



December 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

**Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.*

** Denotes hymn number in pew hymnal. Some lyrics may be different than what is projected on the screens*



DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER AT WORK - JANET SMYLIE - SIMPLY GIVE

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - MORSE FAMILY

Reader: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

Congregation: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

Reader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us. Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

INTROIT

“Wait for the Lord”

WAIT FOR THE LORD

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Family of faith, God is at work!

God is healing and creating,
redeeming and dreaming,
calling and sending,
listening and loving.

Yes, indeed, God is at work!

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

+HYMN

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*No. 153

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope.
We have every reason to believe that spring will come,
that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.
And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.
With anxious hearts we cry out to you,
“Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?
Will I ever make a difference?”
Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the
sun is shining.
Show us the places where you are on the move.
With open hearts we pray ...**

— Continue in silent prayer —

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, in our honesty,
we are heard.
In our worries,
we are held.
In our failings,
we are forgiven.
In our fear,
we are not alone.

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!
When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.
Thanks be to God!
Amen.

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

WINCHESTER OLD



†SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Let us share this hope and peace with one another. The peace of
Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet our neighbors with the signs and words of peace.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*At this time, children (5th grade and younger) are invited to a
worship experience just for them. The leaders will meet them
at the back of the church following the bell choir music and
will bring them back before Communion.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

WPC BELL CHOIR

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Composed by Sebastian Temple, Arranged by Douglas Wagner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:19-21

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:1-11

SERMON *“When We’re Running Out of Hope, God Is at Work”*

Rev. Jamie Milton

+HYMN

“Looking Out a Prison Window”

CRANHAM

See insert in today’s bulletin

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION

Hear these words from scripture: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
**one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

RENUNCIATIONS

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WELCOME

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Musical Offering

WPC Bell Choir

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

16th Century French carol arranged for handbells by Cynthia Dobrinski

— Please record your presence on the “Friendship Pad” —

†DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of peace, bless these gifts and make them instruments of
Your love. Where fear divides, let peace unite.
Where anxiety overwhelms, let calm prevail.
Use our offerings to sow peace in every corner of Your world.
Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The prayer continues ...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Using either station at the front of the church, you will receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please take communion before returning to your seat. If you wish to remain seated, please raise your hand and a server will bring communion to your seat.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together.

You set the table. You meet us here.
You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.
You remind us that this is a joyful feast,
and that fear cannot win every time.
So with renewed courage, with renewed hope,
with renewed conviction, send us out into the world.
Help us to feed others as you have fed us.
With gratitude we pray, amen.

†HYMN

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

*NO 168

*Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.*

*From God's heart the Savior speeds;
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.*

*Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

Service liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 7, 2025

• **Children are always welcome in the sanctuary.** **NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards, who is infant/CPR trained.

• **WINGS OF PRAYER:** If you have someone you would like to add to our Wings of Prayer list, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.

• **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Our Advent Bible Study will also examine the themes of fear and hope which serve as the focus of our Advent Worship series: *What Do You Fear?* We meet on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact the church office or Rev. Linda.

• **BUILDING OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:** Join the *Bring a Friend Challenge!* Each time you bring a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family

member to worship or a church event, you and your guest will be entered into a raffle for prizes (gift cards, a stainless-steel tabletop grill, and more!). Stop by the Wenona Street Welcome kiosk before or after worship for tickets and details.

• **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Do you like to cook or bake meals? If yes, then we would love for you to **sign up to help with Youth Dinners for Sunday night youth group meetings.**

If not, there is still a way you can help with dinner. You can choose to provide dinner by providing pizza, chicken tenders, Mac & Cheese or something along those lines. We usually have dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance. Please scan the QR code, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bd7hv7u8> or see Leah Sneller to sign up.



MINISTERS
PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
LITURGIST
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
HANDBELL DIRECTOR
YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
PIANIST
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
SECRETARY
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Faith Sneller
Leah Sneller
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Seth Cunningham
Judy Harrelson
Seth Cunningham
Rachel Webb
Martha Tapley
Bill Petzold
Pat Foster
Harold Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 7, 2025

- **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT** is being planned for 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 12. Contact Leah Sneller or the church office to register your children for the event.

- **CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Join us after worship on **Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. as we spread Christmas cheer** to some of our homebound and less mobile members. If you'd like to stay after church, we'll order a couple of pizzas and eat before we head out. If you'd rather run home to change and then come back, feel free to do that as well! Don't worry, we'll be back to the church before the Lions kick off against the Rams at 4:25 p.m.

- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group will also be open to the Bay City community. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. Caring Connections will meet again on Thursday, January 8 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.

