

The Chimes

A WESTMINSTER PUBLICATION
FALL 2025



SUNDAY SCHEDULE INCLUDED
JOIN US FOR WELCOME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning September 7

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 103-105

10:40 to 11:30

Sunday School (Grades 3-4) - Room 109

Sunday School (Grades 5-8) - 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 - Mission Room

11:30 to 12:15

Genesis Singers (ages 4 and 5 - pre-K) - Room 104

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

SEPT 28

FAITH &
CIVIC LIFE
MICHAEL WEAR

OCT 05

WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCT 05

MEMORIAL
ORGAN
RECITAL

NOV 16

CHORAL
VESPER &
HARVEST
DINNER

If you have ever sponsored school kits, THANK YOU!!!
As a result of your generosity, Westminster Presbyterian Women (WPW) has already built and delivered more than 1,000 school kits!

For a number of years now, Westminster Presbyterian Women has assisted Church World Services (CWS) through the donation of school kits, which are then collected and distributed worldwide. School kits, newly reimagined as Kids Kits, one of the most asked for means of support, are distributed by CWS to school children following disasters, in need, and/or displaced for any number of reasons so that they might have the means to return to school as quickly as possible.

Until this year, each kit contained 3 spiral notebooks, 6 pencils, a pencil sharpener, a large eraser, a box of 24 crayons, a pair of scissors, and a 12" ruler, packed in a canvas bag. But this year they will contain just 1 spiral notebook, 6 pencils, a pencil sharpener, a large eraser, a box of 24 crayons, a pair of scissors, a 12" ruler, plus a box of 12 colored pencils, a pocket folder, a glue stick, and a pencil pouch, packed in a canvas bag.

Once again, we are preparing to build 150 kits that will be delivered to CWS in September. Over the past few years, MADD Camp campers built these kits, but this year, they decorated the bags that will be used to build them. Using a spray tie dye, they took plain canvas bags and brought color to them. This is a sampling of their work.

Although the name and contents have changed, kits are still valued at \$15 each. CWS also asks for an additional donation of \$2 per kit to cover transportation costs. However, because we buy school supplies during back-to-school sales, even with recent increases in prices and changes to the kit itself, we are still able to build kits and cover the cost of transportation for \$10 per kit.

Your continued generous support of this critical mission project cannot be overstated. To make a difference to one or more children in crisis today, please send a check to Westminster Church with an annotation that your donation is for WPW's Kid's Kit Project, or donate online at westminsterdayton.org/give.

Should you have any questions regarding WPW's Kid's Kit Mission Project, please email Dominique Myers, WPW Moderator, at dbm54@outlook.com.

2025 Kids Kit Mission Project

By Dominique Myers





Knox Choir Mid-Atlantic Tour

By Sam Morgan

Early in the morning on the tenth of June, Westminster's Knox Choir gathered in the church parking lot. In the shadow of a Buckeye charter bus, families bade each other farewell, and Pastor Nancy said a prayer. Once their luggage was loaded into compartments, the twenty-seven choir members and ten adult advisors boarded the bus. Within minutes, they were off, and thus, the 2025 Knox Choir trip commenced.

Driven safely by the remarkable Betty Rabold, they headed East. The environment on the bus was still, with everyone keeping to themselves for the most part, but as soon as they reached their first stop—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—conversations began to bloom. They ate lunch in the Strip District, rode the Duquesne Incline for a panoramic view of the city, and then resumed the bus ride.

They stopped for the night in Columbia, Maryland, where they stayed for four nights as they journeyed to the surrounding areas. The first of these areas was the state capitol, Annapolis, where the group explored, ate lunch, and embarked on a harbor cruise.

Following this excursion, they prepared for and then performed their first concert of the trip at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church in Columbia. The choir and bell ringers delighted their audience with pieces they had practiced for months. Without a doubt, their first concert was a success.

The remainder of the trip followed a similar pattern. Between concerts, the Knox Choir travelled to locations like Bethany Beach in Delaware and the National Zoo in Washington D.C. Their second concert took place at Christian Community Presbyterian Church in Bowie, Maryland, where they again successfully performed to an enchanted audience.

The following day, the Knox Choir visited the Missionary Air Group in Burlington, North Carolina. There, they received the opportunity to interact with functioning aircraft, and they learned much about missionary work around the globe.



