

THE WESTMINSTER LOG



Vacation Bible School June 12th-16th

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

At Stellar VBS, kids discover what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life. Stellar is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Science-themed gizmos, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Plans are underway for a wonderful week! All children through 5th grade are welcome and we're always looking for teen and adult volunteers. Join us for a STELLAR week!

You can sign up on our website:

www.wpcbc.org

Or scan the QR Code:



Last fall Westminster was awarded a \$1000 grant to host an event for the youth in our community based on Matthew 25: 31-46.

The time has come for us to put that money to good use. Our Youth Group and some adult volunteers have worked together in planning this event for quite a few months and are ready to have the church join with them to help show our neighbors and community that as Westminster Presbyterian Church, "We See You."

The passage in Matthew says this, "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was



hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and gave you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

Then comes the most important part of the scripture, "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'" Right here Jesus is telling us what the church in essence should look like, these are the things that really matter, and this is what is expected of us. The one whom we serve is saying to us, feed the hungry, clothe the poor, take care of those who aren't well, and make sure that no one is lonely.

This is what our youth want to convey to our community. The sole purpose of this event is to let our community's children and youth know that we see them, and we are here for them. We have so much to offer our community whether it is through the openness and genuine spirit of our worship services, or the time we take to love on all the children and youth in the community through VBS or our music groups, whether it is offering them a place to come and be welcomed and truly loved for who they are at this very moment. This is a vital role that is needed now more than ever, so let us come together so that others will know, "We See You."

JUNE 2023 ISSUE 175

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Visit us on Facebook:
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Church - Bay City



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Brandi Higgins (ext. 208)
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Harold Miller (ext. 205)

June

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

website: wpcbc.org

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Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Happy Birthday

Linda Skrocki
Shirley Estabrook
Beverly Rector
Lucille Newcomb
Patricia Quantz

Marilyn Kayner
Bernice Anderson
Darrell Darling
Janet Witucki
Ann West

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

Sunday	Monday
4 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> Do The Work <i>Isaiah 58; Exodus 20</i> 11:30 a.m. Block Party Set-Up 1:00 p.m. Block Party	5 5:00 p.m. Property Meeting 6:00 p.m. Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting
11 Matthew 25 11:30 a.m. Book and Brunch	12 9:00 a.m. VBS
18 <i>VBS Sunday</i> Join us in Worship as share Songs and Lessons from Stellar VBS!	19
25 Creation <i>Pslam 8</i>	26

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
		1 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom	2
6 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:30 p.m. FYI Happenings 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting	7 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meeting 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth and Formation Meeting	8 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom	3 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Block Party Set Up
13 9:00 a.m. VBS 11:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry 1:00 p.m. Lions Club 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	14 9:00 a.m. VBS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith	15 9:00 p.m. VBS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	9
20 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. Summer Movie 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	21 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	22 4:00 p.m. Titus Theatre Performances	10
27 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	28 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	23 4:00 p.m. Titus Theatre Performances	16 9:00 p.m. VBS
		29	17 2:00 p.m. Titus Theatre Performances
		30	1

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

TREASURER'S REPORT

In April, the **Operating Fund** had income of \$34,699.27 and expenses of \$35,432.60. We are once again sponsoring the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission Golf Outing and made a \$2500.00 gift towards this event. We had several expenses for Lenten supplies and Holy Week expenses. Brandi is busy ordering supplies and materials for Vacation Bible School which is just a few short weeks away. Remember that you can set up recurring gifts using our online giving portal, found on the church's website www.wpcbc.org or look for the QR code in the bulletin. Thank you for your tithes and gifts to Westminster.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of \$630.00, and did not have any expenses in April. The Fund ended the month at \$23,513.00. Thank you for contributing to the Building Improvement Fund.

The **Major Repairs Fund** had income of \$659.00 in April and did not have any expenses during the month. The balance at the end of April is \$55,005.59. Thank you to those who contribute to the Major Repairs Fund.

