

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship The Gift of Unbridled Curiosity

January 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.



DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Can you hear God's call?

Christ's voice is heard far and near.

Can you discern God's Word?

Christ calls us, one and all.

God speaks of light and life.

Christ loves the mighty and the small.

The Spirit breathes joy and compassion.

We are called into fellowship together.

†HYMN

"You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"

*No. 427

*You are my strength when I am weak;
you are the treasure that I seek;
you are my all in all.*

*When I fall down, you pick me up;
when I am dry, you fill my cup;
you are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, when we succumb to despair
and get lost in our fears of inadequacy,
remind us who we are and whose we are.
We long to feel worthy of your love
and to rest secure in your call
to be a light to the nations.
Remind us, Loving Presence,
to speak words of hope like Isaiah,
and words of encouragement like Paul.
When others ask us if we have found the Lamb of God,
give us the courage and the faith to boldly proclaim:
“Come and see!”

— *A Time of Silent Confession* —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†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, amen.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
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 communion.

SPECIAL MUSIC

WPC BELL CHOIR

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, arranged by Peggy Bettcher

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

GOSPEL READING

John 1:19-42

SERMON

"The Gift of Unbridled Curiosity"

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

"Jesus Calls Us"

*NO. 679

*Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.*

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are created by God, that we may respond to God's love.
God gave us a life which runs through generations and in a wide
complex of social relations. Life is a gift to be received with
gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.**

**We are free to seek our life within the purpose of God: to
develop and protect the resources of nature for the common
well-being, to work for justice and peace in society, and in
other ways to use our creative powers for the fulfillment of
human life.**

**The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the
community in which we are reconciled to God and to one
another. God enables us to enjoy the peace of God as we
make peace among themselves.**

We, the members of the church, are ambassadors of peace and seek the good of all humanity in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics, fighting against injustices when these same powers endanger human well-being.

Our strength is in our confidence that God's purpose rather than our own will finally prevail.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

WPC BELL CHOIR

"Trust and Obey"

MICHAEL HELMAN

~ Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad"

†DOXOLOGY

*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

Dear God, Source of light and love,
all things belong to you.
You generously share with us
the blessings of home, food, friends,
and the gift of life.

Receive and bless these offerings,
though they are but a portion
of what you have given us.
May our gifts and joyful service
strengthen your church in its efforts
to share good news and compassion
with everyone we meet.
This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

*No. 72

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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CHOIR DIRECTOR

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SECRETARY

TREASURER

FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Marilyn Bechtel

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

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**The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the
Congregation to be held during the 10:30 a.m. worship
service on Sunday, February 1, 2026.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 18, 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.

- **DEBORAH CIRCLE** will meet at 4 p.m. **Thursday, JANUARY 29** at the home of Sherry Holley. If anyone wants to join, call Karen Schoeppach at 989-684-1322 or email her at kaysue@chartermi.net.

- **YEAR-END STATEMENTS** will be mailed or emailed around the second week of January. Please review your statement carefully. If you find an error, please let Pat know immediately, so she can make the correction and begin closing the books on 2025.

- **CONTACT INFORMATION**

UPDATES: Heading to a warmer climate this winter? Have you moved recently? Do you have a new email

address? Please call the church office to let us know of these changes so your statement and other church correspondence reaches you.

- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** We provide two opportunities for folks to participate – **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Lounge or **Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. by Zoom. Please note there will be NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY on THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 and SUNDAY, JANUARY 25.**

- **PER CAPITA for 2026 is \$35.00**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360 email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday through Thursday. Closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch each day.

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 | Month to Date thru January 11, | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2026 | Year to Date |
| Pledges & Other Giving | \$ 6,444 | \$ 6,444 |
| One-time Gifts | \$ - | |
| Other Cash Received | \$ 5 | \$ 5 |
| Total Income | \$ 6,449 | \$ 6,449 |
| Expenses | \$ 11,063 | \$ 11,063 |
| Net Income/(Loss) | \$ (4,614) | \$ (4,614) |

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 18, 2025

• **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.

• **OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH:** The January Out-to-Lunch Bunch gathering will be at Pfund's Sandwich Company at **1 p.m. this Wednesday, January 21.** Pfund's shares the building with the restaurant Izakaya (on Midland St. just west of Henry St.) This is the building where Vino's restaurant was located. If you would like to join us, please RSVP by calling Dave Crook at 847-624-6798 or email crookds@earthlink.net.

• **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. You can choose to



provide dinner by providing pizza, chicken tenders, Mac & Cheese or something along those lines. We usually have dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance. Please scan the QR code, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bd7hv7u8> or see Leah Sneller to sign up.

• **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group will also be open to the Bay City community. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. Caring Connections will meet again on **Thursday, February 5** from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.

