

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

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# THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Titus Theatre Youth Program is taking place at Westminster this spring and has a very similar format as the former Youtheatre program at Bay City Players. So far, the 75 registered students are having a great time learning about theatre and making new friends! Adult staff members of this group include Sarah Rice, Theresa VanSumeren, Dale Sneller, Leah Sneller and Mindy Leichty. Kay Call, Lillian Chambers, Lauren Graves, Lillian Graves, and Sabine Sivy are all part of our Westminster family and are participating in the new program by acting or directing. Titus Theatre has added backstage crew members to the program for those who do not wish to act in a show. Actors and crew are in 3rd-12th grades and directors are 9th-12th high school students. This is a very inclusive program!



Why is the program named “Titus Theatre”? Sara Rice of Complete Worship & Titus Theatre states, “*The book of Titus in the Bible is a letter to encourage living with good morals and positive character traits, such as being a good example to the young, hospitable, self-controlled, not overbearing, honest, kind, considerate, sound in faith, love and endurance, and having integrity. This name is fitting for our program because theatre isn't just about being in or putting on plays. It is about teamwork, acceptance, lifting each other up, being kind, and bringing out the best in everyone. The performances are just the icing on the cake.*”

Titus Theatre casts rehearse in our church building on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Please come see their six one act shows performed in the sanctuary on Thursday, June 16; Friday, June 17; and Saturday, June 18! Free will donations will be taken at the door for performances. Please see the tentative schedule\* below:

- Play 1 - Aesop's Fables
- Play 2 - Wicked Witch of the Old West
- Play 3 - Murder at the Banquet
- Play 4 - The Adventure of Peter Cottontail
- Play 5 - XYZ Files
- Play 6 - The Thirty - Three Little Pigs

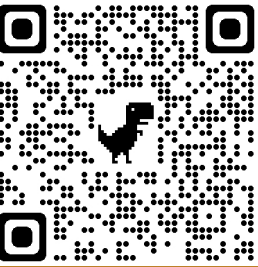
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**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 13 - 17**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

Bring all the kiddos to Jerusalem Marketplace and join Jesus’ faithful friends and followers during Jesus’ final days on earth. You’ll travel back into Bible Times — without setting a foot outside our community.

Each day, your children can be part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in a Bible-times city! You’ll explore the marketplace shops, visit with Jerusalem’s citizens, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about Jesus' ministry. These experiences make God’s Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!



To register your child(ren), please go to [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org), call the church office at 989-686-1360, or use this QR code!

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

JUNE 2022 ISSUE 163

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Phone: 989-686-1360  
E-mail: [office@wpcbc.org](mailto:office@wpcbc.org)  
Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Visit us on Facebook:  
Westminster Presbyterian  
Church - Bay City

- Pastor  
Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
- Parish Associate  
Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
- Church Secretary  
Judy Harrelson (ext. 201)
- Treasurer  
Heather Heidtman (ext. 206)
- Youth Director  
Brandi Higgins (ext. 208)
- Custodian  
Harold Miller (ext. 205)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<div> <div>June</div> </div>	<div> <div>Office Hours</div> <div>Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</div> <div>website: <a href="http://wpcbc.org">wpcbc.org</a></div> <div>Join us on Facebook</div> <div>Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City</div> </div>	
	5	6
	6	7
	12	13
	19	20
26	27	28

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25
29	30	<div> <div>Happy Birthday</div> <div> <div>Linda Skrocki</div> <div>Shirley Estabrook</div> <div>Beverly Rector</div> <div>Lucille Newcomb</div> <div>Patricia Quantz</div> </div> <div> <div>Marilyn Kayner</div> <div>Bernice Anderson</div> <div>Darrell Darling</div> <div>Janet Witucki</div> </div> </div>	

\*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members



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

Save the Date  
September 18

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

In April, the **Operating Fund** had income of \$26,548.11 and expenses of \$31,892.09. We made gifts to our Mission Co-Workers Cathy Chang and Lucy Dergarabedian, plus several expenses related to Lent and Holy Week. A deposit was made for the Youth Retreat our Youth Group is attending in Oscoda later in June. It's wonderful to see all the things your gifts to the Operating Fund can do for our members and those outside our church walls. Remember that you can set up recurring gifts using our online giving portal, found on the church's website [www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org) or look for the QR code in the bulletin. Thank you for your tithes and gifts to Westminster.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of \$452.00, and did not have any expenses in April. The Fund ended the month at \$19,568.57. Thank you for contributing to the Building Improvement Fund.