Contributions to the **Capital Campaign Fund** totaled \$5364.60. After our payment in April, the balance on the loan is \$200,227.18. We're grateful for your gifts to the Capital Campaign.

Last month, I answered some basic questions on **Per Capita**. What it is (how we as Presbyterians share in the expenses of the greater church), how it's calculated, and why we make a big push to get every member to contribute. This month, I would like share some of the ways your Per Capita dollars are used within the Presbytery of Lake Huron, the Synod of the Covenant and the Office of General Assembly.

At the Presbytery, your per capita (\$16.77/member) goes to fund the Presbytery office, the staff and the all the services they provide for us within the Presbytery. The Presbytery Staff were a huge to help to us during the pastoral transition a few years ago, providing moderators for our meetings, pulpit supply, and working hand-in-hand with our PNC team.

At the Synod level, per capita dollars (\$3.25/member) make up more than 50% of their income; their greatest expenses include grants and scholarships. Our own Kylee Woodward received a scholarship from the Synod last year for her schooling.

The Office of General Assembly (OGA) uses our per capita dollars (\$9.75/member) to fund so many things, including maintaining *Church Leadership Connection*, the online tool to guide ministers and congregations in their call processes (again, something we utilized when we called Pastor Jamie.) Your per capita goes to support the Presbyterian Historical Society. They recently digitized our Session minutes for us. The OGA brings together congregations, presbyteries, and synods for training, seminars and meetings.

These are just a few examples of how your per capita gifts are used. It's how we stay connected to each other within the entire PC(USA).

.....
WELCOME OUR NEW ORGANIST, SETH CUNNINGHAM!

Seth is originally from Flint, Michigan. Coming from a musical and Christian family, he first learned piano at the age of five, his paternal grandmother was his first teacher. Seth graduated from Mount Morris, Class of 2014, and continued his music education as a bassoonist and keyboardist at The Flint Institute of Music, Mott Community College, Saginaw Valley State University and Duke University.

During this time he was a part of numerous ensembles and taught as well. Ensembles include the Flint Concert Band, Mott CC Concert Band and various chamber groups, Mott CC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, Flint Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Flint Symphony Chorus and Chamber Chorus, SVSU Flute Choir, and the Breckenridge Woodwind Quintet. Seth has also been the conductor of the Flint Symphonic Flute Ensemble. Currently, he is the Principal Alto Saxophonist for the Flint Concert Band. For the last six years, Seth has been the organist and Director of Fine Arts at West Vienna United Methodist Church of Clio, MI. He currently lives in Grand Blanc with his partner Drew Lucio and their 4 cats: Oskar, Nacho, Lola, and Itty-Bitty.

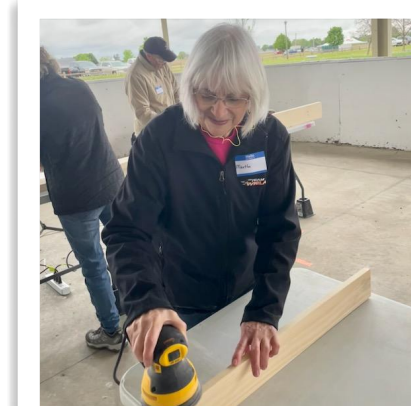
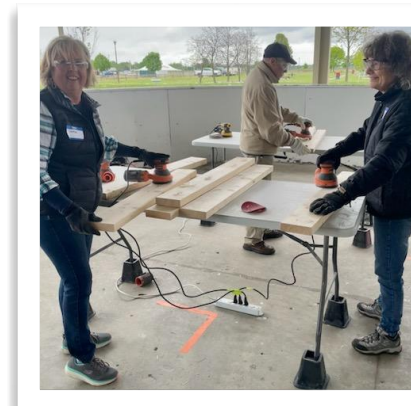


Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national nonprofit organization with chapters throughout the U.S. The Auburn-MI chapter was founded in 2020 by Brian Rueger who recently provided a presentation to our Mission Ministry at our monthly meeting. SHP provides hand-made bunk beds to children who don't have beds of their own. Beds are constructed by volunteers during a build day scheduled monthly and organized by Brian and several skilled associates. To date the Auburn chapter has provided 900 beds in the area. That is 900 children who did not have a bed of their own. Now those children can "sleep in heavenly peace" each night in their own bed.

