#### Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street Bay City, MI 48706

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Visit us on Facebook: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City



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Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)

Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)

## THE WESTMINSTER LOC

## THE WESTMINSTER LOG

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

8

Joup Luncheon

February 13, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 2022 in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Youth Group will host a soup luncheon and bake sale in Fellowship Hall.

Donations will benefit the youth attending Triennium this summer, so please plan to stay for this fun and tasty luncheon!

**Volunteers are needed...** If you would like to donate soup,

chili, or baked goods, please contact Sandy Graves at sandra.graves@gmail.com.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Matthew 6:10

O Lord, whose power to heal was tested against the power which destroys, and proved stronger: open our eyes to the signs of your strength in this modern world, and open our hearts to the Kingdom of God, which has come upon us; through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

- Susan Williams

#### Fmail Church Communications

As we begin 2022, we hope to expand the ways in which we connect with the church family. The office would like to create an updated email address list so that we can communicate timely and efficiently with those who prefer this means of communication.

Once cultivated, our email list would be used for a brief weekly message that will contain the current prayer list, any upcoming event information, or changes to the church calendar. Once a month, the Westminster Log will be emailed as well.

To be better stewards of the earth and our resources, we would like to reduce the number of monthly newsletters we print and mail, and this would help us in that effort. For friends who wish to continue to have a printed copy of the Log mailed home each month, we will continue to do so.

Please contact the church office your preferred method of receiving the Log. Email us at <a href="mailto:office@wpcbc.org">office@wpcbc.org</a> with your updated email address, or call us at 989-686-1360.

In addition, if you are currently receiving a paper copy of your quarterly contribution statement and would like to have your statement sent electronically, please let the office know when you share your email address with us.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Februa		9:00 a.m. Bay ISD 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:00 p.m. Personnel
9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Adult Handbell Practice 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 4:30 p.m. Junior Bell Practice 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)	7 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting	9:00 a.m. Bay ISD 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 1:00 p.m. Bay City Lions 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Committee Meetings
9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Adult Handbell Practice 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting / Soup Luncheon 4:30 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)	14 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Flappy Valentine's Day	9:00 a.m. Bay ISD 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Adult Handbell Practice 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 4:30 p.m. Junior Bell Practice 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)	21	9:00 a.m. Bay ISD 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 12:00 p.m.Lunch & Learn 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle via Zoom
9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Adult Handbell Practice 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 4:30 p.m. Junior Bell Practice 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)	28	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5
	8:30 a.m. TOPS		
6:00 p.m. Property  Meeting	9:00 p.m. Bay ISD 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith		
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	at Messiah Lutheran		
Study	5:00 p.m. Combustion Council		
	6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir		
9	10	11	12
	8:30 a.m. TOPS		
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	9:00 p.m. Bay ISD 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith		
Study	at Messiah Lutheran 5:00 p.m. Combustion		
	Council 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir		
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16	17	18	19
	8:30 a.m. TOPS		1/4/
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible	9:00 p.m. Bay ISD 1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle		1180 211
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	5:00 p.m. Combustion Council		Mally 1
	6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir		A Hilliam Wall
23	24	25	26
	8:30 a.m. TOPS		All Hart W
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible	9:00 p.m. Bay ISD 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith		
Study	at Messiah Lutheran 5:00 p.m. Combustion		
	Council 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir		
	6.30 p.m. Chancel Choir	11100-14	Miles Comments of the second
	-	Happy Birthday	
Office Hours Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.		Penny Reagh	William Auger
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.		Richard Hebner	Beverly Sivertson
website: wpcbc.org		Richard Talbot Gerald Wachowiak	John Young Mary Lou Higgins
Join us on		<b>Leslie Frontjes</b>	Donna Horn
Westminster Presbyter	ian Church - Day City	Ann Morse	

Treasurer's Report Announcements 1

In December, the **Operating Fund** had income of \$38,717.84 and expenses of \$58,164.28. The end of the year is always our biggest month for both income (giving) and expenses. Despite liquidating some of our investments to help with the shortfall in the Operating budget, we still finished the year with a \$21,000.00 deficit. The church has had lean years before and we do seem to bounce back in subsequent years, we're hoping that trend continues. The Finance Ministry will continue to keep an eye on the church finances and will make changes in the future if needed.

