

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Bay City, MI 48706

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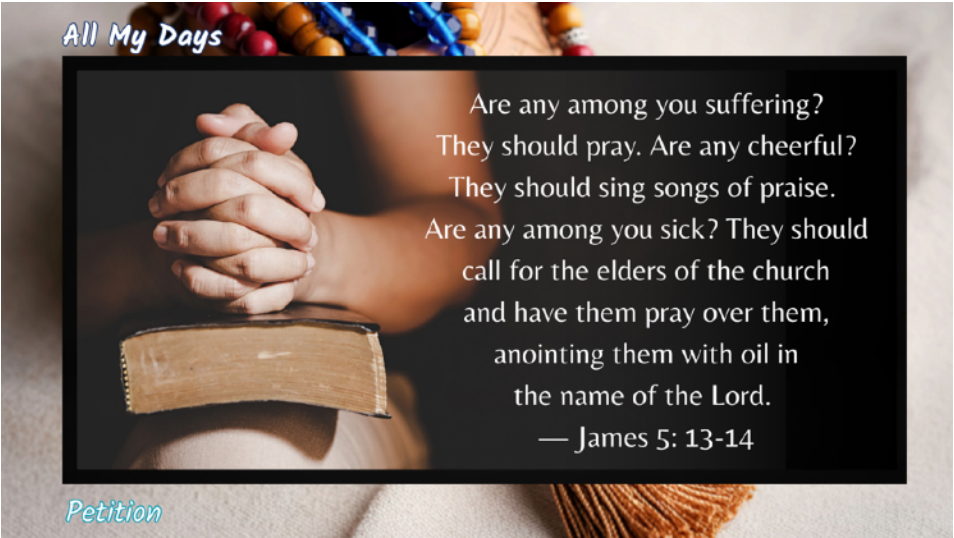
THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Westminster at Worship: All My Days

Throughout July, we have been learning about and using the ancient tradition of prayer beads to help us intentionally focus on a rhythm of prayer and grow in our relationship with God. Using the prayer Jesus taught to the disciples, we have explored the ideas of Presence, Praise, and Purpose. As we continue this series in August, we will discover how the rest of the Lord’s Prayer can guide our thoughts and prayer life.

Petition (August 2) Jesus offers us assurance that asking God to act in our lives and in the world is an act of trust and belief that we are not alone in our need. Our prayer for sustenance is both physical and spiritual. The meeting of needs with the power of prayer helps ease suffering. Through intercessory prayer we become mindful of the needs of the world and to remember that God is the Source of All Gifts.

Pardon (August 9) Jesus included a line about forgiveness in the prayer he taught his disciples because getting right with each other is essential for our personal



and communal wellbeing. Right relationship involves getting honest with God and with each other. Sometimes our prayers can simply be to let go of the resentment we feel and ask God to help us stop hurting others.

Protection (August 16) In his prayer template, Jesus draws on the tradition from the Psalms of lament ... “deliver us.” Just as his ancient Hebrew ancestors did before him, he calls on God to come, to stand with, to offer strength in time of trouble. The crowds then take on the chant, “save us” (Hosanna) as Jesus processed along the entrance road to Jerusalem, hoping for justice.

Persistence (August 23)
Many in the Christian

tradition have closed the Prayer of Jesus with the phrase “for thine (or yours) is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.” The power Jesus spoke of and that the early Christians invoked made the powerful of the world nervous because it expressed a confidence that ultimately the world is in God’s hands, not the powers of the principalities. As we prepare to close this worship series on prayer, we draw on the habit of prayer practices we have experienced to take us throughout “all our days” trusting that God and God’s kin-dom, power, and glory is always as near to us as the beads in our hands.

Worship continued on Page 1

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Phone: 989-686-1360
E-mail: office@wpcbc.org
Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday
Office Closed

Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian
Church - Bay City



Pastor
Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
Parish Associate
Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
Secretary
Bill Petzold (ext. 201)
Facilities Manager
Harold Miller (ext. 205)
Financial Secretary
Lisa Carelli (ext. 206)
Director of Youth Ministry
Leah Sneller (ext. 208)

August

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Closed Friday
website: wpcbc.org
Join us on Facebook
Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:30 a.m. Worship
In August we will continue the All Our Days series focusing on prayer. (Cover)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Join us in the Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

Please look on each Sunday for events and worship information specific to that day.