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On the following morning, the group embarked on the journey home. They stopped for lunch at Adventures on the Gorge in West Virginia, as well as visiting New River Gorge National Park and stopping to ride a carousel along the way. For the last hour or so on the bus, karaoke filled the entire vehicle—a joyful sound, the group united in music one last time. It directly contrasted the bus’s quiet atmosphere of the first day, for over the course of the past five days, the Knox Choir had become a family.

Early in the evening on the sixteenth of June, Westminster’s Knox Choir arrived in the church parking lot. In the shadow of the group’s faithful ride, families reunited, and friends bade each other farewell. Luggage was unloaded. One by one, the choir departed. Miss Betty drove the bus away. And thus, the 2025 Knox Choir trip came to an end.





MADD Camp

By Kylie Hettinger

Hi Westminster! MADD Camp 2025 was a great success! We had a total of 26 campers, ranging from second to seventh grades. Campers participated in morning classes consisting of crafts, fine arts, drama, and a mystery music class. In the afternoon, campers traveled to Michael Bashaw's Studio, the International Peace Museum, the Victoria Theater, Front Street Studios, and the Boonshoft Museum. On Wednesday, we all traveled to Activity Center Park in Centerville. Each day had new and exciting things to experience!

What always strikes me about MADD Camp is that it brings a variety of Westminsterites together. To make camp work, we need volunteers in the kitchen, workshop leaders, counselors, bus drivers, prayer partners, choir helpers, a choir director, and nurses. It truly is an example of the Body of Christ working together. We need all parts, all gifts, to be able to provide camp each year. I am thankful for this community and all of those who support the children's ministry events!



What's In A Name?

By The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle

Some of you may have noticed that your nametag slot might have been relocated in the past month! That is because we have undertaken an effort to reorganize and re-alphabetize the nametag slots. The need for this project is a great sign - it means we have been wonderfully blessed with so many new members in recent years that it necessitated a reshuffling. Our very capable Congregational Care Coordinator, Mattie Pennington, has done yeoman's work getting every person a nametag and every nametag in its place!

The occasion of this project is a good time to remember why it is that we have nametags in the first place. Church is a place people come to find community; to worship, study, and serve alongside others who share their values. We proclaim this truth every time we celebrate the sacraments of communion or baptism; we are all united as one Body of Christ. We are connected in a spiritual way to one another as a part of the family of God. And we need to be able to call one another by name!

That's where the nametags come in. With over 800 members (not including children), we have a lot of names to remember! Even the most socially connected among us appreciate the reminder, so we never feel like we are scrambling to remember someone's name. Wearing our nametags helps all of us learn and remember each other's names, and it helps to strengthen our community as a whole. Wearing nametags helps visitors feel welcome, and helps our Hospitality Team to recognize who might be new.

Of course, nametags get misplaced, lost, or broken. So please, if you need a replacement nametag, or even if you would just love to have a backup, please email Wayne King in the Church Office, wayne@westminsterdayton.org, and he will make you a nametag and leave it for you to pick up on Sunday morning in the Church Office.

Let's keep our reputation as a friendly and welcoming church by wearing our nametags and making the effort to greet one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

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Westminster Ringers

By Brent Manley

Have you ever wondered what 650 ringers and at least 3,500 bells and choir chimes would sound like? That's exactly what the Westminster Ringers heard when they participated in the Handbell Musicians of America Area 5 Spring Ring in Columbus on April 25 and 26. Nine members of the Westminster Ringers (Brent Manley, Josh Bodey, Vail McGuire, Aaron Meece, Linda Norkus, Marcia Wood, Karen Armstrong, Kim Mayhew, and Robert Springer) joined 650 other ringers from Ohio, Michigan,

Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia at the Columbus Convention Center. During the two-day event, ringers rehearsed for 6 1/2 hours in preparation for the final concert on Saturday afternoon. In between rehearsals, ringers attended a variety of classes taught by handbell experts from across the country. The guest clinician for the Spring Ring was Fred Gramann. Fred spent 50 years in Paris as the director of music at the American Church in Paris. In addition, he is a composer and internationally known conductor, educator, and handbell clinician. It was a privilege and great joy to participate with so many other ringers in this event. This festival continues Westminster's long-time commitment to handbell ringing, a tradition that began in the 1960's under the direction of Bob Stofer.





