

THE PARISH BELL

WESTWOOD FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“See” | Rev. Dr. Rich Jones

Isaiah 43:18-19 is a great reminder of God’s actions on our behalf.

*“Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”*

We might feel like we are in a wilderness. We may be grieving, experiencing loss, or simply not sure where we are heading in this season of so much change and uncertainty.

That can also be true of us as a church at times.

Yet, hear the good news: God is doing a new thing. A way in the wilderness.

We can honor the past, have some great traditions, and also know that God wants us also move ahead into a new future. Our best history is still ahead of us my friends!

How can I be confident in that? Because of our Easter promise!

We may be facing death, we may have much to overcome, but we have a God who is emptying God’s Self into us... constantly. A divine flow/ presence/love throughout history raised Jesus from death!

(continued on next page...)

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Our identity is wrapped up in this Christ! We are a particular part of the Body of Christ!

Therefore, we too are overcomers with Christ! What do we have to fear? As it says in Romans 8:31-38: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" and the "nothing can separate us from the love of God!"

If God overcomes all things, even death, then we can approach life with confidence in God's commitment to us!

Check out this passage from Colossians 1: 15-20

*He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; **16** for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.*

May we live into the Easter promise of resurrection and that Christ is making all things new and reconciling ALL things and ALL people. Everything and everyone is wrapped up in Christ. May we have confidence that God is making a way through the wilderness of our lives. Love has won!

Hope to see you on Easter Sunday, or any other Sunday...really, any day of the week. Let's be in this life, experiencing God's new "thing", together!

Christ has risen!

Rev. Dr. Rich Jones

Pastor

Rich@wfpc.org | ext.106



"The Resurrection" Titian
Stained-glass window in the
Sanctuary

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Music Notes for April! 🎵

As I am writing this, we are looking forward to the first day of spring, March 20. With that comes sunshine, budding trees and flowers, hope and rebirth!

The Chancel Choir is finishing preparations for our Concert Series Concert, Sunday, March 30. This concert is full of beautiful selections, energy, rhythm – all to lift your spirits and fill your heart and soul to overflowing! If you read this before that day, please come and support the choir! If you are reading this after March 30, I hope it is with a joyous heart!



In April, we look forward to each Lenten service – Palm Sunday with Chancel Bells, followed by the Installation Service for our pastor, Rich Jones! Lots of love and fellowship that day! The choir will sing again for Maundy Thursday (7:00 p.m. service). We then celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning. Doug Lindsay, former CSO musician, will be joining us for special music of joy!



Sunday, April 27, is the fifth concert of our very successful Concert Series Season, featuring Rebecca and Dan Culnan. They will offer a program of violin and piano music, sure to inspire all of us! This concert begins at 2:30, with reception to follow.

Happy Spring to everyone! Wishing you all joy and peace in your hearts!

Heather MacPhail
Director of Music Ministries
Heather@wfpc.org | ext. 105

WELCOME RICH!

Installation of Rev. Dr. Rich Jones as Pastor of Westwood First Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday) at 3:00 PM, in our sanctuary, the Rev. Dr. Richard Jones will be installed as the Pastor of Westwood First Presbyterian Church. The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend this special worship service, complete with bagpiper, special music and Presbytery-wide participation. A reception in Calvin Hall will follow the service.

At a congregational meeting following the worship service on Sunday, March 2nd, Rev. Dr. Rich Jones was called by the congregation, voting 56-1, to be the Pastor of Westwood First Presbyterian Church. Of that one vote, he said, "Keeps me grounded!"

In the year since he came to us as our interim/transitional pastor, Rich has connected with so many of our congregation, both regular attendees and shut-in members. Under his leadership, we have welcomed 14 new members and have several more regular visitors. He has forged relationships with other Westwood clergy and with community movers and shakers. He has introduced us to ancient Celtic wisdom and mysticism, enhancing our faith. He has brought a new spirit to Westwood First!

Let us welcome Rich as he officially accepts the call to be our pastor.

Submitted by Diane Heilmann, *Clerk of Session*



STEWARDSHIP & OPERATIONS UPDATE

Q1 2025 Building & Finance Update

WFPC has been blessed with the legacy of many generous givers. Thank God for them, because this aging Church truly needs all of this support!

