

Westminster At Worship

stranger & neighbor

First Sunday in Lent

Scout Sunday

March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

WORDS OF WELCOME BY BOY SCOUT TROOP 150

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn?

Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

†HYMN

“What Wondrous Love is This”

WONDROUS LOVE

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

THE CANDLES OF LENT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray:

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves,
but we get tripped up on logistics.**

We want to know: who is our neighbor?

Do we have to love the stranger?

Must we have compassion for our enemy?

**Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of
love.**

**Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in
every stranger we pass. With hope we offer our prayers of
confession ...**

— *A Time of Silent Confession* —

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, when we set limits on love,

God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,

God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,

God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate
us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

As neighbors and friends, let’s share our love in the Spirit with signs of 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.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (BURY ALLELUIAS)

SPECIAL MUSIC

YOUTH BELLS

Diversion (Glorious Dawn) by Jason W. Krug

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Psalter Lesson

Psalm 82

Gospel Lesson

Luke 10:25-37

SERMON

“stranger & neighbor”

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

“I Saw a Stranger”

ENGLISH TRADITIONAL

See inside back cover

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Church, if God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?” what would you say?

**We would say, every child, every person,
every weeping willow, and every morning lark.
Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands,
every tail-wagging dog, and every crisp ripe apple.
We would say, we are connected—
to one another, to all of God’s creation.
There are no strangers in God’s house.
We are all family here.**

I think God would delight in that answer.
For it is said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your
heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength,
with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
We believe. Help our unbelief. 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 OFFERING

May the gifts we bring bear the fruit of God’s love to our
neighbors around the world.

MUSICAL OFFERING

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Beloved, Let Us Love One Another”

~ 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.*

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Please join with me in the prayer of dedication:

Gracious God, bless these gifts.

**May they bring your love, justice, and compassion
to where they are most needed in our world.**

Help us be good neighbors to everyone we meet.

With gratitude and love, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN

"Lord, Make Us More Holy"

KINGSFOLD

*Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.*

*Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving,
until we meet again.*

*Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient,
until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient,
until we meet again.*

*Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

Rev. Sarah A. Speed. A Sanctified Art LLC. sanctifiedart.org.

Mary J. Scifres. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025.

"Lenten Candle Liturgy" by Jeanyne Slettom

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Rev. Linda Williams

Boy Scout Troop 150

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Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 9, 2025

• **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.

• **RIDES TO CHURCH NEEDED:** we have a few church members that need rides to church. If you are able to help, please call the church office. Thank you!

• **ADULT BIBLE STUDY** classes are offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** in the Session Room or **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. The same study materials will be used at both gatherings. Please visit our Adult Bible Study page on our website at www.wpcbc.org or see Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions.

• **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Our Youth Group meets from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday nights. This time includes a meal together. If you are able to prepare and serve a meal (foods that young people like, such as Mac and cheese, chicken tenders, make-your-own sandwiches, etc.) or donate money towards dinner, please scan the QR code to sign up. Or call the church office.

• Do you or someone you know have two hours to spare each month to live out our **MATTHEW 25** commitment? **We need volunteers to cover the Westminster shift at Salvation Army's Matthew 25 Café.** On the second Tuesday of each month, Mission Partnership has committed to helping their staff and other outside volunteers prepare and serve a daily average of 150 hot meals for community members in need. There are two shifts. 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. for



preparation and cooking; 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. for serving and light clean-up. We could use a minimum of **4 people on the first shift** and **2 people on the second shift.** No experience is necessary. Sign-up is located on the board in Wenona Lobby. Whether you're a member or a friend of Westminster, we could use your help in fulfilling this mission.

• If you are looking for a wonderful volunteer experience, Westminster is again sponsoring a **full bed build** for the **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE** organization. The date is **April 12** from 8:45 a.m. until roughly noon at Delta College. We'll have a lunch afterwards in the break room at Delta. We are teaming up with First Presbyterian Church to fully staff one bed build day which will require 50 to 60 volunteers. Delta College is requiring that **volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.** No construction skills are required, and SHP provides training and all tools and equipment. Sign up using the QR code above. Spaces are limited, so sign up soon. Contact Len Petroff, Darlene Kusterer, or Bonnie Marsh if you have questions.

• After a break during the busy winter months, **WESTMINSTER'S GAME GATHERING** is back! Following worship on Sunday, March 16, you're all invited to pull up a chair in the Fellowship Hall, choose a couple of partners and play! We'll have some games on hand, but feel free to bring your favorite card game, strategy game, or something else you think we'll love. Those joining in on the fun are also invited to bring a snack or finger food to share.



