

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship Ordination and Installation Everything Changes

August 17, 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



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Those who are comfortable standing are invited to do so as we join together in this morning's call to worship:

Are you feeling tired and worn out?

Call on the name of the Lord.

Are mistakes from the past weighing you down?

Come to the fount of living water.

Are you the person you wish to be?

Seek God's help and it shall be granted.

Are you looking for a better path?

Ask Christ to show you the way.

Come! Let us worship.

“Oh Jesus I Have Promised”

*No. 724

*O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle;
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With voices and hearts united, let us pray.

**Engraver of the human heart,
we long for your law of love to burst forth
with every beat of our hearts.
Work within us this day,
that the majesty of your love
may shine through us
in everything we say and do.
Put a new and right spirit within us, O Lord,
that we may leave our failings behind
and embrace the glory of our salvation,
through Christ, our Lord...**

— We offer our silent prayers of confession —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end, amen.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

Pablo Picasso was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. This is not because of one style, although he is famous as the father of cubism. But he had several artistic “periods” during his life, and he was constantly changing–innovating and pushing himself to discover new expressions of art. One of his most famous quotes is this: “Every act of creation is first of all an act of destruction.” He knew that in order to create something new, a beloved and even famous way of painting had to give way–had to “destruct”–in order to “construct” the new. He also said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once [you] grow up.” As we age we become more afraid of letting go. But rebirth is part of our faith. Hear this poem, “Rebirth,” by poet Alex Elle.

“Rebirth” by poet Alex Elle

there will be moment when
you will bloom fully and then
wilt, only to bloom again.
if we can learn anything from
flowers it is that resilience is born
even when we feel like we are
dying.

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURE - ANCIENT READING

John 12:20-26

SERMON

"Everything Changes"
Rev. Jamie Milton

PLAY-DOH CONTEMPLATION

- With your Play-Doh, create a representation of seeds that are waiting to be planted and broken open. Allow yourself to imagine what the committee members inside your head are trying to convince you about your approach to change. Even if you have no idea what seeds are waiting to be sprouted in your life, simply allow the shaping of the clay to be your prayer of willingness to let go into the possibilities.

+HYMN

"Canticle of Turning (My Soul Cries Out)"

*No. 100

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)
Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

PRESENTATION AND SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

With the whole church, let us stand and profess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand

of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

the holy catholic church;

**the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Clerk of Session: Do we, the members of the church, accept Mary Rose and Don, as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Clerk of Session: Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is head of the Church?

Congregation: We do.

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

JUDY AND FAITH

“Perfectly Loved” by Toby Mac

~ Please record your presence on the “Friendship Pad”

†SONG OF COMMITMENT

“Jesus, We Are Here”

*No. 659

*Jesus, we are here, Jesus, we are here
Jesus, we are here, we are here for you!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together:

Holy God, we offer these gifts and the gifts of a reckless love poured out upon all. May we let go of needing things to be the same, so you might create a future that is more loving than we have yet imagined. Bless all of this to your glory and to the work of making the world a better place for all. Amen.

†HYMN

"The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)" *No. 466

*"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be
known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world
around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in
me?"*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press.

Abingdon Worship Annual.

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Seth Cunningham

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Martha Tapley

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 17, 2025

- The **FLOWERS TODAY** are given by Karen Brown-Fackler in memory of Mrs. Virgial Brown, beloved wife of Ross William, mother of seven, and grandmother of many.

- 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.

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE:**

Beginning this fall on Sunday, September 7, Sunday School will not be meeting before church, but during the worship service following Time With Young Disciples. For more information, contact Leah Sneller, Director of Children and Youth Ministry at 989-686-1360.

- The annual **FALL RUMMAGE SALE** is being planned for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, October 1 (church members only), from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, October 2 (open to the public) and from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, October 3 (open to the public, fill a bag for \$1). Volunteers are need to help set up beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30 and to help tear down beginning at noon on Friday, October 3. Please bring your Rummage Sale items to church on Sunday, September 28 and we will begin setting up after the service. For more information, contact Bev Buchanan at 989-778-0670.

Westminster

COMMUNITY PANTRY

IN AUGUST, we will collect cans of "ready to eat" items like Spaghetti-Os, ravioli, beef stew, chili, etc. It is hard for us to keep these items on the shelf, as they are very popular. As always, we appreciate your support as we feed our hungry neighbors. Items may be left on the cart by the pantry door. Thank you!

PANTRY HOURS CHANGE:

Beginning September 1, the pantry will be open from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays. The Wednesday hours remain the same from 4 to 6 p.m.

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES: Scan the QR code to visit the Westminster Community Pantry Facebook page!



DID YOU KNOW that if you would like to make a financial contribution to support the food pantry's efforts, you can do so online via the church's website, wpcbc.org? Scan the QR code on the next page to reach the donation page of the church website, and scroll down where there is a "Food pantry" option for giving. Donations also may be mailed or dropped off to the church office. If you would like to volunteer with staffing or stocking the pantry, contact Janet Smylie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 17, 2025

• If you have a name you would like added to **WINGS OF PRAYERS**, contact Patti Wesenick, 989-737-6844.

• **GET THE CHURCH DIRECTORY SMARTPHONE APP TODAY!** We are excited to announce a new way to stay connected with your Westminster family—we have a smartphone app! Through Universal Church Directory, an app has been created with the photos that were taken for the directory, complete with addresses and phone numbers of your church friends. If you have not received your personal access code via email, please let the church office know and we can resend it.

• **SUMMER BIBLE STUDY:** This year's summer Bible study series will use Jill Duffield's book, *Appreciate These Things*. Books are available in the church office for a \$12 optional donation. Please contact Rev. Linda with any questions. Remaining class dates are: August 21. We will meet on Zoom at 7 p.m.

• **AUGUST 31:** we'll gather on the lawn for our **annual outdoor worship service**. As we worship in the open air under the trees, we'll recount the first creation story found in Genesis as we reflect on God's work and rest in creating the universe.

PER CAPITA FOR 2025 is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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 below.



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	YTD through August		Annual Budget
	10		
Income	\$	319,277	\$ 349,910
Expenses	\$	255,744	\$ 474,270
Net Income/(Loss)	\$	63,533	\$ (124,360)