

# Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship*  
**What Disciples *BELIEVE* DO:**  
*Take Faith Seriously*

September 14, 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**

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Those who feel comfortable standing, may do so as we join together in the call to worship.

Did you hear the whisper of God calling us to worship?

**God, help us listen as you call.**

Do you sense the beautiful people God is creating us to become?

**God, help us to see your image within.**

Are we ready to listen, learn, and grow?

**God, open our hearts and minds to your loving and challenging guidance.**

**†HYMN**

*"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

\*No. 264

*In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'er-take me,  
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me;  
lo, it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Jesus Christ, giver of love and peace, we are grateful for your vision of humankind—a vision that embraces all, leaving none behind. You call us your siblings, even when we do not recognize this truth. Forgive us when we look down on others, failing to see them as our siblings. Forgive us when kinship is not a priority in our lives. Open our hearts to everyone in your family, that they may become our family, too. In your name, brother of us all, we pray.**

*— A time of silent confession —*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The blessings of grace and peace are ours, through God our maker, and Jesus Christ our savior. Forgiveness and peace are ours.

**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.**

## **TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (CHILDREN’S CHURCH)**

*At this time, children (5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger) are invited to a worship experience just for them. The leaders will meet them at the back of the church following the “Sharing of God’s Peace” and will bring them back by the final hymn.*

## **DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING**

### **Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

Lord, you have examined me.

**You know me.**

You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

**Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.**

You study my traveling and resting.

**You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.**

There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,

**that you don't already know completely.**

You surround me—front and back.

**You put your hand on me.**

That kind of knowledge is too much for me;

**it's so high above me that I can't reach it.**

You are the one who created my innermost parts;

**you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.**

I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.

**Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.**

My bones weren't hidden from you

**when I was being put together in a secret place, when I was**

**being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my embryo,

**and on your scroll every day was written that was being**

**formed for me, before any one of them had yet happened.**

God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!

**Their total number is countless!**

If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand!

**If I came to the very end—I'd still be with you.**

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 14:25-33**

## SERMON

*"Disciples Take Faith Seriously"*

Rev. Jamie Milton

## +HYMN

*"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"*

\*No. 351

*Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me.*

*Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.*

*Take up your cross; heed not the shame,  
and let your foolish pride be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death  
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.*

*Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,  
and calmly every danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life  
and leads to victory o'er the grave.*

## **DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD**

### **†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*adapted from* **Confession of Belhar**

Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Confession of Belhar.

**We share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and mind;  
We have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit,  
are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of  
one cup, confess one Name, are obedient to one Lord, work  
for one cause, and share one hope.**

**Together we come to know the height and the breadth and the  
depth of the love of Christ, to the new humanity; know and  
bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of  
Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another,  
admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with  
one another for the sake of righteousness.**

**Together we pray; together we serve God in this world.**  
Please be seated.

## **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**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

CHANCEL CHOIR

*"If We Will Seek the Lord"*

*Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig*

*~ 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 all creation, your claim on us is total; your desire for us, complete. We cannot follow Christ from a comfortable distance. Yet we ask that you would receive us this day and use what we bring. Keep sending your Spirit into our hearts, until we yield all that we love and all that we fear to your holy purpose. For we long to surrender our lives to you; we long to know the fullness of your joy.**

**We dare to pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his life out of love for the world. Amen.**

**DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD**

**†HYMN**

*“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”*

\*No. 581

*Called as partners in Christ’s service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring  
to fulfill God’s chosen end.*

*Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,  
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering,  
reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
all God’s people, young and old,  
blending human skills together  
gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,  
in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other’s burdens,  
breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action,  
make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow  
ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow  
with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving  
hope and confidence and peace.*

### **†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

May the Spirit's power give us courage.  
May Christ's love give us compassion.  
And may God's image shine through us,  
as we carry a cross of light and love for all to see.  
Amen.

### **TOWN HALL**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

- **TODAY'S FLOWERS** are provided by Dale Sneller and Karen Kayner in celebration of their 32nd wedding anniversary on September 18.

- **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.

- **FALL TOWN HALL:** The Session is preparing for another Town Hall meeting following worship today. We'll provide an update on the 2025 budget, congregational giving through the end of August, and church spending to this point in the year. There will be a time for questions, but you can help us by submitting your questions in advance using one of the cards located at either entrance to the church.

- ***THANK YOU!*** *This is just a little note to all the WPC staff, deacons, friends and others in this special church community for the prayers, kindness and heartfelt cards I get to open and read. I cherish the care and friendship that is a part of this place, this church where anyone and everyone feels they belong. Thank you for your notes, church connection and all of you who are there making a difference. You are appreciated and valued. WPC is a very special place. Again, a heartfelt thank you!*

— Kaye Walker

- **THE OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH** will gather at Old City Hall, 814 Saginaw Street, Bay City, **this Wednesday, September 17** at 1 p.m. Please RSVP by Monday to Dave Crook, 847-624-5798 or [crookds@earthlink.net](mailto:crookds@earthlink.net) so we can assure sufficient seats.

MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGISTS

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

PIANIST

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SECRETARY

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Judy Randall

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH TIME CHANGE:**

Starting today, Sunday School this year will be a little different. The new name will be Children's Church. Children's Church will be taking place after Time with the Young Disciples or when announced in church to go to the back of the Sanctuary. The teachers will meet the children there to take them to the classroom. They will come back at the offering.

