

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Bay City, MI 48706

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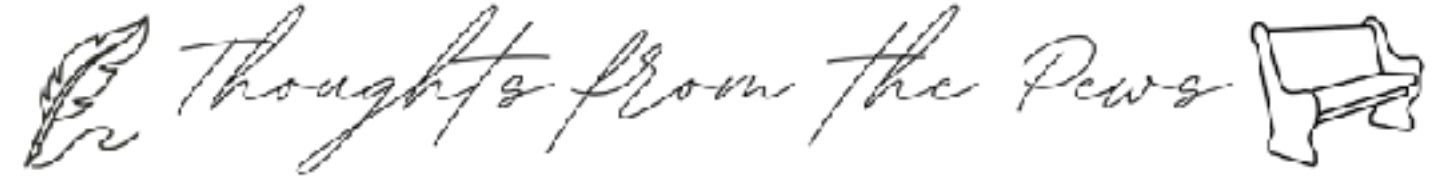


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JUNE 2026

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ISSUE 211

THE WESTMINSTER LOG



Our Good Shepherd will always carry us

Karen Schoeppach asked me if I would write a devotional. I thought about it for awhile and I want to share some feelings about a favorite psalm of mine: Psalm 23.

I enjoy this psalm for a number of reasons: one, the beauty it describes and two, what it can teach us about life in general and our own lives in particular.

I can imagine David, the Shepherd, writing this psalm while tending his sheep. They say that a shepherd knows all of his sheep by name and if one goes missing, the shepherd will hunt until he finds the missing one.

One of the things I have learned regarding sheep over the years is that they are not the brightest animals in the world. Sheep are followers, not leaders.

Some of the folks I knew when we lived in a small town in Iowa tended sheep. They told me that goats are a leader, so they would tie a bell around the neck of a goat and get the goat started into the corral and the sheep would follow. They usually referred to this goat as the "Judas goat."

I realized that we are a lot like sheep. We tend to follow the "Judas goat" on a whim, and we usually end up being lost. Also, some of our decisions are not always the brightest.

Thank God that we have a shepherd that knows us by name and will go to any length to find us and return us to the safety of the fold. Jesus holds us and leads us like the "good Shepherd" that He is.

Another reason this psalm has always been important to me is in my career, I have worked



with many families that have "walked through the valley of the shadow of death." This psalm has helped me to help them through that dark valley.

However, a very important thought was presented to me recently. It was pointed out that if they are walking through this shadow of death, there has to be a light source above them. You can't have a shadow in a totally dark area. That light, shining from above, is the light we have in our lives and it is what creates that shadow and gives us the hope and faith in our God.

We know that our Good Shepherd will always carry us through our lives. We can walk through that shadow, knowing that our savior knows our name and will find us.

A reflection by the late John Tapley

JUNE 2026 ISSUE 211

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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THE WESTMINSTER LOG

June

Office Hours

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

website: wpcbc.org

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Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Happy Birthday

Linda Skrocki
 †Shirley Estabrook
 †(90th birthday!)
 Marilyn Kayner

Bernice Anderson
 Darrell Darling
 Janet Witucki
 Ann West

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:30 a.m. Worship

Join us for our weekly worship services. Communion will be offered during the Sunday, June 7 service. If you are unable to join us in person, you can watch each service LIVE on our Facebook page.

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Join us in the Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

Sunday	Monday
	1 10 a.m. New Members Class 5:30 p.m. Mission Meeting 7 p.m. Deacons
7 1 p.m. End-of-School Block Party until 3 p.m. (Page 5)	8 4:30 p.m. Property 5:30 p.m. Finance No Stewardship meeting
14 11:30 a.m. Gathering and Games	15
21	22
28	29

