

LENT 2026 EDITION

THE CHIMES



HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS INSIDE

HOLY WEEK



March 29

Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem!

April 2

Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. – Light Supper (\$7 – no reservations required – served from 6:00–6:30 p.m.)

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

This service will be livestreamed.

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

April 3

Good Friday Service

12:10 p.m. – 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

April 5

Easter Sunday

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. Bus Service from Bethany Village will be available for the 9:00 a.m. service. The 11:00 a.m. service will be livestreamed.

DEACONS FALL WORK DAY

BY BOB AND DONNA REECE



As we would turn into our driveway this fall, we would lament the state of our flower beds with all the dead foliage, not to mention the backyard. We have always tried to be independent, but we were coming to the realization that this year we were not physically up to the overwhelming task.

We have long endorsed the deacon-sponsored care ministry of helping members in various ways. This year, we responded to the invitation in the church bulletin and asked for help. We are glad that we did. We had expected a couple of people who would help clean up the vegetation. To our surprise, six Westminsterites showed up on a Saturday morning in November. We knew only one of them. Shelly Davies, was the deacon representative. There were two families of Powell's, who live next door to each other, but are not related—John and Shannon and their daughter Caroline Powell, and Ashley and her son Everett Powell. Rather than just assisting, they asked for directions and then graciously and vigorously took over, cutting down all the dead stuff and to creating a huge pile of debris for the next pickup by the city. This incredible job was completed in about an hour and half. We were astonished that so much had been accomplished in such a short time. Never has it been done so thoroughly.



We were delighted to meet some church members that we did not know, and we were amazed by the energy and effectiveness of the two young people. This is a wonderful program, helping church members who need help because of age, illness, or inability and introducing members who have not met. Our thanks to the deacons for sponsoring the program and to Shelly Davies and the Powells for their enormous service to us.

Wonderful W.I.S.E. Updates

By Jenne Gross

We had another successful Gifts from the Heart. The WISE Ministry was able to provide gifts to 81 families, (161 children) in need from our partner schools, Eastmont Elementary and DECA Middle.

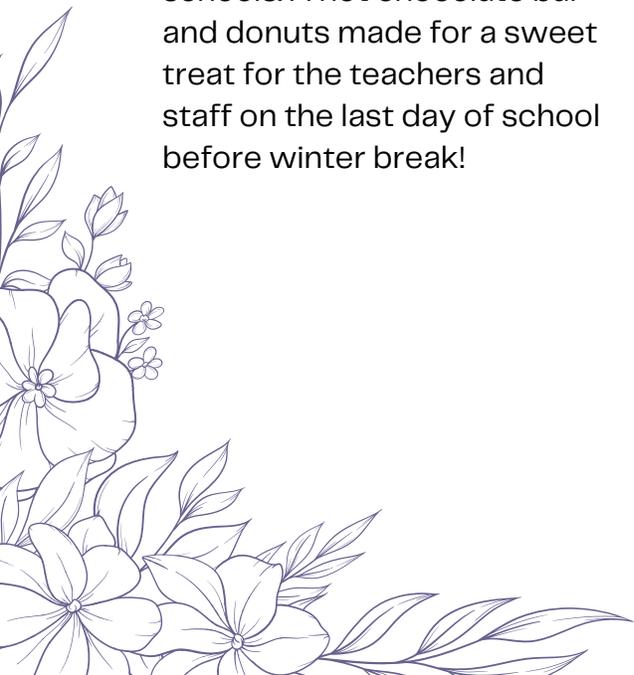
The families were overwhelmed and grateful for all the support provided from our members. Thanks to all the volunteers. Without your support of Gifts From the Heart, the WISE Ministry would not be able to assist so many families in need.

The WISE Ministry also provided carolers to spread joy to all at our partner schools. A hot chocolate bar and donuts made for a sweet treat for the teachers and staff on the last day of school before winter break!

The Pen Pal program is in full swing, and the next batch of letters will be arriving soon. Plans are underway for the annual pen pal lunch in May.

This month the WISE Ministry provided volunteers at Eastmont to support their “NO One Eats Alone” Campaign. This has become a very special event for several reasons. Thanks to WPC volunteer’s students did not have to stand in the line for lunch. Their lunch was served to them! The teachers made sure to pair older students with younger ones and encouraged conversations, and social time. On this special day, the lunchroom was a place where everyone wanted to be, and no one was alone. It was uplifting to see the caring and positive interactions by the students.

DECA had their annual Obama Ball – a fund raiser for spring field trips. The WISE Ministry helps to support DECA by providing snacks for the students and families to purchase. All proceeds will go toward the upcoming spring field trips.





