

THE WESTMINSTER LOG



There Goes the Neighborhood!

“When Jesus was asked to reduce everything in the Bible into one command he said: Love God with everything you have *and* love your neighbor as yourself. What if he meant that we should love our *actual* neighbors? You know, the people who live right next door.” These are the opening lines of the book “The Art of Neighboring” that some of our Westminster family have been reading and discussing this summer. This is a call for us modern day disciples to take Jesus’ command seriously by getting to know our neighbors.

We will spend some time in worship on August 21, 28, and September 4 talking about some of the scriptures discussed in the book and thinking about our role as neighbors, where we live and where we worship. Jesus lived his life engaged in his community and in relationship with those around him and calls us to do the same. We will hear again Jesus’ answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor” and think about what it means to be a good neighbor.

Following worship on August 21, we will hold our final “Book and Brunch” of the summer, focusing on the final 4 chapters of *The Art of Neighboring*. These chapters focus on the important topics of boundaries, focusing our efforts, forgiveness, and the idea that we are better together in community!

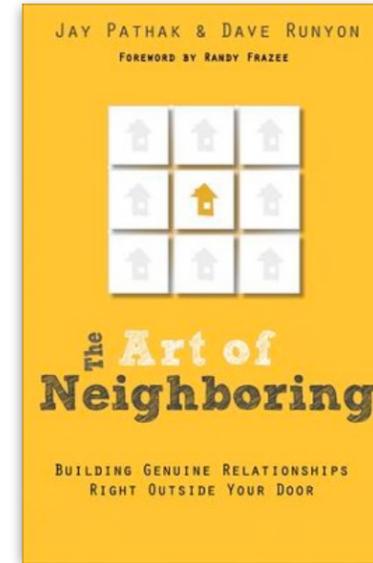
As part of living into our call to be the church wherever we are, we have two Westminster Without Walls events planned for the coming weeks. On Sunday, August 28th, we will hold our weekly Sunday morning worship service outdoors. When we worship outside, our neighbors can participate without feeling anxious about entering the church building. It

allows those who pass by to hear the good news proclaimed and sung as they walk down the street, pausing if the Spirit leads them to.

We are also in the process of planning a block party as an opportunity to get to know one another better. We hope to have more detailed plans in place soon and are hoping to have some of our neighbors involved in the planning so we know what THEY would like!

Our neighborhood party will take place on Sunday, September

11 in the afternoon or early evening. We will need lots of help with this event, so be on the look out for more details and plan to be available to take part in this neighborhood event!



WWW.WPCBC.ORG

AUGUST 2022 ISSUE 165

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

Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian
Church - Bay City



- Pastor
Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
- Parish Associate
Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
- Treasurer
Heather Heidtman (ext. 206)
- Youth Director
Brandi Higgins (ext. 208)
- Custodian
Harold Miller (ext. 205)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>Summer Office Hours Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: Office Closed</p> <p>website: wpcbc.org</p> <p>Join us on Facebook Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Property Meeting 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>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</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:45 a.m. Book & Brunch</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 1:00 p.m. Summer Movie Series 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>12:00 Special Concerns Luncheon and Worship Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Sermon Symposium via Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Happy Birthday</p> <p>Mary Jessup Carolyn Eichhorn Peggy Hawkins Carole Fulcher Thomas Kayner</p> <p>Web Tally Bonnie Scheddel Jeannie Bradley Kaye Walker Barbara English</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Sermon Symposium via Zoom</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Sermon Symposium via Zoom</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Sermon Symposium via Zoom</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>31</p>	<p><i>August</i></p>		

All of us have gone through many changes in the past two years, but the good work that WPC has been able to do through our Mission Partnership Committee did NOT change. We continued to provide valuable and precious gifts to fulfill needs and obey the teachings of Christ — to love our neighbor and take care of the needy.



•Missionary support PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers

To rejoice in successes and deepen our understanding of community needs and the partners who help meet those needs, we are hosting Partnerships from the Heart. Sunday, September 18 during our regular 10:30 a.m. worship service will be a celebration of the good work Jesus has directed us to do.

Over the past few years, your charitable gifts funneled through the Mission Partnerships Committee provided donations/ services to:

- Food of Faith
- Good Samaritan Rescue Mission
- Bay Area Women’s Center
- Child Abuse and Neglect Council
- Salvation Army
- Economy Thrift Center
- Children’s Grief Center
- HHS Foster Care
- Habitat for Humanity
- Forgotten Man Ministries

Partnerships from the Heart



Organizations that are an extended family of WPC by virtue of receiving our donations will present their programs during the worship service. For your convenience, our Partners will have display tables and staff in Fellowship Hall before and after worship so our congregation can learn more about these organizations and get answers to any specific questions. And of course, we will have refreshments available for all.

