

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706

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THE WESTMINSTER LOG

We are in the middle of our Lenten worship series focusing on the life and faith of Peter. Our faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows like the tide. Wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. In Peter's story we see this clearly. He keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

As we continue through the Lenten season, we walk with Peter in figuring out faith. Along our journey, we'll wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

Sunday & Holy Week Worship Services

See Page 1 For More Details and Times

- The Third Sunday in Lent, March 3rd**
"Praise the mount"
Matthew 16:13-20
- The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10th**
"I'm fixed upon it"
Matthew 16:21-23
- The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17th**
"Teach me"
Matthew 18:15-22
- Palm / Passion Sunday, March 24th**
"Songs of loudest praise"
John 12:12-16
- Maundy Thursday, March 28th**
"Streams of mercy"
John 13:1-20
- Good Friday, March 29th**
"Prone to leave the God I love"
John 18:15-27
- Easter Sunday, March 31st**
"And I hope"
Luke 24:1-12
- The Second Sunday Of Easter, April 7th**
"Here's my heart"
John 21:1-19

Wondering Wednesdays

10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M & 5:00-8:00 P.M.
THROUGHOUT LENT

To assist us in our practice of spiritual disciplines during Lent, the sanctuary will be open each Wednesday during Lent. This will be a time of prayer and reflection. Each week we will focus on a particular picture, prayer, poem, or question to ponder and we wander and wonder about our faith with Peter.

Special Mid-Lenten Potluck, Workshop and Worship WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH @6:00 P.M.

On Wednesday, March 6th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner. After the meal, there will be a Lenten themed craft for everyone to work on, followed by a brief service of evening prayers. Please bring a dish to share and plan to join us for this special worship and fellowship event.

Theme and Series Resources prepared by © A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org and used with permission.

MARCH 2024 ISSUE 184

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City



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E-mail: office@wpbc.org

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
Pastor
- Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
Parish Associate
- Heather Heidtman (ext. 201)
Treasurer/Secretary
- Harold Miller (ext. 205)
Facilities Manager

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

March

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
for our Adults; the Bells play during Worship once a month

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
For children PreK-4th grade

9:00 a.m. Lenten Devotional Series
During this Lenten Season we are using the Wandering Heart Devotional.

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:00 a.m. Chime Choir
For Children K-4th grade

10:30 a.m. Worship
We're figuring out our faith with Peter with the Wandering Heart Lenten series. See more details on the front page and page 1.

11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

5:00 p.m. Jr. Bells
For Youth 5th-12th grade

5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner

6:00 p.m. Youth Group
For Youth 5th-12th grade

Office Hours

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

Website: wpcbc.org

Join us on Facebook

Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
<p><u>Happy Birthday</u></p> <p>Dianne Young Elizabeth Dore Kenneth Lange Colleen Schmidt Larry Pryce Chris Elzinga</p>			<p>The Sanctuary is available for prayer and reflection each Wednesday during Lent 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m & 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p>		<p>1 2:00 p.m. Picture Directory Appointments (until 8:30 p.m.)</p> <p>2 10:00 a.m. Picture Directory Appointments (until 4:00 p.m.)</p>
<p>3 <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i></p>	<p>4 5:00 p.m. Mission Meeting @ Hidden Harvest 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>5 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. Nine Essential Book Study 6:00 p.m. Personnel Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m. Wondering Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. Wondering Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. Mid-Lenten Potluck, Workshop and Worship 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Lenten Devotional via Zoom</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9</p>
<p>10 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i></p>	<p>11 5:00 p.m. Property Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Finance Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Stewardship</p>	<p>12 9:00 a.m. Matthew 25 Cafe 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Lions Club 1:00 p.m. Nine Essential Book Study 2:00 p.m. Picture Directory 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth Mtg.</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Wondering Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. Picture Directory Appts. 5:00 p.m. Wondering Wednesdays 5:15 Worship Meeting 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Lenten Devotional via Zoom</p>	<p>15</p> <p>16 Cooper Funeral</p>
<p>17 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 pm. Nine Essential Book Study 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m. Wondering Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. Wondering Wednesdays 5:15 Contemporary Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 8:30 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Lenten Devotional via Zoom</p>	<p>22</p> <p>23</p>
<p>24 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p>	<p>25 <i>Holy Week</i></p>	<p>26 <i>Holy Week</i> 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. Log Folding 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. Nine Essential Book Study 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 <i>Holy Week</i> 10:00 a.m. Wondering Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. Wondering Wednesdays 5:15 Contemporary Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>29 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 p.m. Worship Service</p> <p>30 <i>Easter Vigil</i> 4:00 p.m. Worship and Egg Hunt</p>
<p>31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Please see page 1 for more details on our Holy Week Services</p>					

