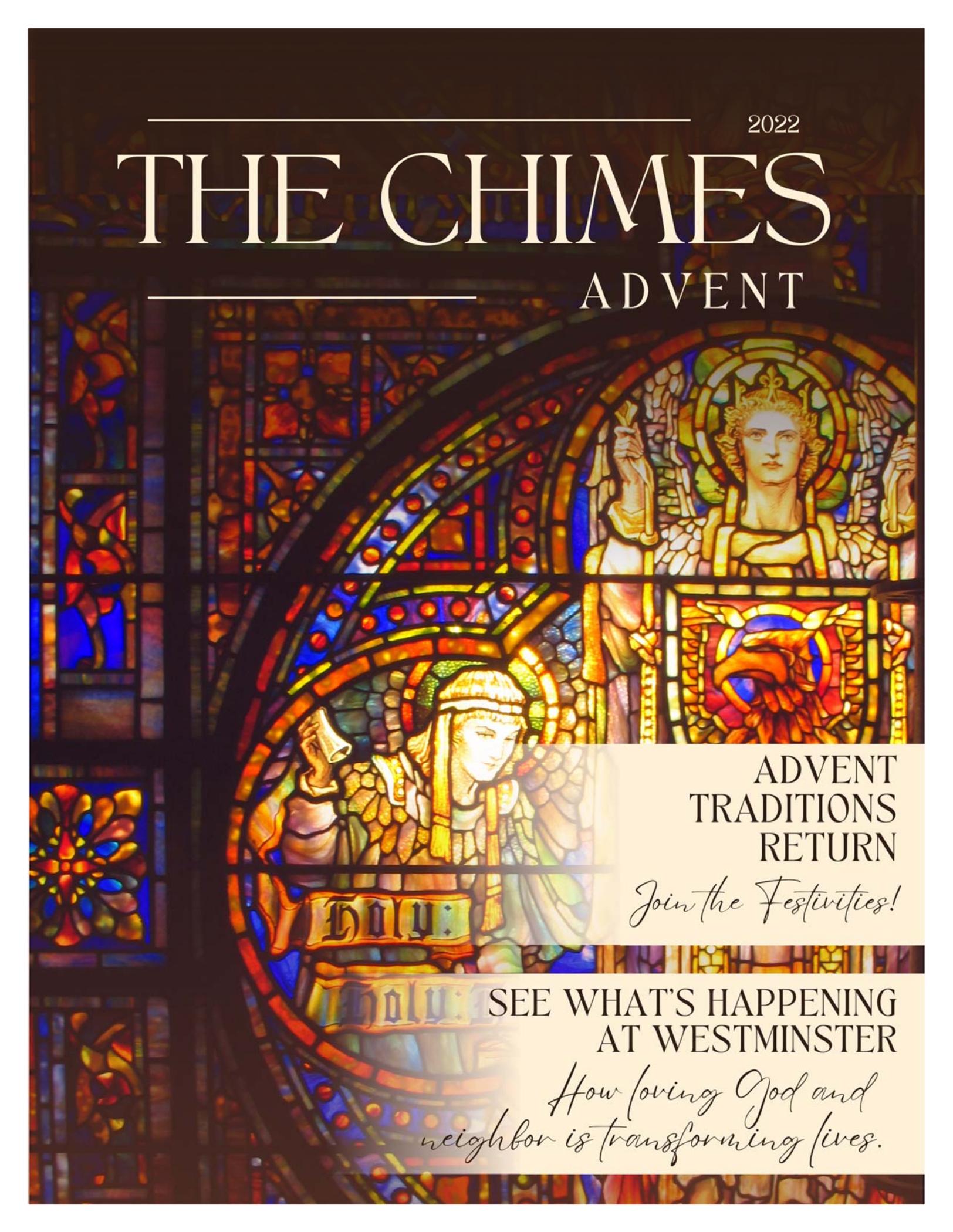


2022

THE CHIMES

ADVENT



ADVENT
TRADITIONS
RETURN

Join the Festivities!

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT WESTMINSTER

*How loving God and
neighbor is transforming lives.*

Advent Calendar of Events

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.

A traditional service of Christmas scripture, music, and prayers. Music will be sung and played by the children and youth choirs, Westminster Choir, and the Westminster Ringers.

Noonday Carol Sing and Lunch

Friday, December 16

12:00 Noon - Handbell Prelude

Westminster Ringers

12:10-12:40 p.m. - Carol Sing

A fun and festive community event with carol singing by all and music by the Xenia High School choir.