Happy Birthday

Web Tally	Peggy Hawkins
Kaye Walker	Thomas Kayner
Barbara English	Alicen Rogers
Carolyn Eichhorn	

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

Sunday	Monday
2	3 8:30 a.m. VBS until 4:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Preschool VBS until 11:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Missions 7 p.m. Deacons
9 4 p.m. Fall Seasonal Launch	10 4:30 p.m. Property 5:30 p.m. Finance
16 11:30 a.m. Gathering and Games (Page 2)	17
23	24
30 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship	31 4 p.m. Safety Team TBD - Tentative Deacons Mtg.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
	Note: Caring Connections will not meet during the month of August. (See Page 9)		1
4 8:30 a.m. VBS until 4:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Preschool VBS until 11:30 a.m. 5 p.m. National Night Out until 8 p.m. (Page 10)	5 8:30 a.m. VBS until 4:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Preschool VBS until 11:30 a.m. 4 p.m. Food Pantry until 6 p.m.	6 8:30 a.m. VBS until 4:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Preschool VBS until 11:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Food Pantry until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	7
			8
11 10 a.m. Knitting Group 1:30 p.m. Movie: <i>Evan Almighty</i> (Page 2)	12 1:30 p.m. Tending the Wild Garden (Page 3) 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m.	13 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	14 6 p.m. Loons Game Outing (Page 1)
			15
18 10 a.m. Knitting Group 12 p.m. Summer Dice and Smiles Bunco Party (Page 10) 5 p.m. Session	19 12 p.m. Members to Remember Luncheon 2 p.m. Tending the Wild Garden 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m. LOG DEADLINE	20 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	21
			22
25 10 a.m. Knitting Group 10 a.m. Log Folding 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. Movie: <i>Yentl</i>	26 1 p.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch (Page 12) 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m.	27 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	28
			29

You should have recently received your second quarter contributions report, either in the mail or via email. If you have not received it or have any questions about what it contains, please let me know.

Now that my training is over with Pat, my hours for the week will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Please stop by and say hi. I am still learning, so be patient as I learn the system.

As always, if you have any questions about these figures or if there is anything I can do for you, please contact me via email at treasurer@wpcbc.org, or (989) 686-1360 ext. 208.

GENERAL FUND	Current	
	Period July 21, 2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 14,035	\$ 291,495
One-time Gifts		\$ -
Other Cash Received	\$ 40	\$ 6,365
Total Income	\$ 14,075	\$ 297,861
Expenses	\$ 11,682	\$ 226,096
Excess(Loss)	\$ 2,393	\$ 71,764

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is \$467,000.

Lisa Carelli
Financial Secretary

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch



The July Out-to-Lunch Bunch gathering at Castaway's was a roaring success, especially for Rev. Linda, who didn't realize her Stromboli would be *that* huge!

In August we will be trying out North Peak Brewing Company, 1100 N. Water St. in Bay City at **1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26**. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Dave Crook at 847-624-5798 or crookds@earthlink.net.

Caring Meals Program: A New/Old Blessing Returning to Westminster

Something new — and yet wonderfully familiar — is coming to Westminster! On behalf of the Board of Deacons, we are excited to introduce a renewed opportunity for our congregation to care for one another in meaningful, tangible ways. It's called Caring Meals.

The Caring Meal Program is a ministry rooted in compassion, fellowship, and the grace of God. Its purpose is simple but deeply impactful: to provide short-term meals to individuals and families within our



church who are experiencing a recent life event or temporary hardship. Whether it's an illness, a new baby, a loss, or another challenging season, Caring Meals offers nourishment, comfort, and

encouragement when it's needed most.

By sharing meals, we share love — reflecting Christ's call to care for one another and reminding our church family that they are never alone. This Deacon-sponsored ministry is a heartfelt response to God's invitation to serve.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game (SECOND ATTEMPT!)

Westminster's scheduled trip to the loons game (initially on July 17th) was cancelled due to the poor air quality that week! But that means, we get another chance! We'll be going on GRIT night, **Friday, August 14th**, game time 7:05 p.m.

For folks that already purchased tickets, your tickets have already been switched to the new date. If you purchased tickets and cannot attend that night but want to attend another game, let Pastor Jamie know. Those interested in the new date, can let Pastor Jamie or the office know, and they'll get you signed up!

