Westminster *At Worship*

A Celebration of Worship
The Good News is …
protection and care for the vulnerable

March 15, 2026 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 my be different than what is projected on the screens*

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LENTEN CANDLES

Let us pray:
Protecting God, open our eyes to those in need.
Move us from sympathy to action, from comfort to responsibility.
May our lives reflect your care for the vulnerable. Amen.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

God loves the field mouse.
God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.
God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.
God loves the child who rocks and claps.
God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.
God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
There is no bit of creation that God does not love.
So let us worship this good-news God!

†HYMN *"Jesus Loves Me"* *No. 437

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
He's prepared a home for me,
And some day his face I'll see.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Includes scripture verses from Leviticus 19:33, Matthew 5:9, Deuteronomy 24:21, Matthew 19:14, and Isaiah 43:1.)

Friends, let us pray:
In Leviticus we hear God say, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess,
we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

In Matthew Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

In Deuteronomy, God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess, we have hoarded our resources
and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.
Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness.
Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers,
and nurture us with your love and forgiveness,
that we might share what we have been given,
and receive your kingdom
with the wonder and gratitude of children.
In Jesus' name we pray...

— Continue in Silent Confession —

Kyrie

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

Assurance of Pardon

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine."

By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

May this good news change our lives! Amen!

†Response to God's Grace

We Are Forgiven

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.

Take a moment to share signs of peace with your 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 during the offertory.

Disciples Listen to the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Dramatic Reading

Matthew 19:13-15

Sermon

"The Good News is protection and care for the vulnerable"
Rev. Jamie Milton

†Hymn *"See the Precious Children"* Back of Bulletin

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.

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; and 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 the Offering

Choral Offering

Men's Choir

"Amazing Grace"

Words by John Newton, Music: Early American Melody, Adapted and arranged by John Coates, Jr.

†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

Lord God, you have entrusted us with the works of your own hands. Now we return these gifts to you
with thanksgiving and praise.
Use them all for your glory
and for the good of your world;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Disciples Depart to Serve God

†Hymn *"Will You Come and Follow Me"* *No. 350

"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

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

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CHOIR DIRECTOR	Dawn Auger
HANDBELL DIRECTOR	Seth Cunningham
YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR	Judy Harrelson
ORGANIST	Seth Cunningham
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Martha Tapley
SECRETARY	Bill Petzold
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR	Pat Foster
FACILITIES MANAGER	Harold Miller

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 15, 2026

• **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.

• **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.** Our Bible Study follows our Lenten theme: Tell Me Something Good.

• **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.

• **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.

• **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** We will continue our discussion of the book ***The 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. Our book group meets Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

• **A TOWN HALL MEETING** is planned for **after worship next Sunday, March 22**. We'll be sharing the results of our Stewardship Campaign and offer updates and answers to any remaining questions from our 2025 conversations together. After that, we hope to spend more time listening. To help us provide the most accurate and thoughtful responses we encourage you to submit questions ahead of time. There will also be time for open conversation during the meeting.

• **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group is open to the Bay City community, so if you have a friend or neighbor who is dealing with grief, they are welcome to join! Our next meeting will be **Thursday, April 9.**

• **DOXA DINNER:** Westminster will host its first Bay Doxa Dinner this **Monday, March 16.** A Bay Doxa Dinner is a gathering where neighbors come together around a shared meal to hear four local entrepreneurs share ideas for businesses that could bless and strengthen the community. Join us to connect with neighbors, meet local entrepreneurs, and enjoy soup, salad, bread, live music, and a vote; doors open at 5:30 p.m., the event begins at 6 p.m., and a $5 cash donation supports the evening while helping the community collectively invest in one idea, practicing generosity, stewardship, and belief in one another's God-given potential.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 15, 2026

• **THANK YOU!** I just wanted to say thank you for your cards, prayers and best wishes while I was in the hospital. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

— Joy Thompson

•**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.

• **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD:** Westminster's next bed build with Sleep in Heavenly Peace is April 18. You can sign up using the QR code below. Youth ages 12 and older are welcome (a parent or guardian signature is required for those under 18). On-site registration begins at 8:45 a.m. Please note the new location: 4055 S. Saginaw Rd., Midland. We hope you'll join us! Questions? Contact Len Petroff.

• **RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE:** Westminster's Presbyterian Women committee is planning a Spring Rummage Sale and Bake 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.

• **ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY:** If you would like to update your information on the MyUCD online church directory or add an email contact or phone number, please contact Bill in the church office and he can get those changes made for you. You may either call 989-686-1360 during office hours or email office@wpcbc.org.

Westminster COMMUNITY PANTRY

Pantry Stats: In February, we served 594 people from 218 families with 6545 pounds of food. 47 families were first time visitors. 120 were last here in January or December. And 51 hadn't been here since November or earlier. Families came from 9 different Bay County cities, with the majority from Bay City and Essexville. We are glad people are finding our pantry when they need food. Thank you for helping us feed our hungry neighbors!

