

# The Chimes

A Westminster Publication Lent 2024



**Holy Week Calendar  
of Events Inside**

# Holy Week Calendar of Events

## **Palm Sunday Service**

**Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.**

Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Thursday, March 28**

**6:00 p.m.** – Light Supper (\$7 - no reservations required – served from 6:00-6:30 p.m.) This Service will be livestreamed.

**7:00 p.m.** – Communion and Tenebrae Service

Come and experience both the intimate joy of the Last Supper and the descent into darkness as Jesus is arrested.

## **Good Friday Service**

**Friday, March 29**

**12:10 - 1:00 p.m.** This service will be live streamed.

Experience the despair and drama of Jesus' last words through scripture and music. Music by the Westminster Choir

## **Easter Sunday Service**

**Sunday, March 31**

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

Identical services featuring Oakwood Brass with timpani. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received.



## But the laws of physics DO apply!

By Georgie Woessner

When the Centennial Task Force (CTF) began meeting 18 months ago, we had some fun brainstorming around “if money were no object and the laws of physics did not apply”. And what we learned is that money is always an object and you’d better pay attention to the laws of physics! However, within those boundaries, we have had some inspiring discussions with congregation members in small groups, in large groups, and sometimes around the proverbial water cooler. We asked you what you, as a member of this congregation, thought would strengthen Westminster’s ministries and outreach as we move into our second century in this building. And you told us. Boy, did you ever tell us! You identified areas of primary importance: a welcome spirit, accessibility to our building and our programs, and wayfinding (formerly known as signage)! So that’s where we’re starting.

After careful and prayerful consideration, the CTF chose local, award-winning architects, LWC, Inc. to work with us on this project. The firm is known for both new construction, interior design, and renovation projects such as the Old Post Office, Wright Memorial Library, Woodbourne Library, Liberty Savings, Victoria Theater, and many others.

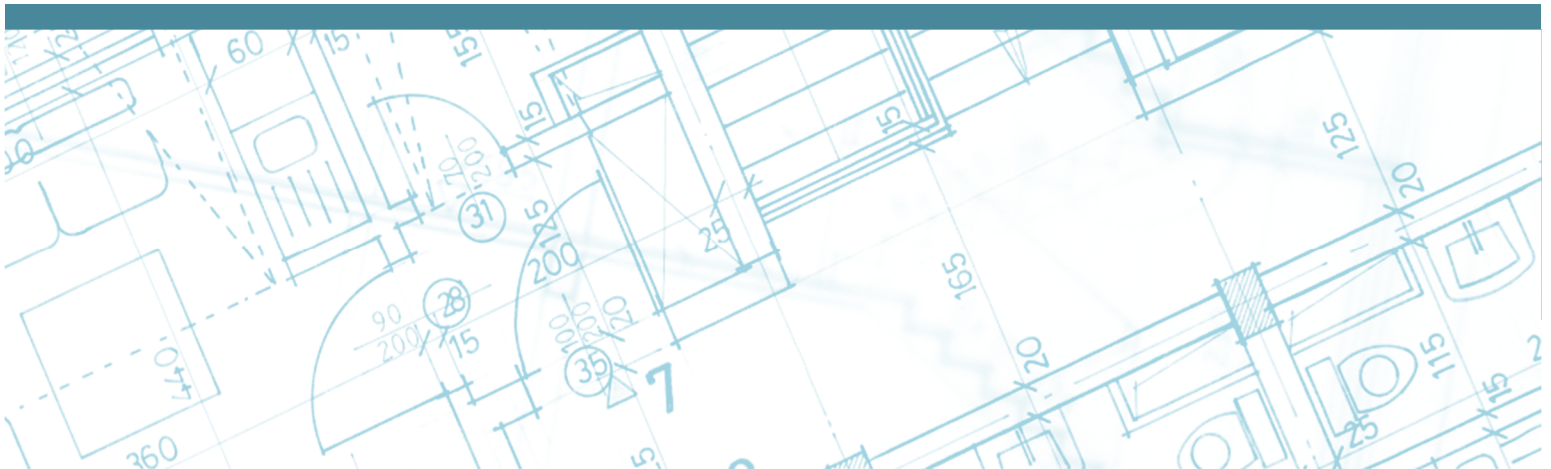
They have a sensitivity for historic preservation and renovation, and we are pleased that the design plans they’ve shown us so far focus on updating features of our building while maintaining its original style.

