

THE PARISH BELL

WESTWOOD FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Bread” | Rev. Dr. Rich Jones

Matthew 14:15-21

15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” **16** Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” **17** They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” **18** And he said, “Bring them here to me.” **19** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **20** And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was

left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Friends, I wrote much of this article a few years ago, but it seems like every year we have faced uncertainty in our personal, communal, and public lives. Uncertainty in every area of life it seems. This year, we still face uncertainty, don’t we? We have adjusted and adapted and our church continues to grow deeper in so many ways. And, we have seen God provide for us, and for those around us, in so many ways.

Yet, when we read and reflect on the stories of God, and this one, we see that God provides for us and for the world and brings us together.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Pastor’s Monthly
Message

Music Ministries
Update

Mission & Outreach

Staff Hours

Westwood Women’s
Club

Congregational Life

Youth & Family
Programming

Deacons Report

Save the Dates &
Monthly Calendar

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

It reminds me of how we, in the church, often ask, what are our needs or even the needs of those around us? Sometimes those are good to identify, but there is a deeper question to ask, what are we aiming for? Who are we? What do we have already? How can we be trustful in the moment of history that we find ourselves? I think those questions are exemplified in the feeding of the 5000. Jesus knows that folks need to be fed, but instead of asking how do we get to another place, he simply says, what do we have? Jesus sees the assets and gifts of the people, then he uses those assets to bless the people gathered.

Which is what Jesus is driving his listeners towards. In a different gospel, the disciples keep on asking questions and go to the place of trying to connect Jesus' feeding of the 5000 to Moses providing Manna from heaven. Moses' Manna lasted for 40 years, and then another 40, and helped the Jewish population stay alive physically, but the point of that is that it came from heaven. God provided through Moses. Jesus says in the gospel of John, God has given them, and us, the true bread from heaven, that gives life to the world, everyone. God's self in Jesus.

Jesus is coming to us with the promise of Presence, of relationship. A promise that he will be with us, even in the darkness of our lives. He doesn't promise some self-help technique, a slogan, an easy fix, an ideology, or a political party, he simply gives us relationship and promises of never leaving or forsaking us through the universal presence of the Christ. Jesus does not want us to fill our lives with the bad carbs, but the good carbs that he is giving us. He knows that he, like us, need time to ourselves, but that we can't forget that we are connected to the world, and that we are the body of Christ, bread for the world.

Jesus is the bread of life, and that bread starts with yeast rising. That yeast has been planted in this world through God's Spirit, entering humanity, being one with us.

God's Spirit is also moving in and through us like yeast in dough. We're being molded and

Rev. Dr. Rich Jones

Pastor

Rich@wfpc.org | ext. 106

moved around, it's sometimes a bit awkward, but that yeast is working its way through the dough and Christ is rising up within us and around us. And, as that yeast grows and takes shape in us and around us, we begin to realize that we can confront the issues of our day personally and in our communities, that we can have hard conversations, listen, grow, and love well. I am so grateful for our church's involvement in our local community in so many ways! Friends, as we walk together through this season of uncertainty, may we remember that we are the body of Christ together, bread for the world, and that we can draw our sustenance from a God who does provide and is working with us in this season that we find ourselves giving us new practices and new ways of being.

Pilgrimage!

Friends, please keep the Iona Pilgrimage in your prayers! We leave at the end of September for a two-week journey filled with opportunities for growth and reflection. Also, I will be gone an extra week as we must take our daughter, who's living in Scotland, out of the country for a couple of days because her charity visa ends and another visa begins. We also hope to take a couple of days to visit dear friends who live in the UK.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

September Songs!

Happy September, with thoughts of the fall! Students are returning to school and programs, schedules, rehearsals resume! The Westwood First calendar is filling up with meetings and rehearsals – that includes my two favorite choirs, Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells!

Chancel Choir returns to lead in worship services **Sunday, September 7**, with regular rehearsals resuming **Thursday, September 11, 7:00 p.m.** On the 7th, we will meet in the choir room to find robes and practice for the day – 9:30 a.m. Any interested singers are welcome to join in and experience the joy of praising the Lord together!



