

Westminster Presbyterian Church
103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706

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THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Westminster At Worship

You were created for a purpose, formed into something spectacular – not just created, but re-created again and again. Ready to be stretched? It’s time to be re-shaped!

Change is actually the most constant part of life and necessary for animating our spirits as we find renewed purpose throughout life. Jesus advocated for changes that would keep us moving toward greater goodness!

During August, we’ll continue exploring our invitation to CHANGE! To close out July, we took **Step One for Change: believe we are created for change.** In Jeremiah, we hear the biblical metaphor that we are fashioned of clay that can be reshaped again and again. When life requires change of us, we should embrace it ... we are made for this!

**Step Two for Change:
start with inner change
— August 3 —
“Inside Out”
Mark 1:1-15**

Our Scripture this week invites us to remember the baptism of Jesus and the message that we, as followers of Jesus, are changed



a worship series about getting animated and embracing change

*“Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand ...”
— JEREMIAH 18:6*

constantly “from the inside out.” Transformation does not start with the action of change itself, but a willingness within our own spirits to “lean into” the life path that is calling to us.

**Step Three for Change:
be willing to let old
expectations fall away
— August 17 —
“Everything Changes”
John 12:20-26**

In our scripture today, Jesus asks us to let go of life “as it is” in order to create and multiply the love that is eternal. What feels like the chaos, or recklessness, of change is the breaking-open of possibility and the sprouting of new life. This is

what it means to follow the change-maker Jesus and serve his purpose of more love in the world.

**Step Four for Change:
courage to take the first step
— August 24 —
“Be En-Couraged”
Matthew 14:22-31a**

It takes courage to change, to break out of whatever narrow paths we might find ourselves in. Just like Peter, if we are going to change, we have to take the first uncertain steps out of the boat onto the water and into the unknown. Luckily, we too have Jesus’ redeeming help and support, his hand reaching out to us, if we start to sink or lose our way.

AUGUST 2025 ISSUE 200

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian
Church - Bay City



Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday
Office Closed

Phone: 989-686-1360
E-mail: office@wpcbc.org

Pastor Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
Parish Associate Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
Secretary Bill Petzold (ext. 201)
Facilities Manager Harold Miller (ext. 205)
Financial Administrator Pat Foster (ext. 206)
Director of Children and Youth Ministry Leah Sneller (ext. 208)

August

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Closed Friday
website: wpcbc.org
Join us on Facebook
Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Join us in the Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

Please look on each Sunday for events and worship information specific to that day.

Happy Birthday

Web Tally	Carolyn Eichhorn
Kaye Walker	Peggy Hawkins
Barbara English	Carole Fulcher
Mary Jessup	Thomas Kayner

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

Sunday	Monday
3	4 8:30 a.m. VBS 5:30 p.m. Mission Meeting 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting
10 10:30 a.m. VBS Sunday and the Blessing of the Bags (See page 2) 11:45 a.m. Fellowship and Outreach meeting 11:45 a.m. Game Gathering (See page 1)	11 5 p.m. Property meeting 6 p.m. Finance meeting 7 p.m. Stewardship meeting
17	18
24	25
31 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship (See page 2)	

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
	<i>Westminster</i> COMMUNITY PANTRY 4 to 6 p.m. Every Wednesday (See page 6)	<i>Westminster</i> COMMUNITY PANTRY 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Thursday (Beginning September 1, Thursday hours will be 10 a.m to noon.)	1/2
5 8:30 a.m. VBS 10 a.m. Hearts and Hands Knitting	6 8:30 a.m. VBS	7 8:30 a.m. VBS 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7 p.m. Appreciate These Things via Zoom	8 7 p.m. Loons outing: GRIT night
			9 12 p.m. Young Adult Gathering (See page 3)
12 10 a.m. Hearts and Hands Knitting 1 p.m. Lions Club 1:30 p.m. Movie Madness 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	13 12 p.m. Members To Remember luncheon 5:30 p.m. Worship meeting	14 8:30 a.m. TOPS 10:30 a.m. Hospitality and Outreach 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7 p.m. Appreciate These Things via Zoom	15
			16 10 a.m. Mindful Markings
19 10 a.m. Hearts and Hands Knitting 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	20 1 p.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch at Krzysiak's House Restaurant	21 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7 p.m. Appreciate These Things via Zoom	22/23
26 10 a.m. Hearts and Hands Knitting 1:30 p.m. Movie Madness (See page 6)	27 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal	28 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran NO ZOOM	29/30

BIRTHDAY FUND IS A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE

In June, the **General Fund** received \$38,414.18 in income and spent \$34,829.88. We didn’t need to transfer any money from our investment funds this month.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received \$405 in contributions and spent \$850 on the beautiful plantings in the courtyard. As of the end of June, the Fund has a balance of \$9,208.55. The **Major Repairs Fund** received \$138 in contributions and incurred no expenses. Its June Fund balance was \$40,714.69.