We are just finishing out the 1st quarter of 2025, and here are the major expenditures we are encountering for this year:

- A new Sanctuary floor! This should be installed by the time the April Parish Bell is published! The cost for this long overdue project is \$50,000



- **Sanctuary and Baldwin Wing stone power washing, tuck-pointing, and sealing. Continued leakage has caused plaster to fall into our organ's pipes. Again, this is an overdue project that we are scheduling this spring. The cost for this project is \$60,000.**
- **A new air conditioning unit is needed to replace the failing unit for the lower level (Lower Sanctuary) area occupied by City Gospel Mission's Little Village. This project is also scheduled this spring. The cost for this replacement is \$17,500.**
- **We discovered another leaking boiler in our old heating system. This project will be postponed until the fall when we will need heat again. The cost for this project is \$22,500.**

As you can perceive, these are not budgeted items that can be paid for from our operating budget. Fortunately, we have a designated capital fund that can pay for a chunk of these expenditures. But then that Fund becomes depleted.

We are also fortunate that a long-time member has stepped forward and made a generous, anonymous gift to pay for some of these larger costs. Many thanks for setting an example that we hope others will follow!

The S&O Committee thanks those that have contributed in the past, and encourages those that can and hopefully will, to continue to contribute to the Building and Grounds Capital Fund, so we can continue to move forward with other projects in the future!

Thank you,
Marc Baverman, S&O Committee Chair

MISSION & OUTREACH

Groceries for East Westwood Residents

Well, the members and friends of Westwood First have done it again!

Thank you so very much for rising to the occasion and donating scores of non-perishable groceries for the residents of East Westwood. During the last week of February and first week of March, we delivered much needed non-perishable food items and household cleaning supplies and other necessities to Third Church's Hope Resource Center [pictured top right]. Rodney Christian's [pictured middle right] youth group is making in-person deliveries of the materials to the residents of the senior living McHenry House [pictured bottom].

We are still working to encourage other churches and organizations to continue this effort. Westwood Civic Association and Westwood Works are sponsoring a collection box at the Westwood Town Hall through April 15th. And we continue to work with Third Church and the East Westwood Community Council to further explore other actions that we might do. Stay tuned for the next steps.

Again, thank you very much for your generosity!

Submitted 3/11/2025 on behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee by Karl Graham



MISSION & OUTREACH (CONT.)

Thank you, Volunteers! Fourth Thursday Dinner at My Neighbor's Place

Thanks to the following Westwood First volunteers who prepared a delicious meal for 21 at the community dinner on February 27: Marc & Mary Beth Baverman, Linda Gardner, Cindy Gravett, Diane Heilmann, Jill Huber, Donna Kimball, Jayne & Andy Patton, Lynn Sparks, and Candee Witterstaetter. From MNP coordinator Susan Curry, "The food was a big hit, and everyone was happy! Big Thanks to all who participated." For more information, contact Mary Beth Baverman. **We will be serving again on June 26!**

Adopt-a-Spot - Saturday, April 26 - 9:00AM



Our next neighborhood clean up day is Saturday, April 26. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Trash pick-up supplies are provided. Questions, call Mary Beth Baverman (513) 678-2536.

About Adopt-A-Spot

Show your love for Westwood and help create a cleaner, more welcoming environment for residents, visitors, and local wildlife! Adopt-A-Spot was created by the City of Cincinnati's Keep Cincinnati Beautiful organization, with the goal of incentivizing groups across the city to clean and maintain an assigned public area. The program was revitalized last year upon a city budget increase. Our Mission & Outreach Committee has partnered with Westwood Civic Association to host monthly clean-up crews to go out into various areas of Westwood to clean up litter. Our designated area is the immediate block around Westwood First. Join us in keeping our neighborhood clean and welcoming for everyone!

WestFed Food Pantry Needs

April 2025

- **Spaghetti Noodles**
- **Pasta Sauce** (no glass jars)

Please place your donations in the white bins located in the side Narthex.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

2025 Rummage Sale

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, JUNE 7 - RUMMAGE SALE

In conjunction with Scout Troop 1107, Presbyterian Women are gearing up for the annual Rummage Sale! Start gathering up your items - household goods, tools, collectibles, garden, books, holiday, furniture (NO LARGE DESKS, ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS, BIG BOX TVs), outerwear, accessories (NO ADULT CLOTHING), miscellaneous. You can drop your items off at WFPC between 10:00am-1:30pm M-F. If you need your items picked up, call Mary Beth Baverman (513) 678-2536.

Flying Pig Marathon Fundraiser

SIGN UP NOW! - FRIDAY, APRIL 25 - 12:30-3:30PM

Please plan to join Presbyterian Women again this year as we have fun while raising funds for our missions. **We need 45 volunteers to help with rolling posters for the marathon participants.** Due to the Cincinnati Convention Center's renovations, we'll be "rolling" at Crossroads Church in Oakley this year. You can now sign up as a volunteer at flyingpigmarathon.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer (or scan the QR code to the right) and use the password "westwood".



SIGN UP HERE!



