



Westminster Church is the home of an E.M. Skinner pipe organ (Opus 579), installed in 1926. Almost 100 years old, this magnificent instrument is played weekly for Sunday worship services, as well as for funerals, weddings, baptisms, holiday services, and community concerts. Although faithfully and lovingly maintained by the congregation throughout the years, the organ is showing its age and is in need of extensive repairs and restoration.

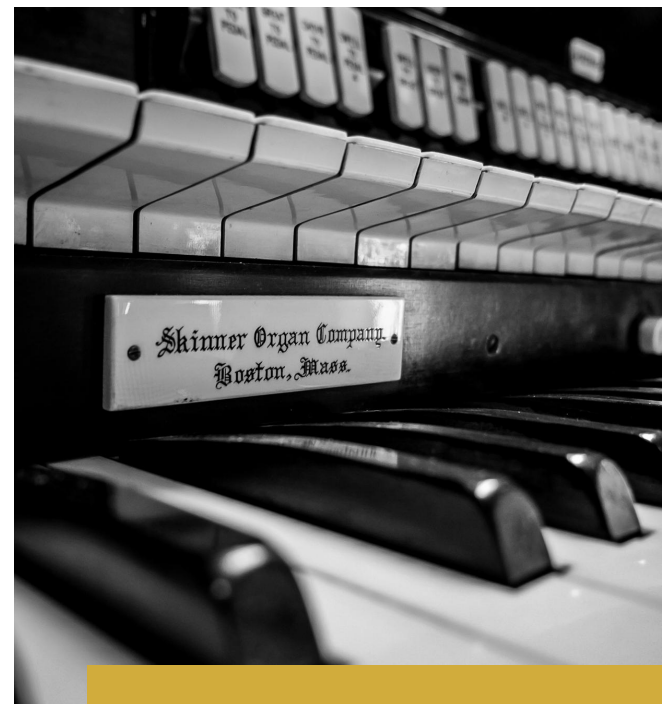
In recent years, the organ began to experience problems with ciphers, tonal issues, and sound quality. While the outer casework of the organ is in good condition, the internal mechanisms are in need of restoration. The organ's 2069 pipes are shoe-horned into a small space behind the ornamental facade, making it virtually impossible to perform major work on specific divisions without removing the entire organ.

The work will take an entire year, with Kerner & Merchant taking the organ to their Syracuse facility to complete the work there. It will be back in place at Westminster by Christmas 2021. The entire cost, including work at the church to repair and improve the space in which the organ is housed, will be \$400,000.

## How to give

Donations and pledges can be made in several ways:

- Make out a check to "Westminster Presbyterian Church" with "organ restoration" on the memo line, and mail it to the church.
- Pledge to make payments toward the campaign over a 3-year period. Your payments can be annual, biannual, or monthly, and can be paid by check, bank transfer, or online.
- Contact your bank to set up automatic bank transfers from your account to the church's.
- Give online by going to the "Give" page of the church's website at [www.westminsterauburn.org](http://www.westminsterauburn.org).



### Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Established 1862**

The Rev. Patrick Heery, Pastor



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# Ode to Joy

**Restoring Auburn's  
1926 Skinner Pipe Organ**

**Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
Auburn NY**

## The E.M. Skinner Pipe Organ

Westminster's organ is considered a rare example of E.M. Skinner's craft. Ernest Martin Skinner (1866-1960) was one of America's premier organ builders in the early 1900's, using a new and innovative electro-pneumatic system to power organs. He was both an artistic and mechanical engineering genius. He strove to increase the expressive sounds of his organs; his instruments are known for their rich orchestral tones, simulating the sounds of an entire orchestra. Skinner was at his peak in both quality and popularity in the 1920's, and his organs were considered the best money could buy.

## Restoration Priorities

Kerner & Merchant, a Syracuse company which has tuned and maintained our organ since 1983, will restore the organ to its original condition.

- Releather all pneumatic components to "as originally installed" condition;
- Clean, repair and regulate all pipes;
- Repair and restore bellows that had been previously rebuilt;
- Rebuild the organ's harp and chimes actions;
- Recover the three manual ivory keyboards;
- Replace and rebuild the manual and pedal keyboards;
- Refinish the console casework;
- Build and install replacement pipes for the two swell ranks which were previously altered to restore them to original pitch and sound;
- Tune organ on completion.



*Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.  
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*



*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee;  
God of glory, Lord of love.  
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

## Funding Goals

- 3-year capital campaign with a goal of \$150,000 in congregational and community support. Ten percent of these donations will go towards mission projects which support the work of the church.
- Pursue grants from several foundations with a total goal of \$100,000.
- Take out a loan for the balance, to be repaid over 5-10 years using annual income from a bequest which supports property maintenance and repairs.

*...with gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms,  
hymns, and spiritual songs to God.  
Colossians 3:16*



*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Psalm 98:4*