Item of the Month: The March item of the month is packaged rice and noodle side dishes, like Knorr sides, Rice-a-Roni and Suddenly Salad. Our guests will really enjoy having a wide variety of items to choose from. Please leave your donations on the cart by the pantry door. Thank you!

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 15, 2026

•**WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN?** Join us for the next in a series of classes on **Being Presbyterian**. We'll gather for dinner at **5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22,** and then we'll spend about an hour and a half looking at some Presbyterian beliefs and practices while exploring our individual faith together!

•**THE OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH** will continue its tour of local eateries with a stop at Lasko's Restaurant, 3966 Wilder Rd. In Bay City. We will meet up at **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18**. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Dave Crook by calling (847) 624-5798 or emailing crookds@earthlink.net by March 16 so we can provide an accurate count for our party.

• **HEARTS AND HANDS KNITTING** welcomes anyone who enjoys knitting to join them! Our group of knitters and crocheters needs help. Hearts and Hands of Westminster has been getting together for 20+ years now creating winter items, lap robes, and things for babies. But our numbers have been reduced as we have lost members. If you knit or crochet, we would love to have you join us **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Session Room.**

• **SETH CUNNINGHAM,** Westminster's organist, will be performing the concert "Sunday Pipes: Music from different eras" on Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday) at 3 p.m. at Otisville United Methodist Church, 200 W. Main St. in Otisville. Admission is free, and a potluck supper will follow the performance.

• **BUNCO IN BLOOM!** Join us at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 in the Fellowship Hall for our next Bunco party! Bring your own lunch and we will eat together at noon, and the games will begin at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rev. Linda or the church office.

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 March 8, 2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	$ 17,741	$ 123,477
One-time Gifts	$ -	$ -
Other Cash Received	$ 345	$ 3,513
Total Income	$ 18,086	$ 126,990
Expenses	$ 68	$ 62,486
Net Income/(Loss)	$ 18,018	$ 64,504

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is $467,000.

the good news is...

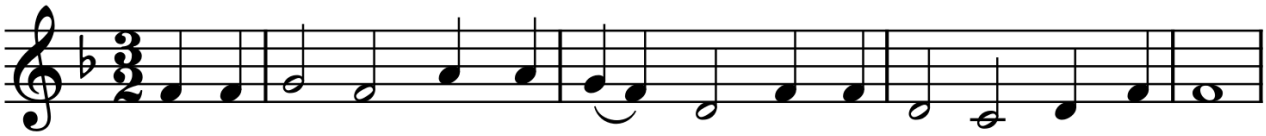
protection & care for the vulnerable

See the Precious Children

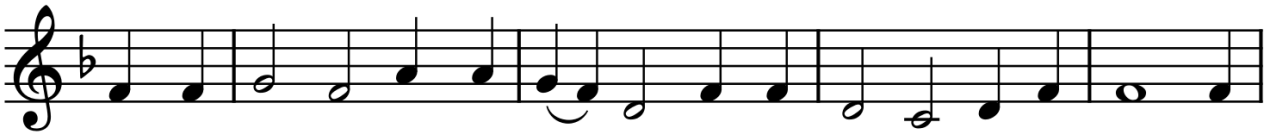
BEACH SPRING *("As We Gather at Your Table")*

Scan to hear the tune!

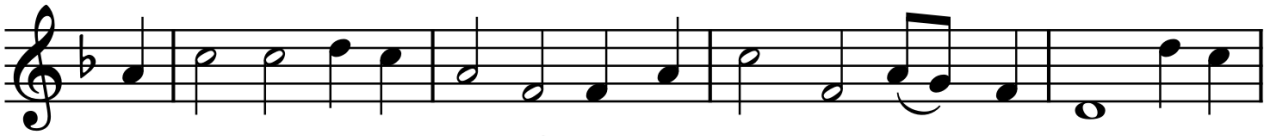
Words: Anna Strickland (2025) Music: B. F. White (1844)



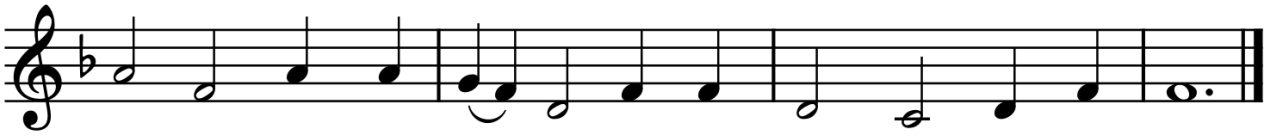
See the pre-cious chil-dren seat - ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo - men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice and our greed



Called the great - est in the king-dom, held so gent - ly and a - dored They
Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan - gers for the pow - er - less and prone They
Sleep - ing un - der star - ry heav-ens, dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They
Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net cry - ing out for some re - lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our



weak - ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
liv - ing we're held by love as we care for ev - ery being