

Westminster Presbyterian Church
103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706

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THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Congrats to our confirmands!

Congratulations to Brevin Chambers, Jonas Sivy, and Dylan Heidtman on their Confirmation! Upon completing the class, each student wrote their own faith statement. Below is a combined faith statement, using lines from each of their statements:

I believe in God the Father. We are made in God's image. God has a personal relationship with each of us. God created the universe and everything in it. We see God in different ways.

I believe in Jesus Christ. He is the Messiah, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. I believe Jesus is God's son and he died for humanity to prove God's forgiveness. Jesus teaches us to support others, to show friendship and to help others whenever we can.

I believe the Holy Spirit is God's spirit that flows through everyone and nudges people in the right direction. The church is what God uses to teach his followers how to live a Christian life. I believe the church is called to teach God's followers about God. I am called to help lead others to God. The church is the community of God's believers. The church is called to serve each other and the surrounding community throughout the world and proclaim the Word



Congratulations to this year's confirmands! Pictured are, from left, Brevin Chambers, son of Nicholas and Marcy Chambers, Rev. Jamie Milton, Jonas Sivy, son of Jason and Tami Sivy, Rev. Linda Williams, and Dylan Heidtman, son of Justin and Heather Heidtman.
(Photo by Pat Duggan)

and worship God. I believe that I am called to serve others. People around me everyday show me how to be a good person and a good Christian. Every time I walk into church, I am always comfortable talking about my faith. My church family shows me how to be a good person and a good disciple. No one has all the answers to people's questions about faith, but the people in my life and at my church are always showing me how to care

for others, love one another, and what it means to be a Christian. In the end, I believe Jesus will come again.

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JUNE 2025 ISSUE 199

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



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Leah Sneller (ext. 208)

June

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

website: wpcbc.org

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Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Happy Birthday

Linda Skrocki
Shirley Estabrook
Beverly Rector
Marilyn Kayner

Bernice Anderson
Darrell Darling
Janet Witucki
Ann West

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:30 a.m. Worship

In June we'll continue our journey into the "surprising" nature of God's Spirit in the Book of Acts before beginning a five-week series exploring the profound importance of rest in our lives. (See Page 2)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Join us in the Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

Sunday	Monday
1 Communion Service / Seventh Sunday of Easter 11:30 a.m. Block Party setup 1 to 3 p.m. End-of- School Block Party	2 5:30 p.m. Mission Mtg 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg
8 Day of Pentecost Recognition of Graduates (during worship) 11:30 a.m. Westminster Community Pantry One-Year Celebration	9 5 p.m. Property Mtg. 6 p.m. Finance Mtg. 7 p.m. Stewardship Mtg.
15 Happy Father's Day / Trinity Sunday 11:30 a.m. Game Gathering	16
22 Second Sunday after Pentecost 11:30 a.m. Book and Brunch (see Page 1)	23
29 Third Sunday after Pentecost	30

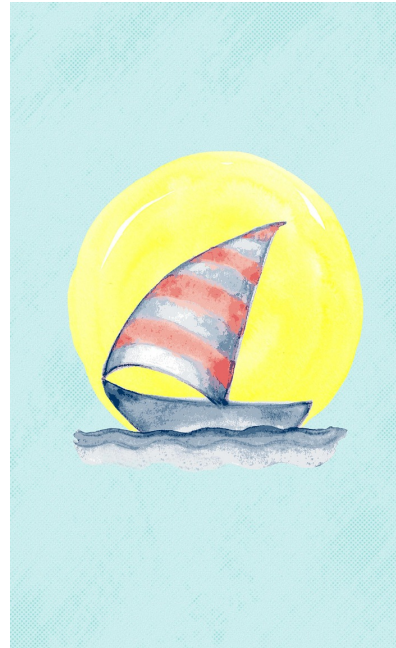
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
3 10 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting Group 11:30 a.m. Do-All, Inc. Yoga Group 6 p.m. Boy Scouts 6 p.m. Personnel Mtg.	4 4 p.m. Food pantry open until 6 p.m.	5 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 1 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	6 7
10 9 a.m. Matthew 25 Cafe 1a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting Group 1:30 p.m. Movie Madness 6 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth Mtg.	11 4 p.m. Food pantry open until 6 p.m.	12 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 1 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	13 14
17 10 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10 a.m. Staff Mtg 11:30 a.m. Do-All, Inc. Yoga Group 6 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	18 1 p.m. Out-To-Lunch Bunch TBD 4 p.m. Food pantry open until 6 p.m.	19 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 1 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7 p.m. Bible Book Study via Zoom	20 21 10 a.m. Mindful Markings
24 10 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:30 p.m. Movie Madness 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	25 4 p.m. Food pantry open until 6 p.m.	26 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 1 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7 p.m. Bible Book Study via Zoom	27 28
Titus Youtheatre is continuing to use our building for their rehearsals this month (from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.) The performances will take place at the State Theater this year on June 27 and 28..			