WISE Ministry Update

By Jenne Gross

The WISE Ministry is excited for the new school year with all the various opportunities to support our partner schools, Eastmont Elementary and DECA Middle. Here are just a few of the yearly activities the ministry supports.

Prior to the start of each school year, the WISE Ministry collects donations and volunteers to help put together "Teacher survival kits." This is a fun way to let the teachers know we support them and welcome them back to the new school year.

The Open House and Ice Cream Social is a yearly event at Eastmont. Volunteers serve ice cream to the students and families to help welcome them back to school. Each year, I get to see the excitement and anticipation of the students and their parents.

The School Supply drive starts every July and runs through August. Teachers and students are appreciative of the generous donations.

Volunteers are needed and very much welcomed at Eastmont and DECA to work with a teacher, helping students one-on-one or in a small group. There is also a need for support during lunch as a "lunch buddy" with a student.

The Pen Pal program will be back with the third-grade classes! If you haven't been a pen pal in the past, I would encourage you to consider being one this year. The students love getting the letters and meeting their pen pal at the end of the school year.



This is just a small sample of some of the activities the WISE Ministry supports. Please contact me (jenne@westminsterdayton.org or 937-223-7285) to learn how you can get more involved with this important and rewarding ministry.



The most recent Westminster 101 class was held on Sunday, July 27. Pictured are the attendees of the class - Kendra and AJ Stich with Spring, Teddy, and Olivia, Rebecca Dianis, Chloe Culp, and Joyce Barrier. Interested in joining Westminster? Our new members' classes, Westminster 101, are offered quarterly, followed by a meeting with the Session before being received in worship.



A Ministry of Love and Support

By Joyce Ferguson

“Leading Westminster’s Memorial Reception Team provides me with many rewarding opportunities to serve my fellow church members as they grieve the loss of a loved one,” says Julie Drumheller, with whom I co-chair this vital ministry.

I also believe that planning and leading memorial receptions are terrific experiences at Westminster. Families have different desires and needs, and we are always able to provide a first-class reception with volunteers who bake cookies, make sandwiches, and help set up and serve the reception using the lovely silver items donated by many past and present Westminster members.

Both of us agree that this special ministry means a lot to our church family. Anyone who has needed to plan a reception or attended one for a family member or friend would have to agree. Julie and I began leading the reception team with four other women when it was created as a Westminster Presbyterian Women’s ministry more than fifteen years ago. The WPW leader at the time, Julie Preisser, saw a need for meaningful receptions to help families receive friends share memories of their loved ones, and began to plan for what has grown into a special part of Westminster today.

Over time, members of the original leadership team and volunteers have aged, passed away, or moved to be closer to families, leaving a real need for more leaders to step forward and more bakers and helpers to add their names to the list of volunteers.

If you are feeling called to be a part of this important and meaningful work and have an interest in joining this dedicated team of volunteers, please contact Julie Drumheller (jdrumheller@woh.rr.com) or myself (joycereliv@gmail.com) for more information. We would love to have you join us!

Westminster Spirits Soar at Kirkmont Center

By Drew Statt

For over 60 years, Kirkmont Center, our Presbyterian-affiliated camp and conference center located in Zanesfield, Ohio, has been the source of much connection, spirituality, and joy for many in the Presbytery. However, changing times, busy family schedules, school and sport commitments, financial stresses, modern distractions, societal pressures, flagging church attendance, and not to mention a global pandemic have taken their toll on camps like Kirkmont Center. Many have even had to close their doors for lack of support and dwindling attendance. Contrary to the state of our world, the Presbyterian community, especially Westminster, is just built differently! Our church members are rediscovering their connection to God's creation—once again growing in faith, and re-igniting a passion for all things nature!

The tradition of summer camp that many remember fondly from their own childhoods as a pivotal step in their faith journey has suffered in this modern world. Thankfully, though, through the financial support of generous donors, the continued desire to offer this life-changing opportunity for children, sheer determination, and by the Grace of God, the light of faith continues to burn brightly at Kirkmont Center! Westminster children and families have returned in droves and are adding their own spark to keep that light going far into the future.

Members of Westminster were well represented at every one of Kirkmont's summer camp programs this year. At Beginner's Camp 1/3 of the registered campers came from Westminster families. Several WPC youth attended PYC and Camp Rejoice, and You & Me Camp alone had 17 Westminster members attending. In all, 40 members of our Westminster community attended a summer camp, special event, or community program at Kirkmont Center this year! This is an incredible turnout and testament to the love we hold for our camp on the mountain.