A quick lunch for \$7 will be served following the Carol Sing. Invite your friends!

Christmas Eve

Christmas in the Stable

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a joy-filled service. Children are encouraged to come to the worship service dressed as their favorite character from the Christmas story. Costumes will be available in the Narthex. Genesis singers, Cherub, and Calvin choirs will sing! Following the service light refreshments and beverages will be available in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas in the Cathedral

Saturday, December 24, 10:00 p.m.

Prelude, 9:20 p.m.

This beautiful candlelight service is the culmination of the Advent season.

An extended Prelude begins at 9:20 p.m. Arrival at 9:00 p.m. is suggested. This service features a darkened Sanctuary, candlelight, the Westminster Choir, and Knox Ringers. Plan to bring a friend to this beautiful Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 a.m. *

New Year's Day Worship

Sunday, January 1, 11:00 a.m. *

* Please note the different service times for Christmas Day and New Year's Day only.

Resident Reflections

Ian Clarke, Mission Resident

Getting settled into both Westminster and Dayton has been wonderful. I am feeling the love from everyone – from the staff, to the congregation, to our neighbors at Patterson Park. Everyone’s enthusiasm has made this a smooth transition and affirmed that this is where I need to be right now! I have been diving



into the ID Ministry as well as getting involved in the WISE Ministry under the guidance of Jenne and Nancy, who have both been so supportive and kind. I learn from them every day and am grateful for the opportunity to work so closely with them.

At ID Ministry I have been watching and learning from all of our volunteers, and have just been blown away by seeing firsthand the immediate impact this ministry has on the community. The people involved through Westminster are so passionate about it, and seeing that passion for community care being put into practice every week is inspiring.

My involvement in WISE Ministry has led me into the doors of DECA Middle School, where I was received with open arms. I have been floating between classrooms of all grade levels, getting to know the learners, and assisting the teachers in any way I can. Often, that assistance comes in the form of simply being present with the young people in the classroom, which is an absolute joy for me.

What I’m trying to say is so far, so good. Thank you all for being so warm and inviting, and I’m looking forward to the coming months here!

Calista Brunett, Music Resident

The very first thing I jumped into at Westminster was music for Youth Fellowship. On my first day here, I attended a meeting with the PYC (Presbyterian Youth Council) in which we discussed the theme and upcoming events for the year. Equipped with the title of the theme, “Branching Out” and John 15:5 (“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”), I eagerly began writing a theme song later that day. Within an hour, it was finished. I was nervous to find out what people thought of it, but I received a lot of positive feedback throughout the week. I taught it to the few brave youth who had agreed to help me lead the music, and then we sang it at the first Youth Fellowship gathering of the school year. Later that evening, we sang it *a cappella* during the closing circle. Hearing dozens of teenagers and youth advisors singing a song I wrote was a feeling like no other. I am honored that they gave me the opportunity to write a song for them – even if I basically just paraphrased a Bible verse – and that they sing it gladly week after week. We also sing a couple of contemporary worship songs at the outset of Youth Fellowship, and I love leading some simple yet lovely songs from the piano. I am grateful that I was encouraged to help with youth music because it has been one of the most rewarding parts of my time at Westminster so far.

WISE Update

Westminster Invests in Students and Education

By Jenne Gross

The new school year is well underway, and the first quarter is already in the books. Teachers, students, and families are happy to be back in school. Well at least the families are glad to have their children back in school!

WISE Volunteers have been busy these last few weeks and months; here is a look at what has been happening.

In August we welcomed teachers back to school at Eastmont and DECA Middle with cards and back-to-school kits. This year's school supply drive was a huge success, thanks to all who donated supplies and/or made monetary donations. The students were thrilled with the supplies, and I overheard one little girl say "You mean I get my very own white board and markers, this is the best day ever."

Several volunteers helped out again at Eastmont's annual back-to-school Ice Cream Social. This a great event to help welcome students back and reconnect with the teachers.

Ian Clarke, our Mission Resident, has been busy working with teachers and students at DECA Middle, two days a week. We have other volunteers coming in on a weekly basis during the school hours and for the homework club. If anyone is interested in volunteering at DECA at either of these times, please let me know. They would love to have more volunteers!



