

THE WESTMINSTER LOG



AUGUST 2023 ISSUE 177

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The Westminster Log is published monthly by Westminster Presbyterian Church, 103 East Midland Street, Bay City, Michigan, 48706. Articles must be submitted by the fifteenth day of each month before publication unless otherwise noted. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and space. The Westminster Log is formatted to be printed in color.

Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian
Church - Bay City



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Summer Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday
Office Closed

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Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
Parish Associate
Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
Treasurer/Secretary
Heather Heidtman (ext. 201)
Youth Director
Brandi Higgins (ext. 208)
Custodian
Harold Miller (ext. 205)

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

“WE SEE YOU” BLOCK PARTY

Even as our children and youth are preparing to go back to school this month, we are still celebrating the wonderful time that was had at our end-of-school community block party. After receiving a grant to host a community event focused on the Matthew 25 “When Did We See You” theme, our youth went to work planning the activities, games, crafts, and food that would go into welcoming our neighborhood schools to a fun event. In addition to the activities, community organizations that provide services and assistance for youth and families were invited to share their information with the families that attended. We were happy to host representatives from United Way, GLB Pride, River Jordan, the Children’s Grief Center, and the CAN Council.

After months of preparation and planning, we threw open our doors and waited. The result was more than any of us could have imagined. Throughout the three-hour event, an estimated 300 people joined us to eat, fellowship, bounce, and play leaving us all excited and energized at the response of the community. It was such a blessing to be able to welcome so many of our neighbors and get to know them. A BIG thank you to all those who helped out, especially our youth who led by example.



August

Office Hours

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

Closed Friday

website: wpcbc.org

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Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

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

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

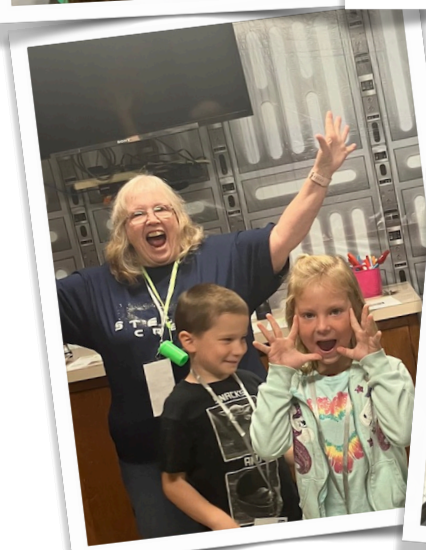
Happy Birthday

Web Tally
Bonnie Scheddel
Jeannie Bradley
Kaye Walker
Barbara English

Mary Jessup
Carolyn Eichhorn
Peggy Hawkins
Carole Fulcher
Thomas Kayner

Sunday	Monday
6 <i>The Great Church Chill Wraps Up with Celebrate!</i> <i>Psalm 118:24</i>	7 6:00 p.m. Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting
13 <i>Service of Psalms and Songs</i>	14 5:00 p.m. Property Meeting 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting
20 <i>Blessing of the Backpacks, Briefcases and Bags</i> 11:45 a.m. Book & Brunch	21
27 9:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal <i>Romans 12: 1-8</i>	28

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
1 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting	2	3 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	4/5
8 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. Bay City Lions 6:00 p.m. Fellowship and Outreach Meeting 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:45 p.m. Spiritual Growth Meeting	9	10 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	11 7:05 p.m. Loons Game
15 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. Summer Movie-Blue Miracle 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	16 12:00 Members to Remember Luncheon and Worship Service	17 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	12
22 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	23	24 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	18/19
29 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting	30	31 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	25/26



THANK YOU!!