That night will also be a Foodie Friday, so there will be \$2 hot dogs, \$1 snacks and lots of specialty food available for purchase!

Wear your WPC "GRIT and Grace" shirt, one of your new WPC shirts, or your favorite Detroit Lions gear!

Worship continued from the cover

The Prayer of Jesus (August 30) In this final service of the series, we will revisit the Lord's Prayer using interactive prayer stations around our outdoor worship space. Each station will focus on one of the petitions of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. Join us for this engaging, prayerful service as we worship together.

Prayer beads will continue to be available at the church through the end of August. Each week's prayer sheet is also available. Please pick one up anytime you miss a Sunday. The prayer sheets are also available on the church website, wpcbc.org.

If you ordered a WPC t-shirt or Polo, please see Jeff Rogers before or after worship to pick up and/or pay for your shirts.

Summer Movie Series

We are wrapping up our summer series in August. We have included the family-friendly movie *Evan Almighty* on **August 11** (before kids go back to school). *Evan Almighty* is a family-friendly comedy about a newly elected congressman who is unexpectedly called by God to build an ark, leading him and his family on a journey of faith, obedience, and trust. With humor and heart, the movie reminds viewers that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

And our final movie on **August 25th** will be *Yentl*, a musical drama about a young Jewish woman in early 1900s Eastern Europe who disguises

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUMMER MOVIE SERIES



AUGUST MOVIES:
EVAN ALMIGHTY
AUGUST 11

YENTL
AUGUST 25



1:30 P.M. IN THE SESSION ROOM
WPCBC.ORG

herself as a man so she can continue studying sacred texts. As her journey unfolds, the film explores faith, identity, love, and the courage it takes to follow God-given gifts despite the limits others place on us.

Movies will be shown **on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.** As always, we have soda, popcorn, and candy, so come enjoy a good film and good company with us this summer. Any questions, please call the church office.

Gathering and Games

Sunday, August 16

Food. Laughter. Friendly Competition. Conversation. If you haven't joined us for one of our monthly gatherings, that's what you're missing! Join us on August 16th following worship for the next one.



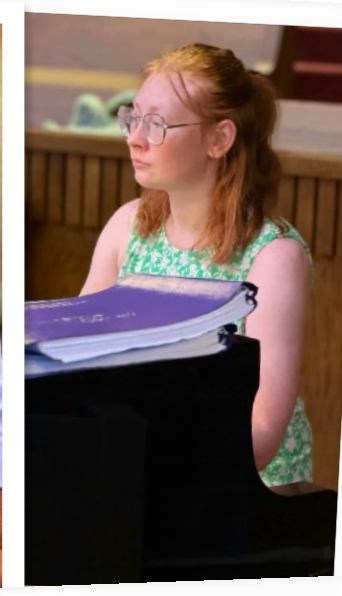
SAVE THE DATE! Fall Kickoff and Neighboring Sunday, September 13

Mark your calendars for this year's fall kickoff Sunday! Many of our programming and rehearsals start back after being on break for the summer and we'll have a talented Brass Ensemble present to help lead us in worship.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring a friend or invite a neighbor to join us for the day! Following worship, we'll have an extended time of fellowship with plenty of food and fun.

Football fans should have plenty of time to grab some food and still make it home before the NFL season kicks off (we'll even put on the Lions pregame show for you!)

Wear your team colors, your GRIT & Grace shirt, or other WPC shirt and help us kick off a season of learning, serving, and growing together in faith and friendship.



Westminster

COMMUNITY PANTRY

June Statistics: The Pantry served 580 people from 210 households with 6,773 pounds of food. This included 158 children and 139 seniors. In addition, 41 households (serving 111 people) visited for the first time. There is a huge need in our community, and we are blessed to be able to help with nutritious food and some goodies. We truly appreciate the support of this congregation!

The August Item of the Month is Cereal. Our guests are thrilled when we have a good selection of cereal to choose from. Help us refill our shelves! All donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you!

Fresh Produce: It's that time of year when summer produce is ripening. If you have extra produce from your garden, we are happy to share it with our guests! For the freshest choices, bring it on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning so we can distribute it on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

Ongoing: We continue to collect new and gently-used **kitchen items** like can openers, measuring cups and spoons, dish towels, dish cloths, etc. We also gladly accept **books** for our Free Little Library. These little extras mean a lot to our guests, and we welcome your donations.

