

The Messenger

NEW COVENANT

COMMUNITY CHURCH

A WEST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

The President's Page

May
2023

A joyous event took place during the congregational meeting Sunday, April 16, when John Sezna, after officially counting the votes, approached the lectern and announced, "The vote is unanimous. Rev. Bradley Rito is our new minister."



Brad grew up half an hour south of Detroit. He was active in theater and music in high school, where he was the town drunk in "Little Shop of Horrors." He went to Central Michigan University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts undergraduate degree in Creative Writing in 2012 (more on writing later), and immediately went on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity in 2015. He has served in Garrett, IN and Holiday Island, AR.

He and his lovely wife, Katie met at a workshop of the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer Program and have a romantic story to tell of their coming together. Just ask them.

Brad is an avid writer, who in high school, wrote his first novel, A Balanced Apocalypse: Book 1 of The Void, a finalist in the fiction category of the 2023 Book Excellence Awards. The Books 2 and 3 are ready to be published and 4 and 5 are organized, waiting to be put down on paper. He has also authored a book of 305 romantic poems, The End of the Broken Road, for Katie. Folks, we have ourselves a renaissance man in our midst.

(*President* continued on page 2)

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President (cont.)

Brad said what he likes most about being a pastor is the unending opportunities to grow and read, to explore innovative ideas, and to search for new ways to be the church. He is sensibly mindful of group dynamics, the joys and the pitfalls.



Katie and Brad have a high energy, Blue Heeler – Aussie mix dog, Fisher, and an adorable yet mischievous black cat, Luigi, and they all get along. They are exploring the adoption process to start their family.

In his candidacy sermon on April 16, Brad came down into the congregation and standing close to us sought out our cares and concerns. He joins us in our concern for the Raders. He is eager to help expand our programs of outreach and mission to the community. Brad is keenly interested in the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry, COM, to make sure it nourishes and encourages the pathway to pastorship.

Katie grew up half an hour north of Detroit, was active in the theater guild in high school, each year singing in the chorus. She went on many mission trips and directed the middle school youth group in her home church, which led her to join the Young Adult Volunteer Program where she met the soulmate of her life.

Katie ‘s attitude toward change is to keep her eyes wide open to new opportunities. She loves to cook and bake and specializes in “just right” chocolate chip cookies. (I am looking forward to that!) She will be happy to be closer to her Michigan family and a close friend.

Katie grew up in a family of sailors. Both sets of grandparents and her dad had sailboats. When she was 13 her dad asked if she would like to race sailboats and the adrenaline junkie in her answered in a resounding yes. This led to participating in an overnight race on Lake St. Clair up to Mackinaw Island. We welcome Brad and Katie to our church family and look forward to including them in the church in Akron.

*Nancy Clem,
Governing Board President*

WORSHIP CALENDAR



Here is the current calendar of who will be leading Worship Services for the month of May.

May 7—Rev. Nick Nicholson

May 14—Rev. Jay Schmidt

May 21—Rev. Jim Bane

May 28—Joint Service with Akron-Area
Presbyterian Churches

COFFEE HOUR

The Koutniks will host Coffee Hour next Sunday, May 7th. Come fellowship with friends & family.

Scones are on the menu.

BIBLE STUDY

The doors are open for Bible Study here at 1587 W. Exchange, every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. If you are not able to attend in person, you can find them [Facebook](#).



**WORSHIP
COMMITTEE
MEETING**
Monday, May 1
4:00 p.m.

THANK YOU, FROM EAST PALESTINE,

Thank you so very much for your generous donation to our church. Our mission out reach has grown since the detailment. Your donations will help us continue helping as the year progresses.

Our blessings abound from the generosity of folks such as your congregation.

