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# THE WESTMINSTER LOG

## Thy Kingdom Come: Sharing Our Gifts (That's Stewardship!)

Beloved Partners in Ministry,  
As we were piecing together last month's issue of the Log, I asked myself, "How in the world are we going to fit all of this into one month?" Well, we did, and it was not through some miracle of extra hours added to our days or days added to our calendars. It was through the gifts of YOUR time, talents, and treasure. **THAT'S STEWARDSHIP!**

For three straight days, many of you prepped, cooked, served, and cleaned up after two funeral dinners and a potluck. **THAT'S STEWARDSHIP!**

Musicians, liturgists, singers, and ushers made sure that each worship service and memorial service was a blessing to those who attended and gave glory to God. **THAT'S STEWARDSHIP!**

Bible Studies, Children's Church, Women's Circles, and our book group gathered around God's word and shared laughter and stories of their own. These opportunities for learning and growth are made possible because you show up, offering your time and presence to God and one another. **THAT'S STEWARDSHIP!**

Meals were prepared and served through Food of Faith and the Matthew 25 Cafe, and we continued to provide food to 55+ households each week through the Community Pantry. Your time and gifts make all of this possible. **THAT'S STEWARDSHIP!**



This is all made possible by your continued monetary gifts and financial support that fund our programs and staff and keep our building looking great and open to the community. **THAT'S STEWARDSHIP!** As your pastors, Rev. Linda and I are immensely grateful to be co-workers with you all in this ministry. So much of the work of the church, the work of **STEWARDSHIP**, goes on

in the background or behind the scenes. Behind every meal served, every hymn sung, every dollar given, and every hour offered is someone who chose to say yes to God with what they had. That is no small thing, and it deserves to be named and celebrated.

All fall, we've been asking how we help bring God's kingdom here — "on earth, as it is in heaven." In September, we focused on how Jesus' teachings guide us in "Shaping Our Community." This month, we turn to Sharing Our Gifts, considering how our church, our community, our relationship with Christ, and we ourselves are shaped by faithful stewardship. This is lived out in our community by the examples we have mentioned and in so many other ways each week.

*Continued on Page 2*

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE 215

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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**Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City**



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- Secretary Bill Petzold (ext. 201)
- Facilities Manager Harold Miller (ext. 205)
- Financial Secretary Lisa Carelli (ext. 206)
- Director of Youth Ministry Leah Sneller (ext. 208)

# October

## Sundays

**8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal**  
*The Bells play during Worship once a month. Our next performances are October 18 and November 15.*

**9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study**  
*We will be using The Wired Word, an adult Bible study curriculum that connects current events and weekly news stories with Scripture. All are welcome!*

**9:30 a.m. Fellowship**  
*Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation*

**9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal**  
*Pre-service rehearsal*

**10:30 a.m. Worship**  
*In October, we will learn about sharing our gifts with the world. (See Page 2)*

**11:30 a.m. Fellowship**  
*Join us in the Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation*

**5:00 p.m. Youth Group**  
*For Youth in 5th through 12th grade, we will be meeting on October 11 and October 25.*



*On Thursday, September 3, volunteers from Westminster Presbyterian helped serve a delicious carbonara dinner at no cost to our neighbors in need through the Food of Faith ministry. Our next opportunity to serve is October 22.*

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Monday                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Office Hours</u><br/> <b>Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m</b><br/>           (Closed for lunch 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m)<br/> <u>Website: wpcbc.org</u><br/> <u>Join us on Facebook</u><br/> <b>Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City</b></p> |                                                                                  |
| <p><b>4</b> <i>World Communion Sunday</i></p> <p>Special offering<br/>(See Page 2)</p>                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Mission Partnerships<br/>           6 p.m. Deacons</p> |
| <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Town Hall Meeting after Worship (Page 1)<br/>           5-7 p.m. Youth Group</p>                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>4:30 p.m. Property<br/>           5:30 p.m. Finance</p>      |
| <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Bell Choir performs<br/>           11:30 a.m. Gather and Games<br/>           4 p.m. Advent / Epiphany Seasonal Launch</p>                                                                                                           | <p><b>19</b></p>                                                                 |
| <p><b>25</b></p> <p>11:30 a.m. Harvest Party / Chili Cook-off<br/>           5-7 p.m. Youth Group</p>                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>26</b></p>                                                                 |

| Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Fri/Sat                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Happy Birthday</u></p> <p><b>Iraline Yahrmarkt</b><br/> <b>Marlene Mehlhose</b><br/> <b>James Rowley</b><br/> <b>Joyce Hegenauer</b></p> <p><b>Bev Pacynski</b><br/> <b>Cheryl Harpst</b><br/> <b>Kathy Elzinga</b><br/> <b>Elaine Edwards</b></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS<br/>           10-12 p.m. Food Pantry<br/>           1:30 p.m. Caring Connections<br/>           5 p.m. Food of Faith<br/>           7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>                              | <p><b>2</b></p>                                                                      |
| <p><b>6</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Knitting<br/>           12 p.m. Do-All, Inc. Yoga<br/>           1:30 p.m. Book Group: Love Does<br/>           5 p.m. Personnel<br/>           6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>                                                         | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>12 p.m. Fallin' for Bunco<br/>           4-6 p.m. Pantry<br/>           5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir<br/>           6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir<br/>           7:15 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal (Page 8)</p>                     | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS<br/>           10-12 p.m. Food Pantry<br/>           5 p.m. Food of Faith<br/>           7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>                                                                          | <p><b>3</b></p>                                                                      |
| <p><b>13</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Matthew 25 Café<br/>           10 a.m. Staff Meeting<br/>           10 a.m. Knitting<br/>           12 p.m. Lions Club<br/>           1:30 p.m. Book Group: Theo of Golden<br/>           6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>               | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>4-6 p.m. Pantry<br/>           5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir<br/>           6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir<br/>           7:15 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>                                                                      | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS<br/>           10-12 p.m. Food Pantry<br/>           1 p.m. Lydia Circle<br/>           4 p.m. Deborah Circle<br/>           5 p.m. Food of Faith<br/>           7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p> | <p><b>9</b></p>                                                                      |
| <p><b>20</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Knitting<br/>           12 p.m. Yoga<br/>           1:30 p.m. Book Group: Theo of Golden<br/>           5 p.m. Session Meeting<br/>           6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>                                                          | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>1 p.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch<br/>           4-6 p.m. Pantry<br/>           5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir<br/>           6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir<br/>           7:15 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal<br/>           LOG DEADLINE</p> | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS<br/>           10-12 p.m. Food Pantry<br/>           5 p.m. Food of Faith<br/>           7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>                                                                         | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fall Retreat at Bay Shore Camp (See Page 8)</p> |
| <p><b>27</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Knitting<br/>           10 a.m. Staff Meeting<br/>           10 a.m. Log Folding<br/>           12 p.m. Lunch and Learn<br/>           12 p.m. Yoga</p>                                                                      | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>4-6 p.m. Pantry<br/>           5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir<br/>           6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir<br/>           7:15 Cantata Rehearsal</p>                                                                           | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS<br/>           10-12 p.m. Food Pantry<br/>           5 p.m. Food of Faith<br/>           7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>                                                                         | <p><b>16</b></p>                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>6 to 8 p.m. Trivia Night (See Page 12)</p>                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>23</b></p>                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>24</b></p>                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>30</b></p>                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>31</b></p>                                                                     |

| GENERAL FUND           | Current Period | Year to Date |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
|                        | Sept 15, 2026  |              |
| Pledges & Other Giving | \$ 15,063      | \$ 349,563   |
| One-time Gifts         | \$ -           | \$ -         |
| Other Cash Received    | \$ 48          | \$ 6,892     |
| Total Income           | \$ 15,110      | \$ 356,456   |
| Expenses               | \$ 25,891      | \$ 314,620   |
| Excess(Loss)           | \$ (10,780)    | \$ 41,836    |

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is \$467,000.

The **Operating Fund** had income of only \$15,110 as of Sept 15, 2026, and expenses of \$25,891. While it seems that things slow down during the summer months, there are still bills to pay and plans for upcoming fall programming. Remember that you can set up recurring gifts using our online giving portal, found on the church's website [www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org) or look for the QR code in the bulletin. Thank you!