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
2 10 a.m. Knitting 12 p.m. Yoga 5 p.m. Personnel 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	3 1:30 p.m. Tending the Wild Garden (Page 3) 4 p.m. Food Pantry until 6 p.m. (Page 7) 5:30 p.m. Worship Meeting 6:30 p.m. Ukulele Group	4 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 12 p.m. 1:30 p.m. Caring Connections (Page 5) 4 p.m. Safety Team 5 p.m. Food of Faith	5 <hr/> 6 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Block Party Setup
9 9 a.m. Matthew 25 Café 10 a.m. Knitting 12 p.m. Lions Club 1:30 p.m. Summer Movie Series (Page 2) 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 1:30 p.m. Tending the Wild Garden 4 p.m. Food Pantry until 6 p.m. 6 p.m. Ukulele Group	11 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	12 <hr/> 13
16 10 a.m. Knitting 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 12 p.m. Yoga 5 p.m. Session Meeting 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	17 1 p.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch at Blossom's Asian Bistro (Page 8) 4 p.m. Food Pantry until 6 p.m. 6 p.m. Ukulele Group LOG DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE	18 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	19 <hr/> 20
23 10 a.m. Knitting 10 a.m. Log Folding 1:30 p.m. Summer Movie Series 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	24 1:30 p.m. Tending the Wild Garden 4 p.m. Food Pantry until 6 p.m. 6 p.m. Ukulele Group	25 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Food of Faith	26 <hr/> 27
30 10 a.m. Knitting 12 p.m. Yoga 12 p.m. Bunco Party! (Page 8) No Boy Scouts			

2026 continues to be a very positive year from a financial perspective. Your generous giving is keeping income well ahead of expenses to date.

On a personal note... As many of you know, I have a full-time job in addition to my work here at Westminster. It's been manageable because my other job is only five minutes away, so I could get to the church easily whenever needed. Unfortunately, I am being relocated to Saginaw, which means I need to resign from my position here.

I will be staying until my replacement is found and trained so the church will be in good financial hands.

I am thankful for the opportunity to work with all of you and be a part of all the good things that are going on at Westminster. You stepped up when needed and put the church on a firm financial footing and the future looks bright!

GENERAL FUND	Month to Date	
	thru May 17, 2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 26,470	\$ 264,006
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Cash Received	\$ 198	\$ 6,279
Total Income	\$ 26,668	\$ 270,285
Expenses	\$ 13,575	\$ 170,123
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 13,093	\$ 100,162
Budgeted expense total for 2026 is \$467,000.		

As always, if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do for you, please contact me via email at treasurer@wpcbc.org, or on my cell at 616-485-8272.

Pat Foster
Financial Administrator

Summer Bunco!

Join us for "Summer Dice and Smiles" Bunco group on Tuesdays:

June 30, July 28, and August 18. Bring a bag lunch at **noon**, and Bunco will begin at **12:30 p.m.** Light refreshments served.

Prizes will be awarded for **Most Bunco, Most Mini Buncos, Most**

Wins, and Most Losses.

Come for a fun time—no skill needed, just lots of luck and laughter!



The Out-to-Lunch Bunch

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch's delicious destination for June is Blossom's Asian Bistro! We will gather Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 1 p.m. at Blossom's, 4124 Wilder Rd., Bay City (in the same strip center as Buffalo Wild Wings, FedEx and UPS). Please RSVP with Dave Crook by Monday, June 15 by calling 847-624-5798 or by email at crookds@earthlink.net.



Mark your calendars, Bay Shore Camp's On the Road Day Camp is returning to Westminster August 3 through August 6. Camp is open to those entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. Registration is LIVE through the camp's website: <https://bayshorecamp.campbrainregistration.com/> or scan the QR code to register. Camp fills up quickly, so be sure to register early!



We are still working out the details on what we might be able to offer for others outside of these age groups. More details will be available soon!



With Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of JeAnne Hebner. JeAnne passed away April 22, 2026.



Thank you

My family and I wish to extend our gratitude to the congregation, all of whom are our friends and extended family, for the sympathy and support you lent us as our mother, Beverly Rector, transitioned from this earth to our Father's loving arms in February.