In January, the **Operating Fund** had income of \$50,581.03 and expenses of \$27,932.26. Many members pay their entire pledge at the start of the year, which is why giving is so high. I want to stress, we're grateful for your gifts no matter how you choose to give to Westminster, whether it's weekly, monthly, quarterly, or once a year! Whatever works best for you, works for us! Another way to give is to use our online giving portal. Visit www.wpcbc.org and click on the "Give Online" button. You can set up a recurring gift, at any interval you choose; that way your gifts come to Westminster even if you're not able to worship with us every Sunday.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of \$856.00 and an expense of \$649.00 for a new snowblower. At the end of the month, the fund balance is \$11,932.17. We're grateful to those who contribute to the Building Improvement Fund, allowing us to keep Westminster in great shape.

The **Major Repairs Fund** had income of \$784.000 in January. The balance at the end of the month is \$41,604.28. Thank you to those who contribute to the Major Repairs Fund.

Contributions to the **Capital Campaign Fund** totaled \$4,746.36. Currently the loan balance at the end of January is \$151,536.75. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Campaign. We're making great strides in paying off the principal every year.

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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY CELEBRATION

February 18, 2024



Thank you to the Session and Fellowship and Outreach Ministry for hosting our Stewardship Celebration, and to everyone who attended and joined in the celebration!

Per capita for 2024 is \$29.50.
 This is per active, confirmed member.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

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

Coffee and donuts included!



Palm / Passion Sunday, March 24th

"Songs of loudest praise"

John 12:12-16

In this service we'll hear the perspective of six storytellers who share how they, as people of Judea, came to discover the Christ, his work and his teachings. Their story will lead us through Jesus' ministry, leading up to his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.



Maundy Thursday, March 28th

7:00 pm

"Streams of mercy"

John 13:1-20

This service witnesses God's invitations to encounter, to connect, and to be transformed through three movements. We begin at the baptismal font, trusting God's loving claim on our lives. We then move to the table, encountering Jesus's body and God's nourishment through communion. Finally, we'll explore how to live out Jesus's new commandment to love others as he has loved us.

Good Friday, March 29th 7:00 pm

"Prone to leave the God I love"

John 18:15-27

This service offers a different take on the traditional "Stations of the Cross" by inviting us to walk "the way of sorrows" with Peter. The service highlights Peter's role in the crucifixion narrative following him from his foot washing to Jesus' crucifixion. By focusing on Peter, we imagine how we might have acted and behaved had we been there as one of Jesus' followers and friends.

Easter Vigil and Egg Hunt, March 30th 4:00 pm

"God's unchanging love"

In the quiet of Holy Saturday, we join to prepare our hearts, and our sanctuary, for the joy of Easter morning! This family friendly service is full of congregational participation as we rehearse the stories of our faith and decorate the sanctuary for our Easter celebration. Following the service, we'll have an Easter egg hunt for our children 5th grade and younger.

Easter Sunday, March 31st

"And I hope"

Luke 24:1-12

Easter Breakfast- The Fellowship and Outreach Committee will host Easter breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Tickets are \$8; \$3 for children 10 and under. You can purchase tickets before or after worship on March 17 and 24, or through the office. Tickets can be purchased at the door, but please help us plan by purchasing your tickets early!

Easter Sunday Worship Services - Join us Easter morning for a joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection! We will again offer two services (8:00 and 10:30 am) with communion being served at each service. The Chancel Choir will be joined by trumpeter David Weemoff to lead us in worship at the 10:30 service.

