

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship En-Couraged

August 24, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.

** Denotes hymn number in pew hymnal. Some lyrics may be different than what is projected on the screens*



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

ANDREW CRAMER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Those who are comfortable standing are invited to do so as we
join together in this morning's call to worship:

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

the courageous and the fearful,

the hungry and the hopeful,

the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,

the poets and the prophets,

the faithful and the tired,

the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey,

wherever your boat is at sea,

there is room for all to gather here.

This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

†HYMN

"Step by Step"

*No. 494

*O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things.

We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear.

We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship.

We are not able to fulfill your commandments, for our purposes are never in full accord with yours.

Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts.

Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances.

Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy.

— We offer our silent prayers of confession —

..ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God sees all, knows all, forgives all, restores all through our Lord Jesus Christ. No one who believes in him will be put to shame, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This is the good news we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
This is good news to share with all people!

†RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end, amen.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Christ brings peace to the storms that seek to overwhelm us.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace and love with our neighbors.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

Let us hear this poem called “Start Close In” by David Whyte

Start close in,
don’t take the second step
or the third,
start with the first thing

close in,
the step you don't want to take.

Start with the ground you know,
the pale ground beneath your feet,
your own way to begin the conversation.

Start with your own question,
give up on other people's questions,
don't let them smother something simple.

To hear another's voice,
follow your own voice,
wait until that voice becomes a private ear
that can really listen to another.

Start right now
take a small step you can call your own
don't follow someone else's heroics,
be humble and focused,
start close in
don't mistake that other for your own.

Start close in,
don't take the second step
or the third,
start with the first thing
close in,
the step you don't want to take.

What's your first step? The one you don't want to take?

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURE - ANCIENT READING
Matthew 14:22-31a

SERMON

"En-Couraged"
Rev. Jamie Milton

PLAY-DOH CONTEMPLATION

- Use your Play-Doh to create a footprint, a shoe, a walking stick, a suitcase...anything that represents embarking on a journey to you. As you create it, think about one step that you have been contemplating taking that requires change in your life. Allow the shaping of the clay to be your petition of prayer to God for the courage and encouragement you need.

†HYMN

"All are Welcome"

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

Refrain:

*all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this
place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)*

*Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)*

*Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not in to temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

†PROFESSION OF FAITH

Those who are comfortable standing are invited to do so as we affirm our faith this morning using these words selected from our Reformed Confessional History.

In the 2nd century, the church sought to define their faith in one God of Jacob and of Jesus, and so we proclaim in the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ.

In the 4th century, the church was faced with a controversy over the unity of the Trinity, and so we unite our voices and our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

In the heart of the 16th century reformation, the church needed to remind itself of what mattered most, and so we answer the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong, body and soul, in life and in death to... Jesus Christ.

In 1934, faced with the racist and anti-Semitic policies of Hitler's Germany, faithful German Christians resisted and responded, and so we have the words of the Barmen Declaration:

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

In the 1980's, the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa saw generations of apartheid and oppression stifling the lives of black people, and so they penned the words of the Belhar Confession:

We reject any doctrine which in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

The present day church faces as many obstacles as any generation before and so we proclaim our commitments this day:

We are called to be a witness to the ongoing work of the Spirit: to stand against racism, injustice, and oppression in all forms; to love the strangers, to welcome the outsiders, and to work for the reign of Christ among us. Hallelujah! Amen!

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Because God cares for all without distinction and is generous to all beyond measure, so we, God's people, are to care for all with generosity and gladness. We bring our offerings to be used for God's good purposes in the church and in the world.

OFFERTORY

BACH STRING ENSEMBLE

*"Concerto for Two Violins" in D minor, BWV. 1043, Mvnt. II
"Largo ma non tanto" by Johann Sebastian Bach*

~ Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad"

†SONG OF COMMITMENT

"Jesus, We Are Here"

*No. 659

*Jesus, we are here, Jesus, we are here
Jesus, we are here, we are here for you!*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together:

**Holy God, we offer these gifts and the gift of courage to go
where you call us. May all these gifts be multiplied for all
those who need our every effort and movement for change.
Bless all of this to your glory and to the work of making the
world a better place for all.**

†HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

*No. 466

*God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.
Cure thy children's warring madness;*

*bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANDREW CRAMER



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Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press.

Abingdon Worship Annual.

Affirmation from Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 24, 2025

- Children are always welcome in the sanctuary. **NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards, who is infant/ CPR trained.

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE:** Beginning this fall on Sunday, September 7, Sunday School will not be meeting before church, but during the worship service following Time With Young Disciples. For more information, contact Leah Sneller, Director of Children and Youth Ministry at 989-686-1360.

- The annual **FALL RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE** is being planned for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, October 1 (church members only), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, October 2 (open to the public) and from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, October 3 (open to the public,

fill a bag for \$1). Volunteers are need to help set up beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30 and to help tear down beginning at noon on Friday, October 3.

Some notes:

Please help with the bake sale by dropping off baked goods on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday.

