

# What Do I Need to Know About Westminster Presbyterian Church?

## Who We Are

Westminster Church is a family; diverse in name and need; united in our conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord. **In our sanctuary there is a communion table of unusual beauty to remind us that God accepts us wherever we are on our spiritual journey.** Westminster Church is made up of people from Boardman, from the surrounding communities of Mahoning County, and from places beyond.

## What We Believe

We believe the church is for people. People who think church isn't for them. People who've been hurt by the church and stayed away. People who've gone to church all their lives. People who feel like they're both a sinner and a saint.

1. We believe God is **love**. We believe we are called to love God and to love one another.  
Mark 12:30-31—*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.*  
1 John 4:19—*We love because God first loved us.*
2. We believe we are **linked** as brothers and sisters in the family of faith called the Christian Church.  
1 John 4:21—*The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*  
Romans 12:5—*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*  
Hebrews 13:1—*Keep loving each other like family.*
3. We believe we are **sent** to get involved and to make a difference in the world.  
Matthew 28:18-20—*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

## What We Value

**We Seek God.** Jesus says the most important thing we can do is LOVE God and receive God's LOVE. We do this together each week in our Sunday worship services.

**We Care for People.** Our church welcomes and values all people. We are made up of individuals and families of all ages. Come as you are and find a place to LINK with others like you.

**We Talk About Jesus Christ.** We believe Jesus changes lives. A relationship with Jesus allows us to grow into the people we were created to be. During the week, we meet in various kinds of affinity groups to study the Bible, ask questions, exercise our bodies, grow in our Christian faith, care for each other in all stages of life, and form lasting friendships. Also, talking about Jesus Christ with our children & youth and teaching them about his love is one of our highest priorities.

**We Respond by Making a Difference in the World.** We gather for worship, and then we are SENT to serve. We want to be the hands and feet of Jesus wherever we are. We are a church that can be found serving God and others in places of need locally, regionally, and globally.

## **Expectations @ WPC**

Each of these expectations is intended to help you continue your faith journey towards becoming a deeply-committed Christian. Our expectations have both personal & communal dimensions. Practicing them will deepen your faith and help you to walk with Jesus in every part of your life.

### **1. Worship Each Weekend**

Attending worship weekly gives you an opportunity to re-center your life, give God honor and glory, and remember what is really important in life. In worship, you grow to know God more deeply, and you express your love to God.

### **2. Grow in Faith**

Grow in your faith outside of worship through personal study or a small group. Joining a group of fellow spiritual pilgrims will contribute to your faith journey by helping you make friends - knowing just one or two other people makes a church feel more like home.

### **3. Use Your Gifts**

Serve by using your gifts and talents both inside and outside the walls of the church. Each of us is given spiritual gifts and natural abilities that we can use to serve others and glorify God. The church is the Body of Christ, and each of us is a member of the Body. We are all invited to carry on Christ's mission in the world, to meet the needs of the people. Whatever your gifts are, God is counting on you to touch the lives of others as you serve God.

### **4. Give Regularly**

Give in proportion to your income, with the tithe (10%) as your goal. Giving regularly not only supports the work of the church, but also is your way of giving God priority in your life. One way to determine what people really care about is to review where they spend their money. Sometimes life circumstances mean we cannot give regularly, but when we are able to do so, it deepens our faith as we love and serve God through our giving.

### **5. Share Your Faith**

Share your faith with others through words and actions. We are called to share our good news with others. Often we think this means awkward conversations, but it doesn't (and shouldn't) have to be like that. Sharing your faith with those around you through words and actions helps us grow deeper in our *love* for God and others.

## **WPC's Organizational Structure**

### **Standing Committees**

- Fellowship (or Community Life)
- Mission Partnership
- Personnel
- Worship
- Stewardship
- Property
- Discipleship
- Finance
- Nominating

### **Session**

- The session is a ministry of discernment and governance, comprised of nine ruling elders who have been ordained and installed to active service.
- The pastor serves as the moderator.
- The session has a clerk of session and assistant clerk of session.

### **Deacons**

- The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the least, the last, and the lost.
- Deacons are ordained and installed to active service and are responsible for three unique ministries: (1) Bereavement, (2) Care & Visitation, and (3) Hospitality.
- Each unique ministry is overseen by a team of three deacons.