Did you know that Westminster Community Pantry is led and staffed by volunteers from our congregation and the community? In addition, we are completely funded by congregational and community donations.

If you would like to support this ministry at any time, simply indicate "Food Pantry" on your check or envelope.

To volunteer, contact Janet Smylie or Janet Beattie, Pantry co-chairs, at pantry@wpcbc.org or Karen Brown-Fackler, Volunteer Coordinator, at 989-506-1327. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry and our neighbors in need!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUMMER DICE
AND SMILES
BUNCO PARTY!**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH,
WE EAT AT NOON, BUNCO AT 12:30 P.M.**

**PRIZES AWARDED FOR: MOST BUNCO, MOST
MINI BUNCOS,
MOST WINS, MOST LOSSES**
WPCBC.ORG

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**National
Night Out**

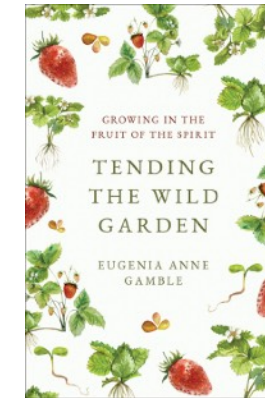
**Tuesday, August 4
5 to 8 p.m.
Wenona Park**

Westminster will be participating in Bay City's National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 4th from 5-8 p.m. Come find us among the sea of tents at Wenona Park as we share with our community the good things God is doing in our midst!

Games • Prizes • Live Music • Food • Interactive displays
Nearly 100 vendors! Fire trucks and public safety vehicles on display!

Summer Book/Bible Study Series

As summer begins to draw to a close, our book/Bible study series on *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit* by Eugenia Gamble continues to offer a meaningful way to reflect on how God has been growing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control within us. Using Paul's image of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, this study has invited us to see these gifts not as a checklist to complete, but as signs of the Holy Spirit's steady work in our lives and in our community.



There is still time to join us for the final weeks of the series, even if you have not attended earlier sessions.

We meet **Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.**, and you are welcome to come as you are able for Scripture reflection, thoughtful conversation, and encouragement through Rev. Gamble's writing.

Come help us bring this summer study to a faithful close as we continue tending the garden of our souls together.

Please contact the church office or Rev. Linda if you have any questions.

God Sighting
Patti Wesenick



variety of church events, embodying Christ's heart as a servant.

•In the Community: She regularly connects with our elder members, bringing companionship, warmth, and the reminder that they are never forgotten by their church family. Patti also chairs the Thanksgiving basket

project every year. Collecting food and items and delivering them to those in need.

Perhaps one of Patti's most profound ministries is her role as the coordinator of the monthly Wings of Prayer list. Prayer is one lifeline of our community, and Patti treats it as a sacred trust. She devotes time and energy to organizing these needs and communicating updates to the congregation, making sure that those who are hurting are lifted up in prayer and surrounded by love.

Thank you, Patti, for sharing your love and devotion with our community at WPC!

Fifty years of membership is a beautiful milestone, but for Patti Wesenick, it represents a lifetime of generously offering her time, skills, and talents to the Lord. As a deacon, she lives out the true biblical definition of service, quietly stepping in wherever there is a need.

If you look closely at the moving parts of our church, you will find Patti's fingerprints everywhere:

• In the Sanctuary: Most Sundays, she helps facilitate our worship by faithfully controlling the media slides, ensuring our focus remains on God's word.

• In the Kitchen: She works endless hours preparing, serving, and cleaning up during a



Wander

(My 2026 Westminster Star Word revisited)

by Judy Hudson

My Star word for 2026, **Wander**, was a "poke in the gut" to me. After I chose my Star Word, I found a Letter to Ireland in my research for the meaning of "**Wander**" that spoke to me. Here is an excerpt from that letter:

"Dear Ireland,

You don't rush. You **wander**. You linger. You remind us that life isn't meant to be measured in deadlines or steps, but to be measured in the quiet magic of being present."

Unlike this suggestion to me to **Wander**, I had been still working to keep my life busy, to keep moving, and to pretend I was younger than the calendar says I am. I had forgotten to "**Wander**!"