On Sunday, March 8, during worship the members of the 2026 Confirmation Class were confirmed and commissioned. We welcomed Isaac Agiro, Gabrielle Noh, and Tennyson Ross into membership. Shelly Davies, Bob Knechel, and Alan Pippenger served as mentors for this year's class.



The Youth Fellowship group sent Valentine's Day cards and gift cards to 40 students attending college and graduate school to remind them that they are loved and missed by their Westminster Church family.



Pictured is the January 26 Westminster 101 class attendees: Lorrie Long, Thomas and Michelle Shera, Jean Knorr, Nancy White, and Dylan Hruska



Capital Campaign Update

Phase one of the Centennial Capital Campaign begins this spring! Thanks to your support, after seven years of dreaming, praying, planning, and preparing, construction is expected to commence in late March or early April. Construction is anticipated to continue through the summer and phase one will be completed some time late fall. Staff members have worked behind the curtain to arrange rooms and events to accommodate the construction, but we anticipate some things will look different while the dust is flying! We thank you in advance for your patience during these growing pains.

Fellowship Hall will see significant upgrades in phase one, including improved accessibility and a more inviting atmosphere. The growing children's ministry will receive much needed upgrades and improvements for the nursery area. By leveling the floor, the Chapel will transform into a space that will offer a flexible layout, making it ideal for a variety of activities, from classes to mission programs.

With the help of our architectural partners, LWC, we have partnered with Triton Services, a premier full-service contractor based in Cincinnati. Having partnered together on multiple projects in the past, Triton Services and LWC will make a great team as we move forward with shaping our goals and dreams into reality. Triton Services specializes in high-quality design, installation, and service for general construction. With over 400 years of combined experience in the industry, Triton Services will be a valuable member of our team as the project kicks off!

Westminster Presbyterian Church has been a significant presence in downtown Dayton for nearly 100 years. We are committed to making our church a more welcoming and accessible place! By collaborating with architects from LWC, and Triton Services, we step forward into the future with faith. We aim to remain a vibrant congregation and uphold our historic leadership role in Dayton.

We are also thrilled to announce that our capital campaign is nearing our total project goal of \$3.5 million. With the final stretch within our grasp, we hope you will consider investing in Westminster's future with a gift to the capital campaign. Having our funding completed before the end of phase one would not only provide the security of knowing both phases are fully funded, but also potentially shorten construction time and expenses by letting us roll immediately into the next phase.

Your support helps create an inclusive and welcoming space for all!

How You Can Help

Every contribution makes a difference. Consider supporting the campaign in the following ways:

- **Make a Direct Donation:** Visit westminsterdayton.org/give
- **Make a Pledge Online:** Complete our online pledge form westminsterdayton.org/centennial
- **Make a Pledge In-Person:** Paper copies of the Capital Campaign pledge forms are available in the Church Office and in the brochure racks of the Narthex.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP BRANCHES OUT THIS SPRING!



April 12

Improving Your Nature Photography with Brian Swartz

A busy bee finds a new pollen source at Cox Arboretum. There is a confirmed sighting of a Snow Goose at Kiwanis Riverway Park. A crocus pushes its way through a thin crust of snow in your front yard. A Bald Eagle swoops a fish out of the Great Miami River. A colorful sunset bathes the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

If you would like to learn how to capture these memories and others with a camera, come see Brian Swartz's talk on Improving Your Nature Photography.

Brian will be sharing tips and techniques to get better photographs. He will also be exploring the importance of getting out in nature. Brian has worked as a photographer for over 30 years.

April 19

Sustainable Living Practices (Waste-Free Dayton) with Brett Bogan.

Brett Bogan is a lifelong resident of the Miami Valley. He resides in Troy with wife Laura and son Adrian along with two dogs, two cats, and a bunny. While he has a day job working in data protection for a multinational corporation, Brett is the Executive Director of Waste-Free Dayton, a grassroots, all-volunteer nonprofit that promotes sustainable living practices, organizes monthly litter cleanups, and operates two compost stations in Dayton. He obtained a Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith in 2023 from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and is working to engage more of the local faith community on creation care.



The Fellowship Committee enjoyed the annual Game Night on January 23! We enjoyed an evening of fellowship, fun, and food. Enjoy some pictures from the fun!



The Montreat College Conference was held at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina, January 2-5. Eight students along with Nancy Hodgkins joined over 600 other participants to explore the theme "Strains of Joy".



