

Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship
Sharing Our Gifts
“Love God, Love Neighbor”*

Staff

October 25, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Westminster! We are glad you are here! Take some time to review the announcements to see “What’s Up At Westminster!” If you have any questions, our greeters and ushers are happy to help.

- **THE FLOWERS** for today’s service were provided by Deb Pryce in loving memory of Jason Bleshenski and Larry Pryce.
- **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** Please note the closest emergency exit to your seat. There are exits at all four corners of the sanctuary that will lead you safely out of the building.
- **HARVEST PARTY / CHILI COOK-OFF:** Please join us **after worship today** for some delicious food and wonderful fellowship! Presbyterian Women also will be hosting a **bake sale**, with all proceeds benefitting the Westminster Community Pantry.
- **YOUTH GROUP** will meet from 5 to 7 p.m. tonight.

For Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers:

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! However, if you or your child need a little extra care, we offer several options for you:

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 certified in infant/child CPR.

WORSHIP BAGS are located by the back entrance to the sanctuary. These bags for children are filled with quiet activities to keep children engaged while seated in the pew with their families.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH (K-5th Grade) All elementary-aged students are welcome to join us for a time of Bible stories and fun activities just for them. Following the “Sharing God’s Peace” in today’s service, children are invited to meet their teachers at the back of the sanctuary where they will be led to their classroom. Teachers will bring children back to the sanctuary at the close of the service.

VISIT OUR PRAYGROUND located at the back of the sanctuary. This dedicated space contains activities for parents and children who need a little extra space to move but would still like to be a part of the worship service.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO WORSHIP GOD

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.*



PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - JAMIE - PULPIT

CENTERING MOMENT

Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments hang all of the law and the prophets.
As we worship today, we dedicate ourselves Christ's invitation...to
Christ's commandment to love.

(CHIME)

GATHERING PRAYER - JAMIE - PULPIT

God of ages past and days to come, help us embrace both your
ancient wisdom and your ongoing guidance.
Help us hear anew your words from years gone by.
Open our hearts and minds to fully embrace what it means to love
you, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors as you have loved
us. In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

†CALL TO WORSHIP - DON - LECTERN

Those who are comfortable standing are invited to do so as we join
our voices together in the call to worship:
Come to us, O God.

Breathe through our worship with your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with your faithful love.

Guide us with your ancient teachings.

Come to us, O God.

Be in our prayer and praise.

†HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

*No. 136

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

CALL TO CONFESSION - LINDA - PULPIT

Please be seated.

Let us speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God,
acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - LINDA - PULPIT

Let us pray together:

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:

**We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves
nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation.**

**We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously,
profited at the losses of those near and distant,
borne grudges, desired vengeance,
and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing.**

**We long to live in accord with your desire
that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty
will govern our hearts and minds, turning us toward lives of peace.
Forgive us and lead us**

— A time of Silent Confession —

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - LINDA - PULPIT

Brothers and sisters, the Holy One who promises forgiveness to those who seek the good hears your confession.

As the crucified and risen child of God, your Redeemer fully knows your sorrow and your desire for reconciled relationships.

You are forgiven.

In that promise is the power to love your neighbors and yourselves as beloved of God who created all that exists.

Thanks be to God!

†RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE

GLORIA PATRI

*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, amen.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE - LINDA - PULPIT

When we demonstrate our love for God and for our neighbor, we promote the peaceful kingdom that God desires. Let us share our love for one another as we pass the peace of Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

At this time, children (5th grade and younger) are invited to a worship experience just for them. The leaders will meet them at the back of the church following the “Sharing of God’s Peace” and will bring them back before the end of the service.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION - DON - LECTERN

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, your understanding of Scripture astonished and humbled all around you. Send your Spirit to illumine this Word that our understanding and wisdom may be increased. **Amen.**

HEBREW LESSON - DON - LECTERN

Leviticus 19:1-2

The Lord said to Moses, Say to the whole community of the Israelites: You must be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

PSALTER LESSON - DON - LECTERN

Psalm 1

This Psalm invites us to “love the Lord’s Instruction.” Let us read this Psalm together responsively. Please respond with the bolded text.

The truly happy person doesn’t follow wicked advice,

**doesn’t stand on the road of sinners,
and doesn’t sit with the disrespectful.**

Instead of doing those things, these persons love the Lord’s Instruction,

and they recite God’s Instruction day and night!

They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don’t fade.

Whatever they do succeeds.

That’s not true for the wicked!

They are like dust that the wind blows away.

