

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship Shaping Our Community “Forgiveness and Mercy”

September 13, 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 may be different than what is projected on the screens.



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MOMENT

GATHERING PRAYER

MUSICAL INTROIT

BRASS GROUP

MADRID arranged by Sterling Proctor

*Brass Group: Dave Crook, Trumpet; Mark Brissette, Trumpet;
Buzz West, Trombone; Diane Cobley, French Horn*

†HYMN

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

*No. 87

*Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!*

*Loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!*

*Let all, with heart and voice,
Before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!*

Come, lift your hearts on high:

Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky:

Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;

to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end:

Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again:

Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain:

Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore

his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore:

Alleluia! Amen!

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Give praise to God!

Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves

It is God who forgives. . . .

It is God who delivers. . . .

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

bless God's holy name.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is God's steadfast love for us.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we want to be as grace-filled
with ourselves and with others as you are.
But honestly, it's easier to sing about grace
than it is to offer it freely and abundantly.
Help us put our songs into action,
our words of yearning into lives filled with mercy
and forgiveness—for ourselves and for others.
One time, seven times, or seventy-seven times,
each moment of grace matters and makes us better.
Let your grace flow through our lives so abundantly
that it overflows into every situation,
protecting and preserving everyone it touches.
In your love and grace, we pray.

— *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.

THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 103:1-13

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

"Forgiveness and Mercy"

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

*No. 71

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.*

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

SETH CUNNINGHAM

Suite Gotique Op. 25, Mvt. 1 "Choral," by L. Boëllman

†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

Thank you for the generosity of your
love, forgiveness, and grace, dear God.
Thank you for trusting us to share this generosity with others.
Bless our offerings with grace, forgiveness, and love.
Bless our lives, our giving, and our actions,
that they may reflect and share these gifts
in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation”

*No. 544

*The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.*

*Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:*

*O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

- **THE FLOWERS for today's service** are provided by Rick and Joy Hebner in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 11.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **LYDIA CIRCLE** Lydia Circle will hold its first Bible Study on **Thursday, September 17 at 1 p.m.** in the conference room. Lydia Circle uses the Presbyterian Women Bible Study curriculum, *Horizons*. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact group leaders Elaine Edwards at 989-397-5642 or Barb Tolles at 989-963-9369.

- **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.

- **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.**

- **DEBORAH CIRCLE** will hold its first meeting on the new program year at **4 p.m. Thursday, September 17**, at the home of Darlene Kusterer, 5571 Hickory Lane, Bay City 48706. We will be continuing our study of the television series "The Chosen" with Season 5, Episode 2. If you are interested in joining the Deborah Circle for this new year, please contact Karen Schoeppach or call the church office.

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 SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

- **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.

- **THE OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH** will gather for lunch this **Wednesday, September 16 at 1 p.m.** at The Wanigan, 1905 S. Wenona in Bay City. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Dave Crook by TOMORROW.

- **GATHERING AND GAMES:** Join us for a time of games, food, and fellowship following worship on **Sunday, September 20!**

- **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 SCHEDULE:** Our youth group is open to students in 5th through 12th grade. **We will meet tonight and again on September 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. each evening.** 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.

- **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.

- **FALL KICKOFF AND NEIGHBORING SUNDAY, TODAY:** Join us after worship for our tailgate potluck featuring food, fellowship and fun!

- **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS:** Join us for Fellowship Time! Before worship (9:30–10:15), 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.

- **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 13, 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!

	Current Period	
GENERAL FUND	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

August Statistics: The Pantry served 691 people from 242 families with 7,347 pounds of food – all in 32 hours over 8 days. One record-breaking week we served 207 guests from 68 families with 2,103 pounds of food. Of those, 19 families were new to the Pantry. Wow! There is definitely a need for food assistance in Bay County!

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!

A Generous Grant available through the Food Bank offered local pantries many non-food items at no expense. We received 4 shopping carts, a rolling cart, collapsible wagons, plastic bins, wire racks, oven mitts, measuring cups, mixing bowls, kids' aprons, and much more. What a wonderful gift!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

• **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.

• **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 begins Sunday, September 20** at 9 a.m., and our **Thursday evening online Zoom study begins September 17** at 7 p.m. Any questions, please see Rev. Linda or call the church office.



CHURCH

wpcbc.org