Thank You

Dear Westminster,
Thank you for the prayers, cards and concern after my recent fall.

Blessings,
Irene Eskilsen

I would like to thank our church family for the prayers lifted up, text messages and concern during my recent illness. Your kindness was very much appreciated.
Chris Elzinga



Coffee and Conversation for those grieving

By request we will continue to provide the opportunity for those who are experiencing grief to get together over a cup of coffee or tea as we share and listen to each other's experiences of grief, learning from each other and providing support as we recognize the similarities and differences in our journey through grief. Our next informal gathering will be **Thursday, March 28th at 2:00 p.m. in the the Narthex.**



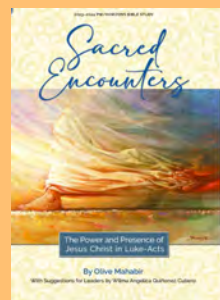
WESTMINSTER'S PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



You can still sign up to get your picture taken for Westminster's 2024 Pictorial Directory. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on "photography appointment scheduling login" on the right side, enter mi1852 in the "Church Code" field and enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 5 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is only available Monday through Friday. **Some dates are almost full, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.** You can also schedule your appointment before or after worship on Sunday mornings, or by contacting the church office.

The dates and times the photographers will be at Westminster are:

- Thursday, February 29, and Friday, March 1, from 2:00 pm until 8:30 pm
- Saturday, March 2 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13, from 2:00 pm until 8:30 pm.



LYDIA CIRCLE

THURSDAY,
MARCH 21ST
1:00 P.M.

Lydia Circle will meet monthly in person on the third Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the Session room. We are using the *Horizons* Bible Study, *Sacred Emotions*.

DEBORAH CIRCLE



Deborah Circle will not meet in March, with Maundy Thursday falling on their normal meeting date. The Circle will meet next on April 25th at 7:00 p.m.

And this spring, we will wrap up our series – *Praying Our Goodbyes* – with a focus on "New Melodies Break Forth." The date for this evening gathering is yet to be determined. We will keep you posted as the date draws near.



SOUP LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE

February 4, 2024

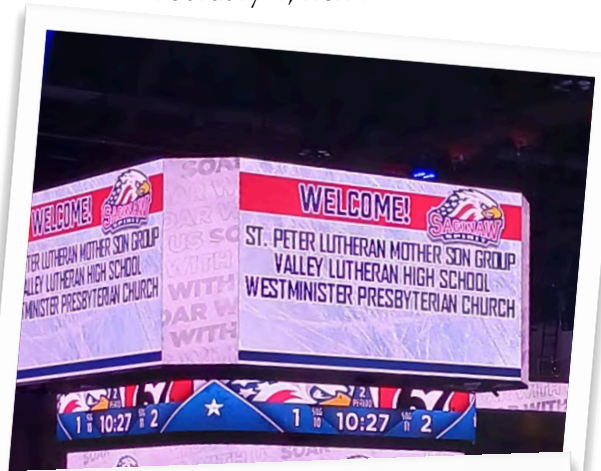
The Souper Bowl of Caring and Bake Sale was a success! Thank you to everyone who donated their time, talent, or treasures to this wonderful event. We raised over \$698.00 for the Food Pantry and \$445.00 went to our Youth Group. Thank you for your generous donations!

— Youth Group and Crisis Ministry



SAGINAW SPIRIT GAME!

February 4, 2024



Food Pantry Challenge



Team Wall Side has taken the early lead! As the March Log goes to print, they've brought in over 65 boxes of cereal the first week and 85 cans of pasta sauce at Week 2! Come on Team Window and Elsewhere!—it's not too late to pull into the lead!

March 3-7 Large cans of Chunky or Hearty Soups

March 10-14 Boxes of Pasta or Noodles

March 17-21 Heat and Serve Meals (Ravioli, Spaghetti O's)

March 24-28 Peanut Butter

In total, we've collected (so far) 165 boxes of cereal and 144 cans/jars of pasta sauce!!! Westminster, your generosity is amazing (or you're all just really competitive!!)