I have a cute little lightning bug made out of a clothespin and pompons sitting on my desk. The wings of the bug are in the shape of a heart and on them it says, "Shine your light!" A cute handwritten note and picture came along with this craft. A boy from our VBS attended summer camp and when they were making this project he remembered our theme for VBS was "Shine Jesus Light" so he made this little bug as a thank you to me for hosting VBS this year. This was such a meaningful and sweet gesture. When this young fellow came and handed me his project I got all the "heart tingles" and my eyes welled up with tears. TO think he thought that much about what we had done that while at another camp he chose to make this for me. And whether you know it or not, those who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to making this year's VBS so successful touched the hearts and lives of every child that walked through our doors! Those who were crew leaders spent time, effort, and patience directing kids and shining Jesus' light to them all week, those who took tags home and brought back items that were needed took burdens off those setting up and gathering everything that was needed, those who were station leaders took their jobs seriously and had fun with the kids all while teaching them life lessons they will carry into other parts of their lives...to all of you who helped in any way...from the bottom of my heart...THANK YOU!!!!!!



I recently heard a cardiologist, when asked why he hasn't retired yet, say

that he hasn't because he has "the best job in the world." I think I could debate that. I feel so incredibly grateful for God's call in my life to be a minister and I feel that I have had "the best job in the world" for the past 22 years. Thank you to Westminster for the opportunity to serve as Parish Associate for the past almost 8 years and for your warm affection shared with me on the anniversary of my ordination on July 1. The plant is still beautiful and my not-so-green thumb has managed to keep it alive as it continues to brighten my morning coffee and reading space on my porch.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with all of you in our faith journey of walking with Jesus.

~ Rev. Linda

Church Office Hours the week of July 31st:

Heather will be on vacation the first week of August; several volunteers have graciously agreed to answer phones and greet visitors during the morning hours. Heather will be back in the office, Monday August 7th.

STAFF HOURS

While the Church Office is open 8-4 Monday-Thursday; our staff can have hours that vary from that.

Pastor Jamie, Harold, Brandi and Heather are in the office during those times and various times in the evening when meetings and youth activities start again.

Pastor Linda is part-time and works at the church most Tuesdays and Thursdays from mid-morning into the afternoon. She makes many visits and phones calls throughout the week. She leads Bible Study on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings and is also here for various ministry meetings each month.

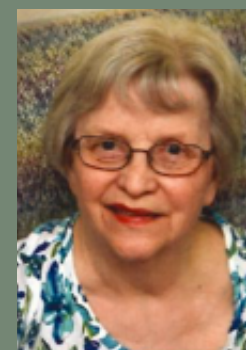
Dawn, Seth, and Rachel are here for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings.

Elaine, without fail, is in the nursery each and every Sunday morning.

All of that being said, we have access to our emails and voicemails when we're away from the church building. While we all strive to have "down" time and days off (usually Fridays and Saturdays) please know you can reach out to us with questions or concerns and we will get back to you during working hours. But most importantly, and we hope this goes without saying, if there is ever an emergency, please know you can reach out to Pastor Jamie or Rev. Linda at any time.

With Sympathy

Mary Kay Prudden



Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Mary Kay Prudden. Mary Kay passed away July 13, 2023. A memorial service will be held September 15, 2023. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Sandy Thibo



Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Sandy Thibo. Sandy passed away July 21, 2023. A memorial service will be held Friday, August 4, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Westminster.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, AND BAGS

During the worship service on **August 20th**, children, youth, and adults will be invited to bring a bag and have it blessed as our young people prepare to head back to school, and the rest of us continue working and playing hard. Bring your backpacks, handbags, purses, briefcases, computer bags, shopping bags, etc. for a blessing. If you can carry something in it, we'll bless it! We'll also have colorful luggage tags or cards for you to take with you.



IT'S LOONS BASEBALL TIME!

Tickets are available now for The Great Lakes Loons versus West Michigan Whitecaps Game. Join your church family and fellow baseball fans on **Friday, August 11 at 7:05 p.m.** It's Friday Feast Night with \$2.00 hotdogs and \$1.00 drinks, ice cream sandwiches and popcorn. In addition, Joey Chestnut, holder 50 world records for competitive eating will meet and greet fans during the game, before performing an eating competition. And following the game there will be FIREWORKS!! Tickets are \$12.50 and can be purchased in the Church Office.



