

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship

The Good News is ... great love for God and neighbor

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

March 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.



DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LENTEN CANDLES

Let us pray:

Loving God, teach us to love with courage and humility.

When compassion feels costly,

remind us that love is the heart of your good news.

Shape our lives by mercy, generosity, and care. Amen.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

†HYMN

“God is Calling Through the Whisper”

POLISH CAROL

*God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray ...

— Continue in Silent Confession —

KYRIE

*No. 576

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

So join me in this good-news declaration:
We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

*No. 447

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

†SHARING GOD'S PEACE

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace and love with our neighbors.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

At this time, children (5th 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 before communion.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Matthew 25:35-40

GOSPEL READING

Luke 7:36-50

SERMON

"The Good News is great love for God and Neighbor"

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN *"A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar"* HOW CAN I STOP FROM SINGING

*A prophet-woman broke a jar,
by Love's divine appointing.
With rare perfume she filled the room,
presiding and anointing.
A prophet-woman broke a jar,
the sneers of scorn defying.
With rare perfume she filled the room,
preparing Christ for dying.*

*Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,
for centuries were hidden,
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,
derided and forbidden,
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,
on free and slave descending,
can tumble our dividing walls,
our shame and sadness mending.*

*The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls,
by Love's divine ordaining,
the friends we need, to serve and lead,
their powers and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls,
from women, men and children,
the friends we need, to serve and lead.
Rejoice, and make them welcome!*

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Tell me something good, Church. What good news do you believe?

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome and feels like home.

It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.

**It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

I have seen it alive in the world.

And even when my heart aches,

even when wars rage,

even when mercy feels out of reach,

**I remember the one who welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.**

I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERING

WPC CHANCEL CHOIR

“Come into God’s Embrace”

Music by Mary McDonald, Words by Herb Frombach

**Today’s Loose Offering will be used to support the ministry of the Westminster Deacons.*

†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 heaven and earth, you pour down justice like a rushing mountain stream; you raise mercy and kindness like a new day dawning. We thank you for the power given through Christ to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

We present our tithes and offerings in joyful thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received from you.

Use them and us as instruments of your peace, serving the call of the church, until Christ comes in final victory. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy.

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Using either station at the front of the church, you will receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please take communion before returning to your seat. If you wish to remain seated, someone will bring communion to your seat. The bread on the trays is gluten free. If you are coming forward and need a gluten free option, one is available on the table.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, merciful God,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN

"I Come with My Devotion"

BACK OF FLOWER INSERT

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, when you meet anger,
we will speak with love.

When you meet fear,
we will speak with hope.

When you meet pain,
we will speak with gentleness.

But no matter what,
we will speak this good news.

For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will?

Thanks be to God
for this good, *good* news.
Amen.

+POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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SECRETARY
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Jeff Rogers
Leah Sneller
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Seth Cunningham
Judy Harrelson
Seth Cunningham
Martha Tapley
Bill Petzold
Pat Foster
Harold Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 1, 2026

- The **FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE** are provided by Nancy Berta in memory of her husband on his birthday..
- **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.
- **CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES:** Heading to a warmer climate this winter? Have you moved recently? Do you have a new email address? Please call the church office to let us know of these changes so your statement and other church correspondence reaches you.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** We provide two opportunities for folks to participate – **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Lounge or **Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. by Zoom.**
- **WINGS OF PRAYER:** If you have someone you would like to add to our Wings of Prayer list, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.
- **PER CAPITA for 2026 is \$35.00.** Per capita connects Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and mid councils with the work of the wider church. Per capita is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of moving the church forward in the 21st century. The work of the PC(USA), and in particular the work of the General Assembly, is only possible because members of the church have said they are “all in” and committed to connection through per capita support. It is about joining together as a community and being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world.

- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group is open to the Bay City community who are dealing with loss in their lives. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. Caring Connections will meet again on **Thursday, March 5** from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.

- **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.