Be assured we will see that ~~others~~ others benefit. God Bless

Sheeldene Moore Clerk of Session

2023 "MUSIC WEEK"

AT ALLENSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Olivia Roberts, who will be a senior at Capital University this fall, will be a part of Firestone Park's music week, July 9-16. Here is the tentative plan:

- o **Sunday, July 9** –Worship at Firestone Park (Olivia be a part of the morning worship service)
- o **Monday - Thursday, July 10-13**, (time to be determined), Adult Music Camp at Allenside
- o **Friday, July 14**, 6:30 PM – Second Annual Paul Fischer Music Concert (will include music performed by the Music Camp Choir)
- o **Saturday, July 15**, (time to be determined) Allenside Church front yard – Community Summer Celebration (food and fun for all ages!)
- o **Sunday, July 16** – worship at Allenside – "Music Sunday" (will include music Music Camp Choir)



HUNGER WALK

AAIC's 14th Annual Hunger Walk is Sunday, May 7th, starting from the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m., and the walk begins at 3:00. Try to arrive before 2:30 to register so that our church can do a group photo.

You can walk the **one or two miles** down Market St., or **once around the parking lot**. Come enjoy the comradery and some refreshments.

We Are the Light

Last year, our generous congregation and friends donated \$3660, a new record.

That amount translated into 14,640 meals. As a reminder of what and who we are, we led the 17 AAIC member faith groups in our donations. About 12 of us also walked either the one or two-miles.

Remember to:


Be the Light

Shine the Light

Spread God's Light of
Love, Grace, and Caring

Keep in mind that next Sunday, May 7 is T-Shirt Sunday. In support, walkers wear your NCCC t-shirt to church, even though it might be showing a little wear by now. (Perhaps we can buy new ones next year).


If you are contributing money through our church, the money must be in by Monday morning. (The office will be closed Tuesday, because of the election.) Bring your donation to church Sunday morning. If you miss that deadline you can contribute at the walk, online, or mail a check to, **AAIC Hunger Walk, 3300 Morewood Rd., Akron, OH 44333** and indicate that your with NCCC.



14th Annual
Akron Area Interfaith Council
HUNGER WALK
Sunday, May 7, 2023
Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron
3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn, OH 44333


Registration - 2:00 pm | Walk begins at 3:00 pm
Fellowship afterwards

100% of ALL DONATIONS go directly to




AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL
FOOD BANK

This year's walk is in honor of longtime AAIC and Hunger Walk volunteer, Lela Brown.



Featured: Dan Flowers, CEO Akron-Canton Food Bank, and Lela Brown

WAYS TO DONATE

- CHECKS payable to AAIC Hunger Walk.
Mail to: 3300 Morewood Road, Akron, OH 44333
- IN PERSON DONATIONS on Sunday, May 7, 2023
- DONATE ONLINE Click on QR code → 

Or go to akroninterfaith.org and follow the prompts.

- Nancy Williams



MITZVAH DAY— A DAY OF CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

While our church has never had anyone involved in the planning, we have had several volunteers participate in various projects and the Sunday afternoon discussions which have been on a wide range of subjects. Take a copy of the brochure for this year's projects and discussions. Sign up is online. If you need help, contact Cathy. To conclude the event, people are invited to a free supper at Temple Israel on June 4 at 5 pm. New Initiatives is sponsoring this activity. Cathy King is the go-to person



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY

After a much needed break from the whirlwind of celebratory gatherings from December—

February, several of us have rested and are eager for a fun outing. Save the date of Thursday, June 22 to attend the play *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Porthouse Theater. We will, of course, have our picnic ahead of time on the grounds.

Our traditional picnic on the grounds before the play will be inside the covered pavilion. Three long tables have been reserved, and we should have room to put the food, etc. As of now, 15 tickets for the play have been reserved. More can easily be added. Last year, we had 19. Cost of the tickets is \$27, with a \$2 fee added for the pavilion. A sign-up sheet will be out the middle of May. To buy a ticket, make a check out to Jackie Horton for \$27/person. (A word about the seats reserved for the play... 2 handicapped seats are included in that number.)