- **THE FLOWERS TODAY** are given by Martha Tapley and family in honor of John Tapley on his birthday.

- Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary by **PROVIDING FLOWERS** for an upcoming Sunday service? Sign up on the sheet in the hallway outside the sanctuary door. Plenty of dates are still available!

- **WPC AND ME! (NEW MEMBER INQUIRY CLASS)** Have you been participating in the life, worship, and work of Westminster and want to know more about what it means to become a member of the church? We will hold two classes following worship on Sundays, **March 16 and March 23**, in the Conference Room. Participants will learn about the PC(USA) (our denomination) and what it means to be an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. There is no obligation to join the church after taking the class, but the classes are required for those who would like to become members. Please let Pastor Jamie or the church office (989-686-1360) know if you are interested in attending or know of someone who might be. Lunch will be served.

- **HEARTS & HANDS OF WESTMINSTER** has been knitting and crocheting items for several causes for over 20+ years. The items we make are given to organizations helping the homeless, anyone in need of hats and mittens, chemo patients, and our Mother's Day Baby Shower, just to name a few. We have lost a few of our members and are finding it difficult to produce as many items as before. However, the need is just as great, or even greater. If you knit or crochet or know someone who does, we would welcome new members. We meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday mornings in the Session Room. If you are unable to meet with us at

that time, items could be made at home and brought to the church. We have yarn and even a few hooks and needles. So, if you need supplies, just let us know. You may use any pattern you wish.

- We are excited to announce a new **BOOK STUDY** beginning in mid-March, featuring Mitch Albom's acclaimed book, "The Little Liar." Our book studies continue to be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge and we meet for about 1 hour. Copies of the book will be available for \$8 in the church office. Contact Rev. Linda with questions.

- **WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY**

PANTRY: The **ITEM OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH** is CEREAL. Please place on the cart outside the Pantry. Thank you for all the Chunky soups that were donated during January and February. What a popular item!

PANTRY OPEN HOUSE is set for Sunday, March 23. You are invited to stop by before or after the church service to see how the Westminster Community Pantry serves our guests.

PANTRY STATISTICS: During February, 145 households totaling 447 people received 5,025 pounds of food!

PANTRY PARTNERS: On Wednesday, March 26, H2O's Waterside Grill, right on the river at 966 E. Midland Street, is doing a benefit for our Westminster Community Pantry. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **H2O's will donate 20% of each receipt to the Pantry.** Mark your calendar to stop by to enjoy a delicious meal and help support our pantry!

- **TV AND SOUNDBOARD:** We're looking for individuals who can run the soundboard and help in the TV room on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office. Thank you!

- **BULLETIN BOARDS:** Check out the Church bulletin board just outside the sanctuary for upcoming church events and happenings, **plus sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities for:**

- **Westminster Community Pantry**
- **Food of Faith**
- **Matthew 25 Cafe**
- **Fellowship Time Host**

In addition, the Community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall has information on health screenings, grief groups and other events in the area.

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

- **JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** Westminster Presbyterian Church-Bay City

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street

Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY:

If you would like to sign up to work our **Westminster Community Pantry**, Wednesday evenings, 4 to 6 p.m. or Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

- In January, the Westminster Community Pantry served 196 households with 5396 pounds of food. Our guests appreciate the Chunky soups that you have donated to the Pantry. It is such a popular item that it remains our **Item of the Month for February**. Also **can openers** continue to be requested.

- Looking ahead, the **MARCH ITEM OF THE MONTH** will be breakfast cereal.

Your donations of hats, gloves, scarves, socks and other warm winter items are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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 below.

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!



everything [in] between stranger & neighbor



Scan to hear
the tune!

I Saw a Stranger

KINGSFOLD ("O Sing a Song of Bethlehem")

Words: Anna Strickland, 2024 Music: English trad., arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906



I saw a stran - ger on the road in need of help and
I laid there des - perate by the road in need of help and
In our em - brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's



care No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man
care As one by one they passed me by, too bu - sy
dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom



flesh laid bare A thought had flut - tered through my
or too scared Then one ap - proached and my first
I can trust The ar - ti - fi - cial walls we



mind: "Is this one of my own?" My tri - bal mind
thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To my sur - prise
build a - round the tribes we claim Make us for - get



made me for - get that they're bone of my bone
they met my eyes and held me in their arms
the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name