



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Bay City, MI  
Permit No. 278

# THE WESTMINSTER LOG

## Continuing to BUILD Together: The Building Blocks of our faith

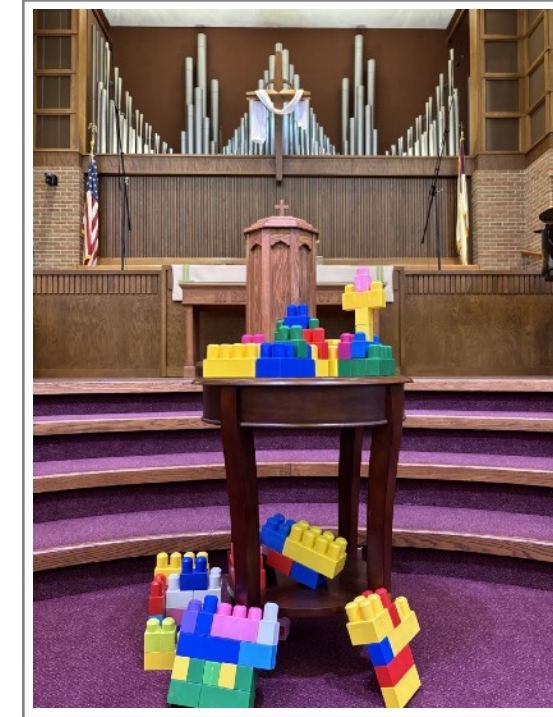
As we journey through the Season of Easter, we're exploring some of the essential elements that anchor our spiritual lives. Together each week we are exploring different foundational principles that shape who we are as followers of Christ. What are the core components that support and sustain our faith journey?

These building blocks form the framework of Christian living: trusting in promises beyond our physical understanding, recognizing Christ's presence in unexpected moments, cultivating genuine relationships within our faith community, embracing questions and uncertainty as pathways to deeper understanding, extending welcome to those with different spiritual perspectives, discovering transformation through communal worship, and honoring the unique contributions each person brings to our shared mission.

Week by week, we're constructing something beautiful together—a living testament to God's love that grows stronger with each foundation stone we place. Come be part of this ongoing construction project as we build our collective faith story, one essential block at a time.

### May 3: Building on the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:2-10)

We are not meant to live out our faith alone, but are called into community, building our faith on the cornerstone of Christ's teachings and example.



### May 10: Sharing Our Faith (Acts 17:22-31)

We don't always know what to say about what our faith or what we believe. We are experts, however, on our own experiences with God and how God has worked in our lives. That's what the disciples shared in their stories, and what we are invited to do ourselves.

### May 17: The Cost of Following Jesus (Matthew 8:18-22)

Rev. Isaac Chung (Westminster's Associate Pastor from 2010- 2012) will be joining us for worship and sharing his family's experiences and work in mission over the

last several years. Following worship we'll celebrate our volunteers (that's all of YOU) with a luncheon!

### May 24: Pentecost Sunday: Being Moved (Acts 2:1-21)

The Season of Easter comes to a close with the birth of the church. The wind, fire, and SPIRIT of Pentecost moves the gathered community of disciples out into the community. There the church can meet people where they are, continuing to share the love and welcome of the kingdom of God!

### May 31: Trinity Sunday: Gone But Not Forgotten (Matthew 28:16-20)

Jesus' final words in Matthew give the church it's job description, go and make disciples. In a time of fear and uncertainty, the disciples likely wrestled with how they would be able to do this without Jesus present. Thankfully, the Great Commission also comes with a great promise, God's ongoing presence.

MAY 2026 ISSUE 210

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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



Phone: 989-686-1360  
E-mail: office@wpcbc.org  
Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pastor  
Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)  
Parish Associate  
Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)  
Secretary  
Bill Petzold (ext. 201)  
Facilities Manager  
Harold Miller (ext. 205)  
Financial Administrator  
Pat Foster (ext. 206)  
Director of Youth Ministries  
Leah Sneller (ext. 208)

# May

## Sundays

- 8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal**  
For our Adults; the Bells play during Worship once a month
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study**  
Our Adult Bible Studies on Sunday mornings and via Zoom on Thursdays at 7 p.m. will follow along with our worship series, "Building Blocks." (Page 9)
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship**  
Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation
- 10:30 a.m. Worship**  
In May we will continue our worship series studying the Building Blocks of our faith. Together each week we are exploring different foundational principles that shape who we are as followers of Christ. See the cover for more details!
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship**  
Join us in Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Bells**  
For Youth in 5th through 12th grade
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner**
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group**  
For Youth 5th through 12th grade
- May Youth Group Schedule**  
May 3: Normal Schedule  
May 10th: Mothers Day! No Youth Group  
Enjoy Mother's Day with your moms.  
May 17: TBD  
May 23: Lock-in (Youth can invite their friends)  
May 24: Youth Bells play in church