- **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE:** A service of Comfort, Reflection and Hope, **Thursday, December 18 at 6 p.m.** As Christmas draws near, many people feel the excitement and joy of the season. But for others, this time of year carries a different weight. Our Longest Night Service is a special time set aside for prayer, reflection, comfort, and hope. Held near the winter solstice—when the night is literally at its longest—this worship service offers a space to acknowledge that not everyone feels “merry and bright” during the holidays. It

is a space where we can be honest about our weariness, our grief, our fear, or simply our longing for peace. Whether you are grieving a loved one, navigating illness, struggling with depression or anxiety, feeling overwhelmed by the world, or simply craving a moment of stillness—this worship service is for you. Come and keep vigil with us. Come sit in the quiet. Come rest in God's gentle light that shines even — especially — in the deepest night. All are welcome. A brief time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow the service.

- **LUNCH AND LAUGH WINTER SERIES:** **Mark your calendars for Tuesdays December 16, January 27, and February 24.** In December and January, everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite table games to share some fun and friendly competition. Then, in February, we'll enjoy a movie together—do you have a favorite film you'd love to watch? Come join us for these special afternoons! Bring your own brownbag lunch; beverages and a sweet treat are provided. Any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

- **THE OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH:** Our next gathering is planned for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17 at The Wanigan. Please call Dave Crook at 847-624-5798 to RSVP by Monday, December 15.

- **NATIVITY DISPLAY:** The church will continue to display your nativity scenes all through the Advent season. If you haven't already, take a moment to browse the many varieties of nativities our members have brought.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 7, 2025

Double Match Day at Meijer's is Saturday, December 13: It's almost here! Meijer's on Wilder Road will double match all Simply Give donations on Saturday, December 13. Pick up a free Simply Give donation card at the church or in the checkout lane. The cashier will scan your card at checkout. Each scan adds a \$10 donation to your grocery bill. When you donate \$10, Meijer will match it with \$20, for a total of \$30. If you give \$100, that turns into a total of \$300 for our pantry! All donations will come directly to our pantry in the form of Meijer gift cards we can use to purchase food. And remember, the Simply Give program continues at the Wilder Road location through December 27, so any donations made during that time still come to our pantry. Please share the news with your family and friends. With the help of the community, this can be a huge gift for the pantry! Questions? Talk to Janet Smylie or Janet Beattie.



Holiday Ornament Sales: Local businesses are selling paper ornaments as a holiday fundraiser for our pantry. For \$1, you can hang an ornament at Cops &

Westminster **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

Doughnuts, Eudici's Pizza, Lucky's Pub and Grill, Parlour Donuts, O'Hares Bar and Grill, River Rock Cafe, and the Westown Theater. We thank them for partnering with us and hope you will thank them with your business. All donations will be credited to our account at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

November Statistics: It's interesting to compare this month with November 2024. Both years had 7 days of operation. It's amazing how much we continue to grow!

Household Visits: 204 in 2025, 154 in 2024

New Households: 69 in 2025, 60 in 2024

of People in Households: 540 in 2025, 441 in 2024

of People in New Households: 185 in 2025, 174 in 2025

Pounds of Food: 5181 in 2025, 2426 in 2024

PER CAPITA FOR 2025

is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360 email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch each day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 7, 2025

- **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** This year's Christmas Pageant, *The First Christmas Quilt*, was written by Westminster's own Judy Hudson! The Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 21 during worship. Rehearsals will be held December 7 and December 14 during Youth Group at 6 p.m. A dress rehearsal is planned for 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 20. Contact Leah Sneller with any questions.
- **ANGEL TREE:** **This is the last week to purchase items for our Angel Tree project.** There are only a few Angel Tags left listing toys, gift cards, clothing items and bedding for kids ranging in age from 0 to 17. **Tags will be available until today.** Purchase a gift (we suggest spending \$25 to \$30 per item), and **return it to the church by noon next Sunday, December 14.** You can also make a financial contribution and we will do the shopping for you! For questions, contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062.
- **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** Our Book Group will begin discussing our next book, *The Measure of a Man* by Sidney Poitier, beginning on Tuesday, January 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the lounge. Come join us! Books are available in the the church office (suggested \$5 donation). For questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.
- **CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** Don't miss this year's amazing cantata, *Sing We Noel*, which will be performed during the worship service on Sunday, December 14. *Sing We Noel* consists of six "suites" of traditional carols woven together with a uniquely modern sound. Practices will continue every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Sunday after worship. A final rehearsal is planned for Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m.

Giving to Westminster

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed. Visit our website



www.wpcbc.org and

click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code.

Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer. We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. THANK YOU!

GENERAL FUND	Month to Date thru November	
	30	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 39,088	\$ 401,320
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ 31,000
Other Cash Received	\$ 450	\$ 32,134
Total Income	\$ 39,538	\$ 464,454
Expenses	\$ 31,059	\$ 399,305
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 8,479	\$ 65,149

Budgeted expense total for the year is \$474,000.