Building Improvement Fund received contributions of \$388.48. In December, we had expenses totaling, \$928.69. This included costs to have our sprinkler system inspected and the costs for Harold to build the beautiful Advent Wreath we displayed outside. At the end of the month, the balance is at \$17,541.59. We're grateful to those who contribute to the Fund that allows us to keep our church home safe and welcoming.

The <u>Major Repairs Fund</u> had income of \$769.99; there were no expenses for December. The balance at the end of the year is \$52,942.91. Thank you to those who contribute to the Major Repairs Fund.

Contributions to the <u>Capital Campaign Fund</u> totaled \$3,718.20 in December. We made our regular loan payment and the balance of the loan at the end of the year is \$293,707.85 Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Campaign, we were able to make extra payments of \$106,000 in 2021.

#### Heather Heidtman

treasurer@wpcbc.org 989-225-5718

Per capita for 2022 is \$29.00.

This is per active,

confirmed member.

#### Worship January 9 & 16



# Join your church family for a time of fellowship before and after Sunday's worship service. Coffee and donuts included!

## With Sympathy



## Jerome (Jerry) Bechtel Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Jerry Bechtel. Jerry passed away on Monday, January 10, 2022. A private funeral service took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday,

January 15, 2022.



#### **Howard (Howie) Schmidt**

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Howie Schmidt. Howie passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022. A funeral service took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Thursday, January 20, 2022.



#### Weston (Wes) Pake

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Weston Pake. Wes passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. A funeral service will take place at Squires Funeral Home on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Sheri and Fellow Deacons:

Many thanks for your thoughtful remembrance and Christmas cup filled with yummy cookies, candy, and even an ornament or two!

The time you took to be with us, Sheri, let us feel the warmth of our church community. It was lovely to become aquatinted with you personally.

Our prayers and best wishes to you and all your fellow Deacons for a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Donna & Dan Gould



Dear Westminster family,

We would like to thank you for the prayers, support, and messages received during

Steve's father's — Richard "Dutch" Kusterer, illness and eventual passing. We could not have gotten through the past several months without our faith community. Dad was able to celebrate Christmas with Jesus and Mom last month, which provided us an opportunity to celebrate his life and lay him to rest. We are truly blessed to have had such wonderful parents, and we look forward to the day when we can join them in God's heavenly presence.

In Him,

Steve & Darlene Kusterer and family

### Thank You

The Bechtel Family would like to say THANK YOU to the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church for sending cards full of love, prayers, and thoughtfulness. Jerry was a very special person to many people and always had a smile and an eagerness to help others. The kindness of our friends at Westminster will always have a special place in my heart.

Mariļyn Bechtel





One of the most difficult aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic outside of the ongoing health crisis and the death that it has caused, has been the loss of a sense of community. From time spent in isolation and quarantine, to the very real loss of friends and loved ones, often without space to properly mourn, the ways in which we connect with others and live in community together has changed. We have been challenged to re-think the ways in which we interact with one another, adding a new layer to what it means to be a neighbor.

Kathy Dawson writes, "The practice of living in community is not particular to Christians. It seems part of our human nature to live in community with others. The Scriptures testify to the importance of community, from God's admonition in Genesis 2:18 — that it is not good for humans to be alone — to

Revelation 21 — where the vision of a new heaven and new earth is a city where God dwells with mortals. Between these first and final books in the Bible, Scripture is filled with stories and teachings about life in community with God and our neighbors. What are churches but a community of believers all worshiping God and learning to live together with gospel values?"

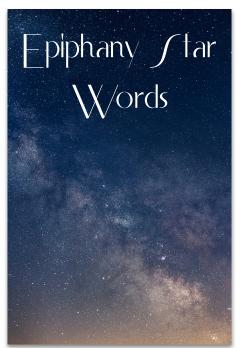
Throughout the month of February in our worship and study together we will explore four aspects of living in community as Christians who follow Jesus.

- Gather across Differences (February 3)
- Feast and Listen (February 13)
- Uplift Those in Need (February 19)
- Support Those Who Depart (February 26)

We are thankful for the ways that our community can gather each week, in the sanctuary, in the classroom, and online. Join us as we follow Jesus together in community!