Please no television or furniture.

Please help us by bringing bags or boxes.

We will need a truck and other vehicles for hauling the unsold items on Friday at noon.

Please bring your Rummage Sale items to church on Sunday, September 28 and we will begin setting up after the service. Your items for the Rummage Sale can also be dropped off Monday and Tuesday until 2 p.m. For more information, contact Bev Buchanan at 989-778-0670.

MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGISTS

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

PIANIST

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SECRETARY

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Tom Tolles

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Andrew Cramer

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 24, 2025

Giving to Westminster

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed. Visit our website www.wpcbc.org and click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code.



Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer. We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. THANK YOU!

GENERAL FUND	YTD through August		Annual Budget
	17		
Income	\$ 326,403	\$	349,910
Expenses	\$ 254,515	\$	474,270
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 71,888	\$	(124,360)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org
website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Westminster

COMMUNITY PANTRY

Is your garden overflowing? We'll take your extras! Donations of fresh produce are most appreciated. So it is fresh for our guests, please bring your donations on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning if possible.

August Items of the month are ready-to-eat items like Spaghetti-Os, ravioli, beef stew and chili. **In September**, we will collect spaghetti sauce and pasta. Please leave your items on the cart by the pantry door. Thank you for your generosity!

Change to Thursday Hours: Starting September 1st, we will close at noon on Thursdays (instead of 1:00). If volunteering for 3 hours seemed like too much, come join us now that we will only be open for two hours. New volunteers are always welcomed!

Scan the QR code to visit the pantry's Facebook page! Did you know you can make a donation to the pantry online at the church website? Scan the

QR in the "Giving to Westminster" box at left, the bottom giving option is for food pantry donations!



PER CAPITA FOR 2025 is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 24, 2025

• **GET THE CHURCH DIRECTORY**

SMARTPHONE APP TODAY! We are excited to announce a new way to stay connected with your Westminster family—we have a smartphone app! Through Universal Church Directory, an app has been created with the photos that were taken for the directory, complete with addresses and phone numbers of your church friends. If you have not received your personal access code via email, please let the church office know and we can resend it.

• **AUGUST 31:** we'll gather on the lawn for our **annual outdoor worship service**. As we worship in the open air under the trees, we'll recount the first creation story found in Genesis as we reflect on God's work and rest in creating the universe.

• **JOIN US FOR KICKOFF SUNDAY!** On September 7th, we'll be kicking off our program year and celebrating the gift of being good neighbors — just like Mr. Rogers taught us! Our service will be focused on what it means to love our neighbors near and far. After worship, join us for a fun Kickoff Tailgate Potluck! Bring your favorite dip, finger food, or dessert to share. Don't worry football fans, — we'll wrap up in time for you to catch the first games of the NFL season (and the Lions don't play til 4:25!). So wear your team colors (or your WPC GRIT & Grace shirt), bring your appetite, and help us kick off a season of learning, serving, and growing together in faith and friendship.

• **SAFETY PROTOCOL UPDATE:** For the safety of our church staff and those who use our building, the interior doors of the Dewitt Street entrance will remain locked during business hours. If no one is in the office,

please ring the bell to be let in. The doors will be open 30 minutes prior to all scheduled events, meetings, etc., and remain open for 10-15 minutes after they begin. This not only keeps those in the building safe, but it also keeps us aware of who is in the building. The staff and relevant committees regularly evaluate and discuss our church safety protocols, some of which we don't publicize, to ensure everyone's safety. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to contact Pastor Jamie or Chris Elzinga.

• **CHOIR PRACTICES** for both chancel and contemporary choir will begin on Wednesday, August 27. Seth Cunningham will direct the Contemporary Choir, which practices at 5:15 p.m. and Dawn Auger will direct the Chancel Choir, which practices at 6:30 p.m. Contact the directors for more information.

• **ADULT BELL CHOIR** will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 7 at 8:45 a.m. Their first performance will be on October 12. Contact director Seth Cunningham for more information. Judy Harrelson will direct the Chime Choir and Youth Bells. The dates and times of rehearsals will be announced soon.

• **FALL TOWN HALL:** The Session is preparing for another Town Hall meeting following worship on Sunday, September 14th. We'll provide an update on the 2025 budget, congregational giving through the end of August, and church spending to this point in the year. There will be a time for questions, but you can help us by submitting your questions in advance using one of the cards located at either entrance to the church or sending it to pastor@wpcbc.org.

The final **Movie Madness** of the summer is
Planned for this Tuesday, August 26
“It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”
Starring Tom Hanks as Mr. Rogers
Showtime is 1:30 p.m. in the Session Room.
Popcorn, candy and soda will be served!

Building Our Family of Faith

Join the *Bring a Friend Challenge*! Each time you bring a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to worship or a church event, you and your guest will be entered into a raffle for prizes (gift cards, a stainless-steel tabletop grill, and more!). Stop by the Wenona Street Welcome kiosk before or after worship for tickets and details. Let’s grow our family of faith together!