Partners John Fabelo, AIA; and Bear Monita, and Associate, Elisa Friedman will be in the church building often in the weeks ahead, and the CTF will keep you posted with updates as we move forward with this much-needed project, celebrating our building’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September, 2026.

The CTF meets every two to three weeks with John, Bear, and Elisa to discuss preliminary drawings and wade through discussions of rooflines, ramps, and accessible bathrooms. We’ll share exciting details at a later date, but right now the focus for renovation is the front Wilkinson entrance, Heritage Hall, and Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions or are looking for a quick update, check with any of our committee members. We’re starting to get fired up and we’d love to share a broad overview.

Kay Berg and Georgie Woessner, Co-chairs. Richard Baker, Laura Bascom, David Boezi, Karen Clute, Caitlin Deyerle, Aven Ford, Brian Sharp.



## Being a Westminster Presbyterian Church Sunday School Shepherd

By Kim Senft-Paras

Being a Westminster Presbyterian Church Sunday school shepherd is a role filled with purpose and responsibility. It entails greeting the children in the church narthex at the conclusion of the sermon, escorting them to their classroom, and supporting the teacher in cultivating a nurturing environment where young people can explore faith, values, and community.

As a shepherd, you might help guide children in activities and foster a sense of belonging and respect within the classroom.

Being a Sunday school shepherd means being an additional source of guidance and encouragement, emphasizing the Sunday school teachers' lessons on scripture and Presbyterian traditions while instilling in the children the values of love, compassion, and service to others. It is a role that has the potential to make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of young learners.

I began volunteering as a shepherd for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class in September. When Kylie Hettinger put out the request for assistance with the children's Sunday school classes, I thought about the service of baptism. The elder addresses the congregation and asks: "Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture the child by word and deed, with love and prayer, teaching them to know and follow Christ?" We answer: "We do." Being a shepherd is how I put my response to this question into action and service. I hope you will consider joining us.



Interested in being a shepherd?  
Contact Kylie Hettinger  
([kylie@westminsterdayton.org](mailto:kylie@westminsterdayton.org))

## No One Eats Alone at Eastmont

By Holly Martin

Some days bring a delight that stays with you! That was my experience when I was serving salad to each child who wanted some as they sat near their table buddy at an Eastmont special luncheon. I was glad that I had quickly responded "Sure I could do that!" since I often vacillate and miss the opportunity! But it was only a couple of hours and seemed quite doable. There were moments the day before when I thought about the 'how,' and whether to wear the maybe too-warm Valentine's sweatshirt, but I always knew that looking into



the eyes of the children would be such a delight. It was, and an additional blessing was realizing that we were helping children have a chance to be paired with someone who was looking out for them, or someone who needed them, which happened quite often, ie 'yes, she had her tray this direction before.' It's also a blessing, and a delight, to know you're doing something helpful and meaningful, not to mention appreciated. Whether you return to your day energized or ready for a short nap, you'll be glad you said 'yes!'



The Session met, and after hearing their Statements of Faith, the Session welcomed the nine members of this year's Confirmation Class into membership. Confirmation and Commissioning was celebrated on Sunday, March 10. Members of this year's class are Paul Agiro, Luke Bodey, Isabel Dembiczak, Keaton Jenkins, Emery Knorr, Kate Lawson, Mia Kroggel, Margaret Shoup, and Elizabeth Stack.

## The Sound of Silence

By Laura Bottei

As a musician, naturally, I am often surrounded by noise—mostly of the musical nature. This is especially true when you consider that I play the loudest instrument known to man! Even without considering my profession, I am admittedly one of many people in modern society that is not often left in silence. I get ready in the morning with a TV show playing in the background, listen to podcasts while I drive, and work every day with sounds ranging from a single handbell to a full choir and organ.