BUY RAFFLE TICKETS!



Another way to show your support for PW is to purchase raffle tickets for the Piggest Raffle Ever! PW will receive 100% of your raffle ticket purchase, and if yours is one of the winning tickets, our organization receives a matching cash prize. Enter by scanning the QR code to the left, or visit piggestraffleevery.com, and select "Westwood 1st Presbyterian Church Women" as the charity.

March Circle Meetings:

Circle 1: Tues., April 14th at 7PM at Donna Kimball's home

Circle 6: Sat., April 12th at 9:30AM at Mercy West Hospital Cafeteria



YOUTH & FAMILIES PROGRAMMING AT WFPC

Before we start a new program for youth and/or families, we are asking parents in/near/connected to Westwood to provide us feedback. **If you have young children, will you please take a moment to fill out this survey? If you know any parents that have young children, will you please pass along the survey to them?** To access the survey, simply go to <https://bit.ly/wwwparentsurvey> or scan the QR code on the right.

Thank you!

Adam Hayden, Young Adult & Family Connector



WFPC DEACONS REPORT

Volunteers needed for Sunday Greeters!

The newly installed and ordained Deacons are hoping to organize a group of **volunteers to serve as greeters on Sunday morning, beginning on April 13, Palm Sunday.**

Janice Kahsar will be the contact person for anyone wishing to volunteer. You can reach her at janicedk@fuse.net or (513) 741-7608.

Deacons are also beginning to organize visits and strengthening communication with WFPC members - more details to come!

Debbie Zorn, *Deacon Board Co-Moderator*

Birthdays

Marc Baverman Jr.	April 1
Inge Lapp	April 6
Lynne Gulleman	April 9
Bruce Smith	April 10
Jill Haft	April 13
Albert Rhein	April 13
David Ulrich	April 13
Linda Schaible	April 13
Brian Cron	April 22
Lawrence Neal	April 23
Sariah Ulrich	April 24
Donna Kimball	April 26
Amy Babicke	April 30

Birthdays

Mike & Camille Rechel	April 3
David & Sharon Ulrich	April 10

Sunday Sextons

April 6: Bruce Smith
 April 13: John Rathkamp
 April 20: Tony Upton
 April 27: Andy Patton

Westside Abbey | 2nd & 4th Tues. 6PM

4/8 **St. Columba** Rev. Dr. Rich Jones
 4/22 **Bealtaine: The Gaelic May Day Festival** Rev. Dr. Mary Laymon

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17th | 3:00PM

Join us for a short, solemn service with Communion and the Chancel Choir.

SAVE THE DATES!

Pastor Installation Service



Sunday, April 13th | 3:00PM

Join us in welcoming Pastor Rich Jones as our official Pastor. See page 4 for more info!

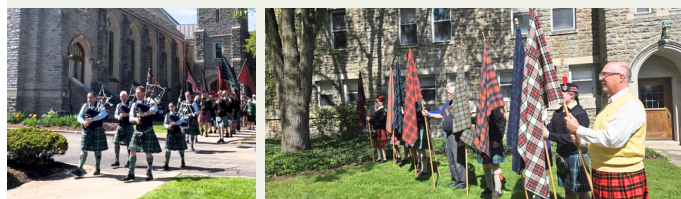
Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk



Friday, April 18th | 3PM-4PM

We will gather at the Urweiler end of the Westwood United Methodist parking lot and then process around Town Hall, stopping for readings and prayers, connecting the suffering of Jesus with the suffering brought about by injustice in our day. The procession will end at WUMC.

Kirking of the Tartans Service



Sunday, May 4th | 10:30AM

You won't want to miss our Celtic Celebration complete with bagpipes, drums, banners, and kilts. Wear some plaid and enjoy drinks, food, fellowship following the service at West Side Brewing!