Sunday	Monday
<b>Office Hours</b> Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. website: <a href="http://wpcbc.org">wpcbc.org</a> Join us on Facebook Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City Instagram @Westminster_baycity	
<b>3</b> Communion Sunday	<b>4</b> 5:30 p.m. Mission Mtg. 6 p.m. Doxa Dinner 7 p.m. Deacons
<b>10</b> Happy Mother's Day 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Mtg.	<b>11</b> 5 p.m. Property Mtg. 6 p.m. Finance Mtg. 7 p.m. Stewardship Mtg.
<b>17</b> Rev. Isaac Chung returns! (Page 4) 9 a.m. Rev. Chung shares experiences (no Adult Bible Study) 11:45 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (Page 4) 5:30 p.m. Being Presbyterian	<b>18</b>
<b>24</b> Pentecost No Adult Bible Study 11:45 a.m. Gathering and Games	<b>25</b> Memorial Day Church Office Closed
<b>31</b> No Adult Bible Study	

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
<b>Our May Birthdays</b> Donna Gould Judy Randall Larry Wilson Susan Wilson Terry Molyneaux Judy Hudson Gerald Bruce Sharon Costello Jeff Rogers Carol Eagle Patricia Horning Doreen Newcombe Ronald VanTol John Hegenauer *Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members			<b>1</b>  <b>2</b> 11 a.m. Funeral service for JeAnne Hebner
<b>5</b> 10 a.m. Knitting 12 p.m. Yoga 1:30 p.m. Book Group (Page 9) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m. (Page 5) 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Pantry open until 1 p.m. 1:30 p.m. Caring Connections 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom	<b>8</b>  <b>9</b>
<b>12</b> 9 a.m. Matthew 25 Café 10 a.m. Knitting 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 1:30 p.m. Book Group 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth Mtg.	<b>13</b> 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Pantry open until 1 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom	<b>15</b>  <b>16</b>
<b>19</b> 10 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:30 p.m. Book Group 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 5 p.m. Session Mtg	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. ISD Prom setup 1 p.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch H2O's 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5 p.m. ISD Prom until 10 p.m. LOG DEADLINE	<b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Pantry open until 1 p.m. 1:30 p.m. Lydia Circle 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	<b>22</b>  <b>23</b>
<b>26</b> 10 a.m. Log Folding 10 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 11 a.m. Outreach and Hospitality 12 p.m. Bunco in Bloom (Page 9) No Book Group 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 4 p.m. Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Pantry open until 1 p.m. 4 p.m. Deborah Circle 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	<b>29</b>  <b>30</b>

- **Rick and Joy Hebner** — one Mum in Honor of our Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
- **Judy Randall** — a Daffodil in Memory of John Randall
- **Marilyn Bechtel** — two Tulips in Memory of Jerry Bechtel
- **Jim Rowley** — a Mum in Memory of Elizabeth Rowley
- **Sue Ford** — a Daffodil in Memory of Stephanie Lynn and Wendy Renee
- **The Hildebrants** — two Gerbera Daisies in Memory of Eugene Eldridge and Lorna Thrush
- **Karen Mitchell** — an Azalea in Memory of Ralph and Helen Davidson
- **Christine Thurman** — three Gerbera Daisies in Memory of Tom Rivard, Nadine and Ernest Casper and Dean, Helen and Carol Schroer
- **Deb Pryce** — two Hydrangeas in Memory of Jason Bleshenski
- **Joy Thompson** — a Tulip in Memory of my husband Jack
- **Ric and Karen Russell and Herb Collver** — a Tulip in Loving Memory of Sheila, Al and Jane and Bill Collver, Cliff and June Russell, Wholly, and Mae Geister
- **Chris and Kathy Elzinga** — two Tulips in Memory of Howard and Jeanne Elzinga, Bruce and Shirley Arneson and Sally Arneson Roulette
- **Dale Sneller II, Karen Kayner, and Tom and Marilyn Kayner families** — two Tulips In Memory of Allen & Judy Kayner, Alfred & Dorothy Kayner, Gordon & Beverly Parks, Gordon Parks, Jr., Ray and Pearl Miller, Roy and Anna Sneller and Dale Sneller I
- **Martha Tapley** — a Daffodil and a Gerbera Daisy in Memory of John Tapley, his parents and brother and my parents and brother
- **Liz Dore** — two Mums in Memory of Arthur Chambers and Robert Dore
- **Rick and Ceil Buchanan** — a Gerbera Daisy in Memory of Don and June Buchanan and Bruce and Peg Rice
- **Paul and Shari Mehlhose** — a Hydrangea in Memory of Richard Banaszak, Jim and Karen Smith and David Mehlhose
- **John and Marilyn Len** — a Daffodil and a Gerbera Daisy in Memory of Hilda, Gerald and Keith Paul and Kathryn and Henry Len