I will admit that I used to be much better at sitting in silence, quietly reflecting, and feeling the spirit and God's voice. I even went on a five-day silent retreat in college! I can't say I know what changed that—maybe the pandemic and all that extra screen time (which I was certainly not lacking to begin with)? Maybe just coping with the anxiety coming from the many life changes that I have had since that silent retreat in early 2020, what with moving and starting grad school, dealing with the stress of music school, and job searching. Regardless of the reason, I have recently been noticing that I am not as good as I once was at sitting with my thoughts and perhaps the breath of God.

However, lately here at church, I've had quite a few opportunities to get better at this! Of course, I still have much time to practice on the organ and rehearse with the choir as part of my job. But I also have experienced the silent periods during Taizé prayer each week during Lent and accompanying our youth through spiritual practices one recent night at youth group. These serve as a lasting reminder to me of the many ways a practice of silence can be helpful mentally and spiritually. I've been reminded how even a brief pause from the busyness of everyday life can calm the mind and soul. And although I have gotten rather good at feeling and seeing God in that busyness, it can be altogether easier to witness God's presence when we take a moment to slow down.

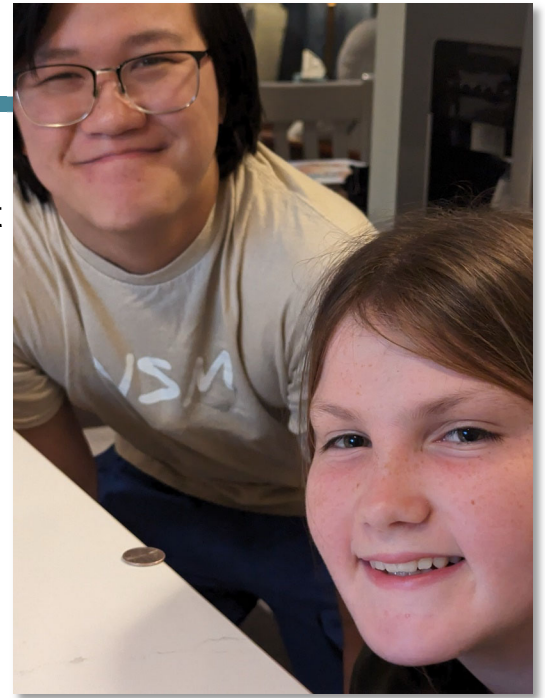
So, I invite you, dear Westminster family, to join me in recommitting yourselves to even a brief time each day or week to quiet your mind and your environment. I believe just those few moments, away from our loud jobs, commutes, homes, and whatever else we occupy our minds with, can help us feel God's presence even more.



## A Reflection from the Mission Resident

By Luke Kellett

I continue serving each week inside the Westminster building with the ID ministry and outside of our building at DECA and Eastmont schools. One of the things I've discovered about myself in my time as a resident here is that kids of all ages LOVE playing games! Whether we play card games or board games or goofy games involving quarters – whether we play at school, at church, or at home, playing a game with a young person or child disarms them and enables them to relax, laugh, and let go of stress or anger and to just have fun. I LOVE playing games and have loved getting to know both the students in our youth group and the students in the local schools. I've heard about their pets, their favorite pastimes, as well as what is weighing them down. It is a privilege to hang out with them and to be trusted enough to hear what is on their hearts. Thank you, Westminster Presbyterian Church, for affording me this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people and helping me discover that I LOVE teaching. Thank you also for enabling me to attend both the College Conference and the Manna Retreat held at Montreat Conference Center in January.



Westminster 101 welcomed fourteen people to their most recent class. Pictured left to right: Sonia Zennie, Tim and Melissa Francis, Sara Francis, Tom Hildreth, Kathy Schultz, Tony and Teresa Toerner, Joan Bernstein, Kelly Le, Sarah McKnight, Tom Huguley, Dan and Ariana Stoica. The next Westminster 101 class will be held on Sunday, April 21. Contact Donna Schoonmaker ([donna@westminsterdayton.org](mailto:donna@westminsterdayton.org)) to indicate interest.



