Westminster *At Worship*

A Celebration of Worship
Hanging of the Greens Service

November 22, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Westminster! We are glad you are here! Take some time to review the announcements to see "What's Up At Westminster!" If you have any questions, our greeters and ushers are happy to help.

• **THE FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE** were provided in loving memory of Lorraine Ashton Sponsellow and Matilda Eddicott Ashton by Art and Joy Sponseller.
• **HANGING OF THE GREENS:** Today is our annual Hanging of the Greens service where we prepare for the season by decorating the Sanctuary and church building. Please stay after worship if you are able and help us finish decorating!
• **PLEASE STAY AFTER WORSHIP TODAY and help pack the Thanksgiving Bags** that we are preparing for our neighbors in need. We will form an "assembly line" in the Fellowship Hall.
• **POINSETTIA SALES:** Use the **order form in today's bulletin** to select and order poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service. Poinsettias are $12 each, which includes a 6-inch pot, foil and bow. **Orders MUST be received by Monday, November 30.**
• **YOUTH GROUP:** Youth Group meets from 5 to 7 p.m. tonight. Open to students in 5th through 12th grade. Contact Leah Sneller, Director of Youth Ministry at youthdirector@wbcbc.org or 989-686-1360, ext. 206.
• **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** Please note the closest emergency exit to your seat. There are exits at all four corners of the sanctuary that will lead you safely out of the building.

For Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers:

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! However, if you or your child need a little extra care, we offer several options for you:

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 certified in infant/child CPR.

WORSHIP BAGS are located by the back entrance to the sanctuary. These bags for children are filled with quiet activities to keep children engaged while seated in the pew with their families.

VISIT OUR PRAYGROUND located at the back of the sanctuary. This dedicated space contains activities for parents and children who need a little extra space to move but would still like to be a part of the worship service.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO WORSHIP GOD

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.*

PRELUDE — SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER AT WORK

†CALL TO WORSHIP

How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God. We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

Thanks be to God.

†HYMN *"Now Thank We All Our God"* *No. 14

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

THE PARAMENTS

HYMN *"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation
we live for that great day
when your renewed creation
your glory shall display.

THE ADVENT CANDLES

THE CANDLES

Special Music

WPC Vocal Quartet

"Child of Light"
Written by Mark Shepperd
Quartet: Judy Harrelson, Jeff Rogers, Seth Cunningham and Sherry Holley

The Poinsettias

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm 122

Isaiah 2:1-5

Special Music

WPC Vocal Trio

"Hallelujah"
Written by Leonard Cohen
Trio: Lin Stuifbergen, Sherry Holley and Sally Calvo

The Wreaths and The Greens

The Christmas Tree

Blessing of the Christmas Tree — Unison

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Nativity

Hymn *"Once in Royal David's City"* *No. 183

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

The Christ of Christmas
(Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for the Offering

As we consider how to faithfully share our talents, time and treasure, please look for the yellow "Sharing My Gifts" card in your pew. Reflect on how you shared your gifts this week, then place it in the offering plate as a symbol of that gift. Have a financial gift to share? Feel free to place that in the plate as well.

Musical Offering

WPC Ukuterians (Ukulele Group)

Holiday Sing-Along

Over the river and through the wood
to Grandfather's house we go.
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
through white and drifted snow.
Over the river and through the wood,
oh how the wind does blow!
It stings to toes and bites the nose,
as over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood
to have a first rate day.
Hear the bells ring, ting-a-ling-ling!
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day.
Over the river and through the wood,
trot fast my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground like a hunting hound,
for this is Thanksgiving Day!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and hea'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ.
With field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la
Tis the season to be jolly, fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la
Don we now our fine apparel fa-la-la la-la-la la-la-la
As we sing the yuletide carol fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la

Fast away the old year passes fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la
Hail the new ye lads and lasses fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la
Follow me in merry measure fa-la-la la-la-la la-la-la
As we sing of yuletide treasure fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la

†Doxology Tune: Old Hundredth

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

†Unison Prayer of Dedication

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Community Goes to Serve God

†Hymn *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

†Benediction

Take time, in the busy-ness of this season, for quiet reflection—
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in hope.

†Postlude — Seth Cunningham



MINISTERS	All the People
PASTOR	Rev. Jamie Milton
PARISH ASSOCIATE	Rev. Linda Williams
LITURGIST	Bonnie Marsh
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY	Leah Sneller
NURSERY SUPERVISOR	Elaine Edwards
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Dawn Auger
ORGANIST	Seth Cunningham
YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR	Judy Harrelson
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Lisa Carelli
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT	Martha Tapley
SECRETARY	Bill Petzold
FACILITIES MANAGER	Harold Miller

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This Week

• **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** We will be using *The Wired Word* bible study curriculum that connects current events and weekly news stories with Scripture. Our **Sunday morning class meets Sundays at 9 a.m.**, and our **Thursday evening online Zoom study meets online at 7 p.m.** Any questions, please see Rev. Linda or the church office.

• **RAFFLE:** We're raffling off **two Christmas wreaths and two Christmas lanterns** with all proceeds going to support our own Westminster Community Pantry! Raffle tickets may be purchased before or after worship on November 22 and November 29, or by calling the church office. Tickets are $5 each or 5 tickets for $20. We'll draw the winning ticket at the Advent Dinner on November 29!

• **ADVENT DINNER NEXT SUNDAY: Advent Dinner and Craft Workshop**! We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 29 at 5 p.m. for a festive evening of food, fellowship, and creativity. A main dish will be provided; please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share as we enjoy this time together. After dinner, there will be holiday crafts for all ages—a chance to create, laugh, and get into the holiday spirit.