As mom was less able to attend services over the years, you all kept her in heart and mind and continued to make her feel the warmth and welcoming of our church through online bible studies, occasional social gatherings at church and notes, calls and visits. Her faith never wavering, only strengthening.

She was at peace with her life and at peace with returning Home to her heavenly Family.

Thank you all. Our hearts are overflowing.

Sherry Holley

Gathering, Games, and Gemstones?

June 14, following worship in the Fellowship Hall

(Okay...not really gemstones, but "beads" doesn't start with "G")

Join us for our monthly Gathering and Games event with a creative twist! This month, we're combining fellowship, fun, and faith formation as we prepare to kick off our summer worship series "All My Days."

Come for the food, stay for the games, and create something sacred to take home! While some gather around the board game tables, others can craft their own prayer beads—a hands-on way to connect with this ancient spiritual practice. Or do both! Move between the craft table and game tables as you like. We'll also be preparing additional sets to hand out during worship for those who aren't able to make their own prayer beads.

Whether you're rolling dice, stringing beads, or simply enjoying good conversation over a meal, there's a place for you at the table. All materials provided for prayer bead making. Bring your favorite game or play one of ours.

All ages welcome.

Can't make it to the workshop? Don't worry—prayer bead supplies will be available throughout the summer series.

Pastor Jamie will be out of the office from June 21 to June 28 on vacation. If you need anything while he is away, please reach out to the office or Pastor Linda. He will reply to any emails or messages once he is back in the office on June 29. Thank you!

The Deborah Circle and Lydia Circle groups will not meet during the months of June, July and August and will resume in September.



ODE TO THE WILD WESTS

It's said they roam the halls in here, the hallowed halls they be
 A rumor spread, there's work to do, at the Double U P C
 These two are hardly strangers, when it calls for volunteers
 And we won't let this moment pass, to celebrate these years

A dinner for a funeral, a rummage sale to host
 And with Presbyterian Women, she's ever at her post
 He's not letting grass come up, and doesn't mind a chore
 The choir, the band, a helping hand when the pantry swings the door

I dug a little deeper, and a neighbor had some words
 No, not that kind of neighbor, the kind that are like birds
 A little birdie told me, a bit about these two
 And so I'll share what I found out, and hope you'll like this too

The buzz around the neighborhood was experience was near
 And birdie one and birdie two had nothing left to fear
 Advice for every project and especially cement
 Plumbing, drywall, DIY, here was their clever Gent

So when we leave our hallowed halls, and need some kind of gauge
 We're grateful for examples like the two upon this page
 I suppose they should be introduced, it's time to, just because
 Most of you have probably guessed, it's Ann and sidekick Buzz.

Thank you for your example. You help put the West in Westminster!

Summer Movie Series

Join us this summer for a special movie series featuring films connected to authors from this past year's book group. The lineup includes three Sidney Poitier films:

Lilies of the Field (June 9),
A Patch of Blue (June 23),
 and *The Last Brickmaker in America* (July 7) — as well as *The Secret Life of Bees* (July 21), based on the book by Sue Monk Kidd, and *Yentl* (August 25). We will also include one family-friendly movie on August 11 (before kids go back to school) to be chosen from your suggestions.

Movies will be shown on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. As always, we have soda, popcorn, and candy, so come enjoy a good film and good company with us this summer. Any questions, please call the church office.



April Stats: We served 786 people from 274 families with 9,042 pounds of food. That's a lot of visits in 10 days! We had weeks where we served 62 and 63 families—new records! As more guests come and more food goes out the door, your continued support is very appreciated.

The June "Item of the Month" is canned fruit (peaches, pears, mixed fruit, pineapple, etc.) We cannot always get these staples from the Food Bank, but they are items we always want to have in stock. All donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you!