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

Set Sail with Jesus during Preschool VBS!

Our preschool VBS theme this year is SET SAIL. Set Sail with Jesus as we travel around the world!

Preschool VBS will be Monday, August 4 through Thursday, August 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Check-in will be at 8:30. Age group for this VBS is Pre-K, 4, and Young 5's. Preschool VBS will have crafts, bible stories, songs, snacks and lunch, and outdoor time. Registration is open, scan the QR code! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Leah Sneller, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at (989) 686-1360 or youthdirector@wpcbc.org.



I would like to thank anybody who was a special guest during children's moment for the Sunday School year. I truly appreciate your help and support!

Leah Sneller

Director of Children and Youth Ministries



The Westminster Youth Group celebrated its last day of youth activities for the summer months with a Fun Night at Stardust Entertainment Center in Saginaw. The youths took part in an Escape Room.

Day Camp

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! Thanks to a generous donations, there is NO COST to attend this year's Day Camp. Scan the QR code to visit the registration page online.



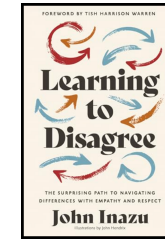
Summer Book & Brunch – *Learning to Disagree*

This summer, we're inviting you to slow down, grab a cup of coffee, and dive into a conversation that matters. Join us for our **Summer Book & Brunch**, where we'll explore the timely and thought-provoking book *Learning to Disagree: The Surprising Path to Navigating Differences with Empathy and Respect* by John Inazu.

In a world often marked by polarization and conflict, Inazu—law professor, Christian, and public intellectual—offers a hopeful and practical guide for how we can live together amid deep differences. Through personal stories, legal insight, and theological reflection, *Learning to Disagree* challenges us to engage in difficult conversations with humility, courage, and grace.

Some of the themes we'll discuss include:

- Why disagreement isn't something to fear, but a vital part of a healthy community
- How our identities shape the way we listen and speak
- What it looks like to pursue empathy without compromising conviction
- How to hold space for others without surrendering your own beliefs



This is not about "agreeing to disagree" and moving on—it's about discovering how disagreement can lead to deeper understanding, even friendship.

Books are available through the church office (\$12 optional

donation). Copies are also available from your local library and an audiobook version is also available for free through the Bay County Library System!

Whether you've read the book cover to cover or just want to listen in, all are welcome. Come for the food, stay for the dialogue. Let's learn to disagree—with empathy and respect!

Details:

Book: *Learning to Disagree* by John Inazu

What: Light brunch, conversation, and community

When: Sundays after worship, June 22 (pp. 1-64), July 13 (pp. 65-114), August 17 (pp. 115-166)

Where: Session Room (off the courtyard)

Game Gathering June 15th after worship

Before our summer activities try and pull us in too many directions to count, let's gather for some games! If you've got a new favorite to share, or an old classic you'd like to dust off, bring it and a friend with you to church, and then stay for a fun time of fellowship.

Bring a snack to share, and who knows, there might be some leftover hot dogs in the freezer from the block party that Pastor Jamie can throw on the grill.

The Deborah Circle and Lydia Circle groups will not meet during the months of June, July and August and will resume in September.

The Surprising Acts of God

As we move into June, we'll begin by continuing our journey into the "surprising" nature of God's Spirit as it moved through the early church. The Book of Acts, often titled "Acts of the Apostles," could just as easily be called the "Acts of the Spirit" as it details the many and various ways that the Spirit is at work in the Apostles and in the world.