Monthly

• **ANGEL TREE:** The Mission Partnership Committee and The Salvation Army invite you to brighten Christmas for local children ages 0–17. Take an Angel Tag from the tree, write your name and contact number on the bottom portion, and leave that section at the Angel Tree table in the Wenona Lobby. Purchase one toy or "fun" item and one clothing or textile item (suggested limit $50 per child) and return the gift with the information tag in a bag (no tissue paper) to the church by **Noon on Sunday, December 13**. Prefer to donate? We'll shop for you! Questions? Contact Darlene Kusterer or the church office.

•**CARING CONNECTIONS:** Our Caring Connections Group is open to the Bay City community, so if you have a friend or neighbor who is dealing with grief, they are welcome to join! **Our next meeting is planned for Thursday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m.**

• **FALL BOOK GROUP:** We will be reading and discussing *One Simple Act* by Debbie Macomber on **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge**. For more information, speak to Rev. Linda or call the church office. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 1.**

• **LYDIA CIRCLE:** Lydia Circle uses the Presbyterian Women Bible Study curriculum, *Horizons*. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. **Our next meeting is our holiday gathering scheduled for Thursday, December 17 at G's Pizza**.

• **DEBORAH CIRCLE:** If you are interested in joining Deborah Circle, please contact Karen Schoeppach or call the church office.

Ongoing

•**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.

• **FLOWERS FOR SERVICES:** If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming worship service, please sign up on the calendar across from the Sanctuary door or call the church office at 989-686-1360.

Opportunities to Serve your Community

• **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS:** Join us for Fellowship Time! Before worship (9:30 to 10:15 a.m.), stop by the Fellowship Hall for coffee and a sweet treat. After the service, we continue in the chapel with cookies, coffee, and lemonade — a relaxed chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Sign up on the volunteer board near the Wenona Street entrance or contact Joyce Hegenauer. Everything you need will be ready in the kitchen.

•**MATTHEW 25 CAFÉ** at The Salvation Army (322 Adams Street) serves free meals six days a week to the Bay City community, feeding about 100 people daily. They need help with food prep and service. On the **second Tuesday of each month**, **5–7 volunteers help cook and serve**. Extra help is needed.If you can spare two hours a month—either preparing food (9 to 11 a.m.) or serving and cleaning up (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)—please sign up on the Wenona Lobby board or call the church office with your name, date, and time. **Westminster's next opportunity to serve is Tuesday, December 8.** If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062 or call the church office.

• **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY:** There are a number of ways that you can support our weekly food pantry. Volunteers help assist our clients in choosing food items, work together to unload shipments of food and help to organize donations received from the congregation and community. If you would like to volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Karen Brown-Fackler. You may also support the pantry's efforts with a monetary donation, either by writing "food pantry" in the memo area of your check made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, or online through the donations page on the church website, wpcbc.org. Contact pantry chair Janet Smylie with questions.

• **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will be collecting coats, hats, socks, gloves and other **warm clothing for guests that come to the food pantry**. You may leave any donated items on the cart outside the pantry door.

• **CARING MEAL PROGRAM RETURNS TO WESTMINSTER:** We're excited to share that a beloved ministry is returning to Westminster — the Caring Meal Program. Sponsored by the Board of Deacons, this ministry provides short-term meals to individuals and families experiencing a recent life event or temporary hardship. A pilot team of Meal Preparers is serving as we fine-tune the process. Once the pilot wraps up, we'll invite the congregation to join us in making this meaningful ministry flourish.

• **FOOD OF FAITH:** Help provide a free warm meal for our neighbors in need! Our next opportunity to serve is **Thursday, December 10.** We will need **two volunteers to help prepare the meal** from 2 to 4 p.m. and **four volunteers to help serve** from 4 to 6 p.m. The meal begins at 5 p.m. Thursday evenings at Messiah Lutheran Church, 501 S. Catherine St. in Bay City at the western end of Veterans Memorial Bridge. Those with questions may contact Pam Johnston at 989-392-1958.

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.

GENERAL FUND	Nov 17, 2026	Year to Date
Pledges	28,045	358,628
General Gifts/Donations	4,130	36,911
Investment Interest	8	20,576
Loose Collection	56	1,498
One-time Gifts	0	0
Other Cash Received	358	3,936
Total Income	32,597	421,549
Expenses/Payroll	19,588	391,233
Excess(Loss)	13,009	30,316

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is $467,000.

Please remember your per Capita for 2026. It is $35 per member.

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!

Westminster COMMUNITY PANTRY

October Statistics: We served 787 people from 277 families with 8,877 pounds of food. Of these, 172 people from 58 families were new to our pantry. People continue to find us from as far away as Kawkawlin, Linwood and Pinconning. It is a blessing to offer fresh, nutritious food to our pantry guests.

Item of the Month: We are pausing our requests for Item of the Month until January 2027 so you can support other church mission projects like the Thanksgiving food baskets and the Angel Tree Christmas gifts. If you'd still like to donate to the pantry, any food items are welcomed.

Meijer Simply Give Program Continues through the Holiday Season! Through December 26, all Simply Give donations made at the Wilder Road store will be collected for our pantry. Simply Give donation cards are available at the church and in the checkout lines at the store. Just hand your Simply Give donation card to the cashier and tell them how much you want to give (in $10 increments). They will scan your card and your donation will be added to your grocery total. **And mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12**, when Meijer will double-match all donations! At the end of the program, all donations are given to our pantry in the form of gift cards that we can use to purchase food. Please share the news with all your family and friends! Questions? Talk to Janet Smylie or email pantry@wbcpc.org.

Extra Venison? Did you know the pantry accepts venison if it was processed at a licensed facility? We are happy to take your extras off your hands!