Westminster Presbyterian Church
103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706

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The Westminster Log

Beloved Partners in Ministry,

Back in May, the staff held its annual planning day which looks ahead at the coming year's church activities, worship themes, and special services. While always subject to change (see 2020 and 2021), it was exciting to watch the calendar fill up with plans for educational opportunities, fellowship events, and, of course, engaging and meaningful worship services. As we spent time dreaming as a staff, memories were shared of past church activities, beloved programs set to return, adaptations made where needed, creative ideas were hatched, and plans set in motion. In case you did not already know, Westminster has a dedicated staff who LOVES this church! We are all excited to be in ministry with you all.

We also know that we cannot do it alone! As our program year begins soon, you will notice many opportunities to participate in what God is doing in the life of our church and in our community. In addition to worship and fellowship opportunities every Sunday, you are invited to join one of our music ministries, a weekly adult education class or monthly "lunch and learn," or volunteer to help with a children or youth class. If you don't see anything that interests you and have an idea for something for Westminster to try, please let me know and I'll be happy to help you to grow that idea into something new for our church family.

Beginning in September I will holding a mid-week "Coffee with the Clergy" hour, each Wednesday from 11-noon. This is YOUR time to come and ask questions about a sermon or a scripture, to share your stories, or just have a cup of coffee or tea. If you are not available during this time, a time I am normally in the office, or if you need a more private setting, you can ALWAYS reach out to schedule a time to talk with me.

Be sure to check the weekly bulletins, our social media page, and the website for any additions or changes to church activities. It is exciting to be busy with the work of building God's kingdom together with you all! As the Psalm 133 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Thank you, Westminster family, for all you do to help Bay City and beyond feel and experience to love of God.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Jamie

September Happenings!

September 11
Sunday School Kickoff
Ice Cream Social
Neighborhood Block Party

September 11 and 15
Adult Bible Study begins

September 18
Mission Sunday-Partnerships from the Heart
Vaccination Clinic

September 25
50 year member recognition

All the Details are Inside!

The Westminster Log is published monthly by Westminster Presbyterian Church, 103 East Midland Street, Bay City, Michigan, 48706. Articles must be submitted by the fifteenth day of each month before publication unless otherwise noted. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and space. The Westminster Log is formatted to be printed in color.

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

Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE 166

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Happy Birthday Peter VanDerwill Royce Stokes Glenn Hignite Ross Brown George Estabrook Nancy Swantek Marilyn Len			1 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	2	3
4 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	5 Church office closed in observance of Labor Day	6 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting	7 5:00 p.m. Property Meeting 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	8 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	9	10
11 8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Ice Cream Social 4:00 p.m. Neighborhood Block Party	12 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stewardship	13 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. Lions Club 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 6:30 p.m. Committee Meetings	14 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	15 8:30 a.m. TOPS 4:00 p.m. Combustion Council (Youth) 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Fellowship and Outreach Meeting	16	17
18 8:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Partnerships from the Heart 4:00 p.m. Children and Youth Music Rehearsals 6:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)	19	20 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	21 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	22 8:30 a.m. TOPS 4:00 p.m. Combustion Council (Youth) 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom	23	24
25 8:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School) 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. 50-year Member Celebration 4:00 p.m. Children and Youth Music Rehearsals 6:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)	26	27 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learning 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle	28 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	29 8:30 a.m. TOPS 4:00 p.m. Combustion Council (Youth) 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom		

New Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m
(Closed for lunch 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m)

Website: wpcbc.org

Join us on Facebook
Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

Dear friends,
Thank you for joining us in our mission and supporting survivors who are working to secure safety for themselves and their families.

"The facility and program have been a life saver for me only journey to a safe and healthy future."

With your gift, you shine a positive light during this difficult time in a survivors' life. Your support lets a survivor know you believe them, and help is available.

"I am so thankful for everything my caseworker had to offer me and for her support. What you do is a blessing, and my only hope is that more victims reach out and experience it."

You help survivors get the help they need to find a way out. Thank you for your commitment to making our community safer by supporting our mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault.

Truly,
Jeremy J. Rick
Executive Director

BAY AREA WOMEN'S CENTER
Where families move forward

Dear Friends at Westminster!

