

# Westminster At Worship

## *A Celebration of Worship Children's Sabbath*

October 17, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

*†Those who are able to stand may do so.*



### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### WESTMINSTER AT WORK

#### PRELUDE

MALLORY

*"Hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord"*

Handbell Choir

#### †CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Where does it hurt?

**PEOPLE: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the voices of our children.**

LEADER: What do you hope?

**PEOPLE: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the hopes of children and to nurture the hope within each of us.**

LEADER: How can we help?

**PEOPLE: We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear how we can help in partnership with those who are hurting, as ones who are hoping.**

LEADER: Who are you and why are you here?

**PEOPLE: We gather this morning as God's people to worship God, in confidence that God hears our hurts and hopes**

**before they are even on our lips, and calls us, as God's partners, to help with a passion for justice and hearts full of love.**

**CALL TO CELEBRATION**

Children of Westminster

This is the Lord's day.  
This is the Lord's house.  
We are the Lord's children.  
Let the praise begin!

**MUSIC**

MORNING SONG

*"In Christ There Is No East or West"*  
Chancel Choir Recording

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we confess that often we fail to hear the voices of those who are young, impoverished, and hurting. We ignore the voices of those who speak in other languages, come from other communities, have different life experiences than our own. We turn away from voices that call us to account, or to commit, or to sit with their pain. We privilege the voices of those in positions of power, with status and wealth, or who tell us what we want to hear.**

**O God, when Jesus put a child amid the disciples squabbling about position, he reminded us what is important. Forgive us for again missing the mark. Remind us to listen to the voices of children and young people. Open us to what they have to teach us, for ways they might lead us to more faithfully be your people who love and listen, heal and prevent harm, and pursue your ways of peace and justice.**

*— Silent Prayer —*

**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...know that you are indeed forgiven, and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## †SHARING GOD'S PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## FANNING THE FLAME

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

### First Reading

**Psalm 31:1-8 (CEV)**

### Gospel Reading

**Matthew 25:31-46 (CEV)**

## SERMON

*"See Christ in Every Person"*

Rev. Linda Williams & Brandi Higgins

## †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ONE: Blessed are those who serve the poor,

**ALL: They will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who share the wealth,

**They will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who work for good,

**They will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who open doors,

**They will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who break down walls,

**They will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who challenge hate,

**They will be called the children of God.**  
Blessed are those who live their faith,  
**They will be called the children of God.**  
Blessed are those who speak the truth,  
**They will be called the children of God.**  
Blessed are those who show Christ's love,  
**They will be called the children of God.**

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Prayer Response: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**PEOPLE: 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.**

#### **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

#### **OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

##### **OFFERTORY**

EITHUN

*"You Raise Me Up"*  
Handbell Choir

##### **DOXOLOGY**

Dawn Auger

#### **†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O God, source of life, the truth is, all that we have comes from you. Accept the gifts we bring before you today and every day of our lives. Help us to be generous with what you have**

given us. Give us the courage to embrace the world with the love that embraces us. Amen.

## SPECIAL PROJECT: Farm Bundle - Presbyterian Gifts

### MUSIC

*"I've Got the Joy"*  
Dawn Auger

### BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

THEMBA AMEN

*"God Welcomes All"*  
Chancel Choir Recording

### CHARGE & BENEDICTION

### BENEDICTION MUSIC

Handbell Choir

### POSTLUDE

Dawn Auger



### Special Offering

Today, Westminster will take a special offering that will help support a

gift to a farming community. This gift includes livestock, tools, and training to support a larger farm that can serve an entire community. The gift may include families of chickens, multiple goats, piglets and cows, a pair of oxen with a plow, and a collection of equipment — enough to help communities raise both healthy food and their standard of living. Each gift will ultimately reflect local needs to provide the greatest impact.



## **The 30th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths**

### **"Where Does It Hurt?": Listening to Heal Our Children**

All across our nation this October, places of worship from every religious tradition are joining in the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. Together we are asking our children and youths "Where Does It Hurt?" and listening as the first step in working together to heal hurts, prevent further harm, and join in action and advocacy so that all children may thrive.

We are called to listen deeply and attentively to the voices of our children and youths as they share their experiences, their struggles and success, their hopes and hurts, their pain and persistence in this year of pandemic, poverty, racial reckoning, and more.

At the same time, we see the broader context of The State of America's Children in the following pages. (The complete overview and report from the Children's Defense Fund may be downloaded from [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org))

As you read what follows, you are invited to reflect:

- How does what we hear in the voices and experience of our children relate to this broader picture?
- How can we respond to those closest to us and to the challenges facing children and youths more broadly?
- How do I feel called to respond in light of my faith, moral understanding, or the teaching and traditions of my religious community?
- What can I do as one person and how might I join with others?
- How might I hear more from the voices of children, youths, and families that are impacted by what is being described?