- **Sharon and Tim Rutzen** — a Hydrangea in Memory of Durward and Marilyn Lapham and Alfred and Jane Rutzen
- **Sharon and Tim Rutzen** — four Gerbera Daisies in Celebration of Zoey Alpert, Brody Alpert, Lil McKeown and Nate McKeown
- **Diana and Tom Ball** — two Mums in Memory of our Mothers, Mary Kay Prudden and Eileen Ball
- **Nancy Swantek** — a Gerbera Daisy in Memory of Jerry Swantek
- **Joy and Art Sponseller** — two Tulips in Memory of Mary Kay, Lorraine, Marian and Tillie
- **Bonnie Marsh and George Shaw** — a Tulip and a Gerbera Daisy in Honor of our Wedding Anniversary
- **Kathy MacDonald** — a Daffodil in Memory of James MacDonald
- **Jack and Janet Smylie** — a Daffodil in Memory of our Parents

## The Out-to-Lunch Bunch

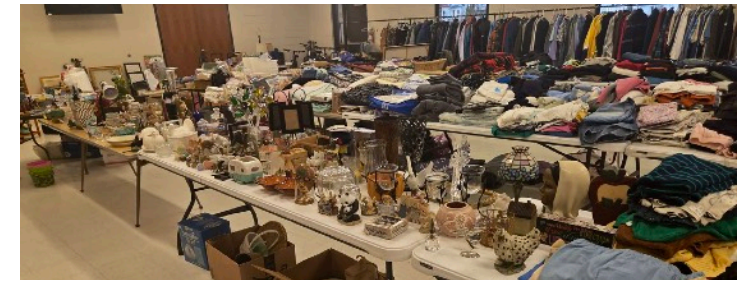
After a nice gathering in April, the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** has selected its next delicious destination! Next month we will meet at **1 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 at H2O's Waterside Grill, 966 E. Midland St.** If you would like to join us, please contact Dave Crook at [crookds@earthlink.net](mailto:crookds@earthlink.net) or 847-624-5798 to RSVP by Monday, May 18, so we can give them an accurate head count for our group.

## Thank you Spring Rummage and Bake Sale volunteers!

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Spring Rummage and Bake Sale a success! Thanks to your donations and our volunteers, the sale raised \$3,500 for the Presbyterian Women!

Thank you to everyone who helped:

- to those who helped set up the sale and organize the items on tables
- to those who baked delicious homemade treats for the bake sale (which SOLD OUT in record time!)
- to those who helped work the sale and welcome shoppers
- to those who helped clean up and load the unsold items for donation to local charities



Finally, thank you to Bev Buchanan for her efforts to help organize the rummage sale volunteers and to Barb Tolles who helped organize and oversee the bake sale. Everyone who helped: You are a blessing to our church and our community. Thank you!

## Westminster on the Web!

### New website

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry has been working with a local web designer to revamp our church website! Go to [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org) and check it out.



### Westminster is now on Instagram!

In addition to getting all your favorite content and information on Facebook, you can now follow Westminster on Instagram. Check us out and follow us @ [Westminster\\_baycity!](https://www.instagram.com/Westminster_baycity/)

## Gathering and Games

What better way to spend a holiday weekend than playing games with your church friends! If you've got some time after worship on **Sunday, May 24th**, stick around and join our time of Gathering and Games! We usually have a couple of different table games going, and there's always space for those who just want to chat. Whether you're eager to join in the friendly competition or simply want to enjoy good conversation and refreshments with fellow church members, we'd love to have you stay and be part of the fun!

## WPC and Me

**Interested in becoming a member** or learning more about Westminster? Pastor Jamie is working to schedule the next "WPC and Me" class sometime in May. Please let the church office know if you'd like to participate or email Pastor Jamie at [pastor@wpcbc.org](mailto:pastor@wpcbc.org).



If you know someone who is graduating from high school, college, or university, please call the church office and let us know!

We will honor graduates on **June 7th** during the worship service.

We're looking for a picture, where they are graduating from and any future plans. If you would like your favorite grad included in the slideshow, please get your information in by May 26.



Thank you to our Facilities Manager, Harold Miller, who built this sturdy little donkey for Palm Sunday!