Thank you so much for your on-going financial support as we prepare to launch sometime in December. We are excited to see and experience what God has in store for us and to be able to share those stories with you, as you are part of the story as supporters and pray-ers You all hold a special place in our hearts and we are so grateful for you. Much grace and peach to you!

In Christ,
Isaac and Misty
Evie, Isaiah, Alexis, and Nehemiah

With Sympathy

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Gerald Wachowiak. Gerald passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. A funeral service took place, Saturday, July 30, with Rev. Jamie Milton officiating.

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Mary Lou Higgins. Mary Lou passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022. A funeral service took place Saturday, August 20, with Rev. Jamie Milton officiating.

MISSION SUNDAY!

Ever wonder where the church's annual Mission dollars go? Join us on Sunday, September 18, for ***Partnerships From the Heart*** - a celebration of the good work we do in our own community. Many of the nonprofit organizations who have become part of our WPC family by virtue of our financial support, will be on hand in the Fellowship Hall before and after worship on September 18 to explain their organizations' missions and accomplishments. The worship service for that day will highlight the mission work we all do together. There will be plenty of fellowship and a yummy menu, featuring a wide variety of appetizers and desserts from Kevin and David!

Join us September 18th!

FLU AND PNEUMONIA VACCINATION CLINIC

Protect yourself from these seasonal viruses! This year our church is partnering with Rite Aid to offer the seasonal Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines. Elder and Pharmacist David Fenske will be administering the shots following worship on **Sunday, September 18** from **12:00-2:00 pm**. Please make sure to bring your insurance card with you. If you have any questions, please contact David Fenske (davidf273@gmail.com).

Have you ever wondered what goes on upstairs during worship?

An important part of Westminster's ministry to our members and community is our ability to stream and record our services. Each week, dedicated volunteers make sure that our services can be seen and heard on Facebook and our website. This important ministry needs your help! We are looking for some people willing to learn the different aspects of our technology team: running the slide show for worship, sound board, camera operation, and streaming. It may seem intimidating, but ANYONE can learn to do these jobs. The more volunteers we have, the fewer Sundays you'll be needed! Volunteer with a friend, we'll make sure you get the training and help you need. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Elder Aaron Morse (oefgunner09@gmail.com) or Pastor Jamie (pastor@wpcbc.org).

Free Pianos!

The church is getting rid of 3 upright pianos. If you would like one, please let the Church Office know by September 30. This is first come, first serve and you are responsible for moving the piano. Check out Pinterest for neat craft ideas with old pianos!

As we look at the world around us – the larger world, the world nearer to home in our nation, our communities, our families – we recognize the need for peace. It is so often what we pray for. As we begin this next year in our *"Follow Me/Follow Jesus"* series our focus will be on **PEACE**.

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9 AM in the Conference Room or Thursday evening at 7 PM via Zoom. These two options we hope will make your participation possible as together we consider how to PRACTICE MAKING PEACE

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey where we learn and do what Jesus said and did. It takes more than the head, checking off boxes of belief. It even takes more than the heart, feeling deeply about another person or a cause. Following Jesus is about these things and more. It is also about doing. And it takes practice. And practice. And more practice. We are not practicing for perfection, however, but practicing to put faith and love into action. As we explore faith practices, we are diving into the essence of what makes us Christian, those who follow the one who practiced what he preached!

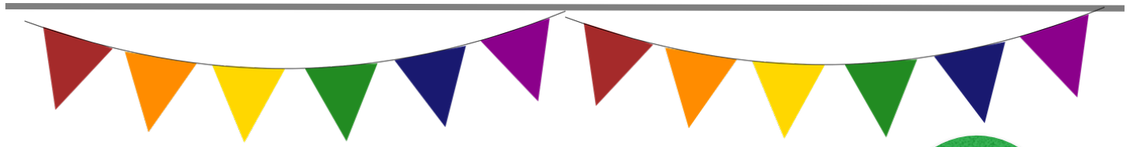
Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living is a curriculum that spans thirty-six units over three years, helping people of all ages follow Jesus. This study is for lifelong Christians and those beginning to ask questions. Each unit centers around something Jesus told his followers to do.