And that’s why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice

neither will sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

The Lord is intimately acquainted with the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

GOSPEL LESSON - JAMIE - PULPIT

Matthew 22:34-46

SERMON

“Love God, Love Neighbor”

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

*Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.*

*Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving,
until we meet again.*

*Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient,
until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient,
until we meet again.*

*Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE CALL OF GOD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us join our voices in affirming our faith using these words from
“A Brief Statement of Faith”

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God,
was crucified, giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**We trust in God, who created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image.
God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
You may be seated.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER - LINDA

**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 into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT - **PATTI WESENICK - LECTERN**

INVITATION TO OFFERING - **DON - LECTERN**

Look for the yellow “Sharing My Gifts” card in your pew. Reflect on how you shared your time, talent, or treasure this week, then place it in the offering plate as a symbol of that gift. Have a financial gift to share? Feel free to place that in the plate as well.

DON: With thanksgiving for the bounty of this earth,
the work we have been given to do,
the joy of sharing so that others may also live,
we gather our gifts at this time, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

MUSICAL OFFERING

WPC CHANCEL CHOIR

*“Beloved, Let Us Love One Another”
Lyrics based on 1 John 4:7-8; Music by Pepper Choplin*

†DOXOLOGY

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION - **DON - LECTERN**

Let us pray together:

Generous and life-giving God, you made your people in your image, sent your Son to be the face of your healing love in our midst, and promised through the Holy Spirit your guidance and power. We thank you for the ways in which your people have cared for each of us.

We thank you for the ability to give for the sake of others. We ask
your blessing on these offerings
that through them the needs of this world can be met.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN

"As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

FOREST GREEN

*As those of old their firstfruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring,
the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.*

*A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.*

*In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION - JAMIE

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind . . .
and your neighbor as yourself.

Blessed are you, O sisters and brothers,
for you shall be holy, as the Lord your God is holy.
living in peace by trusting in the promises of God.

†POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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Martha Tapley

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THIS WEEK

- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** We will be using *The Wired Word* bible study curriculum that connects current events and weekly news stories with Scripture. Our **Sunday morning class meets Sundays at 9 a.m.**, and our **Thursday evening online Zoom study meets online at 7 p.m.** Any questions, please see Rev. Linda or the church office.
- **HARVEST PARTY / CHILI COOK-OFF:** The annual Harvest Party and Chili Cook-off is planned for **TODAY, October 25** following worship. If you're interested in bringing chili for the contest or just making a pot to share, please sign up on the bulletin board located in the Wenona Street Lobby or with a member of the Fellowship Committee. **Presbyterian Women will be hosting a bake sale in conjunction with the Harvest Party, and is seeking donations of baked goods. All proceeds from the bake sale will benefit the Westminster Community Pantry.**
- **LUNCH AND LEARN** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 27**. Bring your own lunch and join us at noon in the Fellowship Hall as we enjoy our next guest speaker, Annette Jeske from The ARC of Bay County.
- **CHOIR REHEARSALS:** If you would like to add your voice, please contact Dawn Auger or Seth Cunningham. **Bell choir** rehearses Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. **Chancel Choir** rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. **Contemporary Choir** rehearses at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. **Cantata rehearsals** have begun and continue this week at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

MONTHLY

- **FALL BOOK GROUP:** We will be reading and discussing Allen Levi's book, *Theo of Golden* on **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge**. For more information, speak to Rev. Linda or call the church office. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 2**.
- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Our Caring Connections Group is open to the Bay City community, so if you have a friend or neighbor who is dealing with grief, they are welcome to join! **Our next meeting is planned for Thursday, November 12.**
- **LYDIA CIRCLE:** Lydia Circle uses the Presbyterian Women Bible Study curriculum, *Horizons*. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. **Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19.** If you are interested in joining, please contact group leaders Elaine Edwards at 989-397-5642 or Barb Tolles at 989-963-9369.
- **DEBORAH CIRCLE:** We will be continuing our study of the television series "The Chosen" at **4 p.m. Thursday, November 19**, location TBD. If you are interested in joining Deborah Circle, please contact Karen Schoepach or call the church office.

ONGOING

- **WINGS OF PRAYER:** If you have someone you would like to add to our Wings of Prayer list, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.
- **FLOWERS FOR SERVICE:** If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming service, please sign up on the sign-up sheet across the hall from the Sanctuary or call the church office. The church secretary will order the flowers from Keit's Flowers for you and make sure they are delivered the Thursday before the service.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE: Sunday, November 1** during worship.
- **HANGING OF THE GREENS: Sunday, November 22**, help us decorate the church during and after worship.
- **PACK THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Sunday, November 22**, volunteers are needed to help pack Thanksgiving Baskets for our community members after worship. More details to follow. **We will be accepting donations of food items or money on Sundays, November 1, November 8 and November 15. The cost to buy a feather to "Dress The Bird" this year is \$15.**
- **ADVENT DINNER:** is being planned for **Sunday, November 29.**

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!

REMINDER: There's still time to pay your 2026 per Capita, which is \$35.00 per member.



