

# Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship*

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Volunteer Appreciation Sunday*

May 18, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

*†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.*



## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

INTROIT

CHIME CHOIR

*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Please rise, in body or in spirit, as you are most comfortable, and join in the call to worship.

The One who loves without distinction — calls us here.

**They will know we are Christians by our love.**

The One who loves us completely — welcomes us home.

**They will know we are Christians by our love.**

The One who loves us well — rejoices in our presence.

**They will know we are Christians by our love.**

## **†HYMN**

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

HYMN NO. 40

*For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:*

*Refrain:*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)*

*For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)*

*For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)*  
*For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us pray:

**God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation.**

**Hear us now as we come to you in silence ...**

*— Continue in Silent Confession —*

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

### **†RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE**

*Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven’s choices;  
heavenly music let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

### **†SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us share signs of peace.

## **TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

### **PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

### **First Reading**

**John 13:31-35 (Common English Version)**

**Second Reading**  
**Acts 11:1-18 (The Message translation)**

**SERMON**

*“An Unexpected Change of Menu”*  
Rev. Linda Williams

**†HYMN**

*“In Christ There is No East or West”*

HYMN. NO. 603

*In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west;  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

**†PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Please remain standing if you are comfortable doing so as we  
join in our Profession of Faith.

We believe in a Christ who teaches, sees, affirms,  
and celebrates all of who we are.  
We believe in a Christ who invites us to use our gifts for good  
and celebrates every step we take in that direction.  
We believe in a Christ who understands our anxieties  
and is gentle with our concerns.  
And we believe in a Christ who looks at us with undiluted love.  
The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners,  
but we know love has no limit.  
So with God's help, may we nurture our faith and do good  
work. Amen.  
Please be seated.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

BELL CHOIR

*"10,000 Reasons" words and music by Jonas Myrin  
and Matt Redman*

*~ 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.*

## **†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Please join with me in the prayer of dedication:

**God of mystery, you promise us a life of blessedness,  
if only we would learn to love,  
as you have loved us.  
May the gifts we bring before you this day  
be a sign of our commitment  
to love one another well. Amen.**

## **†HYMN**

*“They’ll Know We Are Christians”*

HYMN NO. 595

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored. (Refrain)*

*Refrain:*

*And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
(Refrain)*

*We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's  
pride. (Refrain)*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. (Refrain)*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

BELL CHOIR

*"Dona Nobis Pacem"*

## †CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Christ has given us a new commandment.

**We will love one another well.**

God guides us to love the stranger.

**We will love one another well.**

The Spirit blesses with a new vision.

**We will love one another well.**

## PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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Seth Cunningham

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

CCLI License #2328090

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 18, 2025

- Join us after worship today for a **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**. The Session and Staff have pitched in to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to the people who make our church so special in so many ways: choir members, handbell ringers, committee members, ushers, video and technology pantry volunteers ...

- **MOVIE MADNESS** “Summertime and the living is easy” – the opening lyrics of a familiar Broadway show tune. And though at times you may feel like the gardens need to be weeded, the grass cut, the garage cleaned ... summer also reminds us of the importance of pausing and enjoying life. To that end, we are inviting you to take a break with our **summer movie series** — bring a friend — on the second and fourth Tuesdays of June, July, and August. The movies may be light-hearted, or informative, or thoughtfully heart-warming, so take two hours out of your day and enjoy watching a movie here at Westminster. Show time is 1:30 p.m. in the Session Room — once again set up to feel a bit like a small movie theater.

June 10 – Conclave

June 24 – Green & Gold

July 8 – Tuesdays with Morrie

July 22 – Paper Clips

August 12 - TBD

August 26 - TBD

Stay tuned each month on our church website or in the church bulletin for more information about each movie as the date of showing draws nearer.

- **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** is scheduled for Thursday, May 29th at 1:30 p.m. This will be our final gathering before a pause for the summer months.

- We are happy to host **BAY SHORE CAMP'S ON THE ROAD DAY CAMP** for the second year. The camp theme this year is “Jesus IS”. The camp is scheduled for Monday, August 4, through Thursday, August 7. The curriculum is designed for children entering Kindergarten through fifth grade. Registration is open! Scan the QR code to visit the registration page online.



- The **OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH** is planning another outing, this time to enjoy some Mexican cuisine at the newly opened Cazadores of Bay City, located near the church at 310 E. Midland St. The outing is planned for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28th. If you would like to join us, please contact the church office by Tuesday, May 27th so that we can make reservations in advance.

- Volunteers are needed for the **END-OF-SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY** scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 1st. If you are able to help, please sign up on the volunteer board outside the sanctuary.

- 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 8th** during the worship service.



## **GET THE CHURCH DIRECTORY SMARTPHONE APP TODAY!**

We are excited to announce a new way to stay connected with your Westminster family—we have a smartphone app! Through United Church Directory, an app has been created with the photos that were taken for the directory, complete with addresses and phone numbers of your church friends.

The good news is that we can continue to add new members and those who did not have their pictures taken for the directory last year. In the coming days, you should receive an email (if we have your email on file) with instructions on how to download the app and your

family's "unique identifier" that you will need to access the app. This ensures that we can keep the app secure and accessible only to our church family. The email will come from [appsupport@ucdir.com](mailto:appsupport@ucdir.com).

**If you need help downloading and accessing the app, we'll have some tech savvy church friends available during TODAY'S Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.**

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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989-686-1360

email: [office@wpcbc.org](mailto:office@wpcbc.org)

website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

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

### **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY**

- **ITEM OF THE MONTH FOR May** is dish detergent and glass cleaner. Please drop off at the Pantry on the cart outside the door.

- Mark your calendar for **Sunday, June 8!** You are joyfully invited to the Pantry's first birthday party! Stay after church to help us celebrate in the fellowship hall with cake and ice cream.

- The Pantry received food from the Postal Service's annual **Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive** and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Penny and Phil Reagh, for delivering three truck loads of donated food to our Pantry. Also a big Thank You to all the volunteers, especially Buzz and Ann West, who spent several hours sorting the food, pulling out the outdated food, and stocking this generous donation. What a great gift this is to the Westminster Community Pantry.

- **Scan the QR code** to visit the Westminster Community Pantry Facebook page.



### **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](http://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 below.

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!**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 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.

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

- **TODAY is the LAST DAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES** for the summer. The Youth Group will have a Fun Night tonight visiting an escape room at Stardust Entertainment Center in Saginaw.

\* The **BOOK STUDY group** will continue to meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the lounge. We will meet weekly until the end of May before pausing for the summer.

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

- If you have a name you would like added to **WINGS OF PRAYERS**, contact Patti Wesenick, 989-737-6844. NOTE:

Patti will be on vacation from June 1 to June 18. During that time you may add names to Wings of Prayer by contacting Karen Mitchell at 989-513-0843.

- We kicked off our informal **LUNCH & LAUGH** series this past fall, and we will be wrapping up the series for this spring on **Tuesday, May 27th** in Fellowship Hall. We will meet at noon to lunch and play games. A variety of games will be available, but certainly this will include the game Bunco. Our own Faith Sneller will be our MC and Bunco Director, which makes this a truly intergenerational event. We have fond memories of laughing, throwing dice, and moving from table to table depending if we were part of a winning team or losing team. You are also welcome to bring your own favorite board game. And of course, bring your own brown-bag lunch; we will begin with sharing some time in conversation over lunch and then move to game playing. Any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

*Thank you volunteers for  
all you do to share God's love  
with our community!*