*Thoughts from the Pews*

**Broken Yolks**

*NOTE: In this season of resurrection, Spiritual Growth & Faith Formation is resurrecting devotions written by members of Westminster (with occasional contributions by Pastor Jamie and Pastor Linda). In our time of isolation during Covid, devotions written by members of the Westminster family were posted to the church's Facebook page. It was one of the ways we kept connected. Now we will have the devotions printed in the Log. May these devotions touch you, renew your spirit, bring comfort and, at times, bring a spark of laughter.*



*"When the yolk breaks, 'sunny side up' becomes 'scrambled.'"*

That was me as I made my breakfast this morning. I had laid out everything I would need to fry my egg just the way I wanted it. I could already taste it!

Then, the yolk broke as I cracked open the egg to drop it into the pan. As I watched the yellow spread out, my menu for the morning had to change. I would still have toast and milk. But, instead of eating a bite of egg white and then a bite of yolk, I would be eating yolk and white scrambled together. I am still getting breakfast. I am still eating an egg. Just not in the way I had planned.

When you don't get what you want, try wanting what you get.

Sometimes life takes our "sunny side up" plans and "scrambles" them. You can waste time and part of your life mourning what should have been or take hold of what is, move on, and make the best of it. I'm not saying it will be easy. I'm not saying you need to be happy about it. I'm saying open up to another possibility. Check out ways to work with the new situation. Change things where possible and accept what can't be changed.

Perhaps God sees another path for you. Maybe you are not ready for what it is you want, and God is telling you to wait. Trust in Him. Look for the blessings and show gratitude in all you do.

— KSS 08/28/2020

**MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER**

Presbyterian Women will be hosting its annual Mother's Day Baby Shower! We will be collecting donations of baby items until Sunday, May 10. On Mother's Day, we will distribute them to organizations that help young mothers in need. Suggested items include: diapers, pacifiers, bibs, blankets, onesies, bath items and towels, socks and clothing, bottles and dishes and toys.



### Volunteers build 58 beds for children in our community!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the sponsored bed build at Gerace Construction in Midland on April 18. Volunteers from Westminster, along with members of the Bay City Morning Rotary, came together to build 58 beds for children in our community who previously did not have a bed of their own. It was a meaningful day of fellowship and service, with many hands working together to make a lasting difference.

It is truly inspiring to see our church family serving God in this way, and to know the joy these beds will bring to the children who receive them. The Mission Partnership Committee



hopes to continue this important ministry and looks forward to another build next year. Additional build opportunities

are available throughout the year—if you are interested in participating, please contact Len Petroff for more information.

### 2026 End of School Block Party

Get ready for our FOURTH Annual End-of-School Block Party! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 7th**, when we'll once again open our doors to celebrate with local school children and their families as another academic year comes to a close. This event has quickly become an event that the community and our partners look forward to each year! We love being able to open our doors, share our space, and welcome local non-profit organizations who share valuable resources with attending families.

We're anticipating another great turnout—we've welcomed over 300 community members in recent years. With an event of this size, we need volunteers to help make the day successful and welcoming for everyone! There are opportunities to serve both before, during, and after the block party:

