



October 20 through October 26, 2024

Beloved,

This week I am thinking about the past. It is something that we all carry with us, unique to our own experiences. It is natural for me to be thinking of the past with Westminster College's homecoming this weekend, as well as a memorial for an older friend I knew from my time as a student there.

The gentleman passed away in August, but because of his role in the Westminster Community, his family decided to wait until homecoming for the memorial. This decision allows many of the alumni who knew him to join in remembering the lasting impact he has had on our lives.

I used to sing in the choir with him at church. And I always found myself chuckling when he would inevitably declare the non-air conditioned space too warm and unzip his choir robe right in the middle of the sermon. Still paying attention, still listening well, but unafraid to share his needs right there in the chancel.

Beyond a fantastic voice, he had a kind smile, and was a kind, faithful, steadfast person. He had his moments of curmudgeonly behavior, as many men of a certain age tend to have - hey, my dad was 54 when I was born and I now have three brothers in their 60s - I know something about the subject! But mostly, he led a life full of love, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, and self-control. He would also probably shake his head at all the kind words I've seen and heard - he was humble.

He knew his worth as a child of God, but it was not something he flaunted. Indeed, his life was lived, at least as long as I knew him, as a servant to others, doing things for those around him because that's what God invited him to do, not for recognition by others. He was by no means perfect, as only God is perfect and good. But he did strive to follow Christ in how he lived his life, and the stories I've heard certainly demonstrate that. His past, his impact on those around him, affects the present and the future.

When we look at Scripture, we do not simply read the words on the page. We read them within our own contexts, with our own experiences and beliefs influencing our interpretations. We read these words that were meant for particular congregations at particular times, words and ideas that are specific to their place in time, to their culture - but these words are also living and breathing. They are brought to life in the present day by the Holy Spirit, inspiring us.

These things that happened long ago, these people who traveled together, learned together, harmed one another, helped one another, wept together, who argued with one another... They swirl together with our own experiences just as the impact of my friend swirls around in the hearts and minds of those who loved him.

I am sad for the loss of my friend, but I am grateful for the legacy that he has left behind, and for the time I had to learn from him and laugh with him. So as I think about the past, and as we prepare to celebrate our 225th anniversary as a congregation I ask this: when people look back on their experiences with you, will they recall kindness? Will they recall hospitality? What about when they think about Ohio UP? What will they remember? Will they recall the love of God radiating out from our building and into the community? As we move into the next chapter, how do we hope to grow in welcoming and loving our neighbors so that they might come to know and love God? How might looking at our past help us to grow into a more faithful future?

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Kalyn





Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 113 in Worship on October 13
- Choir rehearsal is on Thursday, October 24 at 7pm
- Youth Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Program is every Sunday through December 1 at 9am-9:45am

Congregational Care

- **STORY TIME ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 9:30 or 10:30**
- **Women's Retreat is on October 26th from 9am to 3pm**
- **SAVE THE DATE**–Sunday, October 27 for a special service celebrating our 225th birthday with a delicious meal following the service
- **SAVE THE DATE**–Thanksgiving Dinner is on November 6 at 6pm
- **SAVE THE DATE**–COOKIE BAZAAR IS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Missions

- **Moment for Mission this Sunday–Communcycle**

Operations

- September YTD Expenses– \$155,099 & YTD Receipts–\$154,209
- Per capita Expenses YTD – \$6,630 & Per Capita Receipts YTD–\$2,190

The **Ohio UP Safety & Wellness team** is holding a class at the church on November 2nd. It will cover First Aid, CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed. The hours are 7am to 12pm and the cost is \$120/person. You do not need to be a member of the team or the church to attend.

Youth who are interested in growing in their faith together are invited to attend a meeting **November 3rd, following service – snacks** will be provided. This will be to plan a small group/Bible study starting in January. Any questions, contact Casey Honess (casey.honess@gmail.com)

