Westminster *At Worship*

A Celebration of Worship
Serving Others: Multiplying Our Impact

November 8, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Westminster! We are glad you are here! Take some time to review the announcements to see "What's Up At Westminster!" If you have any questions, our greeters and ushers are happy to help.

• **THE FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE** were provided in honor of our veterans whose service has kept us free.

• **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** Please note the closest emergency exit to your seat. There are exits at all four corners of the sanctuary that will lead you safely out of the building.

• **YOUTH GROUP MEETS TONIGHT!** Our youth group is open to students in 5th through 12th grade. We meet on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. **Scan the QR code if you are interesting in providing dinner for an upcoming youth group evening.** If you have any questions, contact Leah Sneller, Director of Youth Ministry at youthdirector@wpcbc.org or 989-686-1360, ext. 206.

For Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers:

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! However, if you or your child need a little extra care, we offer several options for you:

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 certified in infant/child CPR.

WORSHIP BAGS are located by the back entrance to the sanctuary. These bags for children are filled with quiet activities to keep children engaged while seated in the pew with their families.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (K-5th Grade) All elementary-aged students are welcome to join us for a time of Bible stories and fun activities just for them. Following the "Sharing God's Peace" in today's service, children are invited to meet their teachers at the back of the sanctuary where they will be led to their classroom. Teachers will bring children back to the sanctuary at the close of the service.

VISIT OUR PRAYGROUND located at the back of the sanctuary. This dedicated space contains activities for parents and children who need a little extra space to move but would still like to be a part of the worship service.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO WORSHIP GOD

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 may be different than what is projected on the screens.*

PRELUDE — SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MOMENT

GATHERING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Raise your eyes to the God of heaven and earth.

We raise our hearts and voices with songs of praise.

Awaken your mind to the mysteries of God.

We open ourselves to listen and learn in new ways.

Notice your blessings and gifts, miraculously given by God.

We offer our lives and gifts to bless and grow God's love in the world.

†HYMN *"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy"* *NO. 623

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
through the ages long!

Refrain:
In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone,
and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision,
dream the dream! (Refrain)

Let courage be our friend;
let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify
the Crucified! (Refrain)

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er
the ages long! (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you call us again and again to seek your kingdom first, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Still, we make our excuses and justify in our own hearts why we go our own way. Lord, forgive our sin. Turn us from our preoccupation with our own lives and turn us to your ways of grace, mercy, love and service. May we heed your invitation to be part of your kingdom and strive, through the power of your Holy Spirit, to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

— 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

Hear the Good News! The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

†Response to God's Grace

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

†Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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 the end of the service.

The Community Listens to the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (CEV)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVUE)

Sermon

"Multiplying our Impact"
"You've been faithful over a little, I'll put you in charge of much."
Rev. Linda Williams

†HYMN *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* *NO. 572

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

The Community Responds to the Call of God

†Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way, Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.

We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia from Uniting in Worship 2

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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

As we consider how to faithfully share our talents, time and treasure, please look for the yellow "Sharing My Gifts" card in your pew. Reflect on how you shared your gifts this week, then place it in the offering plate as a symbol of that gift.
Have a financial gift to share? Feel free to place that in the plate as well.

Musical Offering

WPC Chancel Choir

"Surrender"
Words and Music by Heather Sorenson

†Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

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

**God of mystery and miracles,
bless the gifts and lives we offer to you today
with your miraculous abundance
and your mysterious guidance.**

Transform these gifts and lives
to be instruments of your love, justice and mercy,
that they might bring your realm to earth. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN *"Soon and Very Soon"* *NO. 523

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

†Charge and Benediction

You know what time it is.
It's time to get to work.
It's time to follow Christ.
It's time to go where God leads.
It's time to offer ourselves.
And time to bring love to the world.

†Postlude — Seth Cunningham

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Presbyterian Outlook Liturgical Resources

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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY	Leah Sneller
NURSERY SUPERVISOR	Elaine Edwards
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Dawn Auger
ORGANIST	Seth Cunningham
YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR	Judy Harrelson
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FINANCIAL ASSISTANT	Martha Tapley
SECRETARY	Bill Petzold
FACILITIES MANAGER	Harold Miller

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This Week

• **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** We will be using *The Wired Word* bible study curriculum that connects current events and weekly news stories with Scripture. Our **Sunday morning class meets Sundays at 9 a.m.**, and our **Thursday evening online Zoom study meets online at 7 p.m.** Any questions, please see Rev. Linda or the church office.

• **MATTHEW 25 CAFE: Volunteers needed for our turn to serve this Tuesday, November 10!** We could use four volunteers for each of two shifts: 9 to 11 a.m. (preparation) and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (serving). Call Darlene Kusterer to sign up at 989-385-4062.

