

Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship
Faces of Our Faith: Lydia*

July 14, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.
†*Those who are able to stand may do so.*



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Jesus dwells among us, teaching us to believe in his name.

PEOPLE: Let us offer God our thanks.

LEADER: The Holy Spirit dwells among us, guiding us down the paths of life.

PEOPLE: Let us offer God our praise.

LEADER: God dwells among us, beckoning us to worship.

PEOPLE: Let us offer God our worship.

†HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

*God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all blessings, you have entrusted with this household of yours, this Church.

This place of holiness. Have we made it a place of prayer?

Have we sat down and listened for you with our souls open and receptive?

Forgive us when we do not bring the whole household to transformation and New Life as Lydia did hers.

Let her faithfulness prevail upon us and guide us in your way.

— *A Time of Silent Confession* —

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

Thanks be to God!

†RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

"Gloria Patri"

GREATOREX

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

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Gospel Reading
John 14:23-29

Second Reading
Acts 16:6-15, 40

SERMON

"Lydia, Outsider No More"
Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

"In Christ Called to Baptize"

ST. DENIO

*In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.*

*In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.*

*In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.*

*Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.*

†PROFESSION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And 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.
The third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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

PEOPLE: 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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”
Diana Ball

ARR. DEFORD

~ 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.*

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator and almighty God, from city to city, you continue to bless our lives. Wherever we find ourselves, the bounty of your peace meets us there.

We bring these gifts to you in order to share our bounty, as you have shared yours with us. May those who need these gifts find your presence, even as they receive what they need. May their paths of faith be lit with your light, as ours have been. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

†HYMN

“We All Are One in Mission”

BEECHER

*We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ’s love.*

*We all are called for service
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.*

*Now let us be united
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.*

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



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Rev. Alex Wirth accessed at liturgicaltype.com

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Judy Harrelson
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Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-1360
email: office@wpcbc.org
website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.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 below.

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! "



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY 14, 2024

The **FLOWERS** today are given by Marilyn Bechtel in memory of Jerry Bechtel and in honor of their daughters, Susan and Pamela.

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.

GAME GATHERING: Plan on staying after worship **TODAY** for another game gathering in Fellowship Hall. Card games, board games and puzzles, plus snacks and fellowship!

PER CAPITA 2024 Per capita for 2024 is \$29.50. Remember that Per Capita goes to fund the greater church including our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, which in turn, provides great support to Westminster. **Look for the blue envelopes in the pew backs or in your box of envelopes.**

BULLETIN BOARDS: Check out the Church bulletin board just outside the sanctuary for upcoming church events and happenings, **plus sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities!** In addition, the Community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall has information on health screenings, grief groups and other events in the area.

THURSDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL SERIES: "Faces of Our Faith" meets **every Thursday via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.** We'll explore some lesser known figures in the Bible and hear their stories and talk about how those lessons might mirror our own stories of faith. All are welcome. Please stop by the church office to receive a Zoom invitation and pick up the devotional booklet.

YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS MOMENT: The book study group and will NOT meet this coming Tuesday, so make plans to join us for our Summer Movie series....

IT'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY! That's right, we're getting into the Christmas spirit early this year and watching the movie, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", **Tuesday, July 16 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Session Room. While it may be too hot for ugly Christmas sweaters feel free to wear red or green as we watch this touching movie that is a hit with all generations. Bring the kids and grandkids! Popcorn, candy and drinks will be provided.

NATE DOAN PARK CLEAN-UP: Join us next Wednesday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m at Nate Dean park, on Dean Street. We'll be cleaning up the front of the park. If you are able, please bring gloves, shovels, rakes, hoes and yard bags. Thank you!

BOOK & BRUNCH: For this summer's Book and Brunch Series, we will continue our theme from last summer of hunger and food insecurity. We will be reading Poverty, by America and books are available in the office. We'll meet again, next **Sunday, July 21st** in the Session Room. There are plenty of books available and don't worry if you weren't able to come to the first session. All are welcome to join in the discussion.

YOUTH GROUP WITH NIKELLE: Youth group members! Join us next **Sunday, July 21st** after worship as we welcome Nikelle back! We'll have some food, play games and catch up with each other.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Preschool VBS registration continues (and we've still got a few more spots for our elementary friends.) We'll be "Exploring God's Big Creation" Monday-Thursday, **August 5-8 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** A morning snack and lunch are included, along with songs, crafts, games and bible stories! Registration forms are available in the church office and on the church website, or see Miss Leah. Volunteers are needed as well. If you are able to help during that week, please reach out to Leah. We're looking forward to another great week together!

VBS DONATIONS: Donation tags are in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for helping ensure VBS is another great success this year!