Post Office Food Drive: The community response was incredible, and we were the lucky recipients of so much food! Special thanks to Phil and Penny for picking it all up and bringing it to the church, and to all those who spent about 7 hours checking expiration dates, sorting, stocking shelves, and boxing up the extras to put in the storeroom. We also had a huge cart full of "expired" food (that was still good) that all went out the door in 2 days. Our pantry guests love the variety that comes from a huge food drive with many items we don't usually stock.

Pantry "Free Little Library:" As we feed the body, we want to feed the soul, so we have also started a Free Little Library. We purchased a book cart, Bill make bookmarks, and we are up and running! We have inspirational reads, devotionals, cookbooks and children's



Volunteers sort through the bins and bins of food donated through the Post Office's Letter Carrier's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.



The Little Free Library will help the pantry feed guests' spirits as well as their bodies.

books. If you have books to contribute, please leave them on the cart outside the pantry. These books will feed the spirit, just like food feeds the body!

- A big "Thank You!" to:
- **Pine Towers Food Pantry** for 20 boxes of food that they couldn't use in their pantry.
 - **Barney's Bakehouse Bakery** for bread and buns that we pick up twice a month.
 - **Kelly Larive** for donating proceeds from her garage sale to the pantry.
 - **Sue Ford** for making fabric book bags to add to our Free Little Library.
 - **Diego and Sally Calvo** for many cartons of eggs.



Phil and Penny Reagh were able to completely fill the bed of their pickup with donated food from the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

It's almost time to plant your garden! Why not consider planting a little extra to donate to the pantry? Fresh produce is a wonderful addition to our summer pantry options. All donations are welcomed.



Rev. Isaac Chung, who served as Westminster's Associate Pastor from 2010 to 2012, returned to Bay City, gave a presentation on his missionary work and around the world and then gave the sermon during worship on May 17.



While Rev. Isaac and Rev. Linda led worship, Westminster's resident taco enthusiast Pastor Jamie helped prepare the taco bar for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Join us for a fun-filled evening at Dow Diamond on **Friday, July 17th** as we cheer on the Great Lakes Loons! This isn't just any baseball game—it's **The Great Lakes Grand Carnival** night, when the ballpark transforms into a full-scale carnival experience.

Along with exciting baseball action, the concourse will be lined with midway-style game trailers and pop-up stands where you can play games and win prizes. Plus, it's **Foodie Friday**, so come hungry and explore special food offerings throughout the ballpark. And stick around after the game for a spectacular **fireworks show** lighting up the summer sky!

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your church family outside of Sunday morning, invite some friends, enjoy summer evening entertainment, and create memories together. Whether you're a die-hard baseball fan or just looking for a fun night out, there's something for everyone.

Bring the whole family—kids will love the carnival games, and adults will enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and great company. We'll be sitting together as a group, so you'll have plenty of familiar faces around you.

Date: Friday, July 17th
Time: Gates open at 6:05; First pitch at 7:05.
Tickets: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Westminsterpresbyterian26>
Tickets can also be purchased through the church office or on Sunday mornings if you need help.

Scan the QR to buy tickets online!



Summer Book/Bible Study Series

This summer we invite you to join our book/Bible study series on **Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit** by Eugenia Gamble. Using Paul's image of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23, the book encourages us to move beyond treating love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as a checklist and instead see them as gifts the Holy Spirit grows within us as we deepen our relationship with God.



nurture spiritual growth together. Whether you have been part of past studies or are joining for the first time, come tend the garden of faith with us this summer and discover how God's Spirit is already at work bringing new life to us all.

Our first session will begin on **Wednesday, June 3 at 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** We will meet three weeks in June, 3 weeks in July, and four weeks in

August. You need not attend all weeks, just come as you are able to enjoy and be inspired by **Tending the Wild Garden**. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend so we can order books.

With ten sessions, daily Scripture reflections, and discussion questions for both personal and group use, this study offers a meaningful way to



Why we should talk about death and dying

Dying Matters Awareness Week took place this year in early May. It is a national campaign run by Hospice UK, and this year's theme was "Let's Talk about Death and Dying".

Death is something that affects all of us, but it's still something many people find hard to talk about.