• **FALL BOOK GROUP:** We will be reading and discussing *How To Read a Book* by Monica Wood on **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge**. For more information, speak to Rev. Linda or call the church office. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 10.**

• **CARING CONNECTIONS:** 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 is planned for Thursday, November 12 at 1:30 p.m.**

Monthly

• **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Join us **Tuesday, November 17** at noon for an information and interactive learning session about United Way of Bay County's ALICE presentation. Bring your own lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall as we learn about United Way's efforts to help working families who are struggling to make ends meet. Call the church office with any questions.

• **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH:** The Out-to-Lunch Bunch's delicious destination for November is **Tavern 101,** 101 Center Ave. in Bay City. We will gather for lunch at **1 p.m. Wednesday, November 18**. If you would like to join us, please RSVP with Dave Crook by Monday, November 16 by calling 847-624-5798.

• **LYDIA CIRCLE:** Lydia Circle uses the Presbyterian Women Bible Study curriculum, *Horizons*. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. **Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19**. If you are interested in joining, please contact group leaders Elaine Edwards at 989-397-5642 or Barb Tolles at 989-963-9369.

• **DEBORAH CIRCLE:** We will be continuing our study of the television series "The Chosen" at **4 p.m. Thursday, November 19**, location TBD. If you are interested in joining Deborah Circle, please contact Karen Schoeppach or call the church office.

• **FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Westminster is putting together a volunteer group to work at the **FBEM's Hunger Solution Center in Flint on Saturday, November 21, from 9-12**. We'll meet at the church at 7:45 am and carpool together, returning by 1:30 pm. Sign up on the volunteer board in the Wenona Street Welcome Area, or by contacting Pastor Jamie. Anyone aged 8+ is invited to come.

Ongoing

• **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.

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!

REMINDER: There's still time to pay your 2026 per Capita through December 31, which is $35.00 per member.

GENERAL FUND	Oct 20, 2026	Year to Date
Pledges	14,789.56	323,592.86
General Gifts/Donations	1,803	35,353.08
Investment Interest		15,959.92
Loose Collection	131	1,386.22
One-time Gifts	0	0
Other Cash Received	49.2	4,682.38
Total Income	16,772.76	380,974.46
Expenses	23,048.38	350,481.51
Excess(Loss)	-6,275.62	30,492.95

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is $467,000.

Food Pantry Financials
As of September 22, 2026

Beginning Balance	$10,405.30
SEPTEMBER DONATIONS	
Contributions	$2,338.00
Presbyterian Women	$700
Online Giving	$101
Less Expense August	$4,875.23
	$8,669.07
Meijer Simply Give Gift Cards	$7,500
GRANTS:	
Gluten Free	$12,771.80
Infrastructure	$5,962.98

Looking Ahead

• **HANGING OF THE GREENS: Sunday, November 22**, help us decorate the church during and after worship.

• **PACK THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Sunday, November 22**, volunteers are needed to help pack Thanksgiving Baskets for our community members after worship. More details to follow. **We will be accepting donations of food items or money on Sundays, November 1, November 8 and November 15. The cost to buy a feather to "Dress The Bird" this year is $15.**

• **ADVENT DINNER:** Mark your calendars for the Advent Dinner and Craft Workshop in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 29 at 5:00 p.m. for a festive evening of food, fellowship, and creativity. A main dish will be provided; please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share as we enjoy this time together.

Opportunities to Serve your Community

• **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS:** Join us for Fellowship Time! Before worship (9:30 to 10:15 a.m.), stop by the Fellowship Hall for coffee and a sweet treat. After the service, we continue in the chapel with cookies, coffee, and lemonade — a relaxed chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Sign up on the volunteer board near the Wenona Street entrance or contact Joyce Hegenauer. Everything you need will be ready in the kitchen.

•**MATTHEW 25 CAFÉ** at The Salvation Army (322 Adams Street) serves free meals six days a week to the Bay City community, feeding about 100 people daily. They need help with food prep and service. On the **second Tuesday of each month**, **5–7 volunteers help cook and serve**. We have been short a couple volunteers in recent months, so extra help is needed.If you can spare two hours a month—either preparing food (9 to 11 a.m.) or serving and cleaning up (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)—please sign up on the Wenona Lobby board or call the church office with your name, date, and time. **Westminster's next opportunity to serve is Tuesday, November 10.** If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062 or call the church office.

• **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY:** There are a number of ways that you can support our weekly food pantry. Volunteers help assist our clients in choosing food items, work together to unload shipments of food and help to organize donations received from the congregation and community. If you would like to volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Karen Brown-Fackler. You may also support the pantry's efforts with a monetary donation, either by writing "food pantry" in the memo area of your check made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, or online through the donations page on the church website, wpcbc.org. Contact pantry chair Janet Smylie with questions.