*Lisa Carelli*  
Financial Secretary

## Westminster COMMUNITY PANTRY

### Food Pantry Financials as of August 31, 2026

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance             | \$8,621.57  |
| <b>AUGUST DONATIONS</b>       |             |
| 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     |
| <b>GRANTS:</b>                |             |
| Gluten Free                   | \$12,950    |
| Infrastructure                | \$5,962     |



### With Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Bill Auger. Bill passed away September 1, 2026 and his funeral was held September 11 at Westminster.



### With Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Lois MacPhail, whose Memorial Service was held September 12 at Westminster.

## Fallin' For Bunco

A dedicated group of Bunco players continues to meet monthly in the Fellowship Hall. October's Theme – FALLIN' FOR



BUNCO. Everyone is invited to join the fun! We meet monthly in the Fellowship Hall and our next gathering is **Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**. Bring a bag lunch and come **at noon** if you'd like to eat and visit together. The

**dice start rolling at 12:30 p.m.** No experience needed—just come ready for a good time! Join in laughter, fellowship, and a friendly game where luck is all you need.

Please call the church office if you have any questions.

## Gathering and Games

Please join us after worship for fellowship and fun on **Sunday, October 18** for our next Gathering and Games! We'll enjoy playing games and spending time together.

## Town Hall

The Session invites you to our Fall Town Hall meeting, which will be held following worship on Sunday, October 11th. We'll take a look at the church's finances so far this year and share some of our exciting plans for the rest of 2026! Please submit any questions for the Session in advance to [pastor@wpcbc.org](mailto:pastor@wpcbc.org).

## Youth Group Youth Schedule

**October 11th** – Youth Group starting at 5:00 for Food, 5:30 for Faith, and 6:15 for Fun

**October 25th** – Youth Group starting at 5:00 for Food, 5:30 for Faith, and 6:15 for Fun

## Youth Group Dinners

We're looking for volunteers to make our youth dinners a success this year. If you like to bake or cook meals, then we would love for you to sign up for a youth



dinner on Sunday night. If not, there is still a way you can help with dinners. You can provide pizza, chicken tenders, mac & cheese, sub sandwich makings, tacos, or something along those lines. We have

dinner around 5:00pm. We will give you a count days in advance so that you are prepared. Scan the QR code to sign up or contact Leah Sneller to sign up. Thank you!

## Questions?

Contact Leah Sneller, Director of Youth Ministry. Leave a message for Leah at (989) 686-1360 ext. 206 or email [youthdirector@wpcbc.org](mailto:youthdirector@wpcbc.org).

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# TRIVIA NIGHT!

Come test your knowledge at our FREE Trivia Night!

- Ages 10 and older
- FREE admission
- Snacks and refreshments
- Fun questions
- Friendly competition
- A few prizes

Bring your team of 6 or come on your own and make friends! Please register in advance by calling Bonnie Marsh at 989-460-7108.

OR Scan the QR to register:

**Saturday, October 17, 2026 • 6 to 8 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)**  
Westminster Fellowship Hall  
[WPCBC.ORG](http://WPCBC.ORG)

## October Worship

As we consider using our gifts of our community's sake, our text and focus for each Sunday in October are:

### October 4<sup>th</sup> –

#### Producing the Fruits of the Kingdom

*Matthew 21:33-46 — "God's kingdom ... will be given to a people who produce its fruit."*

As we celebrate the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday, we think about the global reach of Christ's message of love, hope and peace for all of humankind. **We will also be collecting the PC(USA)'s World Communion Offering** that cultivates reconciliation by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations. This offering gives us a concrete way to contribute locally and nationally to the work of peace and the mission work of the church.

### October 11<sup>th</sup> – Responding to the Invitation

*Matthew 22:1-14 — "...invite everyone you find..."*

The invitation to be a part of and build God's kingdom is extended to everyone. Those who respond must be prepared for the work that God calls them to do. Following worship,

the Session will host our Fall Town Hall Meeting, answering questions about church programs and ministries and updating the congregation on the church's income and expenses so far in 2026.

