

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship Shaping Our Community “Generosity and Grace”

September 20, 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 are provided in memory of Ross Brown, with love, from his daughter Karen.
- **THANK YOU** to everyone who made the Fall Kickoff and Tailgate party a great success. From the special music provided by the Brass Quartet during worship, to the delicious food and sundae bar we feasted on during the Tailgate party. Giving of your time and talents to help us begin our new program year ... **that’s Stewardship!**
- **GATHERING AND GAMES:** Join us for a time of games, food, and fellowship following worship today!
- **AFTER TODAY’S SERVICE:** Be sure to join us for Coffee and Cookies in the chapel at the back of the sanctuary!
- **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.

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

O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.

Give thanks to the Lord.

The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

Give thanks to the Lord.

God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise is due to the Lord!

†HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

*No. 501

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.*

*Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we have sought after things,
but we have not sought after you.
We have expected generosity,
but we have not shown generosity.
We have not been gracious or grateful.
We have failed to remember all that you have done.
Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude.
Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs
so that we can run after you, O God.
In Jesus' name we offer our prayers ...**

— A time of Silent Confession —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**In the name of 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 our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
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 at the end of the service.*

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW LESSON

Exodus 16:2-3, 11-15

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON

“Generosity and Grace”
Rev. Jamie Milton

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,
mount of God’s unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE CALL OF GOD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, creator of heaven and earth, who wills justice and peace for all people.

(Apostles' Creed; Confession of 1967, 9.15)

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who announced good news to the poor, blessed the meek, and called us to love our enemies and seek righteousness.

(Matthew 5–7; Luke 4:18–19)

He confronted the powers of sin and injustice, and was crucified under the authority of this world; yet God raised him from the dead, vindicating his way of self-giving love.

(Apostles' Creed; Acts 2:23–24; Confession of 1967, 9.09)

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us courage to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death, and who sends the church into the world to live as salt and light.

(Barmen Declaration, 8.11; Matthew 5:13–16)

We believe the church is called to hear and obey God's Word alone, to stand with those who suffer, to resist evil, and to witness to God's reconciling love even when that witness is costly.

(Barmen Declaration, 8.08–8.11; Confession of 1967, 9.32)

We trust in God's coming kingdom, where righteousness and peace will prevail, and we commit ourselves, by God's grace, to follow Christ, to seek justice, and to walk humbly with our God.

(Matthew 6:33; Micah 6:8; A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4)

Amen.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

CHANCEL CHOIR

"One Step He Leads"
Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

†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.*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, giver of all good gifts, thank you for the resources gathered
here. Use these gifts for the advancement of your kingdom; in
Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

*No. 123

*Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer;
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter;
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior,
Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. This week's liturgy by Mary Scifres.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

• **50-YEAR MEMBERS CELEBRATION:** Join us on **Sunday, September 27** as we honor some of our Westminster friends who have been members for fifty years or longer. The Deacons will host a lunch to help us celebrate following worship.

• **YOUTH GROUP:** Our youth group is open to students in 5th through 12th grade. **We will meet September 27 from 5 to 7 p.m.** I look forward to a fun and exciting year with everyone! If you have any questions, contact Leah Sneller, Director of Youth Ministry at youthdirector@wbcbc.org or 989-402-7576.

• **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 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance.

Please scan the QR code or see Leah Sneller to sign up.



MINISTERS
PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
LITURGIST
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
SECRETARY
FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Harper Lindahl Milton
Leah Sneller
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Seth Cunningham
Judy Harrelson
Lisa Carelli
Martha Tapley
Bill Petzold
Harold Miller

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.
- **FALL BOOK GROUP:** We will be reading and discussing Bob Goff's book, *Love Does* on **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge**. For more information, speak to Rev. Linda or call the church office.
- **CHOIR REHEARSALS:** If you would like to add your voice or musical talent to one of our choirs, please contact Dawn Auger or Seth Cunningham. **Bell choir** rehearses Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. **Chancel Choir** rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. **Contemporary Choir** rehearses at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

MONTHLY

- **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Join us **Tuesday, September 29 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall as we listen to guest speaker Jennifer Davis of Bay County Medical Care Facility. Bring your own lunch, we'll eat at noon with Jennifer's presentation following.
- **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 is planned for Thursday, October 1.**
- **FALLIN' FOR BUNCO:** Our next Bunco party is scheduled for 12 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 5**. Bring your own lunch and join us for some fun and fellowship! We eat at noon and begin playing Bunco at 12:30 p.m.
- **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, October 15.** 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, October 15**, location TBD. If you are interested in joining Deborah Circle, please contact Karen Schoepach or call the church office.

ONGOING

- **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. Through nourishing food and compassionate care, we hope to reflect Christ's love and support our church family during challenging times. A pilot team of Meal Preparers is serving during August and September 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.
- **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.

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**. Summer months bring fewer volunteers, 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, October 13.** If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062 or call the church office.
- **FOOD OF FAITH:** Westminster will have three opportunities to serve a hot meal to our community this fall! Our turns to volunteer are Thursdays — **October 22 and December 10.** 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. 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. Those with questions may contact Pam Johnston at 989-392-1958.
- **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 co-organizers Janet Beattie and 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 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	Current Period	
	September 2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 8,174	\$ 342,675
One-time Gifts		\$ -
Other Cash Received		\$ 10,351
Total Income	\$ 8,174	\$ 353,025
Expenses	\$ 13,525	\$ 302,255
Excess(Loss)	\$ (5,351)	\$ 50,771
Budgeted amount total for 2026 is \$467,000.		
Fire System Upgrade	Not Budgeted	\$ 29,175
	Expense	



Westminster **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

The September Item of the Month is canned ravioli, chili, beef stew, etc.

These are highly popular items. Help us refill our shelves! All donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you!

Can You Help? We want to extend our support past the congregation and our regular community givers. Do you know of a business that may be willing to support the pantry? Do you know someone with a fundraising background? Talk to Janet Smylie or Janet Beattie and we will take it from there.

Food Pantry Financials As of August 31, 2026

Beginning Balance	\$8,621.57
AUGUST DONATIONS	
Contributions	\$605
Mission	\$3,000
Presbyterian Women	\$500
Online Giving	\$152
Less Expense August	\$2,473.27
	\$10,405.30
Meijer Simply Give Gift Cards	\$7,500
GRANTS:	
Gluten Free	\$12,950
Infrastructure	\$5,962