HOME COMMUNION

If you are unable to get to church and would like Pastor Jamie, Rev. Linda, one of our Elders or Deacons to visit with home communion, please call the church office. Home communion is typically served after worship the first Sunday of the month, or later in the following week.
(If you or a loved one is already receiving home communion, you do not need to call.)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 @ 10:30 A.M.

AS THE SUMMER COMES TO A CLOSE, WE'LL JOIN FOR ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE GOD'S GLORIOUS CREATION BY WORSHIPPING OUTDOORS ON THE LAWN.

Worship ON THE LAWN



THE WELL-LIVED LIFE BOOK DISCUSSION

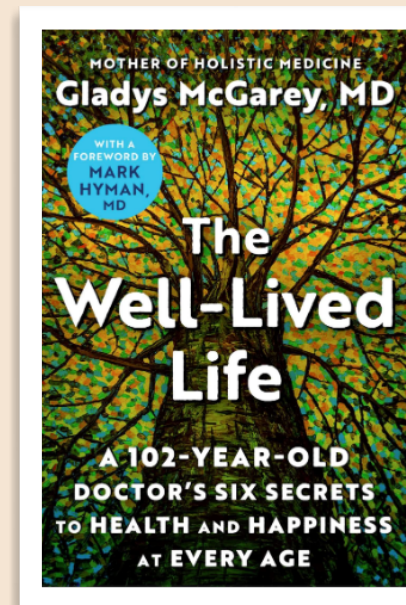
These past two years at Westminster we have made several opportunities to move outside our walls – the fall block party and most recently the end-of-the-school-year event that brought out 325-350 people. This September we have the opportunity to move outside of our walls by sharing in a time with a few folks at Sheffield Bay as we discuss the book – “The Well-Lived Life.” The book is written by Gladys McGarey, MD who is considered by some to be the “Mother of Holistic Medicine.”

In the pages of her new book, she shared her life experience in living life fully (for 102 years!). We will meet on six Monday afternoons beginning in mid-September and explore what she sees as the six secrets she has discovered in living the “Well-Lived Life” – *YOU ARE HERE FOR A REASON, ALL LIFE NEEDS TO MOVE, LOVE IS THE MOST POWERFUL MEDICINE, YOU ARE NEVER TRULY ALONE, EVERYTHING IS YOUR TEACHER, SPEND YOUR ENERGY WILDLY.*

Her ideas are both inspiring and practical. She writes from her childhood experience as the child of missionaries, to her life as a doctor and the wife of a doctor, the mother of six children, and then in her 60's facing both heartbreak and illness. Each of the six sections include a practical exercise to put to use in our everyday lives.

Please consider joining in reading and discussing this book with friends from Westminster and with new connections that we can make at Sheffield Bay, a local assisted living facility. The Director of Sheffield is excited about this opportunity for her residents, many of whom are avid readers and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this book with others from outside their community. AND Westminster and Sheffield Bay overlap in several ways, including our own Bonnie S who regularly participates in some of our Zoom Bible studies.

Please call the church office or Rev. Linda with any questions. Copies of the book are available in the church office.



Our summer movie series is coming to a close in August. July's film was based upon a true story as is our movie for August.



Blue Miracle is a 2021 film (PG rated) based upon the story of a cash-strapped orphanage's guardian and his kids who partner with a washed-up boat captain for a chance to win a cash prize at a fishing tournament.

Blue Miracle was nominated for the GMA Dove Award for Inspirational Film/Series of the Year at the 2022 GMA Dove Awards.

Come join us on Tuesday, August 15th at 1 PM. As always popcorn, candy, and pop are provided just like any good movie theater should have. Please call the church office with any questions.