Come join us in the celebration and fellowship with our partners.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The **Operating Fund** had income \$21,374.70 and expenses of \$41,010.92 in June. I know that's quite a difference but June included 3 paydays. Other expenses included our quarterly commitments to Presbytery and General Assembly. Plus expenses for Vacation Bible School and Adult Faith Formation. Thank you for your gifts and tithes. I think we can all agree it's been nice to have so much going on in and around the church. Remember that you can set up recurring gifts using our online giving portal, found on the church's website www.wpcbc.org or look for the QR code in the bulletin. Thank you!

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of \$595.00, in June and did not have any expenses. The Fund ended the month at \$20,083.57. Thank you for contributing to the fund which keeps our building safe, welcoming and in good condition.

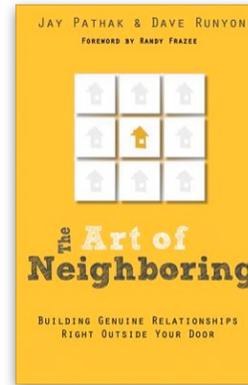
The **Major Repairs Fund** had income of \$544.00 in June and did not have any expenses. The balance at the end of May is \$57,314.82. Thank you to those who contribute to the Major Repairs Fund.

Contributions to the **Capital Campaign Fund** totaled \$1,392.50. At the end of June, the principal on the loan stands at \$235,369.93. This is made possible by your gifts to the Campaign over the last 7+ years. Remember, the project totaled over \$1.7 million, but we only had to borrow a little over \$700,000, to be paid back over 20 years. After 6 years, the loan is less than half that, well ahead of schedule. Thank you!

Heather Heidtman
treasurer@wpcbc.org
989-225-5718

Per capita for 2022 is \$29.00.

This is per active, confirmed member.



Book & Brunch

We had a great start to our discussion of the book, “The Art of Neighboring” at our June and July brunch and are looking forward to meeting together again on August 21 following worship.

As we progress through the book, we will begin to read some practical steps that we can take to get to know our neighbors, those down our street and those down the block from our church.

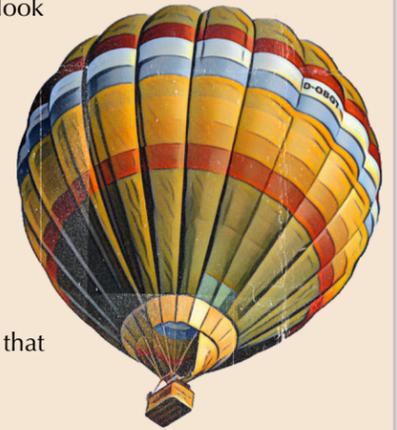
Our book discussion, along with an idea that was first introduced last fall about “The Longest Table,” a fellowship meal with neighbors, is building to a neighborhood event being planned for Sunday, September 11 as we kick off our fall church activities. We hope to include our neighbors in the planning of a “block party”-type event where we can meet our neighbors and get to know more about those who live down the street!

We hope to see you all for the next discussion on August 21

SUMMER SERMON SYMPOSIUM

**Thursdays through August 25
7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

What is a symposium? If you look up or “Google” the word “symposium” you will probably find that the definition includes something like “to drink together, to have a party together.” The intent is that a symposium is not something dull and boring, but rather some kind of social gathering that is fun and lively.



If you continued your search discovering a definition, you would read that “a symposium is a social gathering in which there is a free interchange of ideas.”

If this sounds intriguing, interesting, or fun, please join with others from Westminster as we begin our weekly summer sermon symposium on Thursday, July 7 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. There is nothing to prepare in advance, and there will not be a formal leader, only a convener who will make the Zoom invitation available. Come with your questions, ideas, inspirations, and learnings from the previous Sunday’s sermon, and engage in a “free interchange of ideas” with your Westminster family.

The Summer Sermon Symposium will meet weekly on Thursdays from July 7 to August 25. Please call the church office with any questions and for a Zoom invitation.

ARLENE OTTEMEIER

With Sympathy

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Arlene Ottemeier. Arlene passed away on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. Private services were held for the family.



DIANNE GRABKE

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Dianne Grabke. Dianne passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022. A funeral service will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Thursday, August 4 at 11:00 a.m. Family will greet friends at 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service.



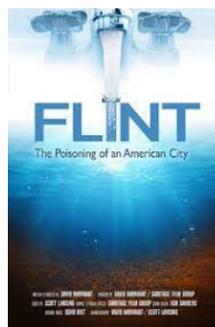


For our final movie this summer, we will be viewing the documentary **Flint: The Poisoning of an American City**. The film traces the timeline of the city's interaction with the Flint River – from the continued abuse and neglect of both city infrastructure and environmental regulations, to subsequent population decline, through to Michigan's 2013 appointing of outside emergency managers. This poisonous mix of factors created a crisis which has gone on for five years, resulting in record high levels of lead in the drinking water of the city.