The Organ Renovation Project Enters Its Final Phase

By Brittany Campbell

John makes it look effortless. Whenever you sit in the Sanctuary and listen to him play, the hallowed music just floats down from the heavens like mana for the ears and the heart. Of course it's due to a mixture of talent and practiced precision over a prestigious and storied career that makes it seem that way. And then one Sunday morning you hear a loud croak from somewhere in the mechanical bowels of the organ.

The Casavant Organ (opus 2670), dedicated in January 1963, was custom designed and built to meet the acoustical and musical requirements of Westminster Church. It really is a marvel, but after 63 years of use, is it any wonder that it should need renovation and upkeep? My Kia Soul self destructed after just 10 years after all! With over 8,000 pipes arranged in 127 ranks, pumps, valves, blowers and more, "The Croak of March 1" was an inevitability of the aging machine which John navigated with a skill under pressure that brings to mind the flight of Captain Sully landing in the Hudson unscathed. It's John's skill that often covers the ailments of the organ, making the real work being done behind the scenes seem invisible.

Which seems a perfect opportunity to bring to the attention of the congregation, that we are excited to embark on the final phase of our journey to preserve and enhance the musical legacy of our beloved organ. The Session allotted the funds necessary for the first part of this effort at their March 3 meeting. This part of the restoration will focus on the blower, which is instrumental in providing the necessary air pressure to the pipes, and restoring two more divisions of pipes. This crucial step will ensure that the organ continues to produce its magnificent sound for all to hear, sans croaking.

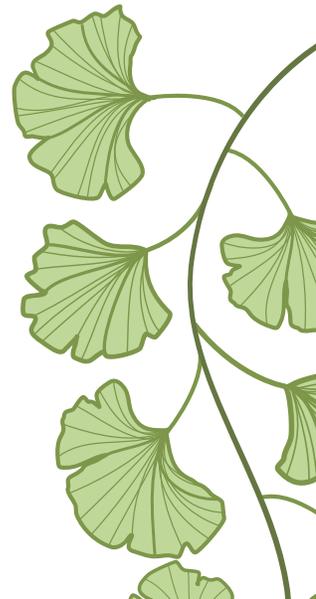
Numerous additions and upgrades have taken place over the history of the restoration efforts. Lawrence Stofer is responsible for extensive renovations including new pipework and revoicing. During the summer of 2002, a new console was custom built and installed with state of the art technology by the Walker Technical Company of Center Valley, Pennsylvania. In June 2007, the Celestial Division was given in memory of Beatrice Jackson, organist at Clough United Methodist Church in Cincinnati for 65 years. This gift was given by her brother and sister in law, Ray and Sue Merz. In February 2010, a memorial gift from the family and friends of John (Jack) Bindeman was given for the installation of a Carillon in the Sanctuary. Through additional gifts given in memory of numerous individuals, the Carillon was configured to sound outdoors through an opening high in the northeast corner of the building. There is a new back console, and a major repair of the front cabinets has also been completed. Our new partnership with local, Dayton-based, Koch Organ and Company, has already proved beneficial with thanks to their care and expertise in continuing the renovation project, and it is with their assistance that the next phase of repairs will be completed.

With thanks to the efforts and contributions of the congregation, The Reverend John Neely, and Koch Organ and Company, this beauty of an organ, custom made for our Sanctuary, will continue to sing and offer praise through song for many years to come!

The Junior High Youth Fellowship would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in raising \$3,065 for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. This year's offering supports the Dayton Foodbank's Good-to-Go Backpack program. The Good-To-Go-Backpack Program serves more than 1,300 school-age children in the Miami Valley who have been identified by school staff as being at risk for going hungry over the weekend.



The Youth Fancy Dinner was held on Sunday, March 8. Youth and advisors wore their fanciest outfits for dinner out at Spaghetti Warehouse, followed by a photo booth and dessert bar in the church fellowship hall.





AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Births

- Dax Lawrence Brazie, 12/15/25
- Wren Sylvia June McGervey, 12/30/25

Deaths

- Ada Candor, 12/29/25
- Judy Stolle, 1/1/26
- Betty Snyder, 1/2/26
- Margaret "Peggy" Conner, 1/19/26
- Richard McKinley, 2/13/26
- Betty Sue Wydman, 3/13/26

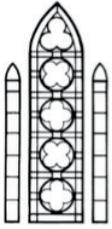
Baptisms

- Arthur Knorr, 12/28/25
- Jason Green, 2/15/26
- Isaac Agiro, 3/8/26
- Tomas Shera, 3/15/26
- Connor Kidd, 3/22/26



ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

Virginia Miller planted her Easter Lily from Westminster in her garden. It divided over several years and last year had over 50 blooms!



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