### October 18<sup>th</sup> – Giving to God

*Matthew 22:15-22 - "Give...to God what belongs to God."*

We recognize our gifts from God, and our children certainly fall into that category. On this day, we'll also honor Children's Sabbath, an annual celebration and recognition of God's call to listen to, follow, nurture, and respond to the needs of the world's children today. This service places special focus on our commitment to improving children's lives and working for liberating justice with, and on their behalf.

### October 25 – Love God, Love Neighbor

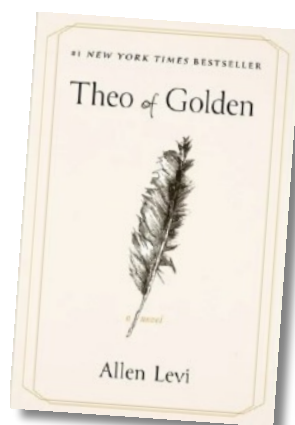
*Matthew 22:34-46 "You must be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy."*

Loving God and neighbor with all our heart, being, and mind asks us to focus on the needs of others because loving others demonstrates our love for God. Stick around for the Harvest Party and Chili Cookoff!

## Fall Book Group

On the first Tuesday of October, we are wrapping up the book ***Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World*** by Bob Goff. We have had some lively discussions as we engaged with his stories and reflections.

Next up is ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi, a heartwarming story about a mysterious newcomer whose quiet generosity brings a small town together and reminds us of the power of kindness and connection. We begin



discussing "Theo" on **Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Lounge.**

All are invited to join us for good conversation, thoughtful reflection, and fellowship.

Books have been ordered for book group attendees.

If you are interested in joining our discussion and need a book, please call the church office.

And as always, any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

## Letting Go

**Summertime ...** It's a season, it's sunshine and warmth. Sometimes, it's just hot and steamy. Yet, it's picnics, yardwork, baseball games, neighbors reuniting, and just the pleasure of being outdoors. It's all this and more.

But as fall hints of cooler nights and routines restored, we turn our energy and anticipations to "back to school," "Friday night football," and then some. Summer sadly ends and we start "*Letting Go.*" Fall begins, we energize, we anticipate. It's the brilliance of fall leaves, the sounds of the neighborhood football games, bands playing, a crisp, cool change in the air. Hot soups and comfort food.

Yes. A new season. A "*Letting Go,*" and an open-armed welcome to all that fall gives. Yet this season is a little different. I find myself mostly an observer.

This past summer, recovering from surgery, my best efforts were to stay cool, exercise, rest, and heal. A hotdog here and there reminded me that yes, it was June, or July, etc. Mostly, I learned to rely heavily on my star word from January, "*letting go.*" At times the negatives of surgery seemed overwhelming — stairs, meals, meds, and occasional road bumps that often felt more like rocks.

I had two choices as I saw it:

- 1) Stay Put. Stay stuck in the bumps or ...
- 2) Let Go. Do the work, walk, exercise, do the things I can do. One at a time!!!

And wondrously, that is how it ended up. With the help of dear friends and family, deacon cards and phone calls, connections with all those I call my church family ... I have to add that it was also a summer of gratitude and joy while working on the "*it's okay*", the "*letting go*" of receiving help.

How did that go? Wonderful meals that included fresh homemade canned peaches. A meal that included a makeshift vase with daffodils picked to cheer me up. Extra soup in case it "sounded good." There were the "errand" friends who helped out with grocery items I would need/want from the store. Neighbors who made sure that I got upstairs and down safely when I needed. And I can't neglect the cards— creative, self-designed, others with beautiful thoughts and caring wishes for recovery.

So, to all of you who make Westminster a safe and welcoming place — a "family place" — I say, "THANK YOU."

I am grateful, I am reminded of community, I am shown how to honor and appreciate my star word, "*Letting Go.*" You are my very special church family.

You are appreciated.

*Kaye Walker*

p.s. — to show my gratitude and the many blessings I've received, I've decided to "pay it forward" with extra support for the phenomenal work done through the Food Pantry. Again, thank you to all and God Bless!

## A special 'thank you' to our young volunteers

**August Statistics:** We continue to break records with the number of people we are serving. In August, 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 October Item of the Month** is chunky-style soup. We cannot get this very popular item from the Food Bank. Help us fill our shelves as the weather cools! All donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you!