## Lent

By Kay Berg

On the communion table, forty slim white candles light the Chancel, a blaze that will diminish each Wednesday evening over the next six weeks as we move closer to the darkness of the Passion. Litanies and scripture and repeated verses of Taizé songs accompanied by piano and mellow violin, lift to the Gothic arches above worshippers scattered through the sanctuary, focused on their thoughts and prayers. Toward the end of the service, we file forward down the long aisle to receive a cross of ashes on our foreheads, with the gut-wrenching words, “Kay, remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



Lent is a season of waiting, but vastly different from its sister season of Advent. In Advent we wait with anticipation; in Lent, we wait with dread. Every year I hear the stories leading up to Jesus’ trial and crucifixion, and every year, beyond logic, I hope the outcome will be different. Of course, the ultimate outcome, the Easter Resurrection is glorious, but first, we have to get through the bad part.

Observing Lent is for serious believers, those who try to “Stay with Me, Remain Here with Me, Watch and Pray.” It’s for those who sit at the bedside of a loved one who is dying, who make that trip to the hospital or Hospice, where no one wants to go, who attend the visitation and the funeral. Because.

At Westminster Presbyterian Church, rather than giving up things for Lent, we’re invited to take on a new practice or discipline that will bring us closer to God and one another: daily scripture reading, reflection, and prayer; reaching out to friends with whom we have lost touch; doing unexpected small deeds of kindness; worshipping together in large and small groups.

In the church where I grew up, St. John’s UCC, there was an emphasis on daily devotions during Lent, and then as it is now, I was only moderately successful at following through. But we also had Wednesday evening services, which I attended faithfully. For six weeks, I immersed myself in the Bible stories of Jesus’ approaching sacrifice. The Wednesday evenings were more sparsely attended than on Sunday, but the darkness and the discipline of coming to church on a weeknight appealed to my sense of the seriousness of the season.



We didn't have all those candles, nor the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, practices too Catholic for our German-born pastor. But we did have music, and that's what I remember best, the Lenten hymns. Sad and soulful, I still know most of their words by heart: "There is a Green Hill Far Away"; "O, Sacred Head, How Wounded"; "Go to Dark Gethsemane"; "Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow"; "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"; "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"; "In the Hour of Trial, Jesus Plead for Me"; "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"; "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"; and my favorite, "Ah Dearest Jesus," in German, "Herzliebster Jesu."

There are 24 Lenten hymns in the 1941 hymnal we were still using at St. John's in the early 1960s when I was a young teen. Compare that to 6 for Jesus' Life and Ministry, 13 for Advent, and 10 for His Resurrection, of which we mostly sang 5. I love the Taizé songs that we sing at Westminster, and I was very glad when we started Wednesday night Lenten services some years ago. I miss walking the block from St. John's to my house on those spring Wisconsin nights, the air bracingly cold after the warmth of the sanctuary, my mind reflecting on what it all meant, a young girl, pious for a few hours. I miss those hymns. And the thought comes to me, the way the Spirit does, that I should sing those hymns myself as part of my Lenten discipline this year, an older woman, still worshipping, here in Ohio. Because.



The Youth Ministry program at Westminster has enjoyed a busy and activity-filled winter. On Sunday, February 4, the youth advisors, with assistance from John Gummel and friends, hosted the biennial Youth Fancy Dinner. The theme for this year's dinner was Valentine's Day. The outfits, decorations, and menu were lovely, but the star of this year's event was the amazing balloon installation Christa Agiro created for the photo booth.

## My Dad Loves Roller Coasters

By Ellie Statt



Many of you already know me, but I'm Ellie Statt, a 4th grader in the Children's Ministry here at Westminster. Do you have questions like I do about this eccentric idea called *The Roller Coaster Fund* that has popped up in the church? You have questions, and I have answers! I also want you to know that Drew Statt happens to be my crazy dad! In this interview, he will be answering some questions that we all have. Let's get to it and learn more about *The Roller Coaster Fund*.

**Ellie:** Where did the idea of *The Roller Coaster Fund* come from?

**Dad:** I just like to have fun and those who know me know that I like to bring a smile to people's faces. Your mom and I were asked to give a Minute for Stewardship in the fall, and the absurdity of raising funds for a roller coaster in the Sanctuary was something that I knew people would laugh and smile at. So my need to be a goofball was the start. However, the positive feedback from your mom and mine's Stewardship speech, especially from the kids in the congregation, inspired me to do something to support our growing Children's Ministries.

