



November 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.

** Denotes hymn number in pew hymnal. Some lyrics may be different than what is projected on the screens*



DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - MORSE FAMILY

Reader: In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

Congregation: We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

Reader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

INTROIT

“Wait for the Lord”

WAIT FOR THE LORD

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays,
on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.
Meet us in this space.
Surprise us with your presence.
Fill this room with your good news.
With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

†HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*No. 176 vs. 1-3

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven’s employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close.
We long to feel your presence in our lives.
We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this
world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long
enough to feel you in our midst.
Forgive our rushing and distractions.
Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.
Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are always there.

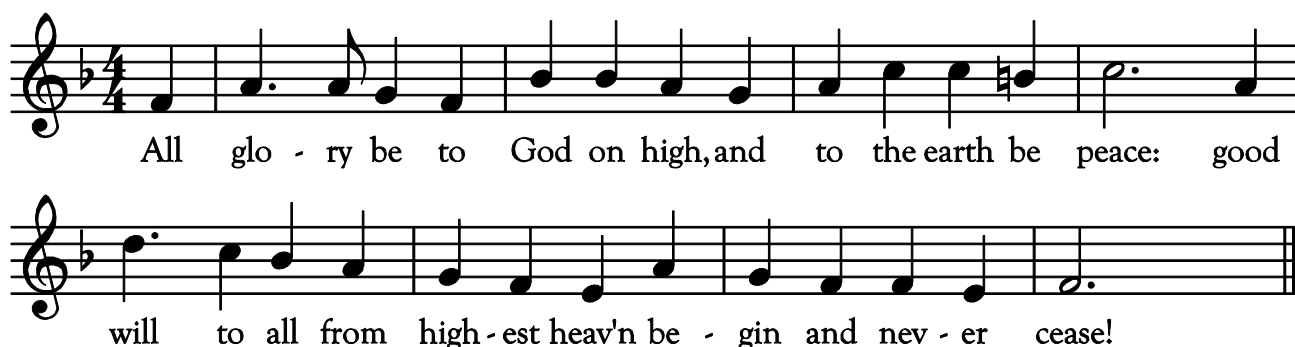
— Continue in silent prayer —

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:
Nothing can keep God's love away.
We are seen. We are forgiven.
We are not alone. Amen.

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

WINCHESTER OLD



All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace: good
will to all from high - est heav'n be - gin and nev - er cease!

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Let us share this hope and peace with one another. The peace of
Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:55-57

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:5-13

SERMON *“In the Time of Herod, We Long for God to Break in”*

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

“In the Time of Herod”

CRANHAM

See back page of today’s bulletin

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.

We have seen a sky without stars.

**We have seen the longest night,
and *still* we believe.**

We believe in a with-us God.

We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.

**So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,**

we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So *still*, we believe.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

MEN'S GROUP

"The Yearning"

Music by Craig Courtney, Words by Susan Bentall Boersma

Men's Group: Ken Wright, Don Clough, Tim Holley, Buz West, Jeff Rodgers, Dave Crook, Diego Calvo, Scott Stuijbergen

~ 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.*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of hope, in a world that trembles with fear, we dare to believe that Your light will shine. Take these gifts and use them to break through despair with hope, through darkness with light, through fear with love. Amen.

†HYMN

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

FESTAL SONG

*Give to the winds thy fears;
hope, and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.*

*Through waves and clouds and storms
God gently clears the way.
Wait patiently; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.*

*Leave to God’s sovereign sway
to choose and to command.
So shalt thou, wondering, own God’s way,
how wise, how strong God’s hand!*

*Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our final breath
thy love and guardian care.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

Service liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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FACILITIES MANAGER

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Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Darlene Kusterer

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 30, 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.

- **WINGS OF PRAYER:** If you have someone you would like to add to our Wings of Prayer list, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.

- **ANNUAL ADVENT DINNER:** We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall **this evening at 6:00 p.m.** for a festive evening of food, fellowship, and creativity. A main dish will be provided; please bring a **salad, side, or dessert** to share as we enjoy this time together. After dinner, there will be **holiday crafts for all ages**—a chance to create, laugh, and get into the holiday spirit.

- **NATIVITY DISPLAY:** Tonight during the advent dinner, we'll display **nativity scenes** from church members and friends around the building. If you didn't bring your nativity set to worship this morning, arrive early to the dinner so we can arrange it for display.

- **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Our Advent Series — “What Do You Fear?” — focuses on the themes of hope and fear. We will meet weekly on **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Conference Room or **by Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.** Please call the church office or Rev. Linda with any questions.

- **BUILDING OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:** Join the *Bring a Friend Challenge!* Each time you bring a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to worship or a church event, you and your guest will be entered into a raffle

for prizes (gift cards, a stainless-steel tabletop grill, and more!). Stop by the Wenona Street Welcome kiosk before or after worship for tickets and details.

- **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Do you like to cook or bake meals? If yes, then we would love for you to **sign up to help with Youth Dinners for Sunday night youth group meetings.** If not, there is still a way you can help with dinner. You can choose to provide dinner by providing pizza, chicken tenders, Mac & Cheese or something along those lines. We usually have dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance.



Please scan the QR code, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bd7hv7u8> or see Leah Sneller to sign up.

- **FALL BOOK GROUP:** Our Book Group will conclude its journey through Kate Bowler's acclaimed memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* this Tuesday and take a break during the month of December. Beginning **Tuesday, January 6 at 1:30 p.m.**, we'll begin our discussion of Sidney Poitier's *The Measure of a Man*. Books are available in the church office for a suggested donation of \$5.

- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month as we help each other cope with loss. Our Caring Connections Group is open to the Bay City community and meets the first Thursday of each month.. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. We will meet again on **Thursday, December 4** from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Holiday Ornament Sales: Local businesses are selling paper ornaments as a holiday fundraiser for our pantry. For \$1, you can hang an ornament at Cops & Doughnuts, Eudici's Pizza, Lucky's Pub and Grill, Parlour Donuts, O'Hares Bar and Grill, River Rock Cafe, and the Westown Theater. We thank them for partnering with us and hope you will thank them with your business. All donations will be credited to our account at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

Double Match Day at Meijer's is December 13: It's almost here! Meijer's on Wilder Road will double match all Simply Give donations on Saturday, December 13. When you donate \$10, Meijer will match it with \$20, for a total of \$30. If you give \$100, that turns into a total of \$300 for our pantry. Simply Give cards are available at the church and at the store checkout lanes. All donations will come directly to our pantry in the



Westminster **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

form of Meijer gift cards we can use to purchase food. And remember, the Simply Give program continues at the Wilder Road location through December 27, so any donations made during that time still come to our pantry. Please share the news with your family and friends. With the help of the community, this can be a huge gift for the pantry! Questions? Talk to Janet Smylie or Janet Beattie.

Extra Venison? Did you know the pantry accepts venison if it was processed at a licensed facility? We are happy to take your extras off your hands!

- **TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION** to the Westminster Community Pantry, scan the QR code in the Giving to Westminster box on the next page to visit the Online Giving Portal.

- **Scan the QR code at the right to visit the Westminster Community Pantry Facebook page!**



PER CAPITA FOR 2025

is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360 email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch each day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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 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. 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!

GENERAL FUND	Month to Date thru November	
	24	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 34,018	\$ 396,251
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ 31,000
Other Cash Received	\$ 199	\$ 31,884
Total Income	\$ 34,217	\$ 459,135
Expenses	\$ 27,520	\$ 395,765
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 6,697	\$ 63,370

Budgeted expense total for the year is \$474,000.

- **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT** is being planned for **5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 12**. We want to give our parents a night off during this holiday season. Bring the kids to the church and we will have dinner, play games, make crafts and watch a movie. Contact Leah Sneller or the church office to register your children for the event.

- **CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** Don't miss this year's amazing cantata, Sing We Noel, which will be performed during the worship service on **Sunday, December 14**. Sing We Noel consists of six "suites" of traditional carols woven together with a uniquely modern sound. Practices will continue every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Sunday after worship. A final rehearsal is planned for Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m.

- **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** This year's Christmas Pageant, *The First Christmas*

Quilt, was written by Westminster's own Judy Hudson! The Pageant is scheduled for **Sunday, December 21** during worship. Rehearsals will be held December 7 and December 14 during Youth Group at 6 p.m. A dress rehearsal is planned for 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 20. Contact Leah Sneller with any questions.

- **ANGEL TREE:** You may have noticed the Angel Tree shining outside the sanctuary again this year. There are 75 Angel Tags hanging on the tree listing toys, gift cards, clothing items and bedding for kids ranging in age from 0 to 17. Tags will be available until Sunday, December 7. Purchase a gift (we suggest spending \$25 to \$30 per item), and **return it to the church by noon on Sunday, December 14**. You can also make a financial contribution and we will do the shopping for you! For questions, contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062.

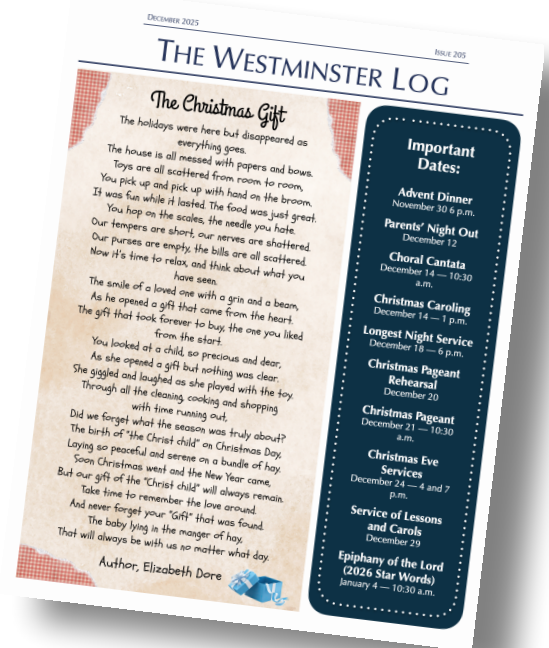
TODAY is the last day to place your **POINSETTIA ORDERS** for 2025. We will be placing our order with Begick's tomorrow. Please use the order form in your bulletin and make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Do you like to sing? Do you like to spread joy and Christmas spirit to friends? The Deacons are planning an afternoon of Christmas caroling to help spread

Christmas cheer to some of our homebound and less mobile members. The more folks we have, the more folks we can visit! Join us after worship on Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. If you'd like to stay after church, we'll order a couple of pizzas and eat before we head out. If you'd rather run home to change and then come back, feel free to do that as well! Don't worry, we'll be back to the church before the Lions kick off against the Rams at 4:25 p.m.

The December Issue of the Westminster Log has been mailed and is now available on the church website, wpcbc.org! This issue is packed with photos of the 160th Anniversary and 50-year member celebration, along with important information about the many activities and celebrations planned for the coming month.

Thank you to all the volunteers who donate their time each month to folding, sealing and labeling the Log. Your help is greatly appreciated!



In the Time of Herod

CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in
Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold

5



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope

9



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:

13



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break - ing through the clouds
Hope - less - ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
God will stop at no - thing to be here with us