Lunch & Learn

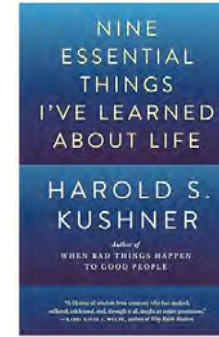
In the month of March the regularly scheduled Lunch and Learn series falls during Holy Week, so we will not be meeting this month.

On Tuesday April 30th at noon in Fellowship Hall, back by popular demand we will have

the opportunity to hear again a Federal Magistrate Judge and local attorney, discuss further a day in court. Don't miss this intriguing and current event topic. Presenters are the Honorable Charles Binder (ret.) and Prosecuting Attorney, Pat Duggan (ret.)

All are welcome to attend, including those on a lunch hour break from work. Bring a lunch to enjoy during this talk. Beverages will be available.

For more information, please call the Church Office.



The first rule of religious life in the twenty-first century begins with the awareness that the agenda for religion today will be set not by yesterday's answers but by today's questions. "I still believe there is great wisdom in yesterday's answers. Human nature has not changed that much. ...But the changes in society have set in motion major changes in the ways Jews and Christian alike responded to their respective religious traditions. (Citing a verse from Leviticus on homosexuality or pointing to a thousand years of precedent to undergird priest celibacy is no longer a persuasive argument.)"

So writes Rabbi Harold Kushner in his book - **Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life**. Last month we began our study and discussion of the book, meeting on **Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 in the Narthex**, asking the questions relevant to our lives and faith journey.

Kushner also writes - I believe in the reality of God in the way scientists believe in the reality of electrons (unseen, except in their "happenings"). I see things happening that would not happen unless there is a God...Jim Wallis, Christian theologian writes, "When I was growing up in my Christian world, I was told the greatest battle of our time is between belief and secularism, but now I believe that real battle is ...between cynicism and hope. Kushner adds - Religion can teach us not to despair.

The truth is, life is unfair, and we would do well to come to terms with that fact...The task of religion is not to teach us to bow our heads and accept God's inscrutable will. It is to help us find the resources to live meaningfully and to go on believing, even in a world where people often don't get what they deserve.

If any of these quotes from the book stir your imagination and a reflective spirit, come join us on Tuesday afternoons for the next few weeks. Each chapter is pretty well self-contained, so you need not attend each week to be an active participant. And since we know that many folks are using the book at home, if you are interested in joining the discussion for just one or two chapters that particularly speak to you, please come that week so we can reflect and learn from each other.

More books have been ordered and are available in the office. Any questions, please call the office or see Rev. Linda.

STAR GAZERS AND SOUL SEARCHERS

Writer and Presbyterian Pastor, Julie Hester shares each week (Email or post) a writing prompt, meant to be jumping-off points for us to write about what matters. She encourages us to use the prompts however we like—to journal, to draft thoughts for our own writing project, as meditation or prayer ideas, or for another creative endeavor. As she always says – "Grab your pen and paper, and let your words loose on the page."

Beginning in April we will have the opportunity to take some time on two Tuesday's in April, May, and June to write and share together. It has been Julie Hester's experience that when a community of folks gather there is rich cross-pollination of good ideas that get shared, re-shared, and discussed.

Fellow writer and pastor MaryAnn McKibben Dana's church in Virginia has spent some time examining how to move through the world like Jesus did, and used a four-step process as a foundational tool.

Show up...Pay attention....Tell the truth...Don't attach to the results (or Let go of the outcome....OR, as the church reframes it: "Let God handle the outcome".) These four steps have been used by many others and in a variety of settings, because these are truly our life-long tasks.

Those four questions may not be our writing prompts when we gather on six Tuesday afternoons here at Westminster as Star Gazers and Soul Searchers, but until then, these four prompts may get you thinking about your life and your faith. For more information or any questions, please call the church office.

Each month in the Log, the Spiritual Growth and Adult Formation Ministry 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.

Grief is in two parts. The first is loss. The second is the remaking of life.