There are many ways of understanding and living **PEACE**, from the absence of conflict to a quiet, inner calm. God has a vision for peace, shalom, wholeness that God's people need to keep at the forefront of mind and heart. Jesus spoke about God's blessing for those who make peace in his Sermon on the Mount. He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). This verse forms the centerpiece of Christian social ethics; a Christian is called to work to cultivate peace within themselves and to share peace in the larger community.

Yet, to be human is to be in conflict, and lack of peace implies sin, separation from what God desires. Thus, human efforts toward making peace are filled with complexities. To put in place the vision of a wolf lying with a lamb (Isaiah 11:6) is no simple task. Beating swords into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4) involves worthy effort, but not all agree in the necessity of laying down the sword. Perhaps tilling the land is as important as defending it. One theologian observes that making peace is like climbing a mountain. There are many paths to the summit. Peacemakers need to identify the path they will navigate on their journey toward God's peace.

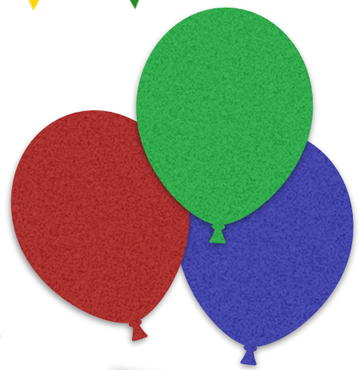
Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected October 2

Just a reminder that Sunday, October 2 is World Communion Sunday, and a special offering will be collected during the worship service.



NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY!!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
4:00-7:00 P.M.



We have the exciting opportunity to hold a block party on **Sunday, September 11** at 4**:00 p.m.** This neighborhood party will be an excellent chance for Westminster church members to get to know our Westminster neighbors. The church will provide hotdogs and the fixings and we are asking YOU to bring a side dish or a dessert to share! We will also need some help with setup and clean up, so let the church office know if you are available that evening. Please plan to come out and spend some time getting to know our neighbors and one another a little bit better!

A Whale of a Tale!

Sunday, July 31

Special Concerns Luncheon and Worship Service

August 3, 2022

MAKE PEACE

Christians from different traditions (Reformed, Orthodox, and Catholic) and varying denominations interpret and identify the paths that will lead to peace in a variety of ways. Making peace is much like climbing a mountain; you have to identify the path that you can navigate. Some will make the straight, steep climb while others may adopt a more circuitous route to the top of the mountain. For example, peacemaking churches such as Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers advocate for total pacifism, believing that we, as Christians, "should beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4). Most Reformed Christians uphold the just-war tradition, which attempts to reconcile the commandment that "you shall not kill" (Exodus 20:19) with the duty to do justice and defend people who are weak and vulnerable. But all Christians agree that violence is never God's intent, even in a world where conflict is frequent and often unavoidable.

What are the practices or paths that lead to peace? How can peacemaking serve as a creative and constructive response in the midst of the conflicts we confront today in our society and the larger global community? What practices will be helpful for us personally, congregationally, in our society, and around the world to cultivate peace? In worship and in Bible Study over the next few weeks, we will explore four practices or aspects of peacemaking that are derived from Jesus' teachings in the Gospels and evident in the lives of great peacemakers:

The week of September 11: Know Peace—Isaiah 11:1–9; Matthew 5:9; Mark 4:35–41. Learning about God's vision of peace and understanding the complexities of peace can stir our creativity for making peace through inner work and outward action.

The week of September 25: Take a Step Back—Isaiah 2:2–4; Luke 1:46–55. The gulf between God's intention for peace and the brokenness that exists in God's creation demands addressing. But first, we step back to assess the systems and circumstances that contribute to poverty, violence, and injustice before embarking on the work of transformation.

The week of October 2: Understand Others—Matthew 8:1–3; Mark 2:13–17; John 4:1–30. Adults make peace by seeking to better understand one another, those who are like us and those unlike us. From this understanding, we come to know and experience interconnectedness and interdependence among God's people.