SALVATION ARMY MATTHEW 25 CAFE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- Did you know that there are thousands of food insecure families in Bay County?
- Do you like to help people?
- Do you have some free time on your hands?
- Would you like to help make a difference in our community?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join a team representing Westminster on Tuesday, August 8, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm preparing and serving lunch at The Salvation Army Matthew 25 Café. Groceries are provided and their Kitchen Supervisor will be on hand to give guidance for meal preparation and serving. No skills necessary, just a willingness to serve others in need. Sign up by contacting the church office or the sign-up form in the DeWitt Street Lobby greeter's desk.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build
July 22, 2023

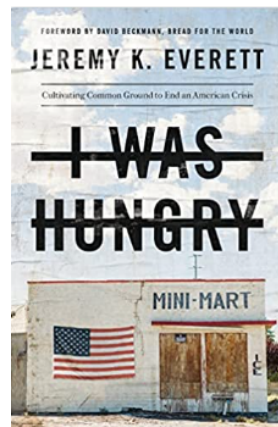


BOOK AND BRUNCH

Our final Book and Brunch meeting of the summer will take place following worship on August 20th. During our time together, we'll discuss the final 3 chapters of the book *I Was Hungry: Cultivating Common Ground to End an American Crisis*, by Jeremy K. Everett, and continue our discussion on how Westminster can collaborate with partners in our area to combat hunger and poverty. Please plan to join us, even if you haven't been able to be a part of our earlier discussions. We still have a few copies of the book available if you would like to pick one up.

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!**



VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Scan the QR codes below to access the sign up sheets for these volunteer opportunities!



Do you like to cook or bake meals? If yes, then we would love for you to sign up to help with the **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS** for Sunday night youth group meetings. If not, there is still a way you can help with dinner. You can choose to provide dinner by providing pizza, KFC, or something along those lines. We usually have dinner around 5:30 or 6:00. You would be feeding between 10-20 youth (You will get the count a couple days in advance). Please see Brandi Higgins or call the church office for more



We are looking for assistants to volunteer with Elaine in the **NURSERY** on Sunday mornings. This doesn't have to be a long-term commitment. Sign up on a Sunday that works for you. Please see Brandi for more details.



Have you ever been interested in what our children do when they leave worship on Sunday mornings...here's your chance to find out! Mrs. Brandi is looking for some weekly volunteers to join her in **CAMPFIRE MEETINGS**. She will have all the lessons prepared and do most of the teaching, but you can join us as a second set of eyes and hands as we worship God in our own way.



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.

Adult Bell Choir Dates

- **Sunday, August 27 at 8:45 a.m. we will meet and distribute music for upcoming performances.**
- **The first rehearsal is Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m. Please have your music marked and be ready to play!**
- **The first performance is October 22, 2023**
- **New members are always WELCOME please see Brandi Higgins for details**

Each month the Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation Committee will share in the Log, 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.



“If there ever comes a day when we can’t be together, keep me in your heart. I’ll stay there forever.”

~Winnie the Pooh

Vulnerable. Uncomfortable. Painful. Ugly... But, also Beautiful—

Grief

Grief is not just about loss, it is about life. Your loved one’s life and who you are because they existed. In the weight of it all, we tend to overlook the beauty or are just not in a place to see it. It is important to remember grief is not the absence of love, but what is experienced because that love existed and what it gave you.

We grieve because we love.

No doubt, you would trade away all that “beauty” in a moment to have them back. It is funny how when you lose someone you love, you grieve even their least loveable habits and can find yourself yearning for one more dish left in the sink, one more ill-timed phone call, one more discussion on how to work a smart phone, or maybe even one more Dad joke.

Grief affects every aspect of our lives and especially in the beginning we are left thinking of all we lost, not all we were given in having them. We are left thinking of what they and interchangeably we went through when they were sick and forced to face the end of such a meaningful life.

