

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2017 ISSUE 104

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

In college, our baseball season always listed our first series of home “doubleheaders” on the second weekend of March. I say those games were “listed” because I’m not sure we ever actually played them on time, as I think we were snowed out every year. In fact, I remember a year when our first time stepping onto our field (after practicing in the gym all winter) was also our first game. So, given that it isn’t yet March, I know we have at least one snowstorm left.

But, hasn’t it been a treat these last few weeks? After a winter when it seemed as though the sun hardly made an appearance at all, a 50 degree afternoon feels positively tropical. I read last week that it was some 70 degrees warmer than the same day just a year or two ago! It almost feels like Spring! In the church, that means Lent (literally, since “lent” is derived from an Old English word for Spring), and tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the 40-day season of worship, repentance, and contemplation that leads us to our celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

These forty days recall Jesus’ own forty days in the wilderness, a time when he was tempted by the devil; and often, we plan our own “wilderness” experiences during Lent, abandoning our own temptations to focus on God. So, let’s see: Jesus was tempted with food while fasting forty days, with authority over the kingdoms of the world, and with proving God’s love and protection in the face of mockery and skepticism. As I’ve said before: as much as I love ice cream, I don’t think putting down my spoon is quite on par with what Jesus was facing! Yet, this doesn’t mean that we should not embrace this season as an opportunity to make a change. Perhaps you would be interested in “giving something up” for Lent? Join in Adult Spiritual Formation on Sunday mornings at 9:15 as Pastor Linda leads folks through “Giving Up Something Bad for Lent” and learn what it would mean to give up envy, or gossip, or negative thinking! Perhaps you would be interested in “taking something on” this Lenten season? Take on a discipline of Lenten devotions and quiet time, and come join with friends in Christ to think through and share your reflections at Westminster’s Wednesday series on “A Way Other Than Our Own.” Or, perhaps you simply wish to take time this Lenten season to deepen your sense of what it is to live as Christ? Join with us in Sunday worship as we spend time listening to what Jesus and the Scriptures have to say about something Jesus modeled so well that we struggle so mightily with: forgiveness.



Of course, we realize that giving something up or taking something on will never win us a contest to prove our devotion, because there is no such contest. Instead, we live and grow knowing all the while that we are indeed sinners, imperfect in our devotion and discipleship. So, we continue to implore God to be merciful, to abound in steadfast love, and to lead us on Christ’s journey of death and resurrection, that we might embrace new life as the people of God. May God bless us on the journey.

In Christ’s Service,
PASTOR MATT

MARCH 2017 ISSUE 104

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Watch our sermons on our website!



Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch noon - 1p.m.)

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- Church Secretary
Judy Harrelson (ext. 201)
- Treasurer
Heather Heidman (ext. 206)
- Christian Education
Dana Schramm (ext. 208)
- Custodian
Harold Miller (ext. 205)

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<div> <div>MARCH</div> </div>		<div> <div>Happy Birthday</div> <div> Louis Berta Dianne Young Elizabeth Dore Kenneth Lange James Belknap Colleen Schmidt </div> </div>
<div> <div>5</div> <div> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:45 a.m. Officer Examination Lunch </div> </div>	<div> <div>6</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:45 p.m. My Tempo 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting </div> </div>	<div> <div>7</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 6:00 p.m. Personnel 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop </div> </div>
<div> <div>12</div> <div> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time </div> </div>	<div> <div>13</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:45 p.m. My Tempo 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Small Group 7:00 p.m. Family & Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Stewardship </div> </div>	<div> <div>14</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 1:00 p.m. Lions Sight & Hearing 6:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop </div> </div>
<div> <div>19</div> <div> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Officer Ordination 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time </div> </div>	<div> <div>20</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:25 p.m. My Tempo </div> </div>	<div> <div>21</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop </div> </div>
<div> <div>26</div> <div> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time </div> </div>	<div> <div>27</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:45 p.m. My Tempo 6:30 p.m. Small Group </div> </div>	<div> <div>28</div> <div> 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 12:00 p.m. Spirituality of Aging 1:00 p.m. Log Crew 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop </div> </div>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>1</div> <div> 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service </div> </div>	<div> <div>2</div> <div> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:30 p.m. PW Board Meeting </div> </div>	<div> <div>3</div> </div>	<div> <div>4</div> <div> 9:00 a.m. Officer Training </div> </div>
<div> <div>8</div> <div> 5:45 p.m. Bay City Fireworks 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 6:00 p.m. Property 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Mission Part. 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 p.m. Worship </div> </div>	<div> <div>9</div> <div> 8:30 a.m. TOPS </div> </div>	<div> <div>10</div> </div>	<div> <div>11</div> </div>
<div> <div>15</div> <div> 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice </div> </div>	<div> <div>16</div> <div> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Esther Circle 1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle </div> </div>	<div> <div>17</div> </div>	<div> <div>18</div> </div>
<div> <div>22</div> <div> 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice </div> </div>	<div> <div>23</div> <div> 8:30 a.m. TOPS </div> </div>	<div> <div>24</div> </div>	<div> <div>25</div> </div>
<div> <div>29</div> <div> 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice </div> </div>	<div> <div>30</div> <div> 8:30 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Hannah Circle </div> </div>	<div> <div>31</div> </div>	