The week of October 9: Take Risks for Peace—1 Samuel 25:2–44; Luke 10:25–37; John 8:1–11. We put faith into action by stepping out in transformational works for peace, even at risk to ourselves. We must nurture ways to create peace with such risk-taking

Grief is a multi-faceted response to loss. It affects us on every level of our being: physically, spiritually, behaviorally and mentally. Grief may be a deeply personal experience and also a public one. It is a journey without a direct path, with only a small light to illuminate the very steps we are taking. Sometimes there is only darkness and we must feel our way through this tilting maze of blurred emotions and thoughts, taking small steps with our eyes closed, hoping that we will somehow find our way to the end of it.

Grief is too big a burden to bear alone, but there is indeed loneliness in grief. The physical loneliness – an empty house, a non-ringing phone, the sound of only your own footsteps, a side of the bed that is not used anymore. Emotional loneliness – conversations that are now one-sided, being unsure of what to say when people ask how you are doping or when they say they are sorry to hear about your loss.

Perhaps you have learned to navigate the uncertain terrain of social niceties; knowing when to say your fine and when to say how you're really doing. Try to find someone you can talk with honestly. This may be a friend or family member, or maybe you would feel more comfortable attending a group where others who have experienced loss are there to share their stories and listen to yours. (Several of the Funeral Homes here in Bay City offer these support groups, usually beginning in September.)

Take the time and space you need to grieve and if you can, allow someone to share your load.
(Written by Krista Malone, M.S.ED, St Luke's Hospice, Bethlehem, PA)

News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input, is to juxtapose Scriptures as tools to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith. How often do we hear others – or even ourselves say – "I just don't want to watch the news anymore. Tired of stories that leave us feeling uneasy and at times helpless?

Our weekly The Wired Word gatherings – rather than leaving us hopeless – 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.
The materials are organized into seven sections:

- An **Introduction** to the lesson
- **In the News** summary of a current event
- **Big Questions** for consideration or discussion about the topic
- **Scripture** references to help confront the news with hope
- Additional group **Discussion Questions**
- Suggestions for **Responding to the News**
- A **Closing Prayer**

The Wired WORD
An Adult Curriculum

Over these past months we have discussed topics like: Inflation, gun violence in schools, public schools and questions of faith, faith in the presence of simultaneous celebration and suffering, and what does it mean to be and live a humble life to name just a few. Our group of about five to six, have enjoyed lively weekly conversations about the facts of the news story, our individual perspectives on the topic, our questions, and a variety of Bible passages that relate to the current story.
The Wired Word gathering took a hiatus for July and August. We will reconvene **TUESDAY morning – September 13th at 10 AM via Zoom.**
The lesson materials are emailed out several days in advance of the Tuesday morning gathering. Or if you prefer, the materials are printed in the office and are available to be picked up Thursday afternoon or Monday morning. If you have any questions and/or would like to be added to the email list, please call Rev. Linda 686-1360 X2 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org

As we frequently joke about Presbyterians – if there's food, there will be Presbyterians at a church gathering. But we also know that Presbyterians are all about learning. So, to support us in our quest to be life-long learners, the Spiritual Growth Committee is once again offering a **monthly** series that will help us generate new ideas and get to know more about ourselves and others.

We will meet **most** months on the last **Tuesday at noon** in Fellowship Hall. Bring a brown-bag lunch if you desire; we will supply the beverages – coffee and water - and a simple sweet treat like brownies or cookies. You are also welcome to just come hear the speaker and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