- **FACEBOOK:** Stay up to date with all the latest events and watch live streams of worship services each Sunday on our Facebook page: facebook.com/wpcbc

- **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** After wrapping up Sidney Poitier's inspiring autobiography, *Measure of a Man*, the group will celebrate by watching his classic film, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, on **March 3 at 1:30 p.m. Beginning March 10**, we embark on our next book, *First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom. If you would like to take part in the book group, contact Rev. Linda or the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 1, 2026

- **WONDERING WEDNESDAYS:**

Throughout the Wednesdays of Lent (February 18-April 1) the **sanctuary will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** for an intentional time for prayer and reflection. We'll have some quiet music playing and some images for reflection on the screens.

- **BED BUILD:** Save the date! Westminster's 3rd annual sponsored bed build with Sleep in Heavenly Peace is scheduled for Saturday April 18. Details to follow. If you have any questions contact Len Petroff.

- **RUMMAGE SALE:** Westminster's Presbyterian Women committee is planning a Spring Rummage Sale for Wednesday, April 15 through Friday, April 17. We will begin collecting rummage sale items and setting up on Sunday, April 12. More details will follow as the date approaches.

- Join us for **PRAYER IN THE PEWS** following Lenten worship services: Weekly: A simple quiet time of lifting up the needs of others. Prayer Teams will pray for others in person one-at-a-time. Monthly: First Sunday of every month, an opportunity to pray for our community and the world with compassion and intention. Printed prayers from the Book of Common Worship will be available, as well as time of silent prayer. For questions, contact Rev. Linda.

- We will be hosting our annual **MID-LENTEN POTLUCK AND INTERACTIVE PRAYER SERVICE** on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. Gather with us for a relaxed evening of food, prayer, music, and creative reflection for all ages. Everyone is welcome—bring a dish to share if you're able, yourself, and invite a friend!

Westminster COMMUNITY PANTRY

- **January Statistics:** As we saw last year, our January numbers were a little lower than our average. We served 527 people from 179 households with 6,038 pounds of food. Of those, 122 people from 42 families were first-time visitors. We also noted that 67 families hadn't been to the pantry in at least two months. But we had 62 families in the first week of February, so it looks like we are back to "normal."

- **Our March "Item of the Month"** is rice and noodle side dishes, such as Rice a Roni, Knorr sides, Suddenly Salad, etc. Donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you for your support!

Scan the QR code to
visit the pantry
Facebook page:



Westminster Presbyterian Church
103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI
48706; phone: 989-686-1360
email: office@wpcbc.org
website: wpcbc.org

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through Thursday. Closed
noon to 1 p.m. for lunch each day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 1, 2026

Volunteer Opportunity: Join Us at the Matthew 25 Café!

Support the Salvation Army and Mission Partnerships –

Lend a Hand, Make a Difference

Are you looking for a fun and inspiring way to give back to your community? The

Salvation Army's Matthew 25 Café is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to support our mission of serving those in need. **We invite you to sign up for a two-hour shift on the second Tuesday of each month.**

Your time and effort will help create a warm and welcoming environment where everyone feels valued. Volunteering at the café is more than just serving food—it's about connecting with others, sharing kindness, and making a real impact.

Whether you come alone or bring a friend, you'll find this experience to be both rewarding and uplifting.

No special skills are required, just a caring heart and a willingness to help.

Join our mission-driven team and be a part of something greater. If you're interested in signing up the sheet is located on the Volunteer Board in Wenona Lobby. Shifts are 9 to 11 a.m. for food prep and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for serving. If you would like more information, please contact the church office or Darlene Kusterer. Together, we can make a difference, one meal and one smile at a time!

Upcoming dates: March 10, 2026

April 14, 2026

May 12, 2026

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. 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	Month to Date thru February 22,	
	2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 78,467	\$ 105,636
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Cash Received	\$ 248	\$ 3,167
Total Income	\$ 78,715	\$ 108,803
Expenses	\$ 15,992	\$ 44,937
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 62,723	\$ 63,866

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is \$467,000.

