way, with the outpouring of love celebrating my 25th anniversary on January 29. It has been a privilege to serve as an associate pastor here at Westminster. I am thankful for the mission and ministry God has called us to, for the opportunity to walk alongside you, sharing in the joy of watching so many amazing young people grow into adulthood. The youth of Westminster and our partner schools are so blessed to have such a loving and supportive church family.



On Sunday, February 26, the Westminster Youth participated in a spiritual practice night during their regular fellowship time. This tree was created as part of an art reflection exercise.



The annual Youth Lock-in was held on Friday, February 10. The group had great time hanging out, playing games, eating snacks, and watching movies. We enjoyed a candle-light vespers service in the Sanctuary with a sung liturgy led by Calista Brunett. In addition to all that, the youth prepared 32 care packages to be sent to our Westminster college students.

Among our People

Deaths

George Bayless Jr.	January 17, 2023
Robert E. (Bob) Wert	January 17, 2023
Darleen Breen	March 3, 2023
Caroline Shuey	March 29, 2023
John (Jack) Longstreth	May 1, 2023

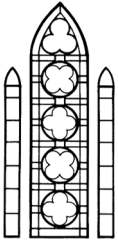
Baptisms

Lucas Paul Bonar, Grace Dorothy Ann Bonar, and Nora Kay Bonar - Children of Audrey and Andrew Bonar, April 23, 2023

Abigail Greer Gilding - Daughter of Ryan and Kilding, March 26, 2023

Kilian Ernest Justice - Son of Keegan and Allison Justice, March 26, 2023

Andrew Richard Shell - Son of Amy and Mike Shell, March 5, 2023



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