**Ellie:** How did you get kids involved in *The Roller Coaster Fund*?

**Dad:** Church should be a place of joy for all. When kids can use their imagination, they get to put one of God's greatest gifts to use. A bonus is that they get to enjoy coming to church too! I wanted our kids to understand that they can also be part of stewardship for our church. Kids made posters, designed their own Bible-themed roller coasters, built displays, presented to the congregation, and collected money for the fund. Our children got to participate in something meaningful that directly helps improve their church experience.

**Ellie:** How much money has *The Roller Coaster Fund* made so far?

**Dad:** The church has been so generous, and we have raised over \$800 so far! The leadership in the Children's Ministry can now decide how to use that extra money to offer new and exciting opportunities for kids like you here at Westminster in addition to the regular programming we budgeted for. Goes to show that even things that are fun can make a difference!

**Ellie:** Final question, why can't we build an actual roller coaster in the church?

**Dad:** Ha! Ha! Oh, that dream is very much alive! I think that we should build a real one! Do you remember that time we rode *Orion* together at *Kings Island*? I'm pretty sure that when we got to the top of that 300-foot hill you were saying some prayers! Any reason

to think about God more often is always a good thing! Hehe!

**Ellie:** Ok, I may have been praying in my head! Thank you, Dad, for letting me interview you! I love you! I hope everyone enjoyed this interview with my dad.

### Note from the Editor

The Rollercoaster Fund was a month-long fundraiser that took place in February. The purpose of the fundraiser was not to build a rollercoaster in the Sanctuary but to fund additional activities and initiatives not previously budgeted for in our Children's Ministries. The additional funds will allow kids and staff to dream big and build an exciting future for your youngest worshipers. Thank you for your generous support!

## Necessary Risks – A Montreat Reflection

By Olivia Collins



From January 1-5, I had the opportunity to be a part of the College Conference Planning Team at Montreat! While on the planning team, I was able to organize workshop leaders, ask questions to the keynote speaker Cole Arthur Riley, and create interactive events for participants to attend.

Being a part of the planning team experience was extremely impactful in my faith journey! I was led by an incredible group of Pastors and college peers. Together, we made a really successful College Conference. It was eye-opening to see the work that goes into these conferences.

Furthermore, I was greeted on day two at Montreat by my church family from Westminster and the Myers Park Presbyterian Church Summer Interns. It was a unique experience to have so many people who supported me on my faith journey in one place. I can't wait for next year's College Conference because this was one of the best experiences yet!

**Olivia is a third-year student at the University of Cincinnati. She has spent the last two summers serving as a college intern with Cross Missions, an urban ministry program in Charlotte, North Carolina, hosted by Myers Park Presbyterian Church. Olivia was one of four college students who worked on the planning team for the 2024 College Conference.**

## Westminster Invests in Students and Education

By Jenne Gross



Teachers can always use an extra hand, not to mention the positive outcomes for students who get that one-on-one time with an adult.

The WISE Ministry is busy supporting, and strengthening our relationships with our school partners. This can appear in many different forms, from volunteers with an after-school stem club, snacks for a girls' group from DECA, writing pen pal letters, after-school homework help, and supporting teachers during the school day. Just to name a few of the many supportive services we provide.

Teachers can always use an extra hand, not to mention the positive outcomes for students who get that one-on-one time with an adult. I would like to share with you a couple of brief reflections from two of our volunteers from Eastmont.

Linda Spokane started volunteering last year in a Kindergarten Class at Eastmont. Here is her story.

"I give one-on-one time helping with crafts and recently I was able to be there for one of the students who was having trouble with being in a loud assembly, taking him to the library next door where I used books to engage him in verbalizing thoughts, something he does not normally do. I also spend time copying and sorting, cutting and stapling papers for their lessons as well as crafts. It feels very good to lighten the teacher's load and give any assistance I can, in addition to just enjoying the atmosphere of the classroom. The teacher I assist is always very appreciative! It is a very satisfying experience."