THINGS TO COME

Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates (AIIA) is sponsoring a Night at the Children's Museum on Saturday, May 20, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down tables & chairs and to interact with the kids and their parents. All families will be from the North Hill community. Our Mission Committee along with AAIC both pledged \$200 to help take care of expenses. There will be a volunteer sign up sheet at our church.

NOTES

Greetings Denise and John,

I hope that all is well with you as we approach the end of April.

Congratulations on calling a new pastor! I know that the church will welcome him as warmly as you all welcomed me.

Here is a check for the Hunger Walk, and I pray that it will help to nourish all God's people physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

May God continue to bless you and the church as much as all of you blessed me.

Gratefully,
John



AAIC Meeting

Tuesday, May 2,
12:00

Bath United Church of Christ or on Zoom (link later). Learn what's happening in the interfaith community in addition to the Hunger Walk, AIIA Night at the Children's Museum, and Mitzvah Day



“With Glad
and Generous
Hearts”

Acts 2:1-6b



Several weeks following Jesus’ resurrection and days following the Spirit-filled wind and flames of Pentecost, we find a new Christian community emerging in Jerusalem. Central to their gathering was devoting themselves to “the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) This led these early Christians to live with “glad and generous hearts.” (Acts 2:46b).

A century ago in 1923, people from Community, Union, People’s, Independent and Ecumenical churches began gathering in a new Spirit-led Christian movement known as the Community Churches Movement. This movement was birthed to aid churches who had left the security of a denomination or were formed apart from a denomination, and was committed to pursuing unity in the church and celebrating reconciliation and diversity in the human family.

On this Community Churches Sunday we celebrate the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) as the continuation of that Community Churches Movement. The ICCC continues today serving its member churches through offering resources to local churches, clergy and laity continuing education, opportunities to share in common national and international missions, offering voluntary pension plans for clergy and property insurance for churches, and local mission grants to aid local churches in serving their communities. With “glad and generous hearts” we celebrate your church’s fellowship in the International Council of Community Churches.

The 73rd Annual Conference of the International Council of Community Churches will be held at Embassy Suites Charlotte, NC (4800 S. Tryon St.)— July 18– 21, 2023

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL thru June 1st, 2023— \$195.00 for [Adult Registration](#).

Rev. Dr. Clifford Jones, Sr. is this year’s keynote speaker. He will proclaim the conference theme, “We Are Family,” rooted in the Word of God as found in I Corinthians 12. Dr. Jones will deliver sermons on the opening day of the conference and on Thursday. On Wednesday and Friday Dr. Jones will be with us for a one hour “Q, A and Comment” session.

Check out Charlottesgotalot.com for tourism and travel information. Their “[Show your Badge](#)” program offers attendees deals and discounts throughout the city.





Kiwaniis

WEST AKRON KIWANIS PRESENT



FLAPJACKS & FLOWERS



2023

SATURDAY

29TH APRIL 2023

8AM-1PM

... PROCEEDS BENEFIT AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ...