**Behind the Scenes:** Help with event preparation and setup

**Food Service:** Join our kitchen team to prepare, cook, and serve lunch

**Game Leaders:** Run activities and games for children and families

**Greeters/Welcome hosts:** Greet guests and provide a friendly first impression

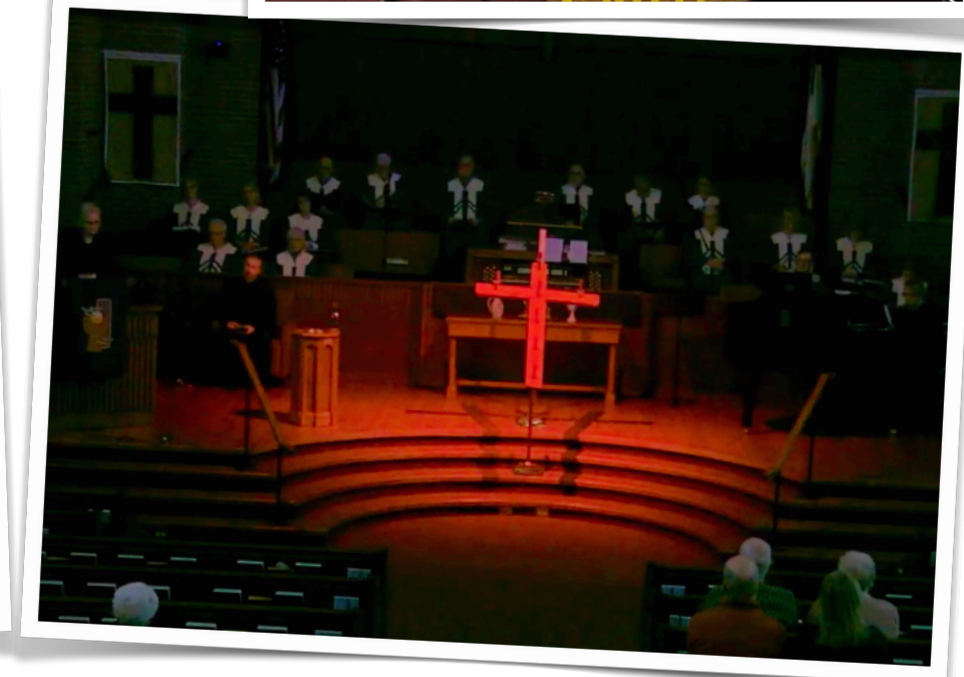
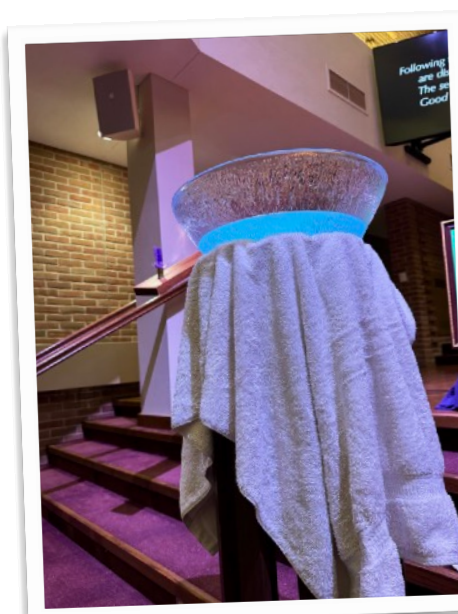
**Support Volunteers:** Assist with various tasks and help guests navigate the event

Whether you have an hour to spare or can help for the entire event, your contribution will make a difference in creating a memorable experience for our community. We'll do our best to match your interests and availability with the perfect volunteer role! Watch for upcoming sign-up opportunities in your bulletins and online announcements.

In past years, we have been fortunate enough to receive grants and sponsorships from area businesses to help offset event expenses. While we're actively seeking similar support for this year's event, that funding has not yet been confirmed. However, the Session remains committed to hosting this vital service as an outreach to the community. Your faithful giving to our General Fund makes events like this possible and demonstrates our church's heart for serving our neighborhood!



**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to making our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so meaningful this year. From our talented musicians and singers to our dedicated readers, communion preparers, and welcoming ushers—each person played a vital role in helping us experience God's story of love and redemption together. Special appreciation also goes to all who worked tirelessly to create another wonderful Easter breakfast that brought our community together in fellowship. The spirit of service and dedication shown by so many reminds us of the countless blessings we share at Westminster!



## Welcome back Rev. Chung!

We are excited to welcome Rev. Isaac Chung and his family back for a visit on Sunday, May 17! Rev. Chung served as the Associate Pastor at Westminster from 2010 to 2012. For the last couple of years, Rev. Chung and his family have lived overseas, serving as global partners with the Antioch Partners.

Before worship, Rev. Isaac and Misty will share about their mission work and their time overseas. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall from 9 to 9:45 a.m. with Coffee Fellowship to follow.

During the 10:30 worship service, Rev. Isaac will preach on Matthew 8:18-22.

Following worship, Rev. Chung and his family will join us for our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (more details below) where friends can catch up with them and hear more about their travels.



Rev. Isaac Chung speaks to the children of Westminster during the Easter Sunday service in 2011.

We hope you'll be able to join us for this special day as we welcome Rev. Chung and hear about God at work around the world!

## Join Us for Our Annual Volunteer Celebration Lunch (May 17<sup>th</sup>)

Westminster's Session and Staff invite you to a special appreciation luncheon honoring all the wonderful volunteers who make this church such a vibrant community of faith. This gathering is our small way of expressing our GREAT gratitude for the countless ways you contribute your gifts, energy, and passion to our church family.

From choir members and bell ringers to committee participants, from those who nurture our young people to food pantry volunteers, from our welcoming ushers to our tech team members, from fellowship hosts to the many others who serve in various capacities—this celebration recognizes YOU and your faithful service.

Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed, and we want to take this opportunity to say thank you while enjoying good food and fellowship together. Come be honored for the meaningful difference you make in our shared ministry!