Often, it's not because people don't care. It's because they don't know what to say, or they're worried about saying the wrong thing.

Talking about death and dying offers emotional support to the one who is dying and to those who are walking this journey with them. It's not about having the right answers. It's about giving people a safe, non-judgmental space where they can talk openly and be heard.

A lot of the time, that's what people tell us they need most.

Grief isn't linear. People can feel all sorts of things: sadness, anger, guilt, even relief. That can be hard to admit, especially if they've been caring for someone for a long time or had a difficult relationship.

Sometimes people are just looking for reassurance that how they feel is normal.

And often, once they start talking, you can see the difference in them over time. It doesn't mean everything is resolved, but people begin to manage things in their own way.

One thing that comes up a lot is how uncomfortable people feel talking about death. Friends and family sometimes avoid the subject altogether.

They don't mention the person who has died because they're worried it will upset someone.

But often, it's the opposite. People want to talk about the person. They want to say their name. They want to share their story.

You don't need perfect words. Sometimes just acknowledging the death or asking how someone is doing is enough.

The hope of a "Dying Matters Awareness Week" in May was about making those conversations a bit more normal. Just starting them can make a real difference. Any time of the year.

Reprinted from St Luke's Hospice Bereavement Lead Rhonda Culshaw, St Luke's Hospice, Bethlehem, PA

I would like to share an article with you that I recently read from the Bereavement Magazine.

Someone you knew, liked or loved has died. You did not. Whatever the reasons for this turn of events, you have the opportunity to change your life to better reflect your dreams, passions and ambitions.

Take a look at who you are, what are you doing, why are you doing it and begin to make the changes you want in order to live the life you want to live instead of the life you are enduring. If you still love your work or your home or your daily life, take renewed pleasure in small moments that make up a single day. If you're not happy with these things begin to work toward something that makes your spirit soar.

Life is simply too precious to waste in wishing it was something else. Live your life in celebration and gratitude of those who have so lovingly shared their life with you. Cherish those moments you spent together and live your new life now with a renewed commitment to living as fully as possible.

It is acknowledging and living the pain that brings forth the energy and strength to allow hope

and healing to return. No matter where you are, no matter what memories you carry with you, may love be what you remember the most.

How to start a new chapter in your life

1. Let go of what no longer serves you.
2. Take one step at a time, even when it's hard.
3. Embrace discomfort, it's where growth happens.
4. Trust the process, not just the outcome.
5. Every new chapter starts with a single choice.
6. Change begins when YOU decide to make it happen.
7. Focus on progress, not perfection.
8. Sometimes the hardest step is the first one.
9. Don't wait for the right moment, create it.
10. Small changes today lead to big results tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing more new faces at our next Caring Connections meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2026 from 1:30 until 3 p.m.

- Mary

2026 End of School Block Party – Volunteers Needed!

Our FOURTH Annual End-of-School Block Party is just around the corner—Sunday, June 7th—and we need YOU to make it happen!

The good news: Our community partners are already on board, and we've received over \$1,250 in grants and donations to support this celebration! The momentum is building, and we're expecting another amazing turnout of 300+ community members.

Now we need the BEST news: A strong team of volunteers ready to serve!

With an event of this size, we simply cannot do it without help. Whether you can give one hour or the whole day, we have a spot for you:

Behind the Scenes – Event preparation and setup

Food Service – Kitchen team to prepare, cook, and serve lunch

Activity Help – Run activities and games for children and families

Greeters/Welcome Hosts – Provide a friendly first impression

Support Volunteers – Assist with various tasks and help guests navigate the event

This block party has become a highlight for our neighbors and partner organizations—a chance to open our doors, share our space, and connect families with valuable community resources.

But we can only offer this warm welcome with enough hands on deck.

Sign up today using the link or QR code <https://tinyurl.com/WPCBlockParty>. There is also a signup sheet on the volunteer board near the Wenona Street entrance.

Let's make this our best block party yet!