**Our Young Volunteers:** This summer, three young people have helped in the pantry almost every week. Genevieve came with her grandma, Janet Beattie, on Wednesday. With her radiant smile and big heart, she has participated in every aspect of the pantry since it opened, including initial set-up, organizing, shopping, and assisting our guests. Callie and Ava came with their grandma, Janet Smylie, on Wednesdays to help with the delivery from Hidden Harvest. They learned how accept the delivery, check expiration dates, sort and stock produce, put lots of bread on the shelves, and more. We are proud of these young volunteers and thank them for their service.

**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! Our guests have been thrilled to receive these extra items. And our volunteers are wearing the aprons, even the guys!



*THANK YOU to three young volunteers who helped out at the pantry almost every week during the summer, Callie, Ava and Genevieve!*



*Pantry volunteers Clint, left, and Rammie model the kids' aprons we received at no cost from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.*

**Can You Help?** We are trying 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.

**Ongoing:** Donations of fresh produce have been much appreciated. If you have extra produce from your garden, we are happy to share it with our guests. We continue to accept books for our Free Little Library book cart. We welcome all book donations.



## Stewardship is more than dollars and cents

By Heather Heidtman

As we celebrated our 50-year members last month — our newest members and those who have already reached that milestone — I'm always a little awestruck. This is a group of people I look up to and admire; members of our congregation I try my hardest to emulate. A daunting feat, as they have set a very high bar. Five decades of sharing their gifts and their time — a living example of a lifetime of spiritual growth.

Think about it...fifty years of worship and prayers lifted, of singing in the choir and ringing bells. Fifty years of helping at funeral dinners, donating to the food pantry, serving meals. Fifty years of Bible study, volunteering for VBS and Sunday School, making pageant costumes. Fifty years of hospital and home visits, sending cards and making phone calls to just say "hi." Fifty years of ushering, folding Logs, bringing a dish to pass for a potluck. And OK, I'm going to say it ... fifty years of meetings! That alone deserves great recognition.

Too many times, the word stewardship gets bandied about only during the annual campaign. But stewardship is more than dollars and cents. It's how we care for the church we love. It's investing time and talent in our ministries and programs and in our relationships and traditions. But it doesn't end there. It's serving our neighbors and supporting community partners. It's sharing the love Christ has for us, with friends and strangers alike.

Whether we've been members for 50 years, 50 days, or somewhere in between, our

shared love of this community and the work we do together reminds us that we all have a part to play. The legacy of our 50-year members encourages us to offer our own gifts — whatever they may be — so that the next fifty years of Westminster's history continues to tell the story of congregation that is faithful, generous and committed to serving others, working together to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

### 50-PLUS-YEAR MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Dore (74 years) • Alma Watton (72 years)  
Margaret Hanson (71) • Neil Everson (71)  
Jan VanNostrand (68) • Peggy Hawkins (68)  
Joyce Hegenauer (67) Joyce Grigg (66)  
Thomas Kayner (65) • Phil Reagh (65)  
Donna Horn (64) • Sharon Hignite (63)  
Joy Thompson (63) • Colleen Schmidt (62)  
Karen Schoeppach (62) • John Hegenauer (62)  
Marie Capp (61) • Elaine Edwards (61)  
Marilyn Kayner (60) • Judy Randall (60)  
Dianne Young (58) • John Young (58)  
Jean Manning (58) • Penny Reagh (58)  
William Capp (56) • Susan Armstrong (56)  
Ruth Ostrander (56) • Joy Hebner (55)  
Leslie Frontjes (55) • Richard Frontjes (55)  
Richard Talbot (55) • Priscilla Cramer (54)  
Shirley Howell (54) • Julie Kelly (54)  
Randy Thibo (54) • Janet Beattie (53)  
Irene Esckilsen (53) • Janet LaFave (52)  
Sally Calvo (52) • Christine Thurman (52)  
Patti Wesenick (52) • Nancy Swantek (51)  
Jan Witucki (50) • Michael Baciagalupo (50)



## Dress the Bird, Gift a Family

Dear Westminster Family:

The Session has approved providing a Thanksgiving Basket for community members. More details to follow. **We will be collecting grocery items during the month of November.**

In the meantime, 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

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

## Lunch & Learn

Over the past few years, our monthly gatherings have focused on self-awareness and personal growth. This year, we will use the next three months to build greater awareness of the needs in our community.