- **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

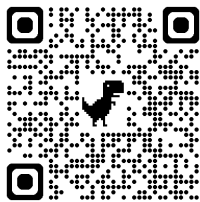
lines. We usually have dinner from 5:30 to

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:** We will begin discussing "The Color of Water" by James McBride at **1:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 30**. This book alternates between the author's own life experiences and the life story of his mother, a Polish woman who emigrated to the U.S. as a child and faced significant challenges including an abusive father and complexities of her Jewish heritage. We will meet in the Lounge every Tuesday afternoon. The office will again order the books; donation to cover the cost is appreciated. Please call the church office or Rev. Linda to reserve a book. *Note: the first date has been moved back because of a delay in the shipment of books.*

- **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Our Lunch and Learn group will resume in September. Our featured speaker will be Jessica Somerlott, LBSW, Senior Services Manager of the Bay County Department on Aging. She is a social worker and supervisor who will present on ID bracelets and other subjects of interest to seniors. Our gathering is scheduled for **12 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23**. Bring your lunch and join us for this informative event.

- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** About two years ago, Westminster began a grief group to provide an opportunity to connect with others who are grieving. The group went on hiatus during the summer months, but will be meeting again beginning on Thursday, October 2 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge. Our new name — Caring Connections — comes with a new facilitator, Mary Nicholson. Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group will also be open to the Bay City community. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda.

- **FALL RETREAT/WRITING GROUP:** "Tending the Wild Garden" is the title of this Fall's writing group and the focus of the retreat at Bay Shores on **Saturday, October 11th**. The retreat and the four-week writing group that will follow is designed to help us become more aware of the "being" part of ourselves in relationship with the Holy Spirit that lives within us. We will meet weekly at **1:30 p.m. in the Lounge**. Meeting dates will be **October 15, 22 and 29** and **November 5 and 12**. The writing group will be facilitated by Judy Hudson and Rev. Linda. Please reach out to either of them with any questions.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

- The annual **FALL RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE** is being planned for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, October 1 (church members only), 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 needed 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. Some notes: **Please** help with the bake sale by dropping off baked goods on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday. **Please** no television or furniture. **Please** help us by bringing bags or boxes. **We will need a truck** and other vehicles for hauling the unsold items on Friday at noon. Please bring your Rummage Sale items to church on Sunday, September 28 and we will begin setting up after the service. Your items for the Rummage Sale can also be dropped off Monday and Tuesday until 2 p.m. For more information, contact Bev Buchanan at 989-778-0670.

- **YOU ARE INVITED:** Westminster is excited to host **Nikelle Johnson's service of Ordination** as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at **3 p.m. on Sunday, September 21**. Having graduated in May and completed all of the requirements for ordination, Nikelle has accepted a call to serve as a solo pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Dixon, Illinois. We hope you will join us as we celebrate with her. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

- **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. Let's grow our family of faith together!

- **DEBORAH CIRCLE:** The September meeting has been canceled. We are still planning on October 30 and November 20 at 4 p.m. at Sherry Holley's home.

- **WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN?** Join us once a month for a series of classes on Being Presbyterian. We'll gather for dinner at **5:30 p.m. Sunday evenings September 14, October 19, November 16 and a December date to be determined**, and then we'll spend about an hour and a half looking at some Presbyterian beliefs and practices while exploring our individual faith together!

- **FALL BIBLE STUDY:** Whether you find yourself in a season of new beginnings, or simply longing to reconnect with what is deepest and most true in you, **our Fall series – Feasting on the Word** – is an opportunity to remember: “we were made for this”— for play, for change, for adapting and flourishing in the hands of our Creator. Throughout September, October, and November, we'll explore not just biblical texts, but the lived experience of being shaped by God in community. 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.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** Make sure to mark your calendars for these other upcoming events this fall: **Fall Retreat** at Bay Shore Camp in Sebawaing - October 11; **Harvest Party** and Chili Cookoff - October 26; **Westminster's 160 Anniversary Celebration / 50-Year Member Recognition** - November 2

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 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](http://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!**

An updated snapshot of the church's finances will be available at the Town Hall following today's worship service. Those numbers were being compiled Thursday after today's bulletin was printed.

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

103 E. Midland Street  
Bay City, MI 48706  
989-686-1360  
email: [office@wpcbc.org](mailto:office@wpcbc.org)  
website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

#### **Office Hours**

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

## *Westminster* **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

**Is your garden overflowing? We'll take your extras!** Donations of fresh produce are most appreciated. So it is fresh for our guests, please bring your donations on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning if possible.

### **SEPTEMBER ITEMS OF THE MONTH ARE SPAGHETTI SAUCE AND PASTA.**

Your generous donations help us keep our shelves stocked with items that our guests prefer. Please leave your items on the cart by the Pantry door. Thank you!

**Change to Thursday Hours:** Starting September 1st, we will close at noon on Thursdays (instead of 1:00).

If volunteering for 3 hours seemed like too much, come join us now that we will only be open for two hours. New volunteers are always welcomed!



**Scan the QR code to visit the pantry's Facebook page! Did you know you can make a donation to the pantry online at the church website? Scan the QR in the "Giving to Westminster" box at left, the bottom giving option is for food pantry donations!**

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