On Saturday, May 21, a small contingent of volunteers from Westminster participated in Sleep In Heavenly Peace build day along with approximately

40 other local volunteers. After a brief introduction, process overview and prayer, volunteers including WPC, a Girl Scout troop, families and other churches were dispatched to various workstations on the assembly line set up to do either sanding, drilling, staining or branding. We were not required to have any skills and each work area had a skilled expert to train, assist and watch over the process. By 12:00 pm 40 bunk beds were completed and loaded onto the trailer for kids in need. Thank you, Bill Shelt, for providing pre-build assistance and the flatbed trailer. Also, to Len Petroff, Sally and Diego Calvo, Martha Tapley, Dick Frontjes and Darlene Kusterer for participating and helping during the build.

Facebook@SHPAUBURNMI
BRIAN.RUEGER@SHPBEDS.ORG
Shpbeds.org



The need for volunteers doesn't stop with the completed bunk beds. There are several other ways in which to help and support SHP.

BEDDING DONATIONS:

- New and twin size Sheet sets (fitted sheet, flat sheet, pillowcase, comforter)
- Pillows
- Waterproof mattress covers
- Bed-in-a-Bag set

Drop boxes for bedding items are located throughout the Bay County Library System – Wirt, Sage and Auburn Libraries.

BED DELIVERY:

- Volunteers are desperately needed currently to deliver and assemble the beds onsite at the child's residence. Teams are coordinated into small groups. Volunteers who help deliver beds get to see firsthand the direct impact their efforts have on a child's life.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver beds, contact Katie O'Connor at katie.oconnor@shpbeds.org or call the church office and leave your contact information and someone from Mission Ministry will reach out to you.

Mission Ministry plans to sponsor a "Westminster Build Day" in the future. This will be an opportunity for the church to have a hands-on experience sharing the love of God through Jesus.



"I think being confirmed will help me on my path to Jesus and being like Jesus. When I learn about Jesus I learn how to act and how to love everyone and how Jesus sacrificed his life for us for the gift of eternal life."
 "God will always lead us on the right path... God knows what is best for us. God knows everything I have done and everything I will do and I believe we shouldn't be afraid of this because when we go to pray to him, he already knows how to help us."

"Faith is like a rollercoaster. It is a constant uphill and downhill battle with yourself and God. There are times where you block out God from your life, but there are times when you don't. No matter what we do, somehow, we're going to get off track and disconnect with God, but at the end of the ride, we'll always find our way back to God."

"I am a child of God, and I know God loves me. I believe God created the universe and everyone in it. I believe God has a giant plan and that we will follow it. We may mess up sometimes, and that's ok because God will forgive us. It doesn't matter who you are or what you did because God forgives you."



Welcome Maddox, Emerson, Grace and Max!

"I always wanted to join this church because then I could help make it a better place. So when people walk in through the doors they feel welcomed. And when they leave they have a smile on their face."

Excerpts from our Confirmands Faith Statements and pictures from Confirmation Sunday



Matt Redman, Rend Collective, MercyMe, Chris Tomlin, Needtobreathe, Point of Grace, Crowder, Kutless, Francesca Battistelli, Barlow Girl, Elevation Worship...do any of these musicians or music groups ring a bell to you? Do you love singing along with them in the car? Do you turn the volume on the radio up if you hear, "How Great is Our God..." or maybe, "You are my strong tower, a shelter over me..." If any of these describe you, then we have just the place for you. The contemporary choir would love for you to come and join us as we learn and worship using the music styles of those listed above. If you are interested in joining us, please see Brandi Higgins for more details.



and Faith Formation Committee is inviting you to take a break once a month – on a **Tuesday afternoon at 1 PM** – to watch a movie with friends here at church. The movie may be light-hearted, or informative, or thoughtfully heart-warming so take two hours out of your day – once a month – and enjoy watching a movie here at Westminster. Even better – invite a friend of yours to come along.