The film intersperses area residents (including parents, social workers, educators, pastors, and experts on water and health) with testimony at congressional and other oversight committee hearings to demonstrate how 100,000 people have been poisoned by lead, an irreversible affliction.

Flint explores the critical question of how this could happen in America and how this event should serve as a warning for the rest of the country. This documentary educates and inspires action, seeking to radically change how we view and value water. This film was funded by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

Join us on **Tuesday, August 23 at 1:00 pm** for the movie and a time of reflection!



Worship in the Neighborhood

Join us on the north lawn of the church (under the tent) for our 10:30 am worship service on **Sunday, August 28**. During worship, we will also have a **Blessing of Backpacks, Briefcases, and Bags**: During the service, children, youth, and adults will be invited to bring a bag and have it blessed as our young people prepare to head back to school, and the rest of us continue working and playing hard. Bring your backpacks, handbags, purses, briefcases, computer bags, shopping bags, etc, it you can carry something in it, we'll bless it!



Save the Dates!

*In September...
Our 50-Year Member Celebration will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2022 during the worship service, with a luncheon immediately following. More details to come in the September Log*

*In October...
Church-wide Retreat, October 21, 22, and 23, 2022. We are making plans for a retreat at the Bay Shore Camp and Family Ministries in Sebawaing, MI. More details soon!*

The Wired WORD

An Adult Curriculum

“Where current events and faith intersect.”

The Wired Word will continue meeting again, starting **Tuesday, August 9th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom**

These past few weeks we have focused on news events such as the power of words/our words, the war in Ukraine, humility as seen in declining honors and awards (Dolly Parton, as an example), pay inequity, and the hope of the resurrection. As you can see, the discussion topics are pretty eclectic. Which makes for great discussions!

News is inevitable — whether it be good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input than to juxtapose Scripture as a tool 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 same thoughts and opinions but are equally dedicated to thinking about and talking about how current events intersect with our faith questions and convictions.

The lesson materials are emailed out several days in advance of the Tuesday morning gathering. Or 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.

Christian Education Opportunities for Youth Pre-K through 12th Grade

Sundays at Westminster

First Light (Sunday School)
Pre-K through 4th Grade
Every Sunday beginning September 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Campfire Meetings (Children’s Church)
Pre-K through 4th Grade
2nd and 4th Sundays during the worship service

Ignite-Youth Group
5th Grade through 12th Grade
Every Sunday beginning September 18 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
See page 3 of the Log for Children and Youth Music Ministry details.

Wednesday* Evenings at Westminster

Pre-K through 12th Grade
Wednesday evening activities begin on September 14 at 4:00-5:00 p.m.

*Day of week may change

Thank you Judy!

Join us after worship on August 7 as we honor and thank Judy Harrelson for her dedication to Westminster as she served as our Church Secretary for 7 years.



Staff Updates

The summer has brought about some changes for our Westminster staff.

Judy Harrelson, who served as the Church Secretary for the last seven years, resigned from the position to follow a new career path. We are thankful for her dedicated service to Westminster and appreciate all the gifts that she shared with the church.

While we are searching to fill the position, our Treasurer, Heather Heidtman, will be filling in on an interim basis. Heather will be aided by a group of dedicated volunteers who will help to keep the church office running smoothly.

Beginning this fall, our Children's and Youth Director, Brandi Higgins, will also be directing the children's and youth choirs. Brandi has a background in music and is looking forward the adding the choirs to her ministry with our youth.

We are also excited to welcome pianist Rachel Webb, a student at Valley Lutheran. She has been playing for our worship services a few times over the summer and will continue to serve as a substitute for Wendy when needed.

Volunteer Opportunities

Brandi and Harold are working this summer on organizing some of our rooms here at church. If you have a few hours to spare to help them, please let them know! Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated!

The Technology Team is looking for members to help on Sunday mornings in the TV Room and at the sound board. This has and continues to be a vital ministry at Westminster as many of our members watch our services from home. There will be training and you don't have to work every Sunday. Please contact the church office if you're interested or stop into the TV Room on a Sunday!

Musicians Mark Your Calendars!

Adult Bell Choir

- **Sunday, August 21 at 8:45 a.m. we will meet and distribute music for upcoming performances. We will also polish our Bells and assign Choir robes**
- **First rehearsal is Sunday, August 28 at 8:45 a.m. Please have your music marked and be ready to play!**
- **Our first performance is October 2, 2022**
- **New members are always WELCOME please see Brandi Higgins for details**

Chancel Choir

- **The choir will sing on Sunday, August 21. Please meet in the Choir Room at 9:30 a.m for rehearsal.**
- **Choir Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting on August 31st.**
- **We are always looking for new members. If you would like to join our choir please see Dawn Auger.**

Children and Youth Music Ministry Schedule

All rehearsals are on Sundays, starting September 18th

- 9:45-10:00 a.m.
- 4:00 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m.
- 5:30 p.m.