Let’s talk about a couple of the funds the Church has in addition to the funds discussed above. The **Birthday Fund** was created in 2014, with the intent being that members could contribute, on their birthday, an amount equal to their birthday (or any other amount). The money is invested. Currently, the Birthday Fund has a balance of \$3,307.22, that can be spent at the discretion of Session. If you are interested in contributing for your birthday or at any other time, just indicate it on your check.

Stewardship Snapshot

GENERAL FUND	YTD through July 20	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 283,206	\$ 349,910
Expenses	\$ 234,621	\$ 474,270
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 48,585	\$ (124,360)

The **Pastoral Housing Fund** was created when the Manse was sold in 2014. The proceeds are invested in New Covenant Trust Company and can be used to cover the housing allowance paid to the pastors. Its current balance is \$67,954.91.

If you have any questions about these figures or anything else finance-related, please feel free to contact me.

Pat Foster

Financial Administrator
treasurer@wpcbc.org
616-485-8272 (cell phone)

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

1-2 OCTOBER

at Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland St., Bay City, MI 48706

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP, WE WILL BE SETTING UP MONDAY AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30 IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



For More Information Contact
Bev at 989-778-0670

UPCOMING CHOIR DATES

Chancel Choir

Do you like to sing? Are you already part of the choir? Chancel Choir is beginning the 2025-2026 singing season on Wednesday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room behind the sanctuary. We have fun, and I guarantee you will go home humming! Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Dawn Auger, Westminster Choir Director at 989-327-0412.

Contemporary Choir

Contemporary Choir will begin rehearsals the same day, Wednesday, August 27 at 5:15 p.m. in the choir room behind the sanctuary. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Contemporary Choir, contact director Seth Cunningham at 810-288-7710.



Game Gathering!



Game Gathering

Following our special Camp worship service on **August 10th** (See page 2) we’ll be hosting our next Game Gathering. We hope you’ll plan to stay for a game of cards, Apples to Apples, or a new game you’re ready to teach us!

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch



Come one, come all and join in our ongoing lunch bunch; we had 30 people last month! We will gather again **Wednesday, August 20th** at 1:00 p.m. at Krysiak’s House Restaurant, 1605 Michigan Ave, Bay City, MI 48708.

Please call Dave Crook (989-506-1327) to make your reservation or if you have any questions.



BELL CHOIRS

The Adult Bell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 7th at 8:45 a.m. and their first performance will be on October 12th. The Bell Choir will be under the direction of Seth Cunningham. Seth will continue to serve as our organist and direct the Contemporary Choir as well.

The Chime Choir and Youth Bells will once again be under the direction of Judy Harrelson. Parents, as we get closer to September, we’ll share dates and times for rehearsals for those groups.

We look forward to another wonderful year of singing and ringing at Westminster!



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST

In addition to our Re-Shaped series this August, we have two special worship services planned.

On **August 10th**, the children and families that participated in Bay Shore's "On the Road" Day Camp will be invited to help lead us in

worship. We'll try to match their energy as we sing along with them and hear the stories they learned throughout the week. Join us for Camp Sunday!

We'll also have our **Blessing of the Backpacks, Bags, and Briefcases** during the August 10 service. Bring a bag you want blessed and make sure to get a new tag to add to your collection! To close out the month on **August 31st**, 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.



SAVE THE DATE

As you begin to plan your September, we want to make you aware of a couple of important dates at Westminster!

Won't You *Bring Your Neighbor?* — September 7

Mark your calendars for this year's very special fall kickoff Sunday! In addition to some programming and rehearsals starting back after summer break, we'll be celebrating the gift of being good neighbors — just like Mr. Rogers taught us!

Bring a friend or invite a neighbor to join us for worship, where we'll reflect on what it means to love our neighbors near and far. After

worship, join us for an Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Hall!

Football fans, don't worry — we'll wrap up in time for you to catch the first games of the NFL season (and the Lions don't play til 4:25!). So wear your team colors (or your WPC GRIT & Grace shirt), bring your sweet tooth, and help us kick off a season of

learning, serving, and growing together in faith and friendship.

Fall Town Hall – September 14

The Session is planning for a follow-up to our May 4th Town Hall meeting to be held following worship on Sunday, September 14th. We'll provide an update on the 2025 budget, church spending, and congregational giving through the end of August. There will be a time for questions, but if you'd like to send a question in ahead of the meeting, (which helps us have the facts ready for you!) please send it to pastor@wpcbc.org.