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

SPRING 2017 COMMUNION SERVERS



March

Len Petroff
Sheryl Petroff
Sue Armstrong
Donna Tetil
Jacob Bennett
Anne Jay
Tom Tolles
Barb Tolles
Pam Binder
Marilyn Bechtel

April

Russ Marvin
Melissa Woodward
Jack Gustafson
Janet Beattie
Bill Auger
Tiffany Frontjes
Brian Graves
Kaye Walker
Patti Wesenick
Lisa Beson

May

John Hegenauer
Joyce Hegenauer
Pam Monville
Nancy Swantek
Jan Witucki
Chris Thurman
Jeff Rogers
Candy Green
Bill Shelt
Lee Pratt



*With Deepest
Sympathy*



Prayers of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Janet Dannesberger. Janet passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2017. A service was held at Westminster Presbyterian church on Wednesday, February 1 with Rev. Matthew Schramm officiating.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Building Improvement Fund

December Balance:
\$32,114.45
January Income:
\$837.00
January Expense:
\$0.00
January Balance:
\$32,951.45

Operating Fund

January Income:
\$62,135.49
January Expense:
\$26,533.89

Major Repairs Fund

\$13,589.59

Donate online at
www.wpcbc.org

Flower Chart



If you wish to honor a special event or person in your life, please consider donating flowers for Sunday worship. The 2017 Westminster Flower Chart has been relocated to the Fellowship Hall.

There are many spots still available for 2017. Please print your first and last name, as well as preferred phone number next to the date of your choice.

Marie Capp will get in touch with you as to what you wish to have in the bulletin for recognition and make arrangements for the floral display.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Vicki Fitak, Joy Hebner, or Marie Capp.

Thank you!

PW Rummage Sale

The Presbyterian Women of Westminster will hold their annual Spring Rummage Sale in June. Watch for dates in future Logs and bulletins.



Christian Education News

**Welcome Westminster's new Christian Education Director,
Nikelle Johnson!**

Nikelle comes to Westminster with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Christian education and teaching young children. A Midland native, she holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hope College and a Masters of Religious Education from Western Theological Seminary. She previously served as the Director of Christian Education at Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church in Midland. Nikelle is currently a teacher of the Threes and Toddler-Parent programs at Memorial Presbyterian Preschool. She is also a Project Assistant for One Door Ministries.



Nikelle has a passion for children and youth, with experience in coordinating and teaching Christian education programs for all ages, organizing, developing, and supporting Christian Education summer camps, Vacation Bible Schools, and Christmas programs. In addition, she has extensive administrative experience and talent honed from six years working for two Christian Ministries in Jackson, Mississippi — Habitat for Humanity and Voice of Calvary Ministries.

Welcome Nikelle!

Dear Westminster Church Family,

It has been my joy to serve as WPC's Christian Education director for these last five years, both with Sandy Graves and more recently, on my own. In that time, we have built a wonderful program that is starting to bear fruit in the lives of the young people of this church. Our intention has been for many years to do the best we can to shepherd a new generation through a program that could grow along with them, and we are so blessed to see that happening. So, it was some months ago that I went to the Personnel Committee asking that we look for someone to lead our Christian Education program in that growth. In hiring Nikelle, we bring someone on board who has a master's degree in Religious Education, and is dedicated to continuing the good work we have begun and taking our program into the future. Just as it has been my pleasure to work with the amazing volunteers and kids at Westminster, it will be a blessing to help Nikelle get acclimated to WPC, to work with her as needed to keep things running smoothly, and ultimately, to volunteer as a parent and a member of the church. Thank you for welcoming her, and for your support, as we begin an exciting new chapter in the life of Westminster!

In Christ
Dana.

From the Personnel Committee: We are beyond blessed with the love and talent that is shared so meaningfully with our children through the Christian Education ministry at Westminster. Join in expressing your appreciation for Dana, and welcoming Nikelle, at a reception to follow worship this Sunday, March 5th.



WORSHIP - SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

DEVOTIONAL STUDY - WEDNESDAY 7 P.M.

HOLY WEEK - THURSDAY & FRIDAY 7 P.M.

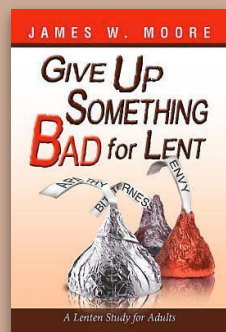
EASTER SUNDAY - 8 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.