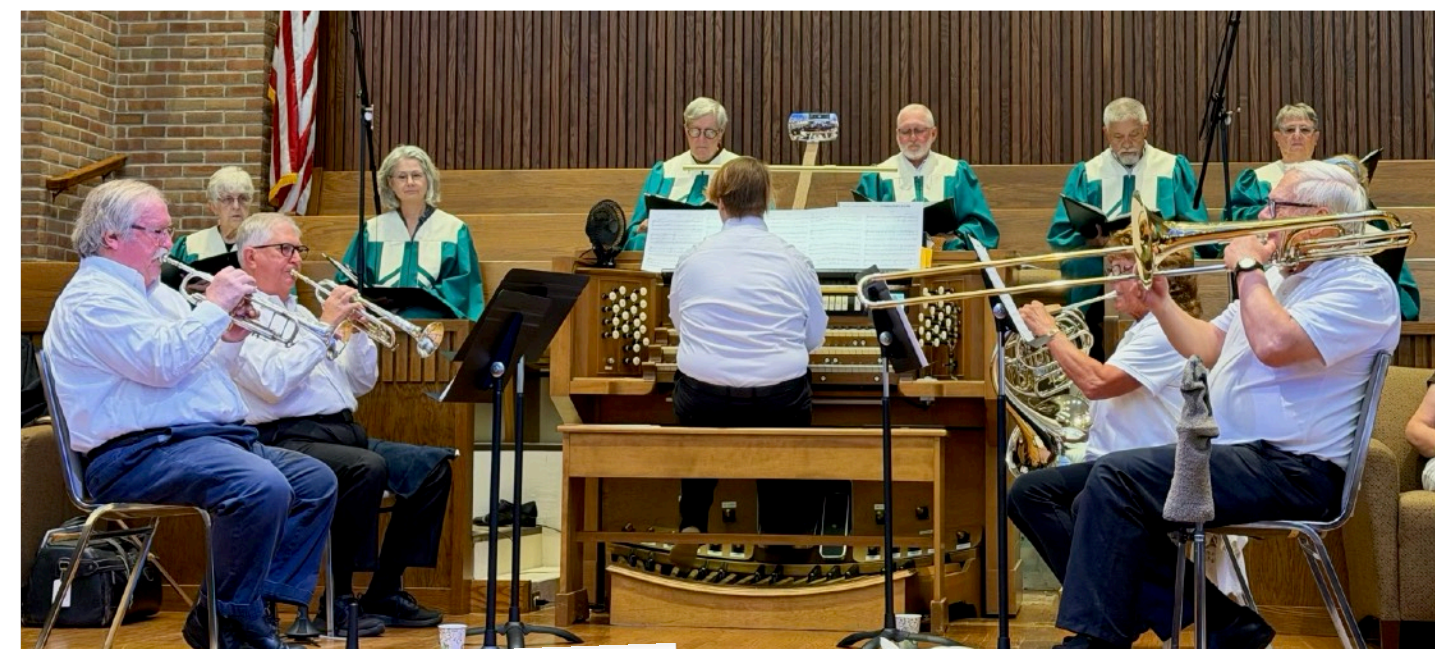
Join us for Lunch & Learn on **Tuesday, October 27, at noon**, when Annette Jeske, Director of The Arc of Bay County, will share how the organization advocates for and supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Come learn more about The Arc's work in our community and ways we can help foster inclusion, opportunity, and belonging for all.



Join us at noon in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, November 17th** for an informative and interactive session about ALICE. What does ALICE mean? It is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, and represents a growing number of families who are unable to afford the basics of housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare, and technology. These workers often struggle to keep their own households from financial ruin, while keeping our local communities running.

Gina Huynh, Senior Impact Manager from the Bay County United Way Foundation will inform us and lead us to join in some interactive activities. We hope you can join us!

Please call the church office if you have any questions.



## Fall Retreat: Discovering and Sharing Our Gifts

Mark your calendar for our annual Fall Retreat on October 10 at Bay Shore Camp! This year's theme, Sharing Our Gifts, ties directly into our fall worship focus on "Thy Kingdom Come" — exploring how we build God's kingdom here on earth through the gifts we've been given.