~ Anne Roiphe

Stand beside a quiet pool of water and watch what happens when a stone is tossed into the water. The stone splashes and then settles to the bottom. Little waves ripple outward from the point of the stone's entry and disturb the water in ever increasing spheres of motion.

Death causes a similar ripple effect as it sets off upheaval our lives. The death of someone we loved is a major event. We call this the primary loss, the stone—so to speak—that lands in the pool of water. But the experience of loss doesn't end with a funeral or memorial service. Instead it sets into motion a series of subsequent losses known as secondary losses, losses that occur as the result of this death. Secondary losses create a sense that we are losing everything we have ever had or known in life and they create the impression that the pain of loss will continue forever. Secondary losses are not usually anticipated by those who are grieving the death until they are living through these other losses. And these secondary losses are usually not well understood by the other people in a griever's life.

Yet this is precisely why grieving and mourning the death of someone we loved takes time and work. Because death changes our world, part of the work of griever's is learning how to adjust to the new world we've been thrust in.



Grieving secondary losses is a normal and healthy part of learning to live in a changed world. It's important to acknowledge the losses that have already taken place, to recognize those that are currently happening, and to envision losses that the future will bring. We need to know that each identified secondary loss will require its own grief response in its own way and in its own time.

Family and friends also need to be mindful of secondary losses and the associated grief they cause. In wanting to see us happy and "getting on with life," family and friends may unwittingly deny our real feelings of grief.

Awareness, patience and understanding will enable us to move through these losses.

Identifying Secondary Losses

There are many examples of secondary losses you could be experiencing after the death of a loved one, family member or friend. This isn't a comprehensive list, so be aware that you may be grieving losses not mentioned. Inasmuch as each loss causes grief, secondary losses need to be individually mourned.

Most obvious is the loss of concrete things—loss of family structure, income, financial security, familiar lifestyle and support systems.

Another secondary loss that's difficult to immediately identify is the loss of identity. This comes from the change in how one defines oneself, as well as certain roles lost as the result of the death. These could include the loss of relational identity (Am I still a mother after my only child died?), loss of the caregiver role, loss of purpose as well as confidence.

Secondary losses unfold over time. You may have been acutely aware of these losses immediately following the death while others arise weeks and months later, such as the loss of memories, loss when giving away the deceased's belongings and the pain of watching others grieve, such as small children and elderly parents.

It may be helpful for you to identify secondary losses by writing them down. Try this:

When (name of person) died, I lost

...my caregiving role

...my sense of humor

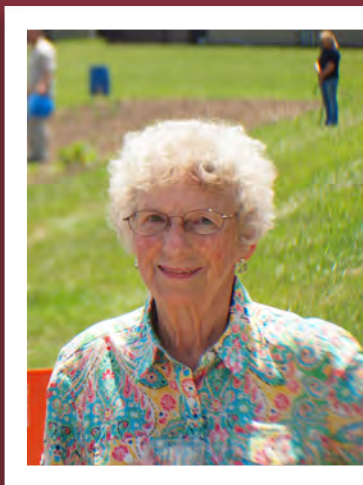
...my dance partner

...financial security

...the person whose advice I trusted



God Sighting



Hazel Kish

Hazel Kish is one of the "gems" of Westminster. Hazel was ordained an elder in 1968 and was active on the Mission Ministry for many years. She was a staunch supporter of our mission programs within Westminster and outside its walls. Hazel also was very involved with Presbyterian Women at Westminster. She organized and worked at funeral dinners for many years. In 1974 Hazel was the recipient of the PW Honorarium, presented to a woman who has given outstanding service to her church and her God. She was always willing to share her knowledge, expertise, and skills with anyone. When Westminster held an event where members shared their skills with the congregation, Hazel offered to teach cake decorating. She spent time on a Saturday morning teaching how to make leaves, flowers, and decorative edging. While working the funeral dinners, Hazel shared information on food preparation, figuring out how much food would be needed to feed those attending, and a few stories about Westminster life in years past.

Hazel loves and cares for her family and she loves and cares for her Westminster family. She is tiny, but she is a mighty warrior for her God! Hazel Kish is truly a "God Sighting"!