GENERAL FUND	Oct 14, 2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	6,977	368,440.22
One-time Gifts	0	0
Other Cash Received	40	4,673.18
Total Income	7,017	373,113.4
Expenses	20,031.21	347,464.37
Excess(Loss)	-13,014.21	25,649.03

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

Food Pantry Financials As of September 22, 2026

Beginning Balance	\$10,405.30
SEPTEMBER DONATIONS	
Contributions	\$2,338.00
Presbyterian Women	\$700
Online Giving	\$101
Less Expense August	\$4,875.23
	<u>\$8,669.07</u>
Meijer Simply Give Gift Cards	\$7,500

GRANTS:

Gluten Free	\$12,771.80
Infrastructure	\$5,962.98

Item of the

Month: We are pausing our requests for Item of the Month until January 2027 so

you can support other church mission projects like the Thanksgiving food baskets and the Angel Tree Christmas gifts. If you'd still like to donate to the pantry, any food items are welcomed. Please know how much we appreciate your food donations.

Meijer Simply Give Program Continues through the Holiday Season! Through December 26, all Simply Give donations made at the Wilder Road store will be collected for our pantry. Simply Give donation cards are available at the church and in the checkout lines at the store. Just hand your Simply Give donation card to the



cashier and tell them how much you want to give (in \$10 increments). They will scan your card and your

donation will be added to your grocery total. **And mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12**, when Meijer will double-match all donations! At the end of the program, all donations will be given to our pantry in the form of gift cards that we can use to purchase food. Please share the news with all your family and friends! Questions? Talk to Janet Smylie or email pantry@wbcpc.org.

Extra Venison? Did you know the pantry accepts venison if it was processed at a licensed facility? We are happy to take your extras off your hands!

Youth Group News

• **YOUTH GROUP:** Our youth group is open to students in 5th through 12th grade. **We will meet tonight from 5 to 7 p.m.** November Youth Group dates are November 8 and November 22. If you have any questions, contact Leah Sneller, Director of Youth Ministry at youthdirector@wbcbc.org or 989-686-1360, ext. 206.

• **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Do you like to cook or bake meals? If yes, then we would love for you to sign up to help with Youth Dinners for Sunday night youth group meetings. If not, there is still a way you can help with dinner. We usually have dinner from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance. Please scan the QR code or see Leah Sneller to sign up.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

- **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS:** Join us for Fellowship Time! Before worship (9:30 to 10:15 a.m.), stop by the Fellowship Hall for coffee and a sweet treat. After the service, we continue in the chapel with cookies, coffee, and lemonade — a relaxed chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Sign up on the volunteer board near the Wenona Street entrance or contact Joyce Hegenauer. Everything you need will be ready in the kitchen.
- **MATTHEW 25 CAFÉ** at The Salvation Army (322 Adams Street) serves free meals six days a week to the Bay City community, feeding about 100 people daily. They need help with food prep and service. On the **second Tuesday of each month, 5–7 volunteers help cook and serve**. Summer months bring fewer volunteers, so extra help is needed. If you can spare two hours a month—either preparing food (9 to 11 a.m.) or serving and cleaning up (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)—please sign up on the Wenona Lobby board or call the church office with your name, date, and time. **Westminster's next opportunity to serve is Tuesday, November 10.** If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062 or call the church office.
- **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY:** There are a number of ways that you can support our weekly food pantry. Volunteers help assist our clients in choosing food items, work together to unload shipments of food and help to organize donations received from the congregation and community. If you would like to volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Karen Brown-Fackler. You may also support the pantry's efforts with a monetary donation, either by writing "food pantry" in the memo area of your check made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, or online through the donations page on the church website, wpcbc.org. Contact pantry chair Janet Smylie with questions.
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will be collecting coats, hats, socks, gloves and other **warm clothing for guests that come to the food pantry**. You may leave any donated items on the cart outside the pantry door.
- **CARING MEAL PROGRAM RETURNS TO WESTMINSTER:** We're excited to share that a beloved ministry is returning to Westminster — the Caring Meal Program. Sponsored by the Board of Deacons, this ministry provides short-term meals to individuals and families experiencing a recent life event or temporary hardship. A pilot team of Meal Preparers is serving as we fine-tune the process. Once the pilot wraps up, we'll invite the congregation to join us in making this meaningful ministry flourish.
- **FOOD OF FAITH:** Help provide a free warm meal for our neighbors in need! Our next opportunity to serve is **Thursday, December 10**. We will need **two volunteers to help prepare the meal** from 2 to 4 p.m. and **four volunteers to help serve** from 4 to 6 p.m. The meal begins at 5 p.m. Thursday evenings at Messiah Lutheran Church, 501 S. Catherine St. in Bay City at the western end of Veterans Memorial Bridge. Those with questions may contact Pam Johnston at 989-392-1958.



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