## Prayer in the Pew Ministry

*A quiet movement of intercession –  
Right where you sit.*

A simple invitation to pause, pray and lift our leaders, our community and our nation before God. And to pray for those around us in need ...  
whatever their need might be.

You are invited to take a few quiet moments before or after worship and use the PRAYER IN THE PEW booklet that can be found in the hymnbook rack in your pew. You may want to use the included prayers or just sit in silent prayer and join this gentle ministry of intercession. You are also invited to join the Prayer Team at the front of the church/lectern side following worship who will gather briefly for silent or communal prayer.

## May Selection: The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd

Our Book Group is excited to begin a new reading journey with *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

This book is a thoughtfully told story set in the time and place of Jesus, imagined through the life of Ana, a woman with a deep spiritual hunger and a love for words. As Ana seeks meaning, belonging, and faithfulness in a world that often limits her voice, the novel tenderly explores themes of love, devotion, courage, and hope. Written with lyrical grace, the story invites readers to reflect on longing—not as something to be silenced, but as a sacred invitation to growth and grace.

As one reflection from the book suggests, Longing itself can be holy — an inward stirring that leads us toward truth and courage. Even a quiet, hidden faith can shape a life in lasting ways. The book presents faith less as rigid doctrine and more as an evolving, questioning



relationship with God — one shaped by doubt, reflection, and deep listening.

**Join us on Tuesday, May 5th at 1:30 p.m.**

Whether you're a returning participant or joining for the first time, we welcome you to come enjoy warm fellowship, meaningful discussion, and the uplifting message this story offers. Bring your thoughts, reflections, and the moments that spoke to you. We look forward to sharing this journey

together! Any questions, please call Rev. Linda. A few copies are still available in the church office.

We will be wrapping up this season's Book Group in May. Stay tuned for our summer movie series, which begins Tuesday, June 9. Four movies have been chosen but we are still looking for a couple of more suggestions. See Rev. Linda with your ideas.

Book Group will resume in September.

## BUNCO in Bloom!

Join us on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** at noon for lunch (bring your own brown bag; beverages and sweet treat provided) and then let the fun begin at 12:30 when we will play Bunco. No skill necessary; it is truly a game of luck. And laughter. Any questions, please call the church office.

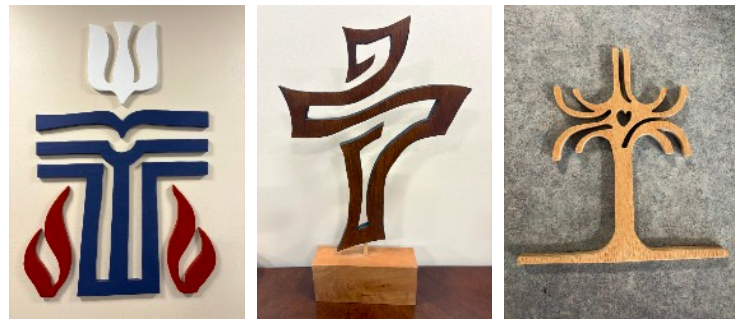
## Adult Bible Study

"Westminster in Worship – Building Blocks: Stories of the Early Church" highlights foundational commitments of Christian faith during the Great Fifty Days between Easter and Pentecost. Both in worship and Bible study we will explore themes such as believing without seeing, recognizing Christ's presence, living in community, and asking faithful questions, using the weekly lectionary passages to guide our study and reflection.

Join us for Sunday morning Bible study at 9:30 a.m. or Thursday evening Zoom study at 7 p.m. We will follow these same scripture passages and themes each week, allowing participants in either group to journey together through this shared exploration of early church experiences and core practices of faith.

We will be wrapping up this year's Bible Study series on Sunday, May 10 & Thursday, 14. Stay tuned for more information about the summer Bible study series – *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit.*

On **Sunday, May 17**, Rev. Isaac Chung will be sharing experiences from serving abroad as a missionary during the 9 a.m. hour so **there will be no bible study that day.**



Some examples of Tom Tolles' woodworking.



We give thanks this month for **Tom Tolles**, a faithful member of Westminster since **1978**. Tom has served the church with a generous spirit, including as a **Deacon**, and continues to share his many gifts among us.

Through his remarkable **woodworking**, Tom has quietly shaped the spaces of our church. His

craftsmanship is woven throughout the building, a visible reminder of faith expressed through service. We are grateful for Tom's devotion and commitment as seen in the many ways his hands and heart reflect God's presence among us.