June 1- Acts 1:1-11

"A Surprising Exit"

We'll rewind back to the beginning of the book to witness Jesus' Ascension that leaves the apostles staring off into heaven.

June 8- Acts 2:1-21

"A Surprising New Spirit"

On Pentecost Sunday, we'll receive God's Spirit anew as we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church and are sent out into the world with God's good news on our lips!

June 15- Romans 5:1-5

"A Surprising Relationship"

While we leave Acts behind on this Trinity Sunday, we'll explore together the mystery of how God's Spirit interacts with God the Parent and God the Child, and how they all work in perfect unity to interact with humanity.



Season of Rest

Beginning on June 22, we'll begin a five-week series exploring the profound importance of rest in our lives. We start with Elijah's experience of divine rest, learn how to find a healthy balance of rest, work, and play, understand the rhythm of rest modeled by God, and affirm that God has given everyone the gift of rest to be embraced.

June 22: Release into Rest 1 Kings 19:1-9

How might God help us release into rest,

rather than stretching us to do more?

June 29: A Rhythm of Rest Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

How do we cultivate a healthy rhythm of rest, work, and play, recognizing that balance is essential for our well-being and spiritual growth?

July 6: What Kind of Rest: The Science Behind Rest | Genesis 2:1-3

There is a natural ebb and flow for our minds, bodies and spirits, modeled for us by God.

Going on vacation? Can't make it to church in person? Remember you can watch each Sunday's worship service streaming live on Facebook, or go back and watch any service on our YouTube channel.

Wings of Prayer

Normally Patti Wesenick is the contact to add names to our Wings of Prayer. 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.

What's up with that App?



Last month, we shared the exciting news about our new **Westminster Church App**—a secure, easy-to-use tool designed to help us stay connected as a church family. Since then, several members have successfully downloaded the app and are already using it to stay in touch.

We also know that some of you have questions or concerns, and we want to clarify a few things:

- **The app is private.** Only members of Westminster have access to it.
- **No ads, no sales.** The app will *not* try to sell you anything or share your information with outside companies.
- **Only the church can send messages or notifications.** This helps us communicate more efficiently about prayer requests, events, schedule changes, and more.

The app is hosted through the company that put together our latest pictorial directory and includes the photos, names, addresses, and phone numbers of your Westminster friends—and we can continue to add new members and update information over time.

If we have your email on file, you should have received instructions for downloading the app along with a *unique identifier* specific to your household. This keeps the app secure and ensures only church members can access it. (Look for an email from appsupport@ucdir.com.)

If you're having trouble or aren't sure how to get started, you're not alone — and we're here to help! Feel free to reach out to Pastor Jamie, or any member of Session. We'll also continue to offer support during **fellowship time on Sundays**.

Scan the appropriate QR code below to download the App on your smartphone.

Android



iPhone



PER CAPITA From Page 6

who is a member shares in the benefits of this system of church government. Per capita provides for the financial participation of all local churches as part of a connectional and representative church, thus providing for unity and mutual responsibility within the church.

HOW IS PER CAPITA CALCULATED?

Westminster pays Per Capita Apportionment for every active member on our church roll. This includes youth once they have

Paying our per capita is similar to:

- contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- paying to be connected to the internet
- paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, gas, water
- pitching in with others to pay for gasoline on a road trip

been confirmed, but not our children. We are responsible for \$30.69 for each member to support the work of the Presbytery of Lake Huron, the Synod of the Covenant, and the General Assembly of the PC (USA). Per Capita is the cost of being a Presbyterian, and if each member pays the per capita amount above their pledge or regular giving, pressure on the

local budget is reduced. If every member paid their Per Capita, we would save over \$4,000 each year from the General Fund!

The topic of Per Capita raised several questions at the May 4th Town Hall, so if you have other questions about Per Capita, let us know and we will do our best to address them!

In April, the **General Operating Fund** received \$38,215.71 in income and spent \$36,789.57. So far this year, our income has exceeded our expenses so we have not yet needed to tap into investment funds.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received \$237 in contributions and spent \$3,557.88 for lighting for the bell area and supplies for a new tower light. As of the end of April, the Fund has a balance of \$9,424.55. The **Major Repairs Fund** received \$354 in contributions and incurred no expenses. Its April Fund balance was \$40,346.69.