Chancel Bells will regroup with an extended practice Thursday, September 25, beginning at 1:00 pm. We will have new pads for the tables, new cloths for cleaning, new gloves for those who need and new music!

PLEASE NOTE: The previously announced "Try-Bells" event scheduled for Saturday, September 20, has been canceled, to allow for attendance at Dillon Rhodenbaugh's Memorial Service.

If you would like to ring a bell, you are invited to our first rehearsal! You do not need to read music - we will teach you! The time is filled with fellowship and fun. Feel free to contact me with any questions! I look forward to another fun season of ringing.

Our Concert Series opener is **Sunday, October 5, 2:30 p.m.** We will be treated to the sounds of salsa music from the band "Son del Caribe". I have made music with members of this group in the past, and it is an experience and joy you don't want to miss! Mark your calendars now for this special musical outreach!

Heather MacPhail

Director of Music Ministries

Heather@wfpc.org | ext. 105

MUSIC MINISTRIES (CONT.)

We have many blessings among us – this includes our fine soloists, who have enriched the summer services with their outstanding selections and leadership of service music! Please join me in thanking them!

I am excited for the year of worship and music ahead!

Sing – and ring – unto the Lord!

With thankfulness,

Heather MacPhail, Director of Music Ministries

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Adopt a Spot: Saturday September 27th

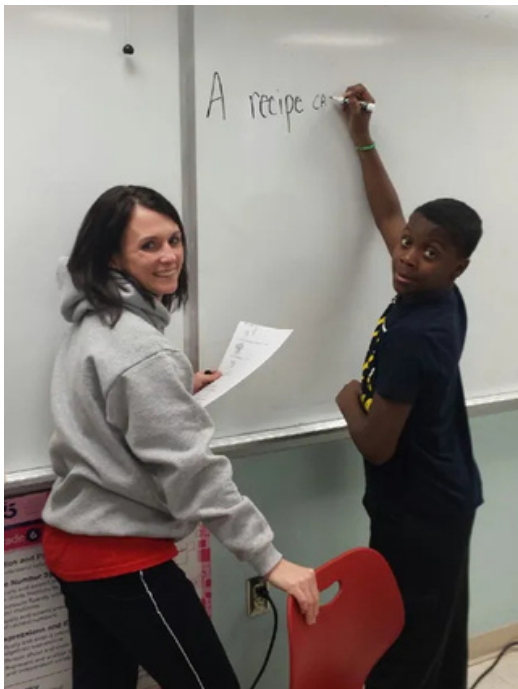
Adopt a Spot (neighborhood cleanup) continues on **Saturday, September 27.**

Those interested in helping out should meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 A.M. where supplies will be distributed.

Questions, call Mary Beth Baverman (513) 678-2536.

Westwood School Supply Giving Tree Update

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to Westwood School. All the supplies were delivered and the staff was very appreciative. It is great that we can work together for children that need help.



MISSION & OUTREACH (CONT.)

Our Daily Bread Sandwich Donations

The Mission Committee will once again be collecting sandwich donations for Our Daily Bread to be delivered on Wednesday September 17th. The Sign up sheet is located in the narthex with all of the instructions if you are interested in volunteering to make sandwiches. Thank you all for continuing to support your neighbors and community.

**WestFed Food
Pantry Needs
September 2025**

- **Crackers**
- **Soup**
- **Toothpaste**

Please place your donations in the lower white bin located in the side Narthex.

Staff Hours: Church Administrator and Administrative Assistant

We are so glad that **Ally Larsson** and **Leslie Mattie Rich** have joined our team. Both have been working diligently in their new jobs. Both are part-time employees working 20 hours per week, so if you need their assistance, be aware of their scheduled hours. If you reach out to them outside their scheduled hours they will respond on their next regularly scheduled work date.

Ally Larsson, Church Administrator, works on Monday – Wednesday. She can be reached by email at ally@wfpc.org.