Season of Lent

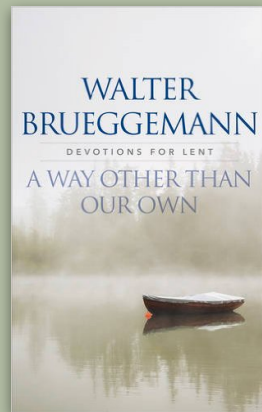
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us during the Lenten Season,
beginning Sunday, March 5



"During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore challenges

readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. He invites all to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be."



LENTEN BIBLE SERIES

Wednesday evenings
beginning March 8
6:30 p.m.

Choir practice
to begin at 7:30 p.m.

"Lent recalls times of wilderness and wandering, from newly freed Hebrew slaves in exile to Jesus' temptation in the desert. God has always called people out of their safe, walled cities into uncomfortable places, revealing paths they would never have chosen. Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path — one of humility, justice, and peace. Walter Brueggemann's thought-provoking reflections for the season of Lent invite us to consider the challenging, beautiful life that comes with walking the way of grace."

ELDERS AND DEACONS: OFFICER TRAINING

Officer training will be on Saturday, March 4, with a 9:00 a.m. gathering of all session members and deacons for education and fellowship. Beverages and snacks will be furnished. The program will feature keynote presentations from the Rev. Dr. Dan Sapersteain, Lake Huron Presbytery Executive, on our Presbyterian identity and the church's role in a shifting culture.

The officer examination lunch will be held in the Session room on Sunday, March 5 immediately following the worship service.

Women's Sunday

Celebrate the Gifts of Women
Sunday, March 12

Come to worship and celebrate the
women of the church!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SEASON OF LENT **MARCH 1 - APRIL 16**

Through this longstanding, ecumenical effort, Presbyterians share God's love by giving to ministries that provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support towards the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.



32% - RESTORING HOPE (PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE)

Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters.

36% - REDUCING HUNGER (PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM)

Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

32% - PARTNERING IN PROGRESS (SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE)

Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.

Look for bulletin inserts Sunday, April 9 and 16

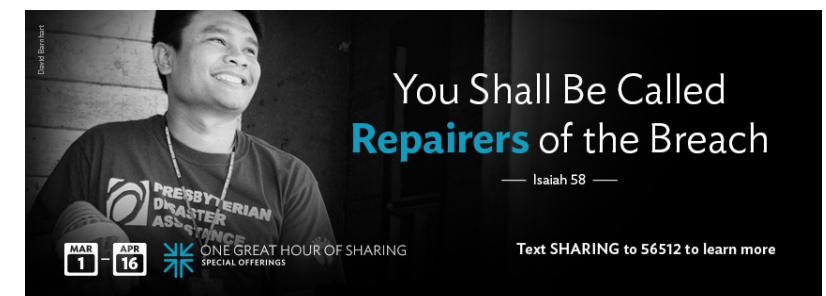
SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE HELPS OPEN DOORS FOR EX-OFFENDERS

Your support of OGHS bolsters organizations like Neighbor to Neighbor, and people like Olga Pedraza. Olga left prison drug-free and ready to start her new life and career as a substance abuse counselor, but the state required over \$4,500 to reinstate her driver's license, which she needed for her new job.

She joined Neighbor to Neighbor in their efforts to change public policy to help educate and reintegrate ex-offenders and decrease the possibility that they return to lives of crime. In March 2016, their Jobs Not Jails campaign won a major legislative victory.

Massachusetts repealed the automatic suspension of driving privileges for most drug offenses and abolished the accompanying fine. With her license reinstated, Olga could start her new life and career, helping others recover from their drug addictions.

"More than 7,000 lives are being transformed, thanks partly to a grant from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People," says Lena Entin, and organizer with Neighbor to Neighbor. "This victory means that stories like Olga's will be repeated over and over again."





**Having fun at
Wednesday @ Westminster**

Every Wednesday beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday @ Westminster Schedule

An evening of music, fellowship, and workshops for children of all ages

Junior Handbells - Grades 5 and up
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Junior Choir - Grades 3 and up
6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time - Grades 3 and up
(For those not participating in handbells or choir)

Workshop - For children of all ages
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Austin Bills, Eagle Scout

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BOY SCOUT TROOP 150

It is with great pleasure that I announce Westminster's own Austin Bills has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Austin, grandson of Herb and Sheila Collver, participated in Worship on Scout Sunday, February 12 and gave us information about his Eagle Scout project.

When you see him, please be sure to congratulate him on this extraordinary achievement!