Even more incredible, overall camp attendance for Kirkmont Center was up nearly 15% in 2025—a sign that not only is Westminster rediscovering our love for Kirkmont, but the greater Presbyterian community has not forgotten their "Place for all People in All Seasons." Faith building and connection are alive and well, and Kirkmont is once again growing into the future!

Westminster members are also getting involved at Kirkmont in other ways. Beginner's Camp was co-directed by our own Abby Lachman, who did an amazing job working with Kirkmont's youngest campers. In addition, Westminster member Audrey Bonar served as Beginner's Camp nurse offering up a healthy dose of band-aids and hugs. Drew and Tori Statt served as the co-directors for Kirkmont's You & Me Camp, which focuses on enjoying camp together as a family. Additionally, Drew serves on Kirkmont's Board of Directors, ensuring the sustainability and success of Kirkmont's mission.

Even Westminster staff have done their part. For example, Pastor Caitlin Deyerle not only sent her girls to camp this year, but she attended camp herself as part of the You & Me Camp crew. Brent Manley, along with Duvier Perez from our sister church in Colombia, also volunteered time to do activities with Beginner's Camp. Additionally, Business Director Tim Francis facilitated the donation of our old Fellowship Hall tables to Kirkmont this past year. Many others in the Westminster community have also come out for volunteer workdays to clean and maintain Kirkmont, served as camp counselors, attended community events, and more!

If Kirkmont has not been on your mind in a while or you'd like to learn more, here is your long-overdue update on all things Kirkmont Center.

Last year Kirkmont partnered with the University of Virginia Astronomy Club to host the most amazing Eclipse Event in Ohio, as over 30 young astronomers and over a hundred fifty visitors came together to share knowledge, eclipse fun, and wonder together at God's great glory. Kirkmont also held its first annual Spring Into Nature 5K this past May, bringing runners and supporters from all over Ohio and beyond. Runners and walkers enjoyed one of the only single-loop 5k trail runs in Ohio, traversing much of Kirkmont's beautiful property. This event raised over \$4,000 for camp scholarships.

Working with the Ohio Nature Conservancy, Kirkmont conducted its first-ever large-scale study of its flora and fauna. The study revealed that Kirkmont's unique location among the highest points in Ohio and its pristine land, untouched and undeveloped for over 60 years, is home to a multitude of rare native trees, plants, and animals, including several endangered species. Armed with the study's findings, Kirkmont partnered with the Logan County Land Trust to add legal preservation status to the property with grants aimed at removing invasive species and setting aside over 300 acres for perpetual protection. This is Kirkmont land that is now forever legally protected from development, deforestation, and harm.

Through generous donations, Kirkmont has begun a multi-year project to update its aging facilities, including adding fire protection to Croft House and installing a brand-new well-pump and water treatment facility capable of servicing the whole camp. A major renovation of the Shelter House is underway, including a new roof, restroom facilities, and stonework. The Board of Directors is currently seeking grants to overhaul Goodrich Lodge, enhancing ADA accessibility and increasing the functionality of the space, and most excitingly, Kirkmont just completed architectural plans and will soon be breaking ground on the construction of a brand-new Miami Bathhouse.

Kirkmont is blooming again, and Westminster members have been right there to enjoy its beauty! Please consider giving the gift of camp by sending your child, grandchild, or by supporting our Westminster youth to attend camp next summer. Also, be sure to check out Kirkmont's website (www.kirkmontcenter.org) or like their Facebook/Instagram page to learn about upcoming community events, volunteer workdays, presentations, and the many other activities you can enjoy.

Finally, consider a financial gift to Kirkmont's Ed DeLair Camper Scholarship Fund or Keeping the Kirkmont Magic Alive Fund. For a more tangible gift, take a look at the Amazon wishlist available on the Kirkmont website to donate camp supplies, replace aging equipment, or support camp programming.

Remember to "Be of good courage and know that you are loved," ideals that Westminster lives every day as its spirit soars high above Kirkmont Center and the world.