MILLER SOUTH SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

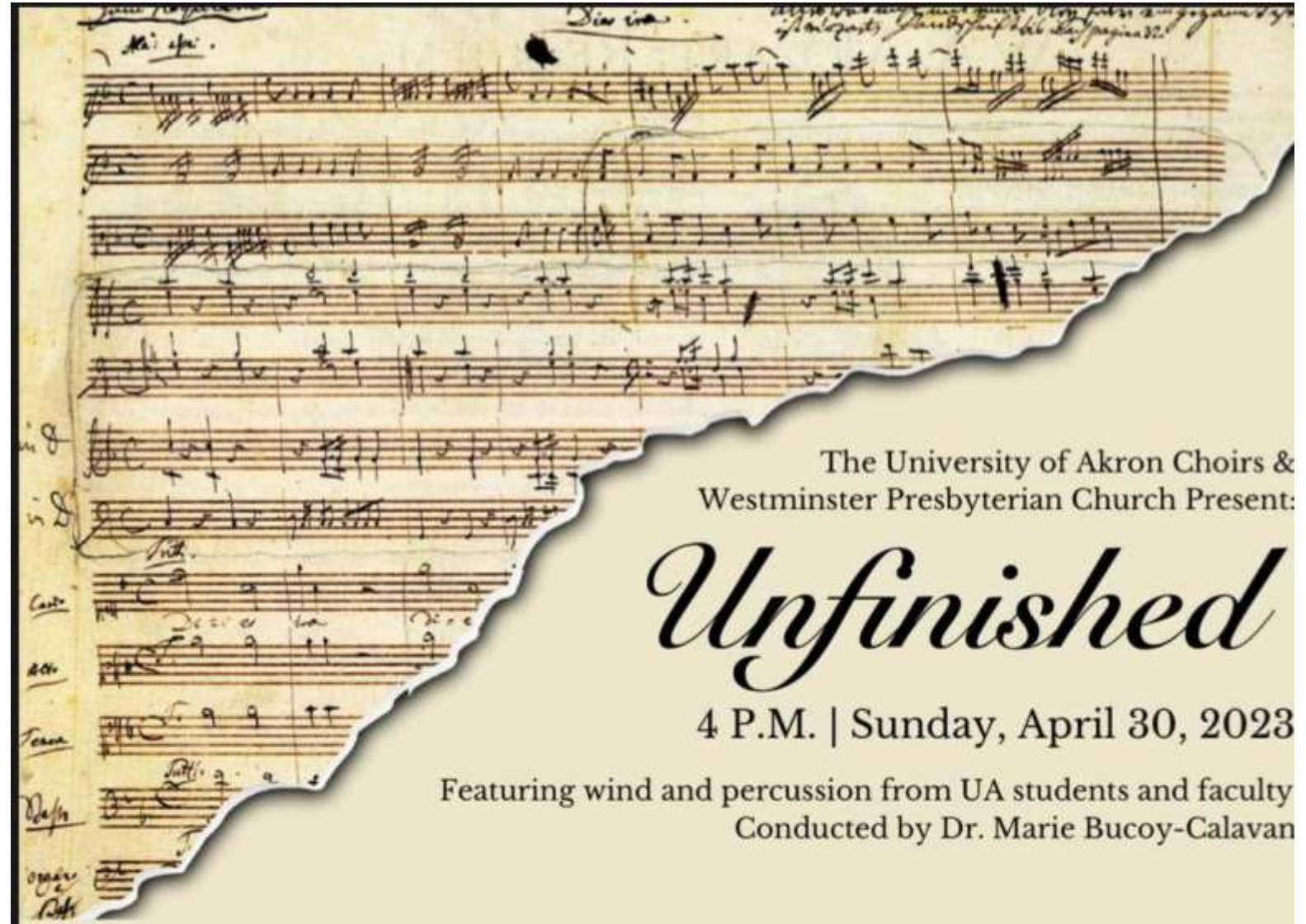
ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY STUDENTS DURING EVENT

TICKETS \$10

ADVANCE TICKETS \$8 - FOR INFORMATION CALL 330-388-1961

WESTMINISTER CHURCH

1250 W. EXCHANGE ST. AKRON, OH



The University of Akron Choirs &
Westminster Presbyterian Church Present:

Unfinished

4 P.M. | Sunday, April 30, 2023

Featuring wind and percussion from UA students and faculty
Conducted by Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan

Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart's Requiem** and selections from
Joel Thompson's **The Seven Last Words of The Unarmed**

Soloists:

Dr. Alexandria Hanhold, soprano
Kim Lauritsen, mezzo-soprano
Brian Skoog, tenor
Dr. Frank Ward, bass-baritone

Pre-concert lecture, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan and Reverend Raymond Greene of The Freedom BLOC

Made possible by The David Makinson Memorial Concert Series

AKRON
CHOIRS

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 W Exchange Street, Akron, OH