Leslie Mattie Rich, Administrative Assistant, works Monday – Friday, 10 am – 2 pm, unless otherwise posted (in the church bulletin). She can be reached at leslie@wfpc.org.

WESTWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB

Westwood Women's Club, New Members Welcome

Westwood Woman's Club is a dues-paying organization not affiliated with WFPC, although many WFPC women are members of the Club. Its purposes are: to develop fellowship among women; to promote social, educational, literary, and artistic growth; to engage in appropriate philanthropic endeavors and whatever relates to the best interests of the community. The Club meets at 1:00 PM on the fourth Monday of the month in the Sanctuary of WFPC.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this Club, contact:

Diane Heilmann (513) 661-4689 or Mary Beth Baverman (513) 678-2536 to find out more about the benefits and responsibilities of membership.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Church Picnic - August 22 - Fernbank Park

We had quite a crowd this year at the annual church picnic, again at a Fernbank Park shelter with a wonderful view of the Ohio River.

Over 60 folks attended this social event of the year. Food from The Farm (fried chicken, green beans and coleslaw) was accompanied by side dishes and desserts brought by attendees...which made for quite a selection of food choices. After food from The Farm arrived and Pastor Rich said grace, the hungry crowd was able to chow down.

When people arrived for the picnic at the shelter, there were croquet and cornhole games set up. After eating, the crowd was challenged with two thinking games: one about Thanksgiving trivia and the other a Christmas Song test. Yeah, a bit out of season, but just trying to get our thoughts off this hot summer weather to cooler weather ahead, and have some fun! Heather also lead the crowd in the game "Heads or Tails". Our host/emcee for these games was our own Karl Graham.



YOUTH & FAMILIES PROGRAMMING AT WFPC

We sent out a survey to several parents in and around Westwood. We learned from that survey that the majority of parents want a cooking class, a slime-making class, and times to go hiking as a family!

So to that end, Westwood First Presbyterian Church along with Friends for Good is going to offer just that! We just don't know when is the best time for families.

If you:

1. Would like to volunteer to help with these programs or
2. You have kids in elementary or middle school, please fill out this very brief questionnaire aimed at helping us figure out the best time to offer these opportunities.

Furthermore, will you please think of one family you know and invite them to fill it out as well?

Your Youth and Families Team:

- Jade, Adam and David

WFPC DEACONS REPORT

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to provide an extra special note of hospitality by serving as a greeter on Sunday morning! We are all loving the smiles and warm greetings at the parking lot and sanctuary doors. Is it your turn next? Don't forget to sign up in the Narthex to take your turn as a greeter.

The Deacons are continuing to call and visit those who are unable to physically attend church services and activities. This will soon include bringing communion to those wishing to receive it. You can help by letting the church office know if you or someone you know would appreciate a call or visit.

Your Deacons,

Dale, Janice, Phil and Debbie



Birthdays

Brittany Ulrich	Sept 4
John Bauman	Sept 10
Wade Baverman	Sept 10
Heather MacPhail	Sept 11
Richard Braun	Sept 17
William Miller	Sept 18
Lisa Draginoff	Sept 20
Brad Renken	Sept 20
Edward Schable	Sept 21
Barbara Phillips	Sept 23
Deorah Zorn	Sept 23
Kathy Wanek	Sept 23
Roberta Mattimiro	Sept 25
Wayne Barlow	Sept 27
Jeri Rathkamp	Sept 27
Chuck Patterson	Sept 29
Thea Ulrich	Sept 29
Troy Grace	Sept 30

Anniversaries

Scott & Amanda Ulrich	Sept 5
-----------------------	--------

Sunday Sextons

July 6: Tony Upton
July 13: John Rathkamp
July 20: Andy Patton
July 27: Bode Olakanmi

SAVE THE DATES!

Westside Abbey |

2nd & 4th Tues. 6PM

Join us in September with Rev. Troy Bronsink (9/9) and Rev. Dr. Rich Jones and Diane Heilmann (9/23)

9/9 **Shadows & Encountering Evil**

9/23 **Imago Divina w/ WFPC's Stained Glass Windows**

Town Hall Live! Oktoberfest Music



Friday Sept 12 & Saturday Sept 13 | 7-10PM

Enjoy free music at the heart of Westwood!
Bring a blanket or chairs and enjoy!

