



The Westminster Abbey Church

To Connect People To Jesus Christ And To Each Other.

Pastor Dave Burkhart

6650 Faulkner Road
Westminster, Ohio 45850
Phone: 419 648 8151

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year in October we have this special day called Pastor Appreciation Day. We gather after church and share a meal, someone else usually preaches that day to give me the day off, we sing my favorite Hymns and Songs and it really is a blessing to me. I have to tell you though I would do what I do even if none of that happened. I have loved being a part of this church for the past 19 years and I hope that I still have a few more to spend with you all.

I did a lot of other things in my life and I have enjoyed every job I have held. I have learned a lot of skills from cutting meat, to installing garage doors and replacement windows, to factory work running forming presses, but I have never done anything that has given me as much of a reward as serving God and doing my best to truthfully sharing His Word with people who need to hear and be saved. Pastoring The Westminster Abbey Church (formally the Westminster United Methodist Church) has, without a doubt, been the most fulfilling career I have ever had.

Sure, there have been some difficult times in the course of these 19 years, but I have been blessed to see how God has always worked things out to the benefit of His Kingdom. There have been some scary times as well. When I asked the church to spend \$10,000 to have an outside company handle our capital campaign for the Abbey, I was terrified. I remember thinking that if it didn't work, I had better make plans to move to another church. Because of your faithfulness we were able to pay the entire building off in just a few years. God is Great!

As great as that may sound, I have found the greatest reward from seeing people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Even greater than leading them to Christ myself, is seeing others in the church lead people to Christ. We must always remember why it is that we do what we do as a church; it is not to bring glory to us, but rather to lead other people to Jesus so the Holy Spirit can work within them to increase the number of people who will one day be with the Lord our God for all eternity.

I think we also need to have a Congregation Appreciation Day because you have been one of the most wonderful congregations any pastor could serve, and serve with, that I can imagine. I have never regretted leaving the factory or any other job I have held in the past, to serve as the Pastor of The Westminster Abbey Church. My biggest regret, I must say, is that I have not led more people to pursue a career in ministry. I know that there are jobs that pay more and have better benefits but the blessings of proclaiming God's Word and loving God's people is better than any huge salary or benefits package out there; and the retirement is truly out of this world! (Pun intended)

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave Burkhart

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth." -

John Wesley