• **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will be collecting coats, hats, socks, gloves and other **warm clothing for guests that come to the food pantry**. You may leave any donated items on the cart outside the pantry door.

• **CARING MEAL PROGRAM RETURNS TO WESTMINSTER:** We're excited to share that a beloved ministry is returning to Westminster — the Caring Meal Program. Sponsored by the Board of Deacons, this ministry provides short-term meals to individuals and families experiencing a recent life event or temporary hardship. A pilot team of Meal Preparers is serving as we fine-tune the process. Once the pilot wraps up, we'll invite the congregation to join us in making this meaningful ministry flourish.

• **FOOD OF FAITH:** Help provide a free warm meal for our neighbors in need! Our next opportunity to serve is **Thursday, December 10.** We will need **two volunteers to help prepare the meal** from 2 to 4 p.m. and **four volunteers to help serve** from 4 to 6 p.m. The meal begins at 5 p.m. Thursday evenings at Messiah Lutheran Church, 501 S. Catherine St. in Bay City at the western end of Veterans Memorial Bridge. Those with questions may contact Pam Johnston at 989-392-1958.

October Statistics: We served 787 people from 277 families with 8,877 pounds of food. Of these, 172 people from 58 families were new to our pantry. People continue to find us from as far away as Kawkawlin, Linwood and Pinconning. It is a blessing to offer fresh, nutritious food to our pantry guests.

Item of the Month: We are pausing our requests for Item of the Month until January 2027 so you can support other church mission projects like the Thanksgiving food baskets and the Angel Tree Christmas gifts. If you'd still like to donate to the pantry, any food items are welcomed. Please know how much we appreciate your food donations.

Meijer Simply Give Program Continues through the Holiday Season! Through December 26, all Simply Give donations made at the Wilder Road store will be collected for our pantry. Simply Give donation cards are

Westminster
COMMUNITY PANTRY

available at the church and in the checkout lines at the store. Just hand your Simply Give donation card to the cashier and tell them how much you want to give (in $10 increments). They will scan your card and your donation will be added to your grocery total. **And mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12**, when Meijer will double-match all donations! At the end of the program, all donations are given to our pantry in the form of gift cards that we can use to purchase food. Please share the news with all your family and friends! Questions? Talk to Janet Smylie or email pantry@wbcpc.org.

Extra Venison? Did you know the pantry accepts venison if it was processed at a licensed facility? We are happy to take your extras off your hands!

WREATH RAFFLE: We're raffling off two Christmas wreaths just waiting to be hung on your door, with all proceeds going to support our own Westminster Community Pantry! Raffle tickets may be purchased before or after worship on November 22 and November 29, or by calling the church office during regular business hours. Tickets are $5 each or 5 tickets for $20. All proceeds support the vital work of our Community Pantry. We'll draw the winning ticket at the Advent Dinner on November 29!

Dress the Bird, Gift a Family

Dear Westminster Family:

The Session has approved providing a Thanksgiving Basket for community members. **We will be collecting grocery items during the month of November on Sundays November 1, November 8 and November 15.**

We will be packing the assembled baskets on Sunday, November 22, so please plan to stay and help us if you are able! They will be picked up the following week by those selected to receive them.

Here is a list of items we pack in the turkey baskets:

- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned fruit
- Cranberry Sauce
- Stuffing Mix
- Jell-O (Large Box)
- Instant Pudding (Large Box)
- Turkey or Chicken Gravy Packets
- Macaroni and Cheese boxes
- Brownie Mix
- Reusable grocery bags

We will also be "Dressing the Bird" again this year. Your $15.00 donation will be used to purchase a voucher for families to buy a turkey, and your name will be displayed on our turkey display board. Feathers to dress the turkey can be purchased on Sundays before and after worship services, or you can write a check to WPC and write "turkey" in the memo.

If you have any questions, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.

The Angel Tree will soon be here!

Mission Partnership Committee once again invites you to help make Christmas a little brighter for families in our community. Working with our partners at **The Salvation Army**, we will receive 75 Angel Tags listing toys, gift cards, clothing items and bedding for kids ranging in ages 0 – 17-year-olds.

Angel Tree tags will be available starting Sunday, November 29 until Sunday, December 13. Participants are encouraged to take an angel tag from the tree located in the Wenona Lobby. Write your name and contact number on the bottom portion of the tag and leave that section with representatives or gift box at the Angel Tree table.

Purchase the gifts and return them in a gift bag (no tissue paper) to the church by Noon on Sunday, December 13. We suggest a spending limit of $25-$30 per item - one toy/"fun" and one clothing/textile. Don't forget to attach the angel tag to your gift!

If you prefer, you may choose to donate, and we'll do the shopping for you!

For questions or help, contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062.



CHURCH

wpcbc.org