

SPECIAL SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 10:30 A.M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1250 W. Exchange St.

What's the point of being part of any denomination? That question has come up lately on a few radio broadcasts. According to a study by the Pew Research Center, a growing number of Millennials (born between 1981-1996) don't belong to any organized religion. In their 2015 publication, U.S. Public Becoming Less Religious, you can begin to see a growing trend. In their more recent article, About Three-in-Ten U.S. Adults Are Now Religiously Unaffiliated, the bi-line, "Self-identified Christians make up 63% of U.S. population in 2021, down from 75% a decade ago," paints a more grim picture, but the article doesn't lay out the why. For that you have to go back to a source in the 2015 publication. Michael Hout, Sociology Professor at New York University, made this assertion,

Many Millennials have parents who are Baby Boomers and Boomers expressed to their children that it's important to think for themselves – that they find their own moral compass. Also, they rejected the idea that a good kid is an obedient kid. That's at odds with organizations, like churches, that have a long tradition of official teaching and obedience. And more than any other group, Millennials have been and are still being formed in this cultural context. As a result, they are more likely to have a "do-it-yourself" attitude toward religion.

So, what does that have to do with the upcoming service? You can look at this as a call to move away from the "go-it-alone" mentality.

At least ten, Akron-area churches are showing how they are united. This service isn't just a one-day event. It's an invitation for congregants to see how their church representatives are working together to figure out how to turn the tide on declining church attendance, increase community involvement and improve the fellowship between Akron-area churches.

During this service you will have the opportunity to increase awareness and involvement in how to help victims of human trafficking/sex trafficking in this area. When the offering is collected you will have the chance to give to *Rahab Ministries*, which is head- (continued on pg. 2)

(SPECIAL continued from pg. 1) quartered in Canton, OH.

According to their LinkedIn page, RAHAB offers concrete solutions to human trafficking by putting truth and love into

action. RAHAB began addressing human sex trafficking 20 years ago, before human trafficking became a commonly recognized term. Today, their continuum of care includes outreach, mentoring



In 2022 RAHAB will Celebrate 20 Years!

programs, court partnerships, drop-in centers and safe houses for both children and adults.

At least ten Akron-Area congregations, and members of the Cameroonian Presbyterian Church are coming together for worship. Money will be collected to help recipients at Rahab Ministries, who need school supplies, therapies, and a safe haven. Singers and musicians from the various churches will be a part of this exciting worship experience. The question is, will you be?

-Reesá Mathews



SAY A PRAYER

You won't be able to look around the congregation to see who's in their normal spot. So, you won't be able to notice that Lev Anderson and John Sezna aren't where you expect them to be. Margie says that Lev has been in and out of the hospital this month. As of Thursday, both men are at home. Please, keep them in your prayers.

Vocal Concert by Fiona Coughlin Friday, September 2, 7:00 PM Allenside Presbyterian Church, 410 Rexford St.

Fiona Coughlin, is one of the top ten finalists for the Ohio "Shining Star" high school vocal competition. Prior to participating in the final competition, Fiona will perform at the Allenside Church this coming Friday, at 7:00 p.m. Fiona has invited other talented high school soloists - Austin Prince, Talia Greene, and Jackson Bird – to sing with her at the concert. Come and enjoy the beautiful music!

A reception will follow the concert.



RED, RIPE AND READY

Tomatoes dominated the crop that Betsy Davis harvested on the 20th, with:

- ♦ 69 Tomatoes
- ♦ 1 1/2 lbs. of Green beans
- ♦ 2 bags of Collards
- ♦ 3 Green Peppers
 Surely, this will help our
 partners at Genessaret
 feed those in need.





FIT

(Faithful Innovation Team)

You don't have to be in shape to be a part of FIT. You don't even need good walking shoes. What do you need? That's a question for Tom or Hal. Give them a call, or join them for the next FIT meeting, Tuesday, August 30, at 9:00 a.m., in the church parking lot.

Ladies' Luncheon

Ladies, please put the following date onto your calendar,

Thursday, September 15 11:30 a.m.



for a lunch at the Akron Woman's City Club. We will order from the menu, and 10-12 places have been reserved. A signup sheet will be in the lobby next week.