Lunch & Learn

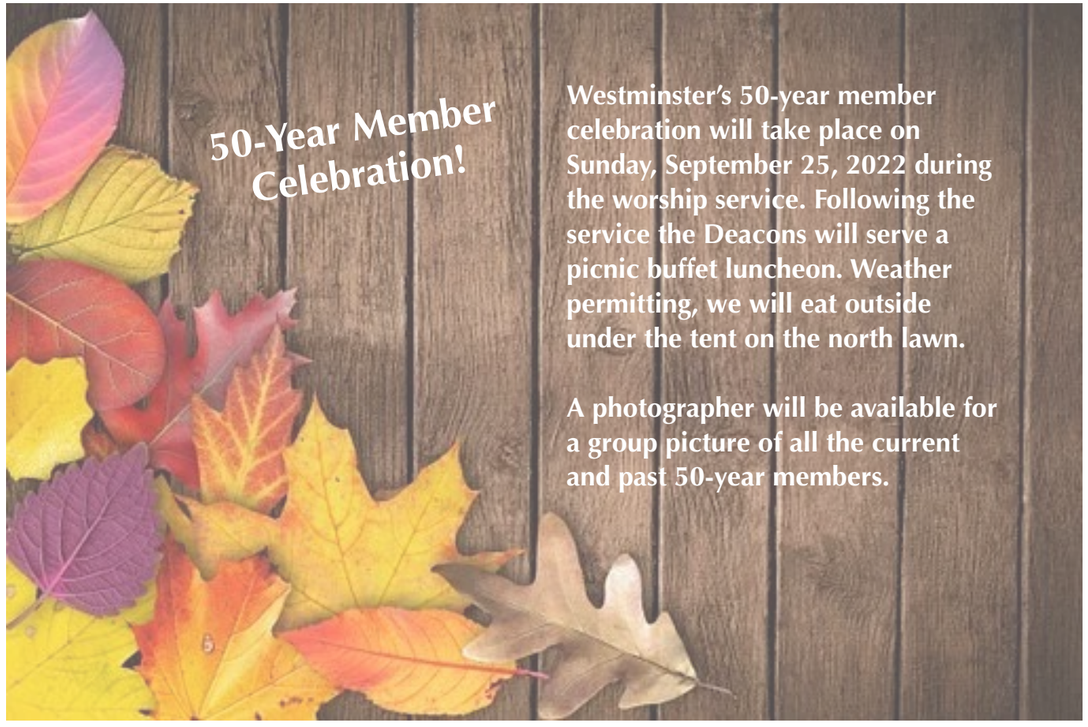
We will gather the last Tuesday of the month @ noon in Fellowship Hall

We will have an opportunity to hear, see, and do something new!

All of our speakers have not been finalized but for this fall our plan is to have a professional from the community speak about mental health need; we are also hoping to re-book our speakers who will enlighten us about "A Day in Court." And as the religious holidays approach, we also are planning on a speaker from the Jewish community to share the meaning of their traditional feasts and celebrations.

Stay tuned in the bulletin and Log for even more details as the time approaches. Please save these dates for Lunch & Learn – **September 27th, October 25th, November 29th.**

Any questions, please call the church office or see Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie.



On Sunday, September 25, 2022 we will celebrate our 50-year members!

Join us following the service for a buffet-style picnic lunch. Weather permitting, we will eat outside under the tent on the north lawn.

Thank you to the following parishioners on their continued witness to the glory of God.

Fifty-Year Members

1946
Russel Marvin

1952
Elizabeth Dore

1953
Betty Lunger
Patricia Quantz

1954
Alma Watton

1955
Ross Brown
Neil Everson
Margaret Hanson
Bonnie Scheddel

1957
Claire Jacobson
Hazel Kish

1958
Peggy Hawkins
Janice VanNostrand

1959
JeAnne Hebner
Richard Hebner
Joyce Hegenauer

1960
Joyce Grigg

1961
Thomas Kayner
Philip Reagh

1962
Donna Horn

1963
Ronald Deuscher
Thomas Lange
Colleen Schmidt
Sharon Hignite
Joy Thompson

1964
John Hegenauer
Carol Lange
Karen Schoeppach

1965
Marie Capp
Elaine Edwards
Marilyn Kayner
Judy Randall

1966
Robert Merritt
Mary Kay Prudden

1967
Dianne Young
John Young

1968
Jean Hill
Penny Reagh

1970
Sue Armstrong
William Capp
Leslie Frontjes
Richard Frontjes
Ruth Ostrander

1971
Ross Wayne Brown
Joy Hebner
Richard Talbot

This year's 50 year members:

1972
Priscilla Cramer
Shirley Howell
Julie Kelly
Randy Thibo

Christian Education Opportunities for Youth Pre-K through 12th Grade

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning: First Light

First Light: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (beginning September 11)

Sparks (PreK - 1st grade): 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Torches (2nd – 4th grade): 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Little Ringers (Sparks class): 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Kid's Camp

Everyone: 10:00 – 10:20 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for fellowship time

***Campfire Meetings** will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month during the worship service following Fanning the Flame*

Sunday Evening: Ignite

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (beginning September 18)

Chime Choir (2nd - 4th grade) 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Kids Choir (Preschool-4th grade) 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Youth Choir (5th -12th grade) 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Junior Bells (5th - 12th grade) 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:00-6:30 p.m

Ignite Youth Group 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening: Combustion Counsel

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (beginning September 15)

All grade levels welcome!
PreK-12th grade

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Join us after Worship on September 11 for our annual Ice Cream Social (and yes, we're having ice cream for lunch!)