The **Major Repairs Fund** had income of \$1,868.00 in April and did not have any expenses during the month. The balance at the end of April is \$56,622.82. Thank you to those who contribute to the Major Repairs Fund.

Contributions to the **Capital Campaign Fund** totaled \$5,532.53. After our payment in April, the balance on the loan is \$241,607.46. Because of our extra payments, more and more of our monthly payments are being applied to the principal of the loan and less for interest. We're grateful for your gifts to the Capital Campaign.

Heather Heidtman  
[treasurer@wpcbc.org](mailto:treasurer@wpcbc.org)  
989-225-5718

Per capita for 2022 is \$29.00.  
This is per active, confirmed member.

Titus Theatre Tentative Performance Schedule\*  
Performances will take place in Westminster Presbyterian Church’s sanctuary.

Thursday, June 16, 2022

- 1:00 p.m. - Play 2
- 2:00 p.m. - Play 3
- 3:00 p.m. - Play 4
- 5:00 p.m. - Play 1
- 6:00 p.m. - Play 5
- 7:00 p.m. - Play 6

Friday, June 17, 2022

- 1:30 p.m. - Play 6
- 2:30 p.m. - Play 1
- 3:30 p.m. - Play 3
- 5:30 p.m. - Play 5
- 6:30 p.m. - Play 4
- 7:30 p.m. - Play 2

Saturday, June 18, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. - Play 4
- 11:00 a.m. - Play 5
- 12:00 p.m. - Play 2
- 3:00 p.m. - Play 6
- 4:00 p.m. - Play 1
- 5:00 p.m. - Play 3

\*Please note that times are approximate and could change slightly closer to performance dates.



Condolences

ROY DALE GRIGG



Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Roy Dale Grigg. Dale passed away on Friday, May 13, 2022. A Memorial Service will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m. Family will greet friends at the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial Service

EARL & DORIS (HERBIE) BIBBEE



A Memorial Service will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church for Earl and Doris (Herbie) Bibbee on Saturday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m.



## Adult Bible Study — Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living



### Honor God's Diversity

(May 22<sup>nd</sup> week – June 12<sup>th</sup> week)

As summer draws closer, we will be wrapping up this year's season and study of the FOLLOW ME Bible study series. The last unit is titled, "Honor God's Diversity" and began the week of May 22. Readers of the Bible encounter diversity at every turn. Its pages are filled with a great diversity of voices, people, types of writings, contexts, perspectives, and theologies. Beginning with the creation stories found in Genesis 1–2, we see diversity in the varied elements of creation. We read that God saw all that was made and called it good.

During the four weeks of this session, we will be challenged to recognize and appreciate diversity as a valuable aspect of God's creation; to look beyond the comfort of uniformity and to identify the variety of life God gives. Each week we will study and discuss Bible passages from the Hebrew scriptures, the Gospels, and the Epistles that will illuminate four dimensions of honoring God's diversity.

Week One: "Affirm People Who Are Marginalized": Genesis 1–2. God authored a wide diversity of life with each human holding the honor of being formed in God's own image.

Week Two: "Center Voices from the Margins": Jesus listened to and learned from people who were largely ignored by society: women, the outcast, the prisoner, the condemned.

Week Three: "Work for Liberation While Challenging Oppression": Embracing God's desire for people to be liberated from oppression requires readers to approach Scripture through a frame of faith and dialogue with God, culture, and experience.

Week Four: "Use Advantages to Overturn Inequality": Jesus repeated the saying, "But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first," an adage that turns expectations upside down. We will be challenged to evaluate advantages and privilege and consider how we can use possessions, social position, and power to confront the status quo and overturn inequality.

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

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

### *Pause for Prayer*

God of mercy, our hearts are broken for the violence that surrounds us, the violence that is within us. Heal our rage; mold it like a potter into wisdom and courage. But to not unbreak our hearts. Let them remain shattered for those who grieve — for we are all one family — and for our own part in a nation of violence. Mold our sorrow with your strong and steady hands into wisdom and courage, that we may speak and act to assist in the mending of this world, in the strength of your gentleness, the might of your mercy, the power of your love.

Prayer by  
Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
Unfolding Light  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)



## The Wired WORD™

**The Wired Word** continues to meet every **Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom**

Even during the summer, The Wired Word gathering will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings via Zoom. Zoom makes it easy to come in from your morning walk, or early morning gardening, or whatever, and not feel the need to get "all cleaned up" as they say, and drive into church. Just simply open the Zoom invitation (maybe even with your laptop out on the porch or patio) and Zoom-meet with other folk from the church who have a similar interest in seeing how current events and faith intersect.