We need to give ourselves permission to grieve and even more we need to make time and space for it. Say aloud what you miss about them. Share memories with family, friends and little ones as to what they were like and how you want them to be remembered. Say their name and give others that same permission—to grieve alongside you. While how we grieve is individual, it is still something that needs to be shared... witnessed in a way by at least one other person.

Who is that safe space for you and how can you allow them to be there for you and share in your grief—both the ugly and the beautiful?

Helping Others Understand Grief

What is supportive can look different to each of us. Most have the best of intentions, but sometimes words, ignorance, or perhaps their own grief gets in the way. Surely, loss is something we all wish we did not have to go through. But, sometimes educating ourselves and others on what we are experiencing or need from them can help the process.

Let people know it is okay to talk about your loved one.

Just as you need to give yourself permission to grieve, sometimes others are waiting for your permission to share and be with you in your grief.

Ask for patience. We are not our best self when we are grieving or maybe we are just all over the place with what we are feeling. Be more patient with yourself in this process and help others know you need patience from them, as well.

Educate on the loneliness of grief. Grief is already a lonely process. Then, sometimes we feel abandoned by those we thought would be there for us. Let those who genuinely care about you know what you need from them. This can help you feel less isolated and also let people know you are open to support.

Ask me how I feel, only if you really have the time to find out.

I am not strong. I’m just numb.

I am not only grieving their death, but the loss of the person I was when I was with them.

They are part of me and always will be, and sometimes I remember with joy and sometimes with tears. Both are okay.

I don’t have to accept this death. I have to understand it has happened and it is real, but there are some things in life that are just not acceptable.

Please don’t tell me I can find someone else or that I need to start dating again. I’m not ready and maybe I don’t want to.

When you tell me what I should be doing, I feel even more lost and alone. I feel badly enough, so please don’t make it worse by telling me I’m not doing it right.

I don’t even understand what you mean when you say, “You’ve got to get on with your life.” My life is going on. I’ve been forced to take on new responsibilities and roles. It may not look the way you think it should. This will take time and I will never be by old self again. So please, just love me as I am today and know that with your love and support joy will slowly return to my life. But, I will never forget and there will always be times I cry.

Please don’t say, “Call me if you need anything.” I’ll never call you because I have no idea what I need.

I need to know you care about me. I need to feel your hugs. I need you to just be with me and I need to be with you. I need to know you believe in me and my ability to work through my grief in my own way and in my own time.

Please don’t judge me now. Remember I’m grieving. I may even be in shock. I am afraid. I may feel deep rage or even guilty. But above all, I hurt. I’m experiencing a pain unlike any I have ever felt before and one that cannot be imagined by anyone who has not walked in my shoes.

Don’t worry if you think I’m getting better and then I seem to slip backwards. Grief makes me behave this way, at times. And please don’t tell me you know how I feel.

Give Thanks. Thank those who are genuinely there for you. Thank them for being your friend, for their patience for their help, prayers and patience.

Let them know. When they need you, as you have needed them... You will understand and be there.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

The **Operating Fund** had income \$38,525.54 and expenses of \$45,605.11 in June. Expenses included our quarterly commitments to Presbytery and General Assembly. Plus expenses for Vacation Bible School, piano tuning and as always, payroll and recurring expenses to keep the church running. Thank you for your gifts and tithes.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of \$639.00, in June and expenses of \$3749.99 which included a lawn mower and trimmer to keep our church grounds looking beautiful. The Fund ended the month at \$19,958.02 Thank you for contributions.

The **Major Repairs Fund** had income of \$537.00 in June and an expense of \$5927.00 to Schulmerich Bells for the final payment of the Bell refurbishment. The Bells are back home and the Bell Choir is excited to perform for you this fall!

Contributions to the **Capital Campaign Fund** totaled \$11,635.60 in June. Gifts from the congregation, a bequest and endowment income allowed us to make an extra principal payment of \$40,000 on the loan. At the end of June the balance on the loan is down to \$158,516.88. We’re getting closer!! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fund over the years.

Heather Heidtman treasurer@wpcbc.org