What's that WORD again?

**A new monthly series about some common Presbyterian words we use but may need to (re)introduce. Do you have a church or Presbyterian word you'd like to learn more about? Let Pastor Jamie know!*

Deacon

If you hear the word *Deacon* in church and think "Wait ... what exactly do they do?" — you're not alone. While a Deacon's specific duties may vary from church to church, the calling of a Deacon is one of compassion and service.

A Ministry of Caring

The *Book of Order* says it plainly:

"The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress." (G-2.0201)

In other words, Deacons make sure that no one is forgotten or left out of Christ's care. They extend the church's love beyond the walls of the sanctuary and into the lives of people who need it most.

How Do They Do That?

Deacons are elected by the congregation and ordained—set apart for this special work—just like Elders and Pastors. While Elders focus on the church's governance and spiritual direction, Deacons focus on **hands-on caring and service**.

Westminster's Board of Deacons:

- Visit with those who are sick, homebound, or grieving, often delivering one of our adorable "Prayer Bears."
- Send cards for birthdays, hospitalizations, or special milestones.



- Prepare the elements for Communion and assists in delivering Communion to those unable to come to worship.
- Facilitate the Wings of Prayer ministry, our church prayer chain.
- Maintain regular contact with Westminster's "Members to

Remember," shut-ins and other elder members of the church. They host a luncheon and Communion service in the summer and deliver small gifts at Christmas.

- Recognize and celebrate members who have reached 50 years of membership.
- Help to host fellowship times that build community every Sunday.

Ordained to Serve

In Presbyterian churches, Deacons are not just volunteers—they are **ordained** to their ministry of service, compassion, and witness. They promise to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. They remind us that the gospel is not only preached from the pulpit but also lived out in loving service, prayers whispered over the phone, and cards that arrive at just the right time.

Why It Matters

The church can't truly be the church without caring for one another. Deacons help us practice what we preach. They remind us that every member is precious, every need matters, and small acts of love and service can shine with Christ's light.

So next time you see a Deacon with a stack of cards, a basket of Communion cups, or a prayer bear ready to be delivered, remember: this is what the church looks like when it loves its neighbors—one visit, one prayer, one small kindness at a time. **The Deacons receive their funding from the loose offering collected on Communion Sundays or through gifts designated to the Deacon Fund.*

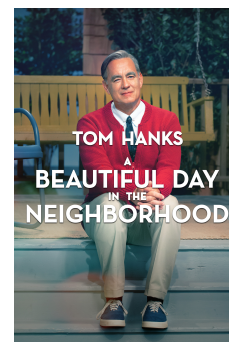
MOVIE MADNESS

Our summer Movie Madness series will be wrapping up in August.

Come join us on August 12th - "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" and on August 26th - "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

Both movies were chosen because they are family friendly.

"The Boy who Harnessed the Wind" was a young schoolboy who comes from a family of farmers. William has a talent for fixing radios for his friends and neighbors and spends his free time looking through the local junkyard for salvageable electronic components. By the mid-2000s, the family's crops



began to fail due to drought and the resulting famine devastates their village.

Seeking to save his village from the drought, William devises a plan ... And so begins the inspiring and true story.

"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood": Most of us are familiar with Mr. Rogers, but maybe not the unlikely friendship that evolved

between Fred Rogers and an Esquire journalist.

The journalist receives an assignment to profile Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers. He approaches the interview with skepticism, as he finds it hard to believe that anyone can have such a good nature. But Roger's empathy, kindness and decency soon chips away at Vogel's jaded outlook on life, forcing the reporter to reconcile with his own painful past. Even if you may have seen it before, it is a movie well worth watching more than once; a movie with great reviews and excellent acting.

Showtime is at 1:30 p.m. in the Session Room "theater"; **Tuesday August 12th** and **Tuesday, August 26th.**

WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY NEWS

June Statistics: The Pantry served 652 people from 225 families with 6,326 pounds of food. We continue to see new families every week. While we serve all of Bay County, most of our guests come from Bay City and Essexville. Roughly three-quarters of our guests are new or return every month. There is a huge need in our community, and we are blessed to be able to help with nutritious food and some goodies. We truly appreciate the support of this congregation!

August Item of the Month is "ready to eat" cans of SpaghettiOs, ravioli, beef stew, chili, etc. Your generous donations help us



ITEM OF THE MONTH

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

Grant Approved: We are excited to announce that the Pantry was approved for a "capacity grant" from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. They award these grants annually to help cover the cost of infrastructure (not food). We

requested funds for additional shelving, a second freezer, and shopping carts. Funds should be received in early August. Thank you to the Food Bank for partnering with us to feed our hungry neighbors!