We'll spend the morning exploring our spiritual gifts, including a short spiritual gifts inventory and time to reflect together on what these gifts mean for our life as a church. In the afternoon, we'll shift to talk about our talents and abilities — the everyday skills and passions each of us carries — and how they can be used for God's glory and the common good of our community.

Of course, it wouldn't be a retreat without our usual mix of singing, quiet reflection,

good food, and time to relax — whether that's a walk through the camp grounds, conversation by the campfire, or simply some rest. No pressure to have it all figured out; come as you are, ready to listen and share.

Whether you already know your gifts well or have never given it much thought, this day is for you. Anyone (5<sup>th</sup> grade and older) will find this retreat meaningful. Come discover — or rediscover — the ways God has equipped you to be part of the kingdom building being done in and through Westminster.

**When:** Saturday, October 10 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Where:** Bay Shore Camp

**Cost/Registration:** \$15 to cover lunch

We'd love to have you join us for this day of reflection, discovery, and connection!

## Christmas Cantata

Cantata practices will begin **October 7 at 7:15 p.m.** The performance will be **Sunday, December 20** as part of the morning church service.

From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It gently reaches across the ages in ancient stories and paintings, used by countless poets and artists. Today the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace, both inside the Church and the outside world.

This year, WPC's musicians and singers will present "The Winter Rose." This classic by Joseph M. Martin incorporates both traditional carols and newly composed anthems. It presents the birth and life of Christ from prophecy to passion. The story unfolds through the use of music, narration, and simple symbolism. Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and life ... children of the garden.



### Harvest Party AND CHILI COOK-OFF

We'll have a selection of tasty chilis, grilled cheese sandwiches, and delicious desserts! If you're interested in bringing chili for the contest, or just making a pot to share please sign-up on the bulletin board located in the Wenona Street Lobby, with a member of the Fellowship Committee on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> or by calling the church office. We are also looking for donations of individually packaged desserts for a bake sale!



Sunday, October 25



Following worship  
(approx. 11:45)



## God Sighting Faith Sneller

Sometimes, someone's name fits them perfectly, and Faith Sneller is living proof. Faith grew up here at Westminster and her life shows us what it looks like when a church nurtures its youth, prepares them for leadership, and trusts them to lead.

Faith's fingerprints are all over the life of this congregation. She served a term as an elder, bringing the voice and perspective of an energetic young adult to conversations that shape our future. Serving on the Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation committee, she helped staff and fellow volunteers brainstorm



about how we can grow our faith together. When Session formed the new Outreach and Hospitality committee, she jumped at the chance to serve in that way as well. Around meeting tables, Faith shared ideas for carrying what happens inside our

walls out into the world, so others can hear about God's love and find their way home to our church family. Many Sunday mornings, you'll find her voice added to the Contemporary choir, or serving as a greeter or usher, welcoming friends, old and new, to worship.

Thank you, Faith, for sharing your faith, your love, your ideas, and your laughter with your church family. Truly, God is doing amazing things in and through you!

## Bible Study

Adult Bible Study is now underway. We are using **The Wired Word**, an adult Bible study curriculum that



connects current events and weekly news stories with Scripture. Each lesson includes Bible passages, commentary, and discussion questions designed to help participants reflect on faith in relation to everyday life and the world around us. The material is interdenominational and encourages open, meaningful discussion as we consider how God's Word speaks to today's realities. A few of the news stories have been: Queen of Country Leaves the World a Better Place, Ceremonies and Fundraising Marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11, Young People Returning to Religious Practice, Say Reports – just to name a few.

All are welcome—whether you have attended Bible study for years or are joining for the first time. Come with

your questions, your curiosity, and your willingness to listen and share as we explore Scripture together. You need not attend each week; feel free to drop in and even call the church office on Thursday mornings to hear what the topic will be for Sunday morning and the following Thursday.

We gather in person on **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Conference Room and **Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. by Zoom.** Whether you prefer to meet in person on Sunday mornings or connect from home on Thursday evenings, we hope you will join us for thoughtful conversation and fellowship.

Any questions, please see Rev. Linda.