### Being Presbyterian: The Lord's Supper

Join us on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** for the final session of our Being Presbyterian class before summer, where we'll focus on the Eucharist (Lord's Supper). In our previous gathering, we explored the sacrament of Baptism and its role in our faith community. Now we'll complete our conversation on the sacraments by examining:

- How does the Lord's Supper function in our worship and community life?
- What principles guide our Reformed understanding and practice of Communion?
- How does this sacred meal connect us to Christ and to one another?

Together, we'll discover how this holy act embodies God's grace and strengthens our bonds as a faith community. Whether you're new to Presbyterian traditions, reconnecting with your roots, or simply eager to understand the spiritual significance of Communion, this class is for you! Come prepared to learn, question, and share as we deepen our appreciation for how the Eucharist enriches our worship experience and fellowship. All are welcome!



Mark your calendars, Bay Shore Camp's On the Road Day Camp is returning to Westminster August 3 through August 6. Camp is open to those entering Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration is LIVE through the camp's website: <https://bayshorecamp.campbrainregistration.com/> or scan the QR code to register. Camp fills up quickly, so be sure to register early!



We are still working out the details on what we might be able to offer for others outside of these age groups. More details will be available soon!

## Kolb Elementary students donate 200-plus boxes of cereal

**March Statistics:** We served 560 people from 198 households with 6,855 pounds of food. These families included 157 children and youth, 291 adults, and 112 seniors. 44 families were first-time guests. We see the working poor, single mothers, lots of young adults, intergenerational families, and many seniors—some raising grandchildren. Thank you for partnering with us to provide for people who are food insecure!

**The May "Item of the Month"** is Mayonnaise and Miracle Whip. We cannot get these from the Food Bank or Hidden Harvest, so they will be a great addition to our pantry. Smaller jars are most appreciated. All donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you!

### More Community Support

A big "Thank You!" to:

- **Heidi's Darn Good Cookies** for the donation of three huge boxes of cookies — a total of over 250 treats! This is a yummy addition to the pantry that is really appreciated by our guests.
- The students and staff at **Kolb Elementary School** for over 200 boxes of cereal. Our shelves are full of all different kinds of cereal which our guests will love. We really appreciate being a recipient of their recent cereal drive!

### It's almost time to plant your garden!

Consider planting a little extra to donate to the pantry! Fresh produce is a wonderful addition to our summer pantry options. All donations are welcomed.

### We Would Like to Expand our Volunteer Team!

Did you know we need 6 volunteers for every pantry shift? A few hours when you are able will help us immensely. You can help when the pantry is open by escorting guests through the pantry or volunteer to take their bags to their cars. Each shift is led by one of the co-chairs. Orientation/training is given before your first shift. Time commitment is Wednesdays from 3:45-6:15 p.m. or Thursdays from 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



*Pantry guests will be able to enjoy their favorite breakfast cereal thanks to a generous donation by the students of Kolb Elementary.*

Besides serving our community, we have a lot of fun and form strong friendships with the other volunteers! You may also consider asking a non-member friend to join you. Want more information? Talk to co-chairs Janet Smylie or Janet Beattie, Volunteer Coordinator Karen Brown-Fackler, stop by when we are open to see our operation, or send an email to [pantry@wpcbc.org](mailto:pantry@wpcbc.org). We'd love to have you join our team!

### Westminster Presbyterian Financial Snapshot

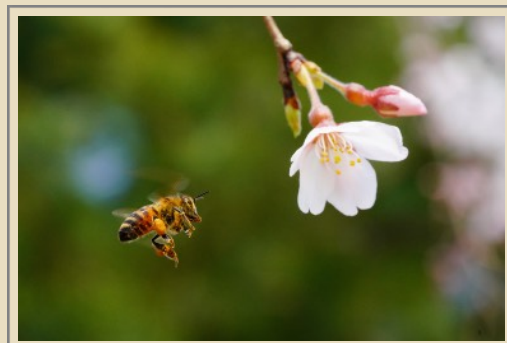
GENERAL FUND	Month to Date thru April 19,	
	2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 36,802	\$ 228,867
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Cash Received	\$ 466	\$ 3,160
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 37,268</b>	<b>\$ 232,027</b>
Expenses	\$ 26,524	\$ 134,356
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 10,744</b>	<b>\$ 97,671</b>

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

## Spring Cleaning the Heart

### *Sorting Through Belongings After a Loss*

Cleaning out a loved one's home or sorting through their belongings is not simply a practical task. It is emotional, spiritual, and deeply personal. Some find it refreshing, others may find it utterly devastating, and many find it a little bit of both. Either way, it is often one of the most tangible ways we encounter the reality of our loss.



guilty for giving something away. It is okay to feel anger at having to do this work or being left with a mess after a person's death. It is normal to feel fear that letting go of belongings means letting go of the person. It's not wrong for feeling a sense of relief when a space is cleared or

an object finds a new home. It is not unusual to laugh at a memory one moment and cry the next. Remember, grief is rarely tidy.