Tuesday, June 20	<i>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse</i>
Tuesday, July 18	<i>The Song Catcher</i>
Tuesday, August 15	TBD

Stay tuned each month on our church website or in the church bulletin, for more information about each movie as the date of showing draws nearer.

And it goes without saying that with our "easy living, summertime theme", lemonade and popcorn will served. Any questions, please call the church office.

Titus Youtheatre

Where the Kids Really Do Run the Show

Performance Dates and Times

Thursday, June 22nd

4:00-The Light in the Library
 5:00-Death of a Dead Guy
 6:00-Fairytale Invasion
 7:00-A Murdered Mystery & The Board (Double Feature)

Friday, June 23rd

4:00-A Murdered Mystery & The Board (Double Feature)
 5:00-The Light in the Library
 6:00-Death of a Dead Guy
 7:00-Fairytale Invasion

Saturday, June 24th

2:00-Fairytale Invasion
 3:00-A Murdered Mystery & The Board (Double Feature)
 4:00-The Light in the Library
 5:00-Death of a Dead Guy

**Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church
 103 E. Midland St, Bay City**

Cost: Free Will Donation

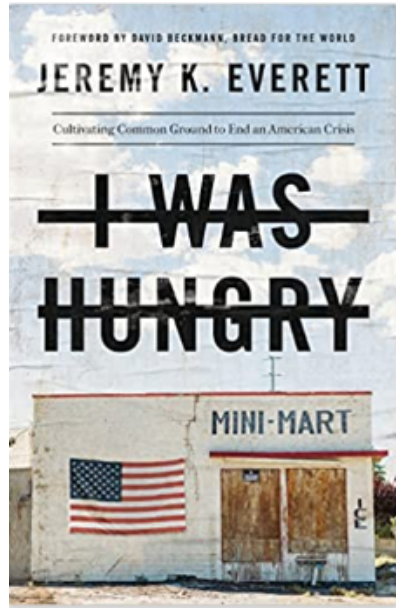
For more information, including play descriptions, go to:

www.TitusTheatre.org

"Summertime and the living is easy" – the opening lyrics of a familiar Broadway show tune. And though at times you may feel like the gardens need to be weeded, the grass cut, the garage cleaned... summer also reminds us of the importance of pausing and enjoying life. To that end, the Spiritual Growth

Titus Youtheatre has been rehearsing and using our building every week night and Saturday mornings since the end of April as they prepare for their performances later this month. Our very own Grace Rezler, Mason Call and Harper Lindahl Milton will take the "stage" along with youth from all over Bay County. We hope you can make plans to attend one of the performance dates.

BOOK AND BRUNCH



As we strive to answer the call to be a Matthew 25 church, we'll spend the summer reading and discussing the book, *I Was Hungry: Cultivating Common Ground to End an American Crisis*, by Jeremy K. Everett. Food insecurity impacts millions of people across the United States, and over 1 million Michiganders. 1 in 9 children in our state live in food insecure households. In this book, the author shares practical ideas and wisdom on how community organizations across all sectors can coordinate their resources and reach even more of our neighbors in need.

On three Sundays — June 11, July 16, and August 20, following the worship service, we'll meet in Fellowship Hall, share a light meal and discuss the book and ways we can put into action the 35th verse of Matthew 25...*"I was hungry and you gave me food."*

Please let us know if you plan on attending so that we can properly prepare food. Books are available through the church office. The book is

also available in ebook format for those who prefer to read using a digital format. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jamie or Rev. Linda.