WestSide Market



Saturday, Sept 6th | 10AM-3PM

Happening monthly at Westwood Town Hall, features more than 100 local businesses and boutiques showcasing a variety of unique goods. Also enjoy music, food trucks, sweet treats, drinks, and art.

Westwood Farmers' Market



Thursdays | 4-7PM

Westwood UMC Parking Lot



September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Traditional Worship Service New Members' Class (Copy) 10:30am 11:45am	1 Scout Troops & Cub Pack Meetin... Little Village 6:30pm	2 Little Village Mission & Outreach Meeting Stewardship & Operations Meet... 9am 5:30pm	3 Little Village Mission & Outreach Meeting Stewardship & Operations Meet... 9am 5:30pm	4 Little Village 9am	5 Little Village 9:30am	6 Little Village 9am
7 Traditional Worship Service 10:30am	8 Scout Troops & Cub Pack Meetin... Circle 1 Meeting Little Village Westside Abbey 6:30pm 7pm	9 Little Village Westwood Historical Society Meeting 9am 6pm	10 Little Village Westwood Historical Society Meeting 9am 7pm	11 Little Village Choir Practice 9am 7pm	12 Little Village 9:30am	13
14 Traditional Worship Service 10:30am	15 Scout Troops & Cub Pack Meetin... Little Village 6:30pm	16 Little Village Session Meeting 9am	17 Little Village Session Meeting 9am 6:30pm	18 Little Village Westwood Common Good Project Choir Practice 9am 5:30pm 7pm	19 Little Village 9:30am	20 Dillon Rhodenbaugh Funeral Visti... Little Village Circle 6 Meeting Dillon Rhodenbaugh Funeral Serv... 9am 9:30am 11am
21 Traditional Worship Service 10:30am	22 Westwood Women's Club Administration & Personnel Mee... Scout Troops & Cub Pack Meetin... Little Village Westside Abbey 10:30am 5:30pm 6:30pm	23 Little Village 9am 6pm	24 Little Village 9am	25 Little Village Choir Practice 9am 7pm	26 Little Village 9:30am	27
28 Traditional Worship Service 10:30am	29 Scout Troops & Cub Pack Meetin... Little Village 6:30pm	30 Little Village Mission & Outreach Meeting Stewardship & Operations Meet... 9am 5:30pm	1 Little Village Mission & Outreach Meeting Stewardship & Operations Meet... 9am 5:30pm	2 Little Village Choir Practice 9am 7pm	3 Little Village 9:30am	4
5 Traditional Worship Service Concert Series 10:30am 2:30pm	6 Scout Troops & Cub Pack Meetin... Little Village 6:30pm	7 Little Village Westwood Historical Society Meeting 9am	8 Little Village Westwood Historical Society Meeting 9am 7pm	9 Little Village Choir Practice 9am 7pm	10 Little Village 9:30am	11



CLERK OF SESSION

Diane Heilmann

DEACONS

Phil Zorn
Debbie Zorn
Dale Hedrick
Janice Kahsar

STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Rich Jones, *Pastor*

Ally Larsson, *Church
Administrator*

Heather MacPhail, *Director of
Music Ministries*

Andrew Wells, *Facilities
Manager*

Jade Kendall, *Young Adult &
Family Connector*

Leslie Mattie Rich, *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



Follow us!
@westwoodfirst

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

All visitors are welcome to worship with us on Sundays at our Traditional Service at 10:30AM.

Church Day Number: 513-661-6846

Reverend Dr. Rich Jones, Pastor

ext. 106

Heather MacPhail, Organist/Director of Music Ministries

ext. 105

Ally Larrson, Church Administrator

ext. 104

Leslie Mattie Rich, Church Administrative Assistant

ext. 101

Andrew Wells, Facilities Manager

ext. 250

Jade Kendall, Young Adult & Family Connector