## **The State of America's Children® 2021**

*The following is excerpted from a report that can be viewed in full here:  
<https://www.childrensdefense.org/state-of-americas-children/>*

**America's children are more diverse than ever.** There were 73 million children in the U.S. in 2019—22 percent of our nation's population. Children of color were almost 50 percent of all children and the majority of children under 5.

**Children remain the poorest age group in America,** with children of color and young children suffering the highest poverty rates. Nearly 1 in 7 children—10.5 million—were poor in 2019. Nearly 71 percent of poor children were children of color.

**Income and wealth inequality are growing and harming children in low-income, Black and Brown families.** Today, a member of the top 10 percent of income earners makes about 39 times as much as the average earner in the bottom 90 percent. In 2019, the median family income of white households with children (\$95,700) was more than double that of Black (\$43,900), and nearly double that of Hispanic households with children (\$52,300).

**The lack of affordable housing and federal rental assistance leaves millions of children homeless or at risk of homelessness.** More than 1 in 3 children live in households burdened by housing costs, meaning more than 30 percent of their family income goes toward housing. More than 1.5 million children enrolled in public schools experienced homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year.

**Millions of children live in food-insecure households, lacking reliable access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food.** More than 1 in 7 children—10.7 million—were food insecure. Black and Hispanic children were twice as likely to live in food-insecure households as white children. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helped feed 17 million children in 2018—nearly a quarter of all children in America. Half of all families that received SNAP in 2019 were not able to get enough healthy food, however, because SNAP benefits were too low. Among households with children, monthly SNAP benefits averaged just \$118 a person—or less than \$4 a day.

**Our children have lost the health coverage they need to survive and thrive at an alarming rate.** An estimated 4.4 million children under age 19 were uninsured. The rates of uninsured children are especially high among Hispanic children, undocumented children, children living in the South, and children in families with lower incomes.

**The high cost of child care and lack of early childhood investments leaves many children without quality care during critical years of brain development.** Center-based child care for an infant cost more than public college tuition in 28 states and the District of Columbia in 2019. More than 80 percent of two-child families were paying more for child care than for rent.

**America's schools continue to slip backwards into patterns of deep racial and socioeconomic segregation, perpetuating achievement gaps.** During the 2017-2018 school year, 19 percent of Black, 21 percent of Hispanic, and more than 26 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native public school students did not graduate on time compared with only 11 percent of white students. Sixty percent of Black children attended high-poverty schools with a high share of students of color while fewer than 9 percent of white children did.



**For the first time since 2012, the number of children in the child welfare system fell, but too many children wind up in foster care because of poverty.** Black and American Indian/Alaska Native families are disproportionately impacted by the child welfare system. After steadily declining since 2008, the number of children aging out of the foster care system jumped by more than 14 percent in 2019, with 20,445 youth reaching adulthood without a permanent family.

**A disproportionate number of children of color are incarcerated in the juvenile justice and/or adult criminal justice systems, placing them at risk of physical and psychological harm.** Black youth represented less than 15 percent of the total youth population but 52 percent of youth prosecuted in adult criminal court in 2018. Black youth are nine times more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence, American Indian/Alaska Native youth are almost two times more likely, and Hispanic youth are 40 percent more likely.

**Child and teen gun deaths hit a 19-year high in 2017 and have remained elevated since.** Gun violence was the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19 in 2018, surpassing motor vehicle accidents for the first time. In 2019, 3,371 children and teens were killed with guns—one every 2 hours and 36 minutes.

**Family separation and anti-immigrant policies are dangerous to children's health, development, and well-being.** Nearly 1 in 4, approximately 18 million, U.S. children lived with at least one immigrant parent in 2018. An estimated 6.9 million children lived with undocumented parents. Chronic uncertainty and distress about the threat of enforcement activity destroy children's sense of safety and their mental health.

***What did I hear? How might I respond in faith and action?***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 17, 2021

**DEEP APPRECIATION** goes out to Sharon Hignite and Penny Reagh. Sharon purchased new tables, table pads, and table covering material for the handbell choir. Penny Reagh designed and made the table coverings. These gifts are in remembrance of Robert Hanson. Thank you, Sharon and Penny, for your generosity!

**IT'S A CELEBRATION!** Please join us following worship on Sunday, October 24 for an Appetizer/Dessert Appreciation event. It is about thanking you, the Westminster family, for sharing your treasure, time, and talents to ensure God's work continues inside and outside our walls!