The **Capital Campaign Fund** received \$1,893.03 in contributions plus interest from the endowment of \$2,864.83 in April. At the end of the month, the loan balance is down to \$28,695.77, thanks to your ongoing support. We anticipate paying this loan off very soon!

Are you familiar with the saying, "watch the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves?" It's commonly attributed to Benjamin Franklin and is applicable to our church finances as well. The staff is mindful of this daily; are there ways in which church members can be as well without sacrificing the good work we do? A couple of things come to my mind:

- Do you use your personalized pledge envelopes? If not, we don't need to continue ordering them.

- Do you regularly use email and does the church have your current email address? If so, I can send your contribution statements electronically and save postage.
- Did you know that the church is exempt from sales tax? I am following up with our regular vendors to make sure they don't charge us, but if you are purchasing items for the church it never hurts to ask how to be exempt from tax. Some businesses will accept your word for it, but more often they will want a tax exemption form. I have those available if needed.

I do have a full-time job in addition to my work here at Westminster, but I strive to be as accessible to you as I can. I check my email during the day and can give quick answers to questions. I am at church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from about 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., and you can call my cell phone at any time. If you prefer, calling the church office and asking Bill to get a message to me always works.

As always, if you have any questions about these figures or anything else finance-related, please feel free to contact me.

Pat Foster

Financial Administrator
treasurer@wpcbc.org
 616-485-8272 (cell phone)

What's that WORD again?*

*A new monthly series about some common Presbyterian words we use (but may need to (re)introduce.)

PER CAPITA

What is per capita? Fair question. We'll attempt to answer it. PER CAPITA has been part of our denomination's funding history for over 150 years. When presbyteries,

synods, and the General Assembly meet, they gather to conduct the legislative and judicial business of the church and incur necessary expenses. There are also some necessary administrative expenses involved which enable these ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions to be performed. Historically, per

capita has been used to fund these. Importantly, per capita funding enables governing councils to make decisions regarding distribution of mission dollars without itself being funded by those same dollars.

The whole church shares in these expenses since everyone

PER CAPITA continued on Page 7

Summer Bible Study

"In a culture that can tear us apart with contempt and disdain of others, Jill Duffield offers a wise perspective. Her invitation is to consider how a 'generosity of spirit' can heal and connect us as we appreciate the good in each of us." So writes the coeditor of Growing in God's Love.

This year's summer Bible study series will focus on just one – but one very powerful Bible verse – Philippians 4:8 which reads, *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

This letter of Philippians written to one of the early churches in Christianity and is considered the most pastoral. Some have said that this verse always made them feel like they needed to "wrangle their thoughts in such a way that they could block out sin and only think about good things...but now instead have come to appreciate that Jill Duffield is writing about and sharing a loving view of God, of life, of others, and of scripture that invites us into compassion and appreciation."

If this sounds of interest to you, please join us for eight Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. over the summer as we consider whatever is **true ... honorable ... just ... pure ... pleasing ... commendable ... excellent ... praiseworthy.**

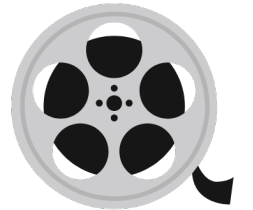
We will be meeting by Zoom, but if there is an interest for some in meeting in person at the church, we will consider making this a hybrid meeting. During the eight weeks we will consider these eight ways of cultivating compassion. Books are available in the church office for a \$12 optional donation; only a limited number have been purchased so please sign up early so we can order more books if necessary.

Please be in touch with Rev. Linda with any questions and to let her know of your interest, especially if you would like to see the class be both in person and via Zoom.

Class dates are: June 19 & 26; July 10, 17, 24; and August 7, 14, and 21. Come for some, come for all. Although the study is focused on one verse only, each week's discussion will be not be necessarily linked to the previous week.

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. As you can see, not all the movies have been chosen; we are hoping people will have suggestions of a movie that we would enjoy watching together. Please see Rev. Linda with your suggestion.

And it goes without saying that our "easy living, summertime theme" lemonade and popcorn will be served. Any questions, please call the church office.