Joy Hebner
Executive Officer, Troop 150



4TH ANNUAL

Sweet Beginnings

Thursday, April 27, 2017

BEACON OF HOPE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER
2360 MIDLAND ROAD, BAY CITY

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. / Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring desserts from various local businesses,
along with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres





Fanning the Flames of Faith

Missionary journey spans generations to reach migrants and victims of human trafficking

Cathy Chang



I am a Korean-American Presbyterian, but that does not define all I am," were the opening lines of my seminary application essays, ordination process paperwork and grant applications. Those lines came at a turning point after serving as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Egypt in 2003. Those applications helped me re-evaluate my 20-something years of life, with special focus on short-term mission experiences as a high school student, college student and young adult. I sensed the stirrings of ministry that might look more multicultural than the boundaries of my familiar upbringing. At the same time, Korea was becoming more than a place to visit my extended family, a reason to wake up early Saturday morning for language school. As I learned more about my history, heritage and faith, I began to recognize and appreciate my calling to mission.

I grew up in central New Jersey with fond memories of visiting my uncle's home filled with many books and faded pictures. Right around that time, my maternal grandparents moved to Stony Point, New York, from South Korea. This is when I first heard stories about my mother and how her family fled from communists. Had it not been for an aunt who insisted that her niece (my mother) stay with the family, my mother would have been left behind during that harrowing journey. Somehow in those difficult times, my mother's family managed to escape and to survive. My maternal grandfather was a well-respected church elder. Their family

was Christian and Presbyterian because of the efforts of a Presbyterian missionary.

As early as those 'tween years in my life, my uncle emerged as an important presence. He introduced my parents to each other in the early '70s, and almost 30 years later, he introduced me to the PC(USA) through the YAV program. Serving in Egypt as a YAV, using survival Arabic, it was my uncle's name that created an almost instant connection. With the simple introduction of "She is the niece of Syngman Rhee," many older church leaders in the Synod of the Nile treated me with the same respect, as if he were right there with me. Having served previously with Presbyterian mission workers in the Middle East, my uncle still had many colleagues in the synod. Flashbacks to my childhood had come full circle after having lived in Egypt, when I realized who graced one prominent photo at my uncle's home: former Egypt President Anwar Sadat.



Mission co-worker Cathy Chang tours rebuilding efforts three years after Typhoon Haiyan devastated portions of southern Philippines. The construction is being completed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

During that same year in Egypt, I learned about another country called Chile, through the experience of meeting Juan Lopez. He was from France but spoke Spanish. As a mission volunteer with Action Chrétienne en Orient, Juan taught French at New Ramses College. He also tutored young girls at Fowler Orphanage, created by missionaries with the Board of Foreign Missions. In French and broken English, Juan shared how his family was affected by Chile's military coup in 1973. We also talked about the differences between communism in Chile and Korea. He seemed to know more about Chile than I knew about Korea, and this made me want to learn more about both of our countries.

Over next five years we dreamed about our life together in mission. After serving in Egypt, Juan moved back to France and worked as a social worker while I completed my seminary studies. After many years of waiting, in 2008, I was ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament, and we were married. While I served in pastoral roles in Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania and Michigan and Juan worked as a social worker, we grew and matured as individuals and as a couple in our desires to serve others through mission.

From the recent news stories of refugees and unprecedented migration around the world, my family's history and heritage and faith, combined with Juan's, re-emerged into our awareness and prompted us to move toward another ministry. We prayed whether our personal experiences of forced migration might help us to serve the very people impacted by the issues of migration and human trafficking. While our recent experience in the United States has focused on the local community and local church, we have strived to work with people who are crossing all sorts of borders and boundaries, because our families have made similar journeys.

Praying at that time about what our next steps might look like, I saw that my heritage, history and faith were taking on new meaning. After preparing our application for service with World Mission through the Presbyterian Mission Agency, I learned that my uncle was ill and dying. Although his earthly days were coming to a close, I was

confident that his legacy of ministry and mission could continue through my calling. My late uncle's legacy, along with my maternal family's heritage, history and faith, are the flames of faith that I am fanning into fullness with Juan and our daughter, Aurélie.

This is why we accepted this calling to mission in the Philippines: We perceive God was at work in our lives and still at work in the world. Since moving to Manila in March 2016, we know that we live among people and in a place that is both familiar and completely new to both of us. With common experiences of Spanish and Japanese colonialism, we are now learning more about communism and American colonialism, among many other things. We look forward to cultivating new connections and collaborative actions with our church partners in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia.



On a recent visit to southern Philippines with staff from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, mission co-worker Cathy Chang, regional facilitator for addressing migration and human trafficking in Southeast Asia, enjoys a lighthearted moment with a healthy pig.

"As Regional Facilitator for Addressing Migration and Human Trafficking, Cathy and Juan are walking alongside global partners in their efforts to address these issues. They are also collaborating with Asian churches and non-governmental organizations to assist with coordination efforts to end the scourge of modern-day slavery."