A couple of months ago, I had planned my life into a frenzy! I planned an overnight button meeting that I drove all day to get to, I planned to attend a writing conference, I introduced my new book to the world, I read to 500 students at Auburn School, I tried to get to pool exercise three times a week, I had choir practices, and I joined my great knitting group every week, I helped my sisters work on a special gift quilt, and I played cards with my friends. I hardly had a down day.

It didn't take long for that busyness to all come crashing down. And, when I say crashing down, I mean crashing onto the



cement, face first! This happens to me because I get weary and don't paying attention. Luckily, I was not badly hurt (except my glasses), and a black eye to humble me. The worst part of the fall was being very embarrassed because many friends witnessed my fall! So, I've had to revisit **Wander**. I have had to slow down. I am reminding

myself to be more like Ireland and not rush, but **Wander**.

Life is not a race,

but indeed a journey.

Be honest. Work hard. Be choosy. Say "thank you", "I love you", and "great job" to someone each day. Take time for prayer. Be thankful. Love your life and what you've been given. It is not accidental. Search for your purpose and do it as best as you can. Dreaming does matter, it allow you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often, appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Forgive, it frees the soul.

Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know.

Take time for yourself. Live for today, and enjoy each moment.

Bonnie Mohr / Power of Wordz/fb

What To Say and Do

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where someone has lost a spouse, child, parent and you care about them, but don't know how to let them know that?

Sometimes it can be awkward and difficult because you don't know what to say or do. Quite frankly, you really don't have to say or do a lot. Reach out to that person. Maybe just a hug and sit with them for a while. If they want to talk, let them. Be a good listener. Don't offer advise unless they specifically ask for something. Your presence is the best help for them in the beginning.

Timing is a very important thing to remember. Numbness is a primary emotion in the first few weeks of grieving.

That numbness doesn't wear off until four to eight weeks later ... This is well after most support is offered by well-meaning friends and family. Yes, it's very important to remember the griever in the beginning, but so

much more important to check on them and take those cookies or meals or whatever you like to do at a later time when everyone has moved on, but now they are alone and really feeling their loss. It is later on when they need your visits the most.

Come join us at a Caring Connections meeting on the first Thursday of every month from 1:30 until 3:00 at the church and discuss more ways to help people who are grieving and help ourselves. If you are not comfortable with a group discussion, you are more than welcome to just sit and listen. We're here for everyone who is suffering a loss.

NOTE: There will be no meeting in August. The September meeting will be September 10 because of Labor Day weekend.

Love and Peace to all!

Mary

What a "Vacation from Grief" Means

To be clear: a vacation from grief does not mean pretending your loved one didn't exist. It does not mean you love them less, or that your loss has somehow become smaller. It does not mean you are "over it". It means something much simpler. It means allowing yourself — for an hour, an afternoon, perhaps a whole day — to be present in the world without requiring yourself to actively grieve. It means accepting that laughter, pleasure, and peace are not betrayals of the person you lost. In fact, for many of us, the person we lost would have wanted exactly that for us. Loving someone who has died does not require you to suffer without pause or reprieve.

You Are Allowed To Have A Good Day

One of the cruelest tricks of grief is the way it can make us believe that our pain is proof of our love — and that if the pain eases, the love must be fading too. It isn't true. The love does not go anywhere. Grief simply changes shape over time, the way a river eventually finds calmer water without ever ceasing to flow. You are allowed to have a summer that contains both sorrow and sweetness. You are allowed to feel the warmth of the sun even while you miss the person who used to sit beside you. You are allowed to laugh — fully, freely. Grief is a long journey, and no one can walk it at full intensity every single day. Rest is not retreat. Rest is how we find the strength to keep going.

Permission to Rest: Grief on “Summer Vacation”

When the world seems to be relaxing and celebrating and you are still carrying loss, giving yourself a “vacation” from grief isn’t a betrayal — it’s a gift.