If you are able to donate items for the event please contact Sandy Graves
sandra.graves@gmail.com

Dinners are needed for Sunday

This program year, Westminster will offer a time of fellowship and food for 5th through 12th grade students on Sunday evenings. If you would like to bring dinner for youth and volunteers, please contact Sandy Graves. Dinner will take place from 6:00 until 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, or outside, weather permitting. (We should know approximately how many children are attending each week after the first couple of sessions.)
Contact Sandy Graves via email at sandra.graves@gmail.com or phone/text at 989-225-7488.

Treasurer's Report

The **Operating Fund** had income of $ 33,412.00. While contributions have been down this summer, we did receive money from the Short Endowment Interest Fund to cover the costs of curriculum and other Christian Education needs. Expenses for July totaled $30,017.00. Remember, you can use our online giving portal to set up a recurring gift, ensuring your support of the church and our mission.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of $528.93 and no expenses for the month, leaving the balance of the fund at $20,612.50

In July, the **Major Repairs Fund** received $549.89 in contributions and did not have any expenses. The fund ended the month with a balance of $ 57,864.71. Thank you to everyone who contributes to these funds with allows up to keep our church home in great shape.

The **Capital Campaign** received funds of $4,286.17, including a distribution from the WPC Endowment. Our regular loan payment was made at the end of the month and the balance of the loan is $232,989.53.

This summer our larger congregation has been considering what it means to be a neighbor, who are neighbors – those close to home and those in the immediate vicinity of our church. In church on Sunday, August 21st, Pastor Jamie invited us to get out of our seats, move around the sanctuary and introduce ourselves to folks we might not know well, maybe not even know their first or last name. It was fun - inspiring even - to hear the chatter and laughter as we all got to know at least one new thing about a Westminster neighbor.

We want to continue that opportunity for getting to know one another in a variety of small groups here at Westminster. Some will happen spontaneously, like gatherings around the table in fellowship over coffee and cookies. Others are more planned for. In fact, several small group opportunities will be available at Westminster this fall.

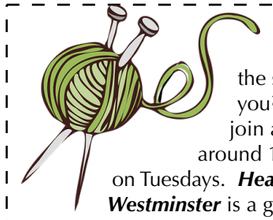
ADULT RETREAT

Last month we asked you to save the date – **October 21st – 23rd** – to set aside some time to get away.

Retreats can help you slow down, immerse yourself in a new setting and new ideas, and recharge your body and mind. With that in mind we will be gathering at Bay Shore Camp in Sebewaing, MI, (a short 48-minute drive from Bay City) on Friday evening, October 21st through Sunday early afternoon, October 23rd. We have reserved Patton Lodge for our group gathering times; the lodge has a full kitchen, fireplace, tables, and comfortable furniture for relaxing. We have also reserved two bunk rooms (men's hall and women's hall) that are attached to Patton Lodge for sleeping accommodations with multiple showers, etc. The grounds also provide plenty of opportunities for walks and an outdoor fire pit for later in the evening gatherings.

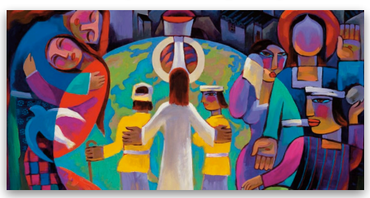
The theme of the retreat has purposively not yet been finalized. We are waiting on input from attendees for what you would be interested in doing (please speak to Pastor Jamie or Rev. Linda about your ideas for the retreat theme). Please call the church office by Friday, September 23rd to confirm your registration and to let us know what you would like for the weekend retreat theme. The cost for the retreat is $50 per night to cover housing and food, however we're exploring options to use church funds to defray the total cost.