Hand Bells

Practices 7:00

October 28
November 11
December 9

Performances

October 27 –Faith of Our Fathers

November 24 – We Gather Together
December 15 – Oh Come Emmanuel

WE CELEBRATE 225 YEARS

Ted worked with the youth at times and was responsible for bringing back the “pie in the face” (the minister’s of course). He also participated in Youth Group work camps where the older youth of the church traveled to various disadvantaged areas in the United States for a week in the summer and assisted people in fixing up their homes to improve the living conditions in the area. This service for God was one of the many activities that Patti Strominger set up as the Director of Christian Education from 2001-2010. Another was the annual Women’s Retreat. This was originally held for a weekend. We initially traveled to the retreat center run by the Sisters of the Divine Providence and in later years to a retreat facility in a wooded area just north of Oil City. There we ate wonderful meals and snacked to our heart’s content, made a useable craft to give to the needy, attended informal Bible classes (usually led by Patti) and had wonderful fellowship times with our sisters in Christ. I remember one year I was in a wheelchair but still able to tag along as my “sisters” attended to anything I needed. That included running with me in my metal wheelchair, on a paved path to seek shelter from a raging thunderstorm!

In March 1998 a seminar by Bruce H. Wilkinson entitled “Walk Thru the Old Testament’ was held at the Ohio Church. Many who attended thought it was very instructive. That same year the Session of the church changed the vision policy to “Jesus has called us to celebrate God’s goodness and love, and to invite us all to participate in joyful service to God and to one another.” It was also in 1998 that the Bicentennial Committee was formed with the slogan “To God Be the Glory”.

I have two very touching memories of the Dennis family. One was when my mother was very ill with cancer. She lived until December 23rd of 1998. Ted just caught a plane to be with his family in Southern U.S. over Christmas. He landed and as soon as he found out about my mother, he arranged to get another plane and stay with us until the day of her death then turn around and fly back home the next day. Among other things, mom had been the piano player and substitute organist for the church. That is what Christians do – they comfort one another.

The second touching memory of Ted and Lillian was a few years later when I was admitted to Presbyterian Hospital for surgical revision of my Spinal Cord Stimulator Implant. Unfortunately, something happened and I woke up paralyzed from the neck down. My doctor said there were only two rehab facilities he would recommend for spinal cord injuries. One was Harmarville and the second was the Children’s Institute. I was sent to the second one. It was located across from the infamous Jewish church in Squirrel Hill. It was not exactly close to home and I was there for 5 months. Ted and Lillian visited often either together or alone; Lillian often brought their boys. They even cared enough to visit when I was moved back to the hospital for blood clots in my lungs or when I was sent back to have the surgery redone due to infection. Each time I was sent back to the hospital it was for 2 weeks and I had lost all that PT had done for me. They, along with Julie Novacek, were there to see me put in my first wheelchair, learn to sit up, to feed myself and finally to kind of walk. All because that is what Christians do for each other and I will never forget.

To be continued...

OHIO U.P. 25TH ANNIVERSARY SHIRTS. IMPRINT WILL BE THE SAME AS THE T-SHIRTS. CASH OR CHECK TO OHIO U.P. CHECK. T-SHIRTS ON MEMO LINE.

	TODDLER	2T	3T	4T	5T	6T	YOUTH	XS	S	M	L	XL	ADULT	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
SHIRTS																			
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT																			
GREY																			
RED																			
BLUE																			
2T - 6T - \$26																			
Y - ADULT XL - \$27																			
ADULT 2XL - \$29																			
ADULT 3XL - \$32																			
CREW NECK SWEATSHIRT																			
GREY																			
RED																			
BLUE																			
2T - ADULT XL - \$30																			
2XL - \$33																			
3XL - \$34																			
DRAWSTRING HOODIE																			
GREY																			
RED																			
BLUE																			
2T - ADULT XL - \$35																			
2XL - \$40																			
3XL - \$41																			
NAME																			
TOTAL SHIRTS ORDERED																			
AMOUNT OWED																			
PAID																			

DEADLINE 15 OCT. 27th.



<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Ken Jones 10/5	Joe Gavita 10/3	Shanna Rastetter 10/12	Lillian Otto 10/19
Nancy & Kevin Hribar 10/11	Tom Owczarzak 10/3	Janis Lewis 10/13	Peggy Franzese 10/20
Caitlin & Nick Colesar 10/15	Patrick Gregory 10/8	Dana Gavita 10/14	Emmet Rastetter 10/22
Jeff & Jen Davis 10/16	Greg Holsinger 10/8	Breyson Hoth 10/14	Andrew Shaffer 10/22
Scott & Sharon Neville 10/16	Eleanor Pike 10/8	Brittany Smith 10/16	Peggy Atwell 10/24
Susan & Larry Palochak 10/23	Alaina Stroud 10/8	Patti Strominger 10/18	Keith Murdoch 10/24
	Lois Kearns 10/10	Calliope Hoth 10/19	Trent Nan 10/29
	William Arzberger 10/12	Kenneth Kearns 10/19	