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to sign up to work our "You Choose" Food Pantry Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings, please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

PICKLEBALL: Come try out the fastest growing sport in the US! A group from Westminster is inviting anyone who is interested to play pickleball at Delta College on Friday evenings, weather permitting, from 5-7 p.m. No experience necessary or equipment needed. This is a great opportunity for fun and fellowship! The courts are located outside on the North end of the campus (the tennis courts). Spectators welcome!

As it turns out, **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES** "The Sequel" has two parts. We saw Part One on July 10th. We will show **Part 2 on Wednesday evening, July 24th.**

Part One ended with Anne being reprimanded by the Head Mistress of the Kingsport Academy where Anne teaches; one of Anne's students started a fire in the classroom. In Part 2 we see Anne grow into an inspiring teacher with her own unique voice, not only in the school, but also in the elite society of Kingsport Academy. And of course there is a little bit of romance and choices to be made.

Come join us on **July 24th at 6 PM** for a light supper and the showing of Part Two, "The Sequel"

You may be interested in seeing the conclusion of the Anne of Green Gables series – "The Continuing Story." Anne is now in her twenties and we see her life unfold in New York, the war (WW1) effort in Europe, and her eventual return to Prince Edward Island. That DVD is available from our local library or can be viewed on Amazon Prime.

BASEBALL FANS! Westminster has a block of tickets for the **Saturday, August 10th** Faith and Family Night at the Great Loons. Join your church family and friends as the Loons take on the Lansing Lugnuts at 7:05 p.m. and stay for Fireworks after the game! Tickets are \$12.50 each. Please call or stop by the office to reserve your seats!

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church-Bay City.

At times lively, with bursts of dancing and joy, and - at times - pin-drop quiet as commissioners and observers listened to the voices at the mics, General Assembly 226 – themed **Live into Hope** – was an ever-faithful time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ask profound questions about the shape and future of Christ’s church.



► **New stated clerk, co-moderators**

The **Rev. CeCe Armstrong** and the **Rev. Tony Larson**, both of South Carolina, were elected co-moderators of the 226th GA, and the **Rev. Jihyun Oh**, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, was elected stated clerk, the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but in an overhaul of standing rules, the **moderatorial election will move to the end** of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates “mission advisory delegates,” creating partner advisory delegates instead.



► **Unifying budget of OGA and PMA**

GA adopted a **\$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026**, resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

► **Sexual orientation, gender identity protections**

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the *Book of Order*, adding gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of the “rich diversity” reflected in the church’s membership (recommendation 1, section F-1.0403) and then recommending an examination of these principles for ordination and installation (recommendation 2, section G-2.0104b) that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...” If POL-01 is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the *Book of Order*.

► **Fossil fuels and climate justice**

After a protracted debate on alternative recommendations for aligning the values of the PC(USA) with its investments in fossil fuels, the GA initially approved overture ENV-02 encouraging categorical divestment in fossil fuels and other efforts to respond to climate change. However, in a historic turnabout, the assembly reversed its decision, disapproving ENV-02 and approving ENV-06, which directs **further engagement with greenhouse gas emitters and the fossil fuel industry**.

► Medical coverage, small church flexibility

GAEC-28 asks mid councils to work with the Board of Pensions to explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans for Pastors and Spouse or Families to **help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present medical coverage options** for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.

GA unanimously agreed to develop educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church.

► Divestment from occupier countries

GA unanimously adopted a commissioner's resolution asking The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions, the two primary investing arms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to "prayerfully consider" ending their investments in government debt from countries "engaged in prolonged military occupation," currently defined by the United Nations as Israel, Morocco and Turkey.

► Prison justice

GA unanimously passed DOE-02, **encouraging ratification of a U.S. Constitutional amendment abolishing the exception clause in the 13th Amendment that allows any person convicted of any crime to be enslaved**, and also passed a commissioner's resolution urging Presbyterians to call upon elected officials to enact legislative or administrative reforms ending prolonged

solitary confinement in jails, prisons, and detention centers.

► Protecting children from gun violence

DOE-03, an overture calling for action so that children can live free from gun violence, passed easily in committee but was removed from the consent agenda so the entire assembly could hear testimony about it. Following heart-wrenching witness, co-moderator Tony Larson spoke and said, "The stories are important, but they are hard. They are important because they have residence in our communities." DOE-03 passed the assembly unanimously.

► Changes to special offerings

The four special offerings currently received by the PC(USA) will be reduced to three, and proceeds will be distributed to causes instead of programs. The changes in FIN-12, which take effect for the 2026 offerings, include eliminating the Pentecost Offering and moving the ministries it has supported to a restructured Christmas Joy Offering.

► The rejection of Christian Zionism

The GA passed on consensus the update and expansion of the resolution confronting Christian Zionism approved in 2004. Through the Office of Theology, Formation and Evangelism, GA calls on the denomination to reject Christian Zionism in all its forms, acknowledge the expansion of Christian Zionism in all its forms, and issue a study document that addresses the expansion of Christian Zionism since the 2004 policy.



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