These past few weeks we have focused on news events such as one teacher finding the right words and questions to help a student think about God, and the recently leaked draft of a Supreme Court opinion that causes us to consider the pro-life and pro-choice issues with compassion and understanding — just a couple of our recent topics. Which makes for great discussions!

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

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 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](mailto:parishassoc@wpcbc.org). Remember each week discuss a new topics, so please feel free to pick and choose what interests you. Our website posts the new topic for the week.



"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, the Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation Committee is inviting you to take a break once a month — on a Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. — to watch a movie in Fellowship Hall.**

The movie may be light-hearted, informative, or

thoughtfully heart-warming, so take two hours out of your day — once a month — and enjoy watching a movie with a few of your friends from Westminster. Even better — invite a friend of yours to come along!

**Tuesday, June 28**

*The Shack*

**Tuesday, July 26**

*Encanto*

**Tuesday, August 23**

*Flint: The Poisoning of an American City*

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

And of course, lemonade and popcorn will be served to go along with our "easy living, summertime theme."





## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Reflective, fun, and lighthearted are some of the ways you could describe our summer worship series for the month of July.

Join us as we all..."Come to the Water."

This is a five-week series based on some of our most beloved stories in scripture. Each week we will be diving into a different lesson the Bible offers us that will use water as a theme to help build our faith.

Week One: Wade in the Water: Our faith story through water.

Week Two: Walking on Water: Let's get out of the boat.

Week Three: Baptized in Water: Wildly different; united in baptism

Week Four: Stay Hydrated: Stay hydrated with living water.

Week Five: Underwater: It's a whale of a tale.

Each week after the worship service there will be fellowship time...with a twist. There will be a different "Swimming lesson" activity to participate in each week. We will invite you to grab a friend or even someone you may just want to get to know and head back

to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a craft, experiment, or game.

Week five, which will be July 31st, will be a special week! We are planning to have a time of fellowship and fun after our morning outdoor worship service to include food, games, water toys, puppets, music, and more. We hope you'll wade on over and join in the fun!

## Book & Brunch

Over the last few years we have held topical summer discussions — you may remember our Bible and Breakfast series when we did a brief study of the parables of Jesus, Sabbath-keeping, and other topics. Last year we did three sessions on "Civility — Faithful Living in a Complex World" over a delicious brunch for the three Sundays we met.

This summer our focus will be on the book, *The Art of Neighboring*, by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon.

As the church considers Jesus' call to "Love your neighbor as yourself," we naturally come first to the question of "Who is my neighbor?" Often, especially in the context of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we take this as a reminder that all people, regardless of who they are or where they live, should be considered our neighbor according to Jesus. Sometimes this can be

too broad a focus, leaving us to forget or neglect those who are our physical neighbors, those right outside our doors.

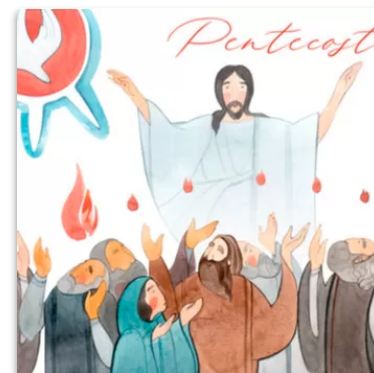
## On three Sundays — June 12, July 10, and August 21 following the worship service

— we will read and discuss the book, *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door*. This book invites us to consider what it would take to get to know our neighbors, those who live near our homes, and our church. Full of practical information and suggestions for getting to know our neighbors, this book will serve as a springboard for us to think about what it means to be a neighborhood church in 2022. We will also connect this discussion with the Matthew 25 goal of "Building Congregational Vitality" as we share Christ's love and friendship with the world around us.

Please let us know if you plan on attending so that we can properly prepare food. Books are already available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jamie or Rev. Linda.

## PENTECOST CELEBRATION

Sunday, June 5, 2022



June 5 is Pentecost Sunday. We will welcome our confirmands into Westminster membership during the worship service.

Following the service, there will be a time of celebration, including music, puppets, crafts, games, and of course, food!

We will also recognize this year's graduates during the worship service. If you know someone who is graduating from high school, college, or university, please let the church office know as soon as possible.

## RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Spring Rummage & Bake Sale possible! Another big thank you to those who donated goods to sell. The rummage sale raised \$1,492.81. The bake sale raised \$403.57. All proceeds support the Presbyterian Women's Association.

## MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER

Thank you, Westminster Family, for all the baby items brought in for the Mother's Day Baby Shower. Diapers, wipes, outfits in several sizes, and all the beautiful knitted and crocheted items have been distributed to the Diaper Alliance, 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.