SESSION TEAMS AND LEADS

Worship Team Lead: Gina Arzberger
 Congregational Care Team Lead: John Martin
 Mission Team Leads: Casey Honess/Rayna Knox
 Operations Team Lead: Wendi Rybicki

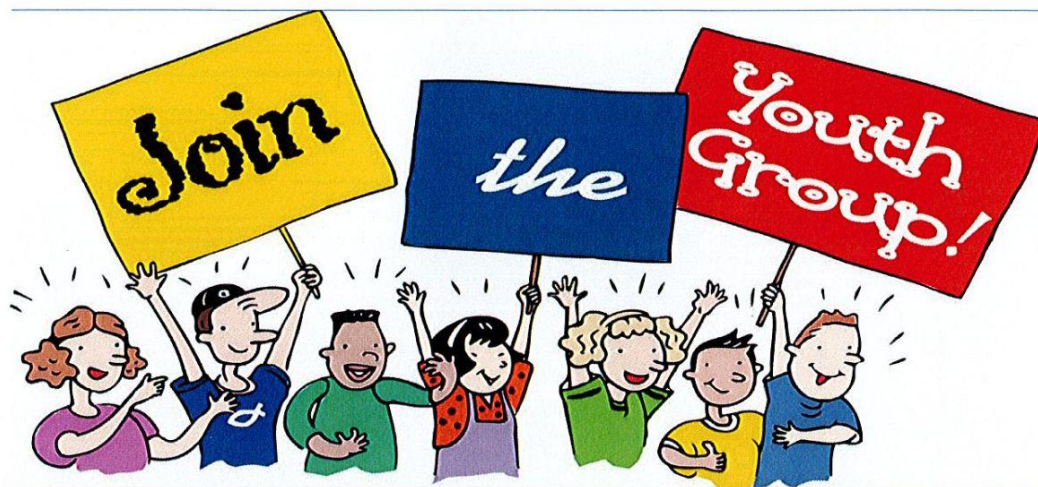


- Christina Palmer—Prayers for their friend Tom who is still in a lot of pain from his auto accident. And give thanks that their home in Florida was not damaged by Milton as they were in the direct path.
- Marsha Douglass—Prayers for Jen Davis who has a sinus infection. Her meds are causing her blood pressure to drop
- Marcy—She had surgery on Monday. Prayers for healing.
- Christi and Brad Bechtel—Prayers for daughter Sophie who had eye surgery on Thursday
- Megan Hunsberger thanks everyone for their support in the past few months. She will be induced in 4 weeks.
- Bev Abate—thanks for the prayers. Had a 2-day sleep test and got the results on Wednesday
- Dawn Psik—Prayers for son Jonathan who tested positive for COVID
- **Women's Association is asking if anyone is interested in starting up Prayer Partners. It's an adult member of the church paired with a child from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade. The group meets here at the church twice a year and sends the children birthday and Christmas cards. If interested, see Sharon Neville.**

Little Free Pantry

The Deacons stock the Little Free Pantry on a daily basis with the following items. If you would like to contribute items for the pantry, we ask that they not be expired nor in glass containers. Please place them in container labeled Little Free Pantry in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

Canned corn	Ramen noodle packets
Canned carrots	Cake mix
Canned beans	Ready-made frosting
Canned pasta	Granola bars
Canned peas	Peanut butter crackers
Pasta	Fruit snacks
Pasta sauce	Pop tarts
Macaroni & Cheese	Instant oatmeal packet
Fruit cups	Single roll toilet paper
Applesauce cups	Feminine products
Peanut butter	Toothpaste
Jelly	Toothbrushes
Boxed cereal	Bars of soap
Instant mashed potatoes	Men's deodorant
Canned tuna	Women's deodorant
Chicken noodle soup	Shampoo
Tomato soup	



Please Note: Youth Group is now on
Monday from 7:00 - 8:30

September 30 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

October 7 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

October 14 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

October 20 - 1:00 (**Sunday**) – Youth Group
Pumpkin Carving – Families invited

Please **RSVP** (light lunch made by YG kids)

October 21 – 7:00 – 8:30 Bonfire \ Lesson at
the Manse

October 28 – Windmill Scary Golf

Parents please volunteer where you can!