The third grade teachers at Eastmont have started an afterschool game club and would love a few more volunteers. The club plans to meet twice a month in December. Please contact me if you are interested in helping. This is a great opportunity to get involved.

WISE volunteers supported the third-grade reading tests; each student received an encouragement card and a special breakfast the day of the test.

Pen Pals are back! Thanks to all those who have agreed to write to a student this year.

Our annual Gifts From the Heart program is underway. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation we are able to provide gifts to 91 families, 148 students.



If you would like to get involved with the WISE Ministry, please reach out to me (jenne@westminsterdayton.org) or Ian Clarke (ian@westminsterdayton.org).

Deacons Extend Communion to our Members at Home



The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle celebrated communion with six Westminster members and friends at Brookhaven Retirement Community in their beautiful gazebo by the

The first Sunday of October marks World Communion Sunday, a day when we celebrate our unity with Christians all over the world. In honor of that holy connection, the Deacons also make a special effort each World Communion Sunday to bring communion into the homes of our members who cannot worship with us in person. This ministry was one of those that has been greatly affected by Covid restrictions over the last two years, but we were glad to bring it back in full force this fall with almost 20 members being served communion at home, and another 20 being served in group settings at Bethany Village, Brookhaven Retirement Community, and One Lincoln Park.

While the Deacons take the lead in planning and organizing home and group communion, the Church Partners Ministry Team plays an important role as well. These wonderful volunteers have developed close relationships with their Care Partners over the years, and so they are the ones we turn to first for the ministry of home communion as well as delivering Christmas poinsettias, Easter lilies, and keeping in touch throughout the year. The ministry of home communion reminds us of the power of God's Spirit to unite us as the body of Christ no matter where we are. As Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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If you or a loved one would like to learn more about receiving communion at home or being a part of our caregiving ministries, please contact The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle (caitlin@westminsterdayton.org).

By John Neely

Westminster Music

Repair and restoration of our 60-year-old Casavant organ continues in good stead. We are fortunate to have top-notch organ technicians in the Dayton area. The care and precision of these folks is truly outstanding. Behind the scenes, work continues daily. Despite supply chain delays and shortages of materials, the Hunt-Krewson Company is making unseen progress. Currently, all sections of the organ are being releathered. Leather is a major component of mechanisms that make the pipes sound. Not so behind the scenes is repair and restoration of the Gallery division. Here the console and all wiring must be replaced. At some point down the road, we will have the chance to use the back organ without constant mishaps in the console mechanisms. We are thankful to have most of the main organ sounding each week during the lengthy refurbishing process.

All of the choirs are up and running. We are so pleased to have the children's choirs singing once again. The Knox Choir continues to grow as does the Westminster Choir.

It is a delight to have Music Resident Calista Brunett on the scene. She has kept busy learning all phases of music ministry. In addition to assisting at the organ on Sundays, Calista is directing one of our adult bell choirs, teaching an anthem or two to the Knox Choir, and learning the intricacies of administration.

The annual Youth Fellowship Party in the Park was held at Yankee Park in Centerville on Sunday, October 9. Pulled pork sandwiches and lots of yummy sides were provided by the youth advisors, followed by Graeter's ice cream with all the toppings.



Faith in Action

By Ian Clarke

A group of about 20 congregation members were enthusiastic volunteers for our "Faith in Action" Saturday! We sent four small groups out into the community to demonstrate God's love and serve our neighbors. These groups helped fill needs at DECA Middle, Eastmont Elementary, the Peace Museum, and the YWCA. Our groups at both DECA Middle and the YWCA supported by way of organizing and sorting clothing. Our group at the Peace Museum, with the assistance of Dave Boegerding, reassembled a storage unit for museum artifacts. At Eastmont Elementary, our group did some gardening and weeding to prep the school gardens for the coming winter. Our volunteers all voiced gratitude for the time spent both community building and community serving, as did the organizations we served.