Quotes taken from Follow Me: Live in Community. © 2021 Growing Faith Resources, Louisville, Kentucky

#### THINK ABOUT THE STAR



Your "Star" word, that is. As you go through your day or your week, think about how your "Star" word fit into your life as you went about your activities. Find a note pad (how about one of the many "freebies" that come in the mail from organizations and charities) and jot down two or three phrases or sentences that describe how your "Star" word came into play. When we take a few minutes to concentrate, that is when we can really connect the word to actions or experiences. As Pastor Jamie mentioned, you might have been disappointed with the word you received. Once you see how it connects to your life, you may find you really like your word! Give it a chance. Take a few moments and reflect. Put those reflections on paper. Do a little something just for you!



If you did not receive a Star Word during worship on Sunday, January 2 and would like one, please see the church office.



The Wired Word continues to meet every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom (PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE)

News is inevitable — whether it be good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input, than to juxtapose Scriptures as tools to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith. How often do we hear others — or even ourselves — say, "I just don't want to watch the news anymore," tired of stories that leave us feeling uneasy and at times helpless?

Our weekly The Wired Word gatherings — rather than leaving us hopeless — allow us to reflect on the week's happenings with others who may not share our thoughts and opinions but are equally dedicated to thinking about and talking about how current events intersect with our faith questions and convictions.

Our most recent topic prompted us to reflect on "Time Capsules." The term "time capsule" doesn't appear anywhere in the Bible. But people found

#### "Where current events and faith intersect."

ways to remember and learn from the past, both for its mistakes and for its victories, to apply lessons learned in their own lives, and to plan for the future under God's guidance.

Each week's lesson materials are emailed out several days in advance of the Tuesday Zoom gathering. If you prefer, the materials are printed in the office by Judy and are available to be picked up Friday or Monday morning.

In addition to the opportunity to participate in a lively discussion each week about faith and news, the group also enjoys the opportunity to connect with friends.

If you have any questions and/or would like to be added to the email list, please call Rev. Linda 686-1360 X2 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

Remember, each week we discuss a new topic, so please feel free to pick and choose what interests you. Our website posts the new topic for the week.

#### **GOOD NEWS from the DEACONS**

Thank you to WPC for generously giving to the Food Pantry. Despite monthly food distributions to local families, and the delivery of 70 Thanksgiving baskets in November, Food Pantry funds are, yet, *beyond* adequate for the year! However, the Deacons' other work and programs are always in need of funds.

Westminster's Board of Deacons expenses also include: communion supplies, devotional booklets, Stephen Ministry, Fifty Year Members dinners, Bibles for funerals, special concerns, and more. These efforts support WPC members and our community, and funding comes from undesignated donations to the Deacons Fund.

If you wish to give to the Deacons Fund this year, we will be thankful for a "general donation to Deacons Fund."

Thank you for your support to help the Lord's work through WPC and the Board of Deacons.



#### Dear Westminster:

Thank you for your \$1,000.00 donation to support our grieving children and their families. It will enable us to continue to support them on their grief journey with our peer support grief groups.

"I can't begin to express our gratitude for another beautiful, generous gift! We are so thankful for people like you! Our Bay City group is going strong, and we love being part of your community!"

Sincerely,

#### Gamille

Camille G. Nitschky, Executive Director

## Anne Remington's Thoughts on "Trusting Institutions: Rediscovering the Power of Christianity's Surprise"

(A powerful message given by L. Gregory Jones at Calvin University on January 11, 2022)

For far too many of us, as the number of square feet in our homes increased, the number of close friends decreased.

In our country there are conflicts..., great divides..., even among friends, often within families. We have become distrustful of our institutions — our health system, our government, our schools, even our churches. There is a tendency to turn our backs on it all, to withdraw, to hibernate within our homes. Yet that attitude prevents us from working together, from using our imaginations, and from imagining solutions for a better world.

Our Christian background gives us reason to move forward, to hope. With the resurrection of Jesus we see the potential for growth, change, and rebirth. After his resurrection Jesus assured his disciples that they would be given the Holy Spirit to guide them. That is a promise also for us. We need to seek and listen.

L. Gregory Jones uses the word "PATCH" to help guide our thinking and actions as we strive to grow, mend, and rebuild our society. "P" stands for "purpose." "A" represents "anthropology." Anthropology reminds us of man's potential for both good and evil, that we must always be on guard. "T" stands for "trust." Trust is essential, but trust requires risk-taking. We need to trust in a better future, we need to trust in God. "C" represents "character." It is when character is lacking that we fully appreciate it. A stable society cannot exist without character. Character requires habits, discipline, and watchfulness. And "H"? "H" represents "hope." Hope gives us the impetus to keep striving. Hope underlies the Christian message. May we always have hope.