- Little Ringers (PreK-1st grade)
- Chimes (2nd-4th graders)
- Kids Choir (PreK-4th graders)
- Youth Choir (5th-12th graders)
- Junior Bells (5th-12th graders)

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.

“At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of the summer, we remember them.”

— Sylvan Kames & Rabbi Jack Riemer

Another change in seasons knocks upon our doors. As we enter into the summer months, some may have a sense of excitement. The kids are out of school, vacation plans are being made, and the weather is looking up for those summer festivities. Let the swimming, fishing, walking, hiking, boating, camping season begin!

But, for those of us who are grieving, the change in season can present one more hurdle for us to navigate — another riptide in the ocean of our grief — as we are washed over by the memories of our loved one and all we would do together this time of year. A new season renews memories and also can force our hand to think about things we were able to put off when Jack Frost was nipping at our nose. Although the winter did not freeze time, it did give pause to the question as to what summer would look like without them.

What word follows summer? Vacation. Perhaps you had a vacation planned of your own. One in which there was no



thought but for your loved one to be present. The begrudging sting may be setting in that those plans will not happen or certainly will not happen as you had planned. Truly, it is not only the lack of the physical presence of your loved one you lament, but the plans you looked forward to sharing with them, as well.

It does not even need to be a vacation but the activities you used to do together that stop you in your tracks. Perhaps you are wondering if you can even participate in those activities — camping, fishing, gardening, a baseball game, yard sales, festivals, watching fireworks. Whatever it might be. Grief demands our attention and navigation for things we never gave a second thought to before.

The waters of your grief are ever-changing and what works for one does not necessarily work for another. You do not need to have the answer and honestly there is not one to be had. How each of us grieve and what brings us comfort or heightens those familiar pangs of grief is unique to each of us, even amongst family members.

With the longer days, more opportunities present

themselves, but what will you do with those extended hours? In the winter it was much easier to decline, skip, or simply avoid socializing with friends and family. The summer offers more opportunities for such gatherings — what will you do with those offers and how will you take your loved one along with you?

Dip Your Toes

We are each in different places in our grief and that means there is a lot to consider as summer plans arise. Here are some ideas to help you navigate the waters.

Be patient with yourself. You're not going to feel ready to do everything all at once. Give yourself time and listen to your head and your heart. When we are grieving, we are not the best to ourselves. Take a moment to recognize what you have gone through, what you are going through and give yourself credit for the hard work you are doing!

Try some of the activities you used to do with your loved one. This may be hard, but dip your toes in the water. You may find the activity brings you comfort and makes you feel especially connected to your loved one.

Make changes. If you do not feel comfortable doing the same activity without your loved one, you can always try changing it up a bit. You are going through a major change and sometimes a little modification can give a familiar activity a new take.

Try something new. You are rediscovering yourself in this process. It can also be a time to try new things and make new memories. This does not mean that you are moving on from your loved one. They remain part of you and everything you do.

Make plans. It presents the opportunity for storytelling which can be helpful to you and others who miss them. In time, you may find sharing brings more smiles to your face than tears to your eyes. Encourage yourself to accept invitations and remind others to be patient with you. Remember, you can always make changes or excuse yourself if the need arises.

In all you do, surround yourself with people you love, trust, and who are supportive of you.



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

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join your church family for a time of fellowship before and after Sunday's worship service.

Coffee and donuts included!



WALKER/ROLLATOR REQUEST

Westminster seeks a walker/rollator to keep at the church for folks who have a difficult time getting into their cars after Sunday worship services.

If you have one that could be used and kept at the church, please let the church office know. Thank you!



Friends, unfortunately every so often, scammers attempt to take advantage of the giving nature of church parishioners by pretending to be the pastor asking for help. They will use information from a church's website to be very convincing,

including using the Pastor's name, which may even be included in the "sender" line (ex. Message from Pastor Jamie), and they may use your name as well.

These scammer emails and texts usually involve a request to help someone in need by donating a gift card or something similar. It is always a good idea to check the email address or phone number that the message is coming from to be sure you know the source. If you ever receive a written communication from the church that you are unsure about, please call the church office to verify any information. **No church staff will ever ask you for money or gift cards via email or text.** If there is a true need, we will use the resources we have at hand or reach out via a phone call. If you receive any suspicious messages, please let the office or Pastor Jamie know.