Claire Jacobson celebrated her 100th birthday on April 18, 2022. Claire has been a member of Westminster since 1957!



Thank you for your prayers and sympathy cards when my sister, Sherry, passed away last month. I appreciate your words and love.

— Jan Witucki

## A Note About Parking

Lake Effect Chiropractic has moved in at 203 E. Midland Street (the former dentist office). The parking lot off of Dewitt Street (across the street from Westminster) will NOT be available during the following hours:

Monday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



**Each month the Spiritual Growth Committee will share 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.**

*"It would be impossible to estimate how much time and energy we invest in trying to fix, change, and deny our emotions, especially the ones that shake us at our very core."*  
— Debbie Ford

This month we focus on some of the more difficult emotions that grievers often encounter after the death of someone they loved. They are the kind of feelings people often think about, but seldom disclose. One feeling is relief.

Although it's a common emotion, people who are grieving the death of a loved one rarely admit they feel relief and consequently these unacknowledged emotions may lead to self-loathing, shame, or even denial of the feeling's existence. To harbor thoughts of relief after a death could imply that the griever is somehow a "bad" person.

Relief is experienced when intolerable conditions are at last concluded. Experiencing relief is part of being human and it often surfaces when someone dies after a prolonged illness. Some examples include the death of a spouse who had dementia or a parent with a prolonged trajectory of surgeries, treatments, and relapses. Relief may be particularly strong if the



griever was providing care for the person who died. Relief doesn't mean you didn't love the person. Quite the opposite is true. You may feel relief that their suffering has ended, which is a natural outgrowth of your love for them.

Relief may also be experienced when a sibling or a child can finally receive the needed attention they desire following the death of a family member who had a chronic illness. Visits to the hospital or nursing home have ended. Life returns to previous patterns and the focus then shifts to other members within the family.

Uncomfortable feelings don't always make sense and they don't have to. Feelings are neither good nor bad; they are simply part of the grieving process. Acknowledging and accepting them as part of who we are is the most courageous and responsible act we can do to heal.

#### **Uncomfortable Feelings**

**Envy:** Five years after the death of her 25-year-old daughter, Linda was consumed with envy when she was around her daughter's closest friends, all who were getting married or

starting families. While grievers are taught to expect a multitude of emotions, envy isn't usually on this list. Perhaps we've learned that envy is one of the seven deadly sins. Envy is unhappiness that arises when we contemplate another person's favorable status. And while we may not want to admit we're jealous of others and their good fortune, it's entirely normal to envy intact families or marriages. It's a jolting reminder of what was and no longer is. Linda was being reminded that she had lost the opportunity to plan a wedding and to become a grandmother.

**Idealization:** In the early months following a death, images and memories of a loved one are often enhanced. The griever may need to recall their loved one's best attributes and the fond times shared together. It is part of our society's culture to only speak well of the dead. After all, the deceased is not around to defend themselves. But eventually the concept of our loved one undergoes revision as the griever puts memories into perspective. If the relationship does not undergo this revision, idealization becomes an attempt to rewrite history. The loved one is elevated to sainthood and the griever may attempt to defend themselves against some of their negative feeling about the person who died. They fail to uncover the blemishes that may have been buried with the loved one.

*continued from page 4*

**Survivor Guilt:** This feeling was first documented after the Holocaust and since that time, researchers have recognized that survivor guilt is far more common than initially understood. Survivor guilt can occur when someone survives an accident, an act of violence or a natural disaster when others didn't. It may occur when a child dies before the parent or when a sibling dies after a long illness. This guilt varies dramatically from person to person in its duration and intensity. Some theorists suggest that grievers prefer to blame themselves for things outside their control or that they find it difficult to accept the reality that they are truly helpless.

#### **A Child's Discomfort**

Children often confront uncomfortable feelings after a death. Eight-year-old Julie will never forget the argument she had a week before her mother died. Angry about having to wear a coat, Julie stomped off after yelling, "I hate you! I hope you

die!" Months later, she told a counselor, "She's dead because I said that."

Children often employ magical thinking as a way to make sense of an unsettling event. They create their own explanations for the death and because children tend to be egocentric, they often create implausible theories that revolve around their actions or experiences. They imagine that something they did or didn't do caused the death.

Magical thinking is a dense mechanism for children, a way they can face the fear of the unknown. This is why it's so important to be honest with children when a death occurs. Tell them in age appropriate language what happened and answer their questions. Otherwise, they will fill in their own details about the death and their reality is often more frightening than the truth.



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



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 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.

#### **FELLOWSHIP TIME**

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

Coffee and donuts included!