Summer arrives whether we are ready for it or not. The days stretch to their longest. Neighbors fire up the grill. Children race through sprinklers. Somewhere down the street, someone is laughing. And you — you are grieving. Perhaps you are wondering why the world didn’t get the memo, why it keeps moving at full speed when everything inside you has gone so very still. If that is where you are this season, you are not alone. Though the darkness of winter carries its own challenges, summer can be one of the most quietly difficult times in grief. The contrast between the brightness outside and the weight you carry inside can feel almost cruel. Vacations that were planned together sit uncanceled on the calendar. Family gatherings hold an unmistakably empty chair. Even a simple walk in the evening light can ambush you with a memory. And yet — this season also holds something worth reaching for, even amid loss: It holds the possibility of rest. Not forgetting. Not moving on. Simply rest. Grief doesn’t ask for your permission to arrive. But you can choose, when you are ready, to set it down for a little while — the way you might set down a heavy bag to rest your arms.

Why Summer Feels So Hard

Grief is hard in every season, but summer brings its own particular challenges. It is a season saturated with expectation — for joy, for ease, for togetherness. When you are bereaved, those expectations can feel like pressure.

You may find yourself performing happiness for others or quietly withdrawing when the celebrations feel like too much. Anniversaries and milestones cluster in summer months for many families: birthdays, weddings, the anniversaries, vacations that will never happen the same way again. These dates don’t become easier just because the sun is shining. In fact, sunshine can sometimes make the darkness feel more pronounced and even lonelier. It is also common to feel guilty in summer — guilty for smiling at something beautiful, guilty for enjoying a meal, guilty for having a single afternoon that felt, almost, okay. That guilt is understandable, but can also hold us captive and keep us from fully engaging in the life going on around us and within us.

Signs you may need a “grief vacation”

- You feel exhausted in a way that sleep doesn’t fix
- You haven’t left the house in several days & have been avoiding people, places, or small joys
- Tears come quickly and unexpectedly and it is becoming harder to bring yourself back
- You feel guilty when you’re not thinking about your loved one or the fact that they are gone
- You sense a longing — however small — for something light, fun, or carefree
- You realize you haven’t laughed in a while
- You find yourself stuck in the same routine or thought cycle that leaves you feeling worse

Continued on Page 5

Thank you from Rev. Linda

As I have reflected this past month on the 25th anniversary of my ordination to ministry, a verse from Philippians that became a touchstone for me more than 50 years ago has often come to mind: “being confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

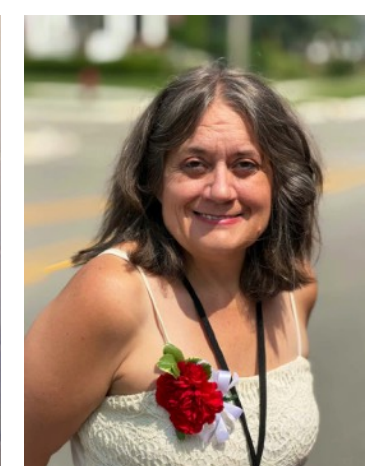
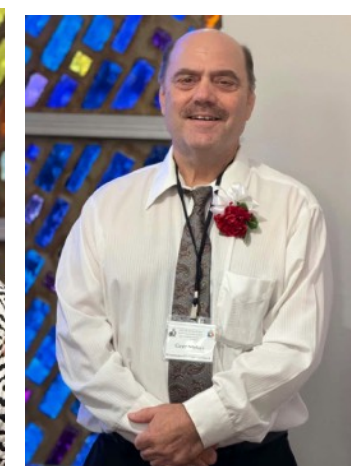
More than 50 years ago, that verse spoke to me in a deeply personal way. In seminary, I came to understand the “you” as all of us — the church of Jesus Christ. It has been my joy to walk and work alongside you here at Westminster for these past 10-plus years. And on Sunday, July 26th, you brought



me overwhelming joy by celebrating the path and journey God nudged me toward so many years ago. To celebrate together as a community, a faith community, was a gift I will always treasure. It continues to be my joy to worship and walk with you. Thanks be to God.

Words cannot fully express my deep gratitude for ALL that went into marking this anniversary. Your presence, the luncheon, videos, “flash mob”, beautiful cards, the garden art poles and generous expressions of support made it a forever memorable day.

— *Rev. Linda Williams*



Welcome new members!

On Sunday, July 19, Westminster Presbyterian welcomed nine new members. They are (clockwise from left): Maria and Jenn Broughman (and Danielle Brown), John Wright and Carm Whiteaker, Paul and Heather Crandall, Greg Stokes, Marcie Keesler and Emily Cruz.