• **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** Our Book Group will continue discussing *The*

Measure of a Man by Sidney Poitier, **every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.** in the lounge. Come join us! Books are available in the the church office (suggested \$5 donation). For questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda. **There will be no book group on Tuesday, January 20.**

• **LUNCH AND LAUGH WINTER SERIES:** **Mark your calendars for Tuesdays January 27 and February 24.** In January, everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite table games to share some fun and friendly competition. We hope to have enough people to play Bunco again! Then, in February, we'll enjoy a movie together — do you have a favorite film you'd love to watch? Come join us for these special afternoons! Bring your own brownbag lunch; beverages and a sweet treat are provided. Any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

• **BEING PRESBYTERIAN:** When we meet for our next Being Presbyterian class at **5:30 p.m. TODAY**, we'll be looking at why we worship the way we do. We'll take a deeper look at what worship means in the Reformed tradition. We'll gather for dinner, then spend about an hour and a half discussing how our own services reflect that tradition.

• **AED TRAINING SESSIONS** are planned for after worship **TODAY and January 25.** These trainings are intended for lay people, and anyone who is interested in attending is invited! Call the church office for information. Meet in the Fellowship Hall after today's service. The training is expected to last 30 to 45 minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 18, 2026

December Statistics: We distributed 150 Holiday Boxes full of food and frozen meat plus bread and produce. These boxes were purchased with grants from the Bay Area Community Foundation and their Men's Philanthropy Group. In total we served 445 people from 161 families with 10,341 pounds of food. The "snow day" on December 10 kept our numbers a little lower than we would have expected. But we still grew! Last December we served 421 people from 136 families with 6,673 pounds of food (with 90 Holiday Boxes distributed).

2025 Statistics: What a year! In total we served 7,248 people from 2,494 visits with 78,721 pounds of food. People came from nine Bay County cities, with the vast majority from Bay City zip codes. Again, our 2025 numbers would have been higher without the snow day. What a blessing it is to serve our community!

Now we are off in 2026! We already have exciting things to share:

- All of the new shelving is now installed in the pantry, thanks to a great group of volunteers who worked 5 hours to make it happen. The old shelving went into our storeroom across the hall, along with our new freezer. The shelving and freezer were purchased with the grant from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (along with the shopping carts).

Westminster

COMMUNITY PANTRY

- We received tons of food donations from individuals and food drives in December, so our storeroom is full.
- Monetary donations have been received which put our bank account in a good position. It helps to have all the extra food so we don't need to place any orders right now.
- At the end of December, we received another grant from Bay Area Community Foundation to start and maintain a gluten-free section in the pantry in 2026. We are researching and hope to have that in place by the end of January.
- The Ornament Project was well received. We are still collecting the donations from area businesses, so we don't have a total yet.
- We are waiting to hear from Meijer about the Simply Give donations. Stay tuned!

Let's keep this wonderful mission going strong! Your monetary and food donations are always appreciated. — Janet Smylie and Janet Beattie, co-chairs

Want to get involved? Contact Pantry Volunteer Coordinator Karen Brown-Fackler at 989-506-1327 to find out how you can help in our mission to serve our community!

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 18, 2026

• **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** Presbyterian Women are planning their Spring Rummage Sale for Wednesday, April 15 through Friday, April 17. Start saving your items now in preparation! We will be collecting everything and setting up beginning Sunday, April 12. Don't miss this chance to get rid of those items that have been cluttering up your closets, garage, basement and attic!

• **SAFETY TEAM:** A Safety Team meeting is planned for **10 a.m. Thursday, January 29** at the church. Those with questions can contact Steve Kusterer at 989-450-1885 or stvkusterer@gmail.com.

• **ANNUAL MEETING:** The Annual Meeting of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church is scheduled for **Sunday, February 1, 2026** as part of our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Learn more about the ministries Westminster offers and the work we do to help our community, as well as the presentation of the 2026 budget.

• **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CELEBRATION** is scheduled for **Sunday, February 1 after worship. We're looking for 12 crockpots of soup** to fill out our



lunch. You can sign up using the QR code (below), or on the volunteer board in the Wenona Street lobby. The same day, the youth will be hosting a bake sale to raise funds for some of their activities. If you'd like to donate baked goods for them to sell, you can drop them off that morning. Please package your items ready to sell!

• **BULLETIN BOARDS:** Check out the Church bulletin board just outside the

sanctuary for upcoming church events and happenings, **plus sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities for:**

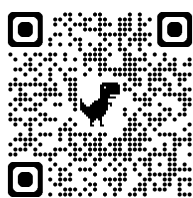
- **Westminster Community Pantry**
- **Food of Faith**
- **Matthew 25 Cafe**
- **Fellowship Time Host**

In addition, the Community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall has information on health screenings, grief groups and other events in the area.

• **JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** Westminster Presbyterian Church-Bay City

• **RIDES TO CHURCH NEEDED:** we have a few church members that need rides to church. If you are able to help, please call the church office. Thank you!

• **JANUARY SERIES:** a free 10-day lecture series that takes place each year at Calvin University and aims to cultivate deep



thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizen in God's world. Thanks to the gift of technology, we need not travel to Grand Rapids to participate. This year a diverse group of speakers have already committed to the **two weeks January 19-23 and 26-30, 2026**. Each session is one hour long, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Scan the QR so you can sign up yourself and be able to watch from home. On the final Thursday, January 29, we will gather in the Session Room to watch that day's speaker together and then have the opportunity to discuss the two weeks' speakers and presentations.