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.



Come And Join Us!

**WESTMINSTER
YOUNG ADULT
GATHERING!**

Saturday, August 9th
12:00 til 1:30 pm

103 E Midland St. Bay City
RSVP Rev. Jamie
Email pastor@wpcbc.org

Childcare available! Please let us know when you RSVP.

Hey! We're inviting you — and all our young adults (ages 18–25) — to join us for lunch on **Saturday, August 9** at Noon on the church lawn.

Whether you're with us every Sunday or haven't been back in years, this is just a relaxed chance to catch up with old friends or meet some new ones, as we share food, and reconnect.

We'll provide lunch, some easy icebreakers/games (don't worry — nothing awkward!), and space to share memories, laughter, and ideas for what's next.

Come as you are, bring a friend if you'd like — we'd love to see you!

Please let us know if you can make it so we have enough food.

Hope to see you there!

'Is what I am going through normal?'

"The word changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the love and memory of you, shall never pass away." ~ Unknown

Often as bereavement counselors, we hear "Is what I am going through normal?" Yes it is. Grief is a natural response to loss, typically involving a range of emotional, physical, cognitive, and behavioral reactions. While grief is a universal experience, its manifestation and intensity can vary widely among individuals and cultures.

Some things many people experience are emotional symptoms such as sadness, anger, guilt, anxiety, loneliness, numbness, yearning, irritability, or feeling emotionally overwhelmed. Physical symptoms may include fatigue, insomnia, changes in appetite, physical pain, headaches, or gastrointestinal disturbances. You may experience cognitive symptoms including difficulty concentrating, forgetfulness, confusion, preoccupation with thoughts of your loved one, or difficulty making decisions. Lastly, you may also notice behavioral symptom of crying spells, social withdrawal, avoiding reminders of the loss, engaging in risky behaviors.

Understanding grief is crucial for anyone navigating the experience of loss or supporting someone who is grieving. Here are some key points to consider. Grief is unique and not linear. Grief shows up in physical and emotional



manifestations. There is no timeline for grief. Coping strategies vary from person to person and over time. Grief can be triggered. Support is essential. Grief often changes over time. It is okay to seek help. Grief can also help you honor your loved one's memory in wonderful ways.

It's important for you to explore different forms of grief support to find what works best for you. No single approach is right for everyone, and it's okay to try out different options until you find the right fit. The key is to prioritize self-compassion, patience, and seeking support you need it. Understanding how grief can differ for each of us fosters empathy, resilience, and healing for both individuals experiencing grief and those supporting them.

— Provided by St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement Program

HELPFUL HINTS

Grief support encompasses various resources and strategies aimed at helping individuals navigate the complex and often overwhelming emotions that accompany loss. Here are some avenues for grief support:

Support Groups: Joining a grief support group can provide a sense of community and understanding from others who are also experiencing loss. These groups may be facilitated by mental health professionals or offered through religious institutions, community centers, or online platforms.

Therapy/Counseling: Individual counseling or therapy sessions with a licensed mental health professional can offer a safe space to explore feelings of grief, learn coping strategies, and work through the challenges of mourning.

Hotlines and Helplines: Many organizations offer phone lines staffed by trained volunteers or professionals who can provide emotional support, information, and resources for individuals experiencing grief. These hotlines are often available 24/7 for immediate assistance.

Online Resources: There are numerous websites, forums, and social media groups dedicated to grief support. Individuals can connect with others who are going through similar experiences, access educational materials, and find coping strategies.

Books and Literature: Reading books and articles about grief can provide insight, validation, and guidance for navigating the mourning process. Many authors share their personal experiences with loss, offering comfort and understanding to readers.

Peer Support: Talking to friends, family members, or acquaintances who have experienced similar losses can provide a sense of validation and connection. Sharing stories and experiences with others who understand can be incredibly comforting.

Creative Expression: Engaging in creative activities such as writing, art, music, or gardening can be therapeutic ways to express emotions and process grief. Creative outlets provide opportunities for self-expression and reflection.

Physical Activity: Regular exercise and movement can help alleviate symptoms of grief by releasing endorphins and reducing stress. Activities like walking, yoga, or swimming can be particularly beneficial for improving mood and overall well-being.

Spiritual Guidance: For those who are spiritually inclined, seeking support from religious leaders, attending religious services, or participating in spiritual practices such as prayer or meditation can offer comfort and a sense of connection to something larger than oneself.

Self-Care Practices: Practicing self-care is essential for maintaining mental and emotional well-being during the grieving process. This can include getting enough rest, eating nourishing foods, spending time in nature, and engaging in activities that bring joy and relaxation.

— Provided by St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement Program