Different losses also shape this experience differently. Sorting through a spouse's closet may feel like touching a shared life. Packing up a parent's kitchen can stir childhood memories. Clearing a child's room may feel profoundly sacred and heartbreaking. Even losses of siblings, grandparents, or dear friends carry their own unique weight. The relationship shapes the meaning of every object.

Spring often invites us to think about renewal. But renewal in grief does not mean erasing what was. It means learning how to carry love forward in a new way. As you sort through belongings, you may begin to notice that what truly matters is not the quantity of items kept, but the stories attached to them. Sometimes a single recipe card, tool, or sweatshirt holds more meaning than boxes of stored things.

**You are not required to keep everything to honor someone's life. And you are not required to part with anything before you are ready.** Spring cleaning in grief is not about erasing the past. It is about gently tending to it. It is about honoring what was, making space for what is, and trusting that even in sorrow, new seasons will come.

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

Spring has a way of shining light into corners we have not visited in months. Windows are opened. Closets get aired out. We feel an urge to tidy, refresh, and begin again. For those who are grieving, however, "spring cleaning" can feel very different. It may mean walking into a home that is too quiet. Opening drawers that still hold a favorite sweater. Deciding what to do with a lifetime of belongings that feel far more sacred than ordinary things.

There is no single "right" timeline for this work. Some families need to move quickly due to housing needs or financial pressures. Others leave everything untouched for months or even years. All these responses are normal and valid. Grief moves at its own pace and in its own way within everyone.

For some, the home feels like a sanctuary. For others, it feels overwhelming — a reminder of hospital equipment, difficult final days, or conversations that will never be finished. You may find that one room feels manageable while another feels impossible. You may discover that certain objects bring comfort while others bring a wave of tears you did not expect.

As you sort through all the tangible things, you may also find yourself sorting through some complex emotions. It is common to feel

### Grief is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity

The month of May will be here soon with many people anxious to clean out those closets and give things a fresh new look, let the fresh air in and breathe.

What about the person who has had a death in their household and all of the deceased's possessions are still in the exact same places they were when the person passed? How do you go about taking care of these items?

In our grief group we have discussed and shared ways of tackling this difficult job. Where do you start? How soon after the funeral do you start? What do you keep? What do you give away? Do you sell things? These and many others are questions people ask. Statistics state it takes at least a good year for the reality of the death to sink in. Other than necessary legal things there is no real time frame to part with your loved one's possessions.

You can help your grief journey either by

*Grief is not a disorder, disease or sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity. The price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve. — Earl Grollman*

yourself or calling together family members to sort through things and share memories as you go. Things that have little significance can be placed in a pile and disposed of later. This can all be a part of the healing.

Members of our group have shared some interesting ways of how they handled this "cleaning period" after a loss.

If this is something you might be dealing with, please join us at our next **Caring Connections meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 1:30 until 3 p.m. at the church.** We welcome all at any stage of their grief. No pressure involved. Lots of sharing, but you're welcome to come and just listen as well. A great place to find comfort and healing with great friends you may not have even met yet.

Wishing you peace and comfort on your grief journey,

*Mary*

*If you are approaching the task of cleaning out a loved one's home or sorting through their belongings, here are some gentle reminders and guidelines that many find helpful:*

- 1. Give yourself permission to go slowly.** You do not have to complete everything in one weekend. Set small, manageable goals — one drawer, one shelf, one hour at a time.
- 2. Ask for support.** Invite a trusted friend or family member to sit with you. Their presence alone can steady you.
- 3. Sort into simple categories.** Keep, Donate, Offer to Family/Friends, Unsure. The "Unsure" box can be revisited later when emotions are less intense.
- 4. Take photos of meaningful spaces or items.** Sometimes a photograph preserves the memory without requiring you to keep the object itself.
- 5. Choose a few intentional keepsakes.** Rather than saving everything, consider selecting a small number of items that truly represent your loved one.
- 6. Create a memory ritual.** Play their favorite music while you sort.
- 7. Care for your body.** Drink water. Take breaks. Step outside for fresh air.
- 8. Release guilt.** Donating items can be a meaningful way to extend your loved one's legacy.
- 9. Consider professional help if needed.** Clean-out services or professional organizers can provide practical and emotional support.
- 10. Remember: love does not live in objects.** The belongings are symbols. The relationship, the memories, and the love remain part of you and cannot be "swept away."