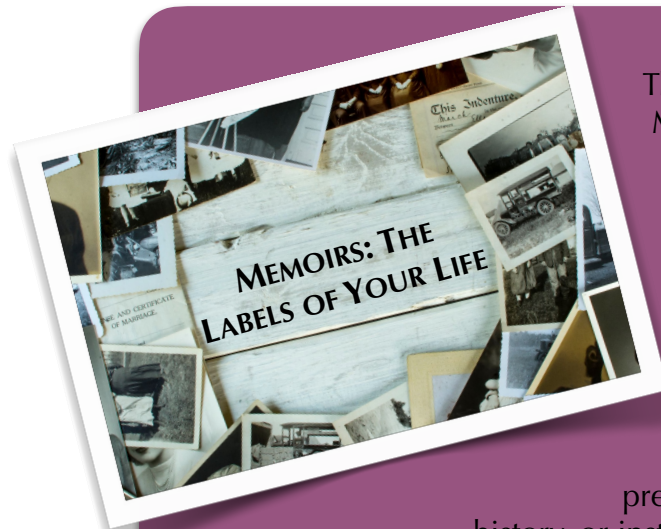
The summer reading schedule is as follows:
June 11- Chapters 1-4
July 16- Chapters 5-7
August 20- Chapters 8-10.

PRESBYTERY EVENT

At the end of the summer, the presbytery is planning a Matthew 25 event to discuss the book and share the ways our churches are engaged in reducing food insecurity in our communities. **Save the date for Saturday, September 30!**

FYI HAPPENINGS

The next FYI Happenings, *Memoirs: The Labels of Your Life*, will be held **June 6, 2023**. The group will meet in the Narthex at **1:30 p.m.** The Bible focus will be Ephesians 1:18 These treasured pieces are given from one generation to the next for various reasons: to create legacy,



preserve family stories and history, or install family values. As God's children, He has given us spiritual "heirlooms" of love, served, and salvation as part of our inheritance. At the June FYI gathering, each is asked to bring a small family heirloom. If you are able to attend on June 6th bring an heirloom from your family. Remember, no one has to share your writing. We have had a great time each session discussing great stories. Hope you can join us.



Words cannot express my gratitude for all the concern, support, and love that I and our family have received from my Westminster family during this time of sadness and grief - from phone calls, cards, meals, to memorials given in Jim's memory. Although due to his declining health over these past two years, he was not able to participate in the life of the church as he had hoped, yet, he felt at home here and had requested that his funeral be held here at Westminster. Thank you for honoring that request. I am grateful as well to Pastor Jamie, Heather, Brandi, and Harold for their care as funeral arrangements were made and for supporting me as I eased back into my responsibilities here. Bless you all.

With gratitude that the story does not end here; Jim rests now in the gracious and loving presence of his Creator and Redeemer, and me in the love and strength of God our Sustainer.

~Rev. Linda



Thank You

*Westminster Family,
Thank you for all your prayers and concerns during my hospital stay. Surgery was a success, I'm cancer free and on the road to recovery. Again, thanks for all the prayers and concern.
God Bless,
Nancy Berta*

MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER

Thank you, Westminster Family, for all the baby items brought in for the Mother's Day Baby Shower. Diapers, wipes, outfits in several sizes, and all the beautiful knitted and crocheted items have been distributed to the Diaper Alliance, the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, and the Women's Center. How wonderful to know that babies and mothers in need will receive these items and feel God's love through our efforts. Thank you, again, on behalf of Presbyterian Women here at Westminster Presbyterian Church.



A THANK YOU FROM GOOD SAMARITAN!

A huge thank you goes out to the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church. In honor of Mother's Day last weekend, members donated items for the babies and children staying at the GSRM.



RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Spring Rummage & Bake Sale possible! Another big thank you to those who donated goods to sell. The rummage sale raised \$1,606.83. The bake sale raised \$275.71. All proceeds support our Food of Faith Program.

Each month the Spiritual Growth Committee will share a few thoughts on the journey of grief that we all experience. We hope these brief thoughts will be of help and support to all.

"Some things cannot be fixed; they can only be carried. Grief, like your love, can only be carried." ~Megan Devine

Megan Devine is a therapist, grief advocate, and author of the book, *It's OK That You're Not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand*. Her quote above called my heart for this month's newsletter.