As I awake in the morning I like to think about "PATCH." What is my purpose for the day? My thinking, my actions..., are they of the positive kind? Am I fulfilling my purpose? Am I willing to

strive to do my best, to sometimes step out of my comfort zone, to trust in God? I know I can always work on character. And then there's hope... I believe being grateful helps me to be hopeful. I want and need my life, my day to be filled with gratitude and hope.

When I turned seventy (a while ago!), my older brother told me, "Welcome to the exciting challenge of living!" Living <u>is</u> exciting. It's also challenging. Let's go for it. With God's guidance let's see what we can do.

#### <u>Let us Pray:</u> Our Heavenly God —

As a church, help us to feel your love and guidance. With trust in you may we be willing to risk change. May we feel a sense of purpose and hope. May we act with courage and character as we strive to work together to right the wrongs, to help the oppressed, to do your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Each year Calvin University, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan offers a twoweek long series on timely topics from the perspective of both culture and faith. You may find this year's series quite interesting!



Started in 1988, the January Series is an annual, award-winning, 15-day lecture series that exists to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and better equip global citizens in God's world. The series is free and open to the public. Join this year's conversations and revisit previous talks at <a href="https://www.calvin.edu/january">www.calvin.edu/january</a>.

## SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS ADULT BIBLE STUDY

#### **FOLLOW ME: Live in Community**

Across Scripture, people gather as family, tribe, and nation around a common center: God. In Genesis 2:18, God declared, "it is not good for the man to be alone." A suitable helper was created. Offspring, descendants, and whole nations flowed from the early relationships recounted in Genesis. The words of Scripture detail the relationships between God and God's people, describing the ups and downs of living in community. To live in community involves intentionality, practice, and a common bond or uniting element.

In this study, we will explore the practice of living together in community as the body of Christ. We begin by looking at how God intentionally called and formed community out of newly liberated slaves and how Jesus formed community in calling and mentoring his disciples. Next, we will consider examples of practicing community through sharing meals, sharing stories, and serving one another. Living these practices strengthens community and deepens the bond shared by God's people. With Christ at the center of community, we look at ways people move beyond the gathered community and into the world to bear witness to God's desire for justice, peace, and love for all.

What holds together Christian community is not friendship or close proximity to one another, **but** a common faith in God and Christ.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE FOUR SESSIONS**

In this practice, we will explore four aspects of what it means to live in community.

One: Gather across Differences — Exodus 20:1–17, Mark 1:16–20, and 1 Corinthians 1:10–17 explore the intentional ways God and Jesus called together a diverse group of people and formed them into communities. Paul's words in his Corinthian letter emphasize the unity of Christian community found in Christ.

**Two: Feast and Listen** — Exodus 13:3–10, Matthew 14:1–21, and Acts 2:41–47 examine ways meal-sharing enhances living in community and offers suggestions for feasting and listening with people in the faith community.

Three: Uplift Those in Need — Deuteronomy 24:14–22, Acts 6:1–7, and Numbers 27:1–1 draw on an identity as God's people, lifted up and encouraged by God's mercy and justice, and allows for an evaluation of acts of service and mercy that honor God and uplift others.

**Four: Support Those Who Depart** — Deuteronomy 34:1–12, Acts 15:36–41, and Philippians 4:1–9 review different examples of departure and healthy ways communities of faith can respond in support of ones who depart and its effects on the community.

#### Join Us!

To accommodate people's various schedules, we will continue to offer classes at two times — **Sunday mornings** at 9:00 before church, meeting in the Session Room, and again on **Wednesday evenings** at 7:00 via Zoom. The same materials will be used at both gatherings. Discussion will be led different weeks by Pastor Jamie and Rev. Linda.

The Adult Reflection Guide is available in the office. Remember, each unit is a complete theme, so if you are not able to make a commitment to a two or three month session, join in for one unit at a time.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Jamie or Rev. Linda at the church office.



