

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship *The Gift of Bold Action*

January 25, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.



DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us:

“Come! Follow me!”

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Some say, “But we are walking in darkness.”

In Christ, we have seen God’s light.

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Some say, “But divisions tear us apart.”

In Christ we are united in mind and purpose.

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and to follow Jesus.

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

*God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus, you come into our lives as a light shining in our darkness,
and you call us to follow you.**

We long to seek you. We long to follow you.

**Sometimes our losses and failures overwhelm us,
and we don't hear your call.**

**Sometimes we are caught up in our disagreements
and our desires to prevail, and we don't hear your call.**

**Sometimes we are so busy with our responsibilities
and our successes, comfortable in our routines,
and we don't hear your call.**

Yet, we have seen your great light.

**We have heard your appeal to come together in mind and
purpose.**

**May we, like Peter and Andrew, and James and John,
step away from our darkness and our conflicts and our
devotion to our set ways.**

Help us to hear your call, for your kingdom draws near.

— A Time of Silent Confession —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Trust this good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, amen.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

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 “Sharing of God’s Peace” and will bring them back before communion.

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON

“The Gift of Bold Action”

Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

*NO. 589

*O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience, still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

*In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.*

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his 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; 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.

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

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CHORAL OFFERING

WPC CHANCEL CHOIR WITH TRUMPETER DAVE CROOK

"Come Now and Follow Me"

MICHAEL HELMAN

~ 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

Generous God, you have blessed us with your call to follow Jesus. In return, we rejoice as we give our offerings and gifts. May they be used for the work of proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of heaven come near. Amen.

DISCIPLES DEPART TO SERVE GOD

†HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*No. 458

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May we leave worship today eager to follow Jesus.

To those in darkness, let us proclaim:

God is our light and our salvation.

To those in danger, let us proclaim:

God is our protection and shelter.

To those caught in conflicts and divisions, let us proclaim:

Jesus Christ draws us together in mind and purpose.

Following Jesus, may we know and share the message:

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 25, 2026

- **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.
- The **FLOWERS for today's service** are provided by Paul Mehlhose in celebration of Shari's birthday on January 31.
- **AED TRAINING SESSION** is planned for after worship **TODAY**. These trainings are intended for lay people, and anyone who is interested in attending is invited! Call the church office for information.
- **THE SAGINAW SPIRIT** are hosting their annual **Faith Night on Sunday, February 22** at the Dow Event Center. A group outing is being planned to attend the game. The Spirit take on the Guelph Storm beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$14. Please let Leah Sneller know if you would like to attend by February 15. You may send your ticket money to Financial Administrator Pat Foster. Contact Leah or the church office with any questions.
- **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.

- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group is open to the Bay City community. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. Caring Connections will meet again on **Thursday, February 5** from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.
- **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** Our Book Group will continue discussing *The Measure of a Man* by Sidney Poitier, **every Tuesday 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.
- **DEBORAH CIRCLE** will meet **at 4 p.m. Thursday, JANUARY 29** at the home of Sherry Holley. If anyone wants to join, call Karen Schoepach at 989-684-1322 or email her at kaysue@chartermi.net.

Westminster **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

The February "Item of the Month" is chunky-style soup. This is a favorite of our guests, especially during the cold winter months. Donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you for your support!

Thinking about spring? Planning your garden? Consider planting a little extra to donate to the pantry! Fresh produce is a wonderful addition to our summer pantry options. All donations are appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 25, 2026

• **LUNCH AND LAUGH WINTER SERIES:**

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 27 for BUNDLE UP AND BUNCO! In January, everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite table games to share some fun and friendly competition. We hope to have enough people to play Bunco again! 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.

• **YEAR-END STATEMENTS** will be mailed or emailed around the second week of January. Please review your statement carefully. If you find an error, please let Pat know immediately, so she can make the correction and begin closing the books on 2025.

• **CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES:** Heading to a warmer climate this winter? Have you moved recently? Do you have a

new email address? Please call the church office to let us know of these changes so your statement and other church correspondence reaches you.

• **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** We provide two opportunities for folks to participate – **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Lounge or **Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. by Zoom.**

• **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.

• **PER CAPITA for 2026 is \$35.00**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI

48706; phone: 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.

MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGIST

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SECRETARY

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Karen Schoeppach

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 25, 2026

- The Session has called for the **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** to be held during our Worship Service, **Sunday February 1, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.** During worship, we will highlight some of the good work that God has done in and through Westminster in 2025, and some hopes for 2026! The 2026 budget will be available that morning for your information. Other business will include electing a new slate of officers, the 2026 Nominating Committee, and voting on Rev. Jamie Milton's 2026 Terms of Call.

- After our morning worship service and annual meeting February 1, we hope you'll join us for the **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** lunch and Youth Group Bake Sale. All youth are asked to attend. We'll have a variety of soups and breads, plus desserts you can purchase. A free-will offering will be collected for the Soup luncheon, with the

collection going towards our Food Pantry. Proceeds from the Bake Sale will go to support our Youth Group.

- Join us, **Sunday, February 15th** as we celebrate **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**. During worship, we'll receive our 2026 Pledge cards and rededicate ourselves to the ministry God has called us to as a congregation. Following worship, we are hosting a **Celebration luncheon**. Please plan to attend and celebrate all that we are able to do together through your continued generosity to God's ministry here at Westminster!

- **LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Thursday, February 19 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Session room. We are using the Horizons Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." If you would like to join, contact Barb Tolles at 989-963-9369 or email her at apple2chool@yahoo.com.

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 January 18,	
	2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 13,943	\$ 13,943
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Cash Received	\$ 55	\$ 55
Total Income	\$ 13,998	\$ 13,998
Expenses	\$ 20,503	\$ 20,503
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (6,505)	\$ (6,505)

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