Grief is uncomfortable and at times downright painful. Sometimes, it can feel like if you avoid the grief, you are sparing yourself the heartache. The truth about grief is that it is something that takes work and attention. It makes its impact on every aspect of our lives: physically, emotionally, cognitively, spiritually, behaviorally, and socially. Even when you think you are avoiding it, it finds its way and makes itself known.

Grief is nothing to be fixed. It is something you carry. It is not just the means to express your loss, but also your love. In your grief, you are called to remember, to mourn, to honor and to celebrate the life of someone who touched every aspect of your life. At times, the grief may feel so heavy, to the point you feel you are carrying a boulder. With time, support,



grace, acknowledging your loss and giving yourself the right to feel what you are feeling; you are opening the door to healing.

You will forever carry a piece of your loved one. Their legacy lives on in you and through you. As you carry them with you, ask yourself how they would want to be remembered. Share their story and what was meaningful to them with others. In talking about them, saying their name, and reminiscing; you keep them alive.

Sometimes we get so caught up in our grief that we feel like we are the only one going through it. While grief is unique to each of us, you are not in this alone. Sometimes it is about having just one person in which you can say it exactly as you feel it. Having validation to know what you are going through is "normal" can make more of a difference than you realize.



The Mourner's Bill of Rights
~Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D.

1. You have the right to experience your own unique grief

- No one else will grieve in exactly the same way you do. So, when you turn to others for help, don't allow them to tell what you should or should not be feeling.

2. You have the right to talk about your grief

- Talking about your grief will help you heal. Seek out others who will allow you to talk as much as you want, as often as you want, about your grief. If at times you don't feel like talking, you also have the right to be silent.

3. You have the right to feel a multitude of emotions

- Confusion, disorientation, fear, guilt and relief are just a few of the emotions you might feel as part of your grief journey. Others may try to tell you that feeling angry, for example, is wrong. Don't take these judgmental responses to heart. Instead, find listeners who will accept your feelings without condition.

4. You have the right to be tolerate of your physical and emotional limits

- Your feelings of loss and sadness will probably leave you feeling fatigued. Respect what your body and mind are telling you. Get daily rest. Eat balanced meals. And don't allow others to push you into doing things you don't feel ready to do.

5. You have the right to experience "griefbursts"

- Sometimes, out of nowhere, a powerful surge of grief may overcome you. This can be frightening, but is normal and natural. Find someone who understands and will let you talk it out.

6. You have the right to make use of ritual

- The funeral ritual does more than acknowledge the death of someone loved. It helps provide you with the support of caring people. More importantly, the funeral is a way for you to mourn. If others tell you the funeral or other healing rituals such as these are silly or unnecessary, don't listen to them.

7. You have the right to embrace your spirituality

- If faith is a part of your life, express it in ways that seem appropriate to you. Allow yourself to be around people who understand and support your religious beliefs. If you feel angry at God, find someone to talk with who won't be critical of your feelings of hurt and abandonment.

8. You have the right to search for meaning

- You may find yourself asking, "Why did he or she die? Why in this way? Why now?" Some of your

questions may have answers, but some may not. And watch out for the cliched responses some people may give you. Comments like, "It was God's will" or "Think of what you have to be thankful for" are not helpful and you do not have to accept them.

9. You have the right to treasure your memories

- Memories are one of the best legacies that exist after the death of someone loved. You will always remember. Instead of ignoring your memories, find others with whom you can share them.

10. You have the right to move toward your grief and heal

- Reconciling your grief will not happen quickly. Remember, grief is a process, not an event. Be patient and tolerate with yourself and avoid people who are impatient and intolerant of you. Neither you nor those around you must forget that the death of someone loved changes your life forever.

St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement Program,
Bethlehem, PA.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join your church family for a time of fellowship before and after Sunday's worship service.

Coffee and donuts included!



**GOD SIGHTINGS
MAY 2023**

**THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR
PART TO SERVE THE
CONGREGATION OF
WESTMINSTER!**



**MEADOW
GUSTAFSON**



**IRENE
ESCKILSEN**

JEFF ROGERS