Intergenerational Mission Trip

By Paul Agiro

As we drove up to the worksite on the first day of our service, I was exhausted. Having not slept the night before, I did not feel ready for a full day of manual labor. These thoughts ran through my head as I got out of the car and walked to the door of Mrs. Patty Perry's home, who needed a new roof as hers was leaking and rotting in multiple places. She explained all this to us as we stood in the dewy grass on that first chilly morning. As she spoke of her struggles, I began to develop a sense of purpose and meaning for being there. God had put me in her life and her in mine for a reason. This cause was bigger than however many hours of sleep I had gotten the night before. As I began to realize this, we met the construction team we would be working with: Dustin, the head carpenter, Brandon, a younger carpenter who was only 19, and Suzie, who had also been a victim of natural disasters in the area and had sought help from the very organization for which she now worked.

I spent the next four days roofing, tearing up shingles, pulling out nails, laying felt, re-shingling, and many other arguably laborious tasks. They did not feel laborious, however. In fact, there was no point in the week when I wished desperately that I was not on a hot roof surrounded by tar and nails in the unrelenting one-hundred-plus degree sun. Normally, a week like that would have been less than fun for me, but that week was immensely enjoyable. Sleeping on the floor and showering at the rec center went from unbearable to little inconveniences that faded into obscurity as the week went on. The reason for this was the realization of what our small group of teens and adults did that week in Hazard, Kentucky. We had contributed to the goodness of the world in our own way, with little to no regard for personal comfort or satisfaction. We had joined the good fight, the fight against harm and destruction through deeds that we did purely for the reason that it helped other people, which is immensely powerful and impactful in ways that I am only beginning to understand. So, if someone were to ask me if participating in the mission trip is worth their time, I would say, absolutely! Many people coming out and helping the world may not feel impactful in the moment, but the world is greatly impacted. And to those who already participate in the intergenerational mission trip, I say keep up the phenomenal work and continue to change the world in the most amazing ways.



The Blessings of Partnership

By The Reverend Nancy Hodgkins

This summer we were delighted to host two friends from our Colombia Partnership. The first was Duvier Perez. He was here June 6-30. Duvier is currently working at the Colegio Americano of Bogota and serving at Betania Presbyterian Church as a candidate for sacred ministry under the care of the Central Presbytery in Colombia. Duvier was an adult advisor on the Knox Choir Trip and a member of the Intergenerational Mission Team. Duvier's servant heart and exceptional skill with young people was a gift to Westminster and the youth and adults he spent time with.

July 18 through August 2, we welcomed Adriana Gonzalez. Adriana is a member of the 9th Presbyterian Church of Barranquilla. She has been a leader in the Presbytery of the North Coast's Youth Program since she was a teenager, and she and her husband, Alfredo, serve as worship music leaders at their church. Adriana has a degree in Psychology, and is currently teaching Christian Education for all ages at Nazaret Olaya, the Presbyterian School run by the 7th Church in Barranquilla. She was a wonderful addition to our MADD Camp leadership and taught a song in Spanish on Wednesday and a traditional Colombian dance on Thursday as a part of the "Mystery Music" Class. Adriana also attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Louisville, Kentucky, as a member of the delegation from the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.

Westminster has enjoyed almost 30 years of partnership with our sister church in Primera Iglesia, First Presbyterian Church, in Barranquilla, Colombia. Next summer, we look forward to celebrating the partnership between our sister churches as well as the partnership between the Presbytery of the Miami Valley and the Presbytery of the North Coast of Colombia in both Barranquilla and Dayton. The annual visits from our Colombian friends are just one of the ways that we support one another in ministry and mission.



Births

- Erynn Sharp 06/25/2025
- Nolan Sharp 06/25/2025

Baptisms

- Isabelle Fuqua 3/16/25
- Sam Morgan 3/16/25
- Eleanor Wilson 3/16/25
- Shoshana Ford 4/27/25
- Lennon Issenmann 6/29/25

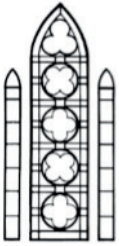
Deaths

- Nelle Melko 04/11/2025
- Perry Bailey 05/08/2025
- David Weaver 06/19/2025
- Frank Mione 06/20/2025
- Mike Brown 06/24/2025
- Jane Haskin 06/27/2025
- Charis Gridley 07/18/2025
- Ann Herr 07/25/2025

Weddings

- Abbey Collins and Tyler Minnis 4/26/25
- Abigail Fleming and Nick Poullisse 5/24/25
- Haley Ingram and Steven Onken 8/10/25





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125 N. Wilkinson St.
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