HEARTS AND HANDS



Would an opportunity to chat and meet a need at the same time be appealing to you? If so, you might want to join a group that meets at around 10 AM in the Session Room on Tuesdays. ***Hearts and Hands of Westminster*** is a group of ladies (men have been invited but they always say "no") who meet to knit and crochet. There are beginners, moderate level and experts sitting around the table creating hats, mittens, scarves, afghans, prayer shawls, baby items of all types, bed socks, lap robes, dish cloths, and, well, if you can make it out of yarns one of them has probably done it! They have a stash of yarn, odds and ends of needles, and an endless supply of patterns to share, and a willingness to teach you if you want to learn and help you if you drop a stitch….or several. All items made are donated to organizations here in our area although this past winter many hats, scarves, and mittens were sent to Ukraine and most recently s. Most of the baby items made are donated to Westminster's Mother's Day Baby Shower. Stop by on Tuesday mornings and check us out

DEBORAH CIRCLE



Deborah Circle continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month (except in December); please call Karen Schoeppach for more information about their gatherings and see page 7 for the results of the PW survey and this year's Horizons Bible Study.

Survey Results

Surveys were mailed to every woman who is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and, therefore, of Presbyterian Women. Of the many surveys sent, we received 25 responses. Here is what we learned from those responses:

Only 3 women of the 25 were unaware that Presbyterian Women is a recognized international organization of the Presbyterian Church USA.

4 of the 25 did not realize that all women who are members of Westminster are automatically members of Presbyterian Women.

Of the 25 women, only 4 did not know that fellowship in a circle was not the only activity of Presbyterian Women of Westminster and at the national level.

23 women responded that they were interested in being active in Presbyterian Women here at Westminster.

The following are the activities that received the most interest:

1) Funeral Luncheons
2) Bible Study
3) Financial Support of programs

The activities that received fewer responses were:

1) Rummage Sales
2) Mother's Day Baby Shower
3) Ladies Tea, Mother-Daughter Event

In answer to the question, "What would you like to see Presbyterian Women of Westminster Presbyterian Church offer to the women of WPC to build community and be of service to ourselves and others?" here are some of the thoughts and ideas proposed:

Have meetings/activities on the evenings when youth activities are held to make it more convenient for moms to meet

Participate in community outreach events

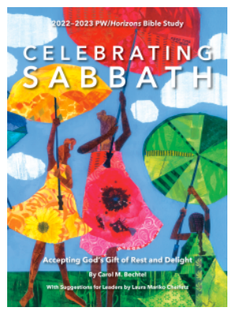
Provide opportunities for the younger and older women to come together for a movie night, craft night or game night for fellowship

Come together with other churches for community events

Communicate the purpose and activities of Presbyterian Women more frequently and in detail

The one area which received no response was: Take a leadership role on Westminster's PW Board.

In order for Presbyterian Women to continue, there must be a group of women willing to oversee the organization. Times have changed and, in order for PW here at Westminster to survive, we need to reorganize and establish new descriptions of board positions. "Stay tuned" for future communications regarding coming together to discuss the future of Presbyterian Women here at Westminster.



CELEBRATING SABBATH is the theme of this year's PW/Horizon Bible Study. The author of the study writes of her own need to make a mid-course correction because she, like many others, was living life like we are being chased by a train. Or as White rabbit said it in *Alice in Wonderland*…"I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date! No time to say 'hello, goodbye.' I'm late! I'm Late! I'm late!" Though the image from the story of a hurried, harried rabbit may cause us to chuckle, it may have easily lost any feeling of humor in our day-to-day lives. This nine-part series will help us consider and discuss God's gift that comes to us in observing Sabbath. We may assume Sabbath is more about saying "no" yet in reality it is about saying "yes." Sabbath is not a burden but a blessing. As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus invites all of us who are weary to celebrate a Sabbath that is more about "yes" than "no." Other topics include "Sabbath and Self-care," "Sabbath and Hospitality," Sabbath and Justice," "Sabbath and Sunday."

If you would like to learn more about this small group, please call Barb Tolles or the church office.

And if the idea of *slowing down* and celebrating Sabbath appeals to the men of the congregation, please contact the church office or Pastor Jamie so we could move forward with forming a new small group, focused on the gift of Sabbath.