From The Garden

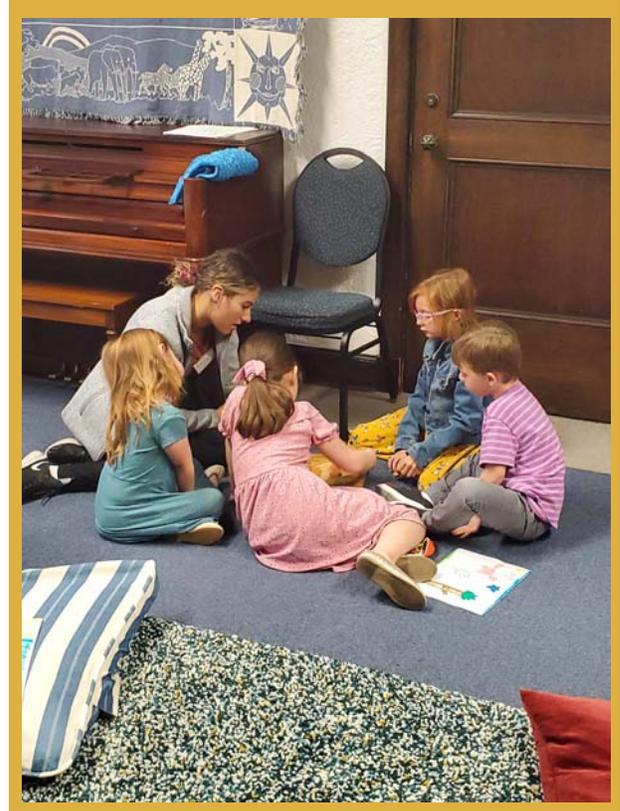
Thank you for another successful season From the Garden. Your generous donations surpassed \$4,000 to support the Dayton Foodbank. Many thanks to all those who contribute many hours to supply the veggies, plants, jams, and baked goods to make this mission possible.



If you would like to learn more about this ministry and how you can make a difference, contact Ann Barr (ahbarr@juno.com).

*The Children's
Ministry has been
busy this fall!*

We started out with an Open House on September 4, and fall programming began September 11. We have had a lot of fun so far learning about Creation, The Ten Commandments, Abraham, and other Bible stories.



On World Communion Sunday we learned about and had Communion together!



The Fall Festival was October 15. It was a great afternoon spent with our church family.



In early November we had our Thankful Tree afternoon. We are looking forward to learning about Advent and celebrating Jesus' birth!



Unexpected Joy – An ID Ministry Update

By Melissa Keller

In this Advent season, we humbly give thanks to our faithful congregation for embracing our mission and for the generous financial support throughout the years. We are grateful to our supportive staff and to our team of passionate volunteers. The ID Ministry is sustained and thrives because of your dedication and commitment.

We also give thanks for the ongoing, reliable comfort and support that Westminster's ID Ministry is able to provide for our neighbors in need each Wednesday. The neighbors we serve are the least resilient members of our community, those whose lives have been the most adversely affected by the ongoing challenges of our times.

The ID Ministry, and the service it provides, has grown to become an invaluable and respected program, recognized by community leaders and known throughout the Dayton community at large. We have experienced a steady increase in the number of people we serve each week as COVID restrictions have eased. August of this year was the busiest month in the history of ID Ministry! As a dedicated space, our Chapel offers sanctuary, an oasis of calm, where a weary mother fleeing violence can find respite and the assurance that she will be able purchase the documents she needs to safely house and feed her children. A new identification document gives renewed purpose and dignity to a restored citizen. Hope of a second chance is renewed for those whose fragile sobriety was undermined by the overwhelming stress of the pandemic. It offers a safe haven of rest for the homeless while we work tirelessly to try set them on a path that will accommodate their most basic needs.

ID Wednesdays are filled with empathy, kindness, compassion, and grace but there is also unexpected joy. It is present and noticed in the delight of a child receiving a new book, in a hug that lasts as long as is needed, in welcoming our furry guests, in a spontaneous game of Heads Up, and it is in the eyes of our

clients when they know they are seen and being listened to. Mary Oliver's poem "Don't Hesitate" tells us... "if you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins."

We hope that you will continue to walk with us, looking with love toward the future as we work to fulfill our mission of transforming lives, loving God and neighbor by serving those who Jesus termed "the least of these."

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Over 25 church members took a trip to Aullwood to see *The Troll that Hatched an Egg* exhibition by artist Thomas Dambo. A wonderful hike for all ages!



The Youth Fall Festival was held at the home of the Almoney Family in Oakwood on Sunday, November 6. Delicious food, a bonfire, and lots of laughter made for a fun evening.



We welcome **Keith Spencer** as the newest member of the building staff. Keith comes to us with a wealth of experience in building maintenance, having worked on building repairs for a property management company, and for two hotel chains. Keith has an upbeat spirit and is rarely not smiling. He will be seen many Sunday mornings as he gets to learn our routines and the complexities of this building.