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR** will meet at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 28 to begin recording music. Choir robes will NOT be needed. Thank you!

**TREE PLANTING IN HONOR OF LOIS MACPHAIL AND IN MEMORY OF GORDON MACPHAIL:** The Mission Partnerships Committee arranged to have a tree planted in honor of Lois MacPhail and in memory of Gordon MacPhail for their many years of dedicated service to the Food of Faith program at Westminster. The tree has been planted in Vet's Park across the street from the Bay County Community Center. We would like to invite everyone



**Harvest Party**  
**Sunday, October 31**  
immediately following worship

**Prizes**  
**Candy**  
**Photos**



**Mummy Bowling**  
**Apple Toss**  
**Pumpkin Ring Toss**  
**Pumpkin Painting**  
**and More!**

**For lunch, enjoy a chili cook-off contest and grilled cheese sandwiches.**

**See Brandi Higgins or Dawn Reszke to enter**



**Costumes will be available for the kids to put on to wear when they arrive at church that morning.**

**Volunteers are needed! Contact Brandi for details.**

to the dedication of the tree on Sunday, November 7 at 12:30 p.m. outside the community center. In case of inclement weather, we have a room reserved inside. There will be cider and donuts, and a time to visit with Lois and her family. Please plan on attending this ceremony, if you are able. The Bay County Community Center is located at 800 John F. Kennedy Drive, Bay City, 48706.

**LUNCH & LEARN:** Join us for the second installment of our Lunch & Learn program on Tuesday, October 26 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Mother Sandra Jones of the RL Jones Community Outreach Center of Greater Holy Temple in Flint, Michigan. In addition to heading up the distribution of food and water to the community of Flint, First Lady Jones is the wife of Bishop RL Jones, pastor of Greater Holy Temple Church of God in Christ. She is a dynamic speaker with a powerful story to tell.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** When we respond to Jesus' summons to "Follow me" and we choose to follow, we are committing to a lifelong apprenticeship journey — one in which we will continually be formed, reformed, and transformed. Discipleship is not a skill, it's a way of life. Bible Study classes will be offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Session Room or Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The same study materials will be used at both gatherings, and are available for pick-up in the church office. See Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions.

**THE WIRED WORD,** "where current events and faith intersect," will resume on Tuesday, October 5 at 1:00 via Zoom. News is inevitable — whether good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input than to juxtapose scriptures as tools to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith. Our weekly Wired Word gatherings allow us to reflect on the week's happenings with others who may not share exactly our same thoughts and opinions, but are

equally dedicated to thinking about and talking about how current events intersect with our faith questions and convictions. Any questions, or to receive study material and Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 686-1360 or [parishassoc@wpcbc.org](mailto:parishassoc@wpcbc.org).

**SWEATY SHEEP/WESTMINSTER WELLNESS WALKING GROUP:** Want to join your church friends for some exercise and fellowship? Each Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., we will meet at a different park in Bay City. For more information, contact Sandy at [sandra.graves@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.graves@gmail.com) or Tami [tami.sivy@gmail.com](mailto:tami.sivy@gmail.com) with questions, or to be added to our Facebook group.

**DEBORAH CIRCLE:** Ladies, you are invited! The Deborah Circle will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Karen Schoeppach at 989-684-1322 or [kaysue@chartermi.net](mailto:kaysue@chartermi.net) for Zoom information.

**CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE** takes place on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. All choir members will wear a mask, and all singing will take place socially distanced in the sanctuary. All music will be pre-recorded and played during Sunday's worship services. If you wish to join us, contact Dawn at 989-894-0426.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD:** If you are looking for grief support groups, health clinics, or volunteer opportunities that take place within our community, please check out the community bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

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

## *This Week at Westminster*

### **Today, Sunday, October 17, 2021**

- 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School)
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)

### **Tuesday, October 19**

- 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting
- 1:00 p.m. The Wired Word via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150
- 6:00 p.m. Wellness Walking Group
- 6:00 p.m. Covid Task Force Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

### **Wednesday, October 20**

- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom

### **Thursday, October 21**

- 8:30 p.m. TOPS
- 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah
- 5:00 p.m. Combustion Council (Youth Group)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **Next Sunday, October 24 - Stewardship Sunday**

- 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School)
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Appetizer/Dessert Appreciation Event
- 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)

*Now is the time to begin thinking about what we will be doing and where we will be going in 2022.*

*As you look at what you want to see happening next year in our church, consider: What part does Westminster Presbyterian Church play in your family's life?*

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*What will Westminster need to continue and expand our programs, and our part in furthering God's work: What ministries of our church are important to you?*

*Westminster has many ways of touching people inside and outside of our walls: When did being a part of this church family make a difference to you?*