Robbie Nash has been volunteering at Eastmont for several years and has an amazing relationship with teachers and staff. She graciously shared her experience.

"I volunteer to tutor at Eastmont. I work in second grade with four pupils, three of whom are Hispanic but know English. The two teachers I work with asked for help because the students are behind the others either due to not attending



If you are interested in volunteering with the WISE Ministry, please contact Jenne Gross [jenne@westminsterdayton.org](mailto:jenne@westminsterdayton.org)

school before, not learning the letters of the alphabet, or not knowing how to subtract. They are all three on individual education plans and have help from the intervention specialist and the English as a Second Language teacher. They all agree that having my help in reiterating the skills and practice has made a difference with these children. I try to go for a couple of hours twice a week. When you consider that these children have a dim future without these basic skills and you see progress, it is heartening to be part of their success.

The teachers have asked for input in delineating the weaknesses in the children's learning and are very appreciative of the help.”



The Youth Game Night was Friday, February 9. The group enjoyed dinner, group games, trivia, and devotions in the sanctuary. The group sent cards, gift cards, and stickers to 35 of our college students. This group photo of the youth and adult advisors was used to make the Valentine's Day cards that were sent to 35 of our Westminster college students.

The Junior High youth hosted the annual Souper Bowl of Caring event to collect food and money for the Dayton Foodbank. This year's offering was \$1733.15 and over 100 food items. Thank you for your generous contributions and your willingness to help the youth tackle hunger in the Miami Valley.

**Presbyterian Heritage Sunday** was observed on Sunday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m., with the Miami Valley Pipes and Drums. Members and friends of the congregation were encouraged to wear any Tartan or plaid that they may have such as skirts, kilts, and ties. This was a day to be Scottish, no matter what your heritage.



## Update on the Renovation of the Organ

By John Neely

Can you believe it, the organ is still in the process of being repaired! No question about it, this process has taken a long, long time.

A nationally known organ company could have been engaged to put the mighty Casavant in perfect working condition. Had we decided to do this, the entire organ (everything!) would have been removed (at least a 6-month process) and transported to a large facility. Our immense organ would have resided in this faraway land for two years or longer. When

the organ was ready to return, it would likely have taken at least nine months to reinstall. The cost of all this would have been significantly higher than our current design for repair.

In order to have something sounding in the vacant, lonely pipe chambers, an electronic organ would have been purchased. Such an arrangement is very costly and would have caused us to completely rethink how effective such an instrument would be for funerals and memorial services, weddings, baccalaureates, community services, concerts, May Festival, Christmas Eve, Vespers, Lessons and Carols, organ recitals, and more.

Fortunately, we avoided all of the above. A highly regarded pipe organ services company is located in Dayton – Hunt Pipe Organ Services. As one might expect, this company is in great demand and services over 30 organs in Dayton and surrounding communities. Bottom line – it has and will take longer to completely refurbish the organ here. On the bright side, we have never been without the beauty we have come to expect from our magnificent Casavant organ – never.

***Thank you for your patience and commitment in seeing that the organ will sound as it did when it was fully functional.***



# Among our People#

## Deaths

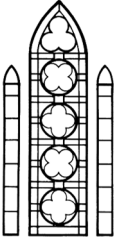
Philip Crowell	December 03, 2023
Jerry Snyder	January 31, 2024
Patricia "Pattie" Edmonson	February 08, 2024
Faye Jendrian	February 15, 2024
Alberta Fine	February 19, 2024
Fredricka "Freddie" Schaefer	March 07, 2024

## Births

Juniper Estelle Shell February 29, 2024  
daughter of Breanna Shell and Matt Christiansen

## New Members

Paul Agiro	Sarah McKnight
Luke Bodey	Joseph Steuver
Isabel Dembiczak	Ariana Stoica
Keaton Jenkins	Dan Stoica
Emery Knorr	Joan Bernstein
Jenna Lawson	Melissa Francis
Mia Kroggel	Sara Francis
Margaret Shoup	Tim Francis
Elizabeth Stack	Tom Huguley



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125 N. Wilkinson St.  
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