APRIL 2025 WESTWOOD FIRST BUILDING CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Traditional Worship Concert Series 10:30am 2:30pm	30 Princesses Ballet Scout Troops & Cub Pack 3:30pm 6:30pm	1 11:45am Communications Team Little Village Congregational Life Princesses Ballet 2pm 3:30pm 3:30pm	2 Little Village City Gospel Tutoring Princesses Ballet Stewardship & Operations Mission & Outreach 9:30am 3pm 3:30pm 5:30pm 6pm	3 Little Village Chancel Bells Rehearsal Princesses Ballet Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 1:30pm 3:30pm 7pm	4 Ping Pong Club Little Village Princesses Ballet 9:30am 9:30am 3:30pm	5 Princesses Ballet Little Village 8:30am 10am
Traditional Worship 10:30am	6 Princesses Ballet Scout Troops & Cub Pack 3:30pm 6:30pm	8 2pm Little Village Princesses Ballet Westside Abbey 3:30pm 6pm	9 Little Village City Gospel Tutoring Princesses Ballet Session Meeting Westwood Historical Society 9:30am 3pm 3:30pm 6:30pm 7pm	10 Little Village Chancel Bells Rehearsal Princesses Ballet Worship & Music Meeting Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 1:30pm 3:30pm 6:15pm 7pm	11 Ping Pong Club Little Village Princesses Ballet 9:30am 9:30am 3:30pm	12 Princesses Ballet Circle 6 Meeting Little Village Troop 107 Eagle Court of Honor 8:30am 9:30am 10am 3pm
Traditional Worship Pastor Installation Service 10:30am 3pm	13 Princesses Ballet Scout Troops & Cub Pack Circle 1 Meeting 3:30pm 6:30pm 7pm	15 2pm Little Village Princesses Ballet 3:30pm	16 Little Village City Gospel Tutoring Princesses Ballet 9:30am 3pm 3:30pm	17 Little Village Chancel Bells Rehearsal Girl Scouts Princesses Ballet Maundy Thursday Service 9:30am 1:30pm 1:30pm 3:30pm 7pm	18 Ping Pong Club Little Village Good Friday Stations of Cross Princesses Ballet 9:30am 9:30am 3pm 3:30pm	19 Princesses Ballet Little Village 8:30am 10am
Traditional Worship 10:30am	20 Princesses Ballet Scout Troops & Cub Pack 3:30pm 6:30pm	22 2pm Little Village Princesses Ballet Westside Abbey 3:30pm 6pm	23 Little Village City Gospel Tutoring Princesses Ballet 9:30am 3pm 3:30pm	24 Little Village Chancel Bells Rehearsal Princesses Ballet Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 1:30pm 3:30pm 7pm	25 Ping Pong Club Little Village Princesses Ballet 9:30am 9:30am 3:30pm	26 Princesses Ballet Little Village 8:30am 10am
Traditional Worship Concert Series 10:30am 2:30pm	27 Westwood Women's Club Princesses Ballet Scout Troops & Cub Pack 1:30am 3:30pm 6:30pm	29 2pm Little Village Princesses Ballet 3:30pm	30 Little Village City Gospel Tutoring Princesses Ballet 9:30am 3pm 3:30pm	1 Little Village Chancel Bells Rehearsal Princesses Ballet Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 1:30pm 3:30pm 7pm	2 Ping Pong Club Little Village Princesses Ballet 9:30am 9:30am 3:30pm	3 Princesses Ballet Little Village 8:30am 10am



CLERK OF SESSION

Diane Heilmann

DEACONS

Phil Zorn
Debbie Zorn
Dale Hedrick
Janice Kahsar

STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Rich Jones, *Pastor*

Amy Hines, *Interim Church
Administrator*

Heather MacPhail, *Director of
Music Ministries*

Andrew Wells, *Facilities
Manager*

Adam Hayden, *Young Adult &
Family Connector*

Noelle Scheper, *Church
Administrative Assistant*

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

Ruling Elder: Bruce Smith,
Connie Graham

At-Large: Andy Patton,
Bill Seitz
Marc Baverman

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Ruling Elder: Jill Huber,
Mary Beth Baverman

At-Large: Lynn Lanman,
Jeri Rathkamp,
Bode Olankanmi,
Linda Gardner

MISSION & OUTREACH

Ruling Elder: Jason Dennison,
Mary Beth Baverman

At-Large: Lynn Lanman,
Jeri Rathkamp,
Beth Richmond,
Linda Gardner,
Sharon Ulrich,
Karl Graham,
Patti Grace,
Rhonda Boddy

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Ruling Elder: Bruce Smith,
Candee Witterstaetter

At-Large: Noelle Scheper

STEWARDSHIP & OPERATIONS

Ruling Elder: Holly Scheper,
Marc Baverman,
Dick Carpenter

At-Large: Tom Robison,
John Rathkamp,
Mary Ellen Betz,
Dale Nieman

OUR CHURCH LEADERS



**WESTWOOD FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

3011 Harrison Avenue
Cincinnati, Oh 45211

The Parish Bell is the monthly newsletter of Westwood First Presbyterian Church.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us Sunday at our Traditional Service at 10:30 a.m.

Church Day Number: 513-661-6846

Reverend Dr. Rich Jones, Pastor

Heather MacPhail, Organist/Director of Music Ministries

Amy Hines, Interim Church Administrator

Noelle Scheper, Church Administrative Assistant

Andrew Wells, Facilities Manager

Adam Hayden, Young Adult & Family Connector

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