You're not doing it wrong

Let's start with this: *There is no right way to grieve.*

Surprised? Many people worry they are not experiencing loss the way they are "supposed to". Maybe you expected to cry every day but you don't. Perhaps you thought you'd feel lost, but instead you feel okay. And then, guilt creeps in. Shouldn't I be more upset?

Despite what you may have heard, the emotions of grief do not follow a script. It's a very personal experience. Your relationship with the person who died, your personality, cultural background and family traditions all shape how you cope and what feelings you may have.

For some, grief shows up physically—maybe you feel exhausted, have trouble sleeping or have a change in your appetite. Others might not experience this at all, and that's normal too. Some people experience high levels of stress, which can lead to what's called "grief brain" - difficulty thinking, remembering or making decisions. It can also cause a higher heart rate and blood pressure. But for others, this may not happen.

Grief can also inspire positive changes. You may have expected to struggle with getting back to your routine, but instead you find yourself energized to try a

What We're Reading

Here are some reading recommendations that may provide comfort and understanding:

- **A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis** is a classic book that provides poignant reflections on the author's personal experience with loss.
- **Helping Teens Cope with Death from The Dougy Center** offers guidance for navigating grief with young people.
- **The Grieving Body by Mary-Frances O'Connor** explores the connection between our physical experiences and emotional grief. It's a research-based perspective on how our bodies respond to loss.
- **The Grieving Brain also by Mary-Frances O'Conner**, helps to explain how our minds process loss and find ways to heal.
- **What's Your Grief by Eleanor Haley and Litsa Williams** reviews some of the most common grief experiences and suggests useful coping tools in a format that is easy to read and understand.
- **Widow to Widow by Genevieve Davis Ginsburg** offers practical advice for navigating widowhood.

new hobby or pursue different life choices. Maybe you are even taking part in activities that honor the legacy of the person who died. There is absolutely nothing wrong with any of that.

Here is one more thing to remember: there is no timeline to grief. It is not a linear process and it does not have a defined end. There is no rush to go through someone's belongings, hold certain rituals or find all the answers to life's big questions. Some days, grief may feel overwhelming; other days, it's

just a distant thought. These fluctuations are a natural part of grieving.

Grief is full of contradictions. You can mourn deeply and still find moments of joy. You can miss someone terribly, but also continue to look forward to the future. You can honor their memory and still live fully.

So if you are feeling bad about not feeling bad, take a deep breath. You are not doing grief wrong. You are simply experiencing it in your own way and that is exactly how it should be.

Coffee and Conversation will not be meeting in the summer and will resume in September.

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

Mother's Day Baby Shower

Thank you, Westminster Family, for all the baby items brought in for the Mother's Day Baby Shower. Volunteers helped distribute diapers, wipes, outfits in several sizes, and all the beautiful knitted and crocheted items to the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, and the Women's Center. How wonderful to know that babies and mothers in need will receive these items and feel God's love through our efforts.

Thank you, again, on behalf of Presbyterian Women here at Westminster Presbyterian Church!

Westminster Community Pantry turns 1!

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.

In May, 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 truckloads 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!

Westminster
COMMUNITY PANTRY

Item of the Month for June

Picnic and cookout condiments such as mayo or salad dressing, relish, pickles and BBQ sauce. Ketchup and mustard is already available in the Pantry.

Mindful Markings to meet during summer months

Let's celebrate Summer with fun and less stress in our lives. Spiritual Growth & Faith Formation is offering just such a way! Join us **June 21, July 19, and August 16**, for about 1½ hours to scribble, squiggle, make marks and add color to our Mark Making where perfection is NOT allowed.

From the first sessions held in May students commented how much they enjoyed Mark-Making with the

Registration is required in order to have enough supplies:

- June registration due by: June 16
- July registration due by: July 14
- August registration due by: Aug 11

following comments: "Awesome!" "I liked the fellowship & personal touch." "No frustration." "Loved it all." "So relaxing."

These sessions combine focused-breathing with repetitive-mark-making that help improve our focus, calm our nervous system and lower

stress. All of this is a way so we can hear God and our soul's voices. These moments of presence can be so rewarding!

Please call the church office or Pam Binder (989-493-9476) to register and/or ask questions.