**Each month the Spiritual Growth 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.

"Love is the vital core of the soul. And of all you see, only love is infinite." — Rumi

February is the month of love. While February 14th or Valentine's Day is typically thought of as a day for sweethearts, it did not become such until after Geoffrey Chaucer's poem in his "Parlement of Foule." In this poem Chaucer references love birds in the following verse translated to modern English: "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day when every bird cometh there to choose his mate." Today, in addition to the celebration of romantic love, we also celebrate Valentine's Day as a day devoted to love and friendship.

If you have lost a partner or spouse, you may feel that you have lost your second half, a piece of yourself. Partners often help us to feel complete. They are stronger in areas where we feel weaker and vice versa. Partners hold us up when we are down as we do the same for them. And, they are arguably the ones who know us best on this Earth. On Valentine's Day you might remember traditions that you shared with your partner, such as exchanging cards or gifts, eating a special dinner



together, and/or going on a special date.

Whether you have lost a partner, another family member, or a dear friend, on Valentine's Day you may feel solitary even in the company of others. You would never begrudge others the same experience of feeling loved, but when you see others celebrating the holiday, you may wish that you were able to celebrate with your loved one just as they are able to celebrate with theirs. The world is moving at its own pace and agenda. Time markers such as holidays occur, but part of you is in this world and the other part of you remains in the world where your loved one died.

Your mind may transport you to the traditions you had for this holiday as you were growing up. You may feel the loss of having all this love inside of you and not being able to dote on your loved one and express it. You may very well miss your loved one doting on you and expressing their love for you. As is illustrated so well in the above quote by Rumi, love never dies as it is eternal and everlasting. Our loved ones were surrounded by our love for them and now, they continue to envelop us in their love.

Lastly, please do not forget to love yourself on Valentine's Day and all the other days of the year. Be gentle with and kind to yourself. We are all worthy of love now and forever.

On Valentine's Day and always...

Think about what is right for you - You may choose to keep traditions the same, change them, or not partake. All of these choices are okay! Well-meaning loved ones may invite you to be with them. You can try it out, stay as long as you wish, and/or take a raincheck. It is okay to have some time in your own head or even in silence. Going to nature might be a wonderful spot to be with yourself and reflect. Even on a cold day, it can feel other-worldly to experience the sun on your face. And, in nature humans can experience something bigger than themselves.

Your loved ones are a part of everything you do as they are a part of you. As you go through life, taking one breath at a time and putting one foot in front of the other, it is normal and natural to think of your loved ones. Tell stories about them. People who care about you may be afraid that if they talk about your loved one, they will make you sad. Elicit stories from your family and friends and reassure them that you are thinking of your loved one all the time anyway. Maybe you will also want to look at and show pictures from the past.

These pictures have captured some beautiful moments in time.

Love yourself. You are worthy of love. Think about how much your dear loved one loved you! Try not to be harder on yourself than you would another person. It is okay to treat yourself to something healthy that feels good to you. Some ideas are a massage, bath, special coffee, or food treat, yoga/ exercise, meditation, journaling, reading, movie watching, etc. You know yourself best. Pick something special just for you!

**Remember, love is eternal.** The love you have for your loved one and the love he/she has for you transcends time. The tie and bond you have with your loved one can never be broken. Your loved

one will always be a part of you. Together you are pieces of a greater whole.

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





Being a "life-long learner" is the goal of many. If you Google the topic, you can find numerous definitions, articles, suggestions, and benefits. We all know that learning doesn't end once you graduate from high school, college, graduate school, or even graduate into retirement.

We hope to still gather for a winter/spring series where we hear from a rabbi, an Imam, a mental health expert, and to reschedule "Anatomy of a Criminal Case." However, because of the high number of COVID cases and more people within our own congregation having COVID, we determined that

January's Lunch and Learn gathering needed to be canceled. We will continue to monitor the number of positive cases and the percentage of positive COVID test in results in Bay County as the month progresses and then make a determination about the Lunch and Learn gathering for February. Stay tuned for updates posted on our website and in the bulletin.

#### LYDIA CIRCLE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17 1:00 P.M.

Lydia Circle will meet monthly in person on the third Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the Session room.

We are using the *Horizons* Bible Study, What My Grandmothers

Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.

#### **DEBORAH CIRCLE**



Deborah Circle will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22. If anyone wants to join, please call Karen Schoeppach at 989-684-1322 or email kaysue@chartermi.net.