

THE WESTMINSTER LOG



Music has always played in integral part in how we worship and praise God on Sunday mornings. Our Chancel Choir, Children and Youth Choirs, the individual musical talents shared by those in the congregation, and our Bell Choirs have brought us so much joy during our services.

And because of generous donations from our congregation, our music ministry has always been supported. Last year, we sent our 5-octave set of bells to Schulmerich Bells in Pennsylvania to be refurbished. The original 3-octave set was purchased in the 1970's and in the mid-1990's, 2 more octaves were purchased, making it more than time for some extra TLC. The cost of this refurbishment which included new handles, new inner pieces, polishing and tuning, cost a little over \$12,000, paid from the Major Repairs Fund.

The Bell Choir is incredibly grateful for your generosity and as a thank you we're inviting the congregation and friends to "Bell Sunday" on June 9th during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. The Bell Choir has been working on this special service all year, practicing these pieces in addition to our normal rehearsal schedule.

You'll recognize many of the songs being played like, *Amazing Grace*, *He's Got the Whole World*, *Soon and Very Soon*, and a piece we always love to end the program year with, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The songs played allow the Bell Choir to show off many different bell ringing techniques. Mallets, thumb dampening, and clunking (when the bell is struck on the table) are featured in several songs, along with different rhythms and tempos.

In addition, we'll share some history behind a few of the songs being played and Mrs. Hanson, who has been directing the Bell Choir on and off for over thirty years, will share some of the early history of our Bell Choir and its' origins.

Thank you Westminster for your support of the Bell Choirs at Westminster and our entire music ministry program!

JUNE 2024 ISSUE 186

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Visit us on Facebook:
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Church - Bay City



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June

Office Hours
 Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

website: wpcbc.org

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 Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Happy Birthday

Linda Skrocki	Marilyn Kayner
Shirley Estabrook	Bernice Anderson
Beverly Rector	Darrell Darling
Patricia Quantz	Janet Witucki
	Ann West

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
 Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

10:30 a.m. Worship
 In June, we will begin our Summer Worship Series, :Faces of Our Faith. See page 2 for more details.

11:30 a.m. Fellowship
 Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

Sunday	Monday
2 Communion Sunday <i>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</i> 9:00 a.m. New Members Class 11:30 a.m. Block Party Set-Up 1:00 p.m. Block Party	3 7:00 p.m. Deacon Mtg.
9 Bell Sunday 9:00 a.m. New Members Class 11:45 a.m. Fellowship and Outreach Mtg.	10 5:00 p.m. Property Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Finance Mtg.
16 Happy Father's Day <i>Philemon</i>	17 5:30 p.m. Mission Mtg. @ Labadie Lofts
23 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego 11:45 a.m. Book and Brunch	24
30 Puah and Shiphrah	

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
Titus Youtheatre is continuing to use our building for their rehearsals this month (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) with performances on June 20, 21, 22. As soon as we know times and more information we will pass that along.			1 10:00 a.m. Set-up for Block Party
4 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. StarGazers and SoulSearchers 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting	5 9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Day 7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	7
11 9:00 a.m. Matthew 25 Cafe 10:00 Hearts & Hands Knitting 1:00 p.m. StarGazers and SoulSearchers 1:00 p.m. Lions Club 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth Mtg.	12 1:00 p.m. Summer Movie 5:15 p.m. Worship Meeting	13 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran	8 Youth Cedar Point Trip
18 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 a.m. Staff Mtg. 1:30 p.m. Grateful Book Study 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	19	20 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Faces of Our Faith Devotional Series via Zoom	14
25 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting 10:00 Log Folding 1:30 p.m. Grateful Book Study 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	26	27 8:30 a.m. TOPS 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Faces of Our Faith Devotional Series via Zoom	15
			21
			22
			28
			29

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

TREASURER'S REPORT

In April, the **Operating Fund** had income of \$23,819 and expenses of \$35,260. The Worship Committee had expenses from Lent and Easter and also purchased the materials for our summer worship series, "Faces of our Faith." Mission had expenses to cover food for Westminster's Food of Faith meal in April. Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation had expenses for additional Bible Study books, a few more grief books, and The Upper Room Devotionals, in addition to some other Christian Education supplies. Salaries and most expenses to keep the church running smoothly all come from the Operating Fund. We are grateful for your gifts that allow us to do all that we do, both inside and outside these walls.

The **Building Improvement Fund** received contributions of \$255.08, and did not have any expenses in April. The Fund ended the month at \$14,805.25 Thank you for contributing to the Building Improvement Fund.

The **Major Repairs Fund** had income of \$79.83 in April and did not have any expenses during the month. The balance at the end of April is \$42,095.11 Thank you to those who contribute to the Major Repairs Fund.

Contributions to the **Capital Campaign Fund** totaled \$4,608.30. After our payment in April, the balance on the loan is \$123,416.81 We're grateful for your gifts to the Capital Campaign.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please give me a call or stop by the office.

Heather Heidtman

PARKING AT THE WENONA LOT

Below is an update from the Property Committee.

We have received permission to remove a 3 foot section of fence on the west parking lot on Wenona Street. If you find the main lot full on Sunday mornings, you can park in the back section of that lot and will no longer need to cross over the wooden barrier. If you have any questions please see Randy Thibo or any member of the Property Committee.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

In April, we began a new monthly addition to the Log, listing the names of our children who are celebrating their baptismal anniversary. The Spiritual Growth Committee prays for each child and sends them a card, and we encourage you to pray for them as well!

June Baptismal Anniversaries:

- Eli Schultz
- Natalie Schulz
- Harper Lindahl Milton
- Isaiah Lindahl Milton

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join your church family for a time of fellowship before and after Sunday's worship service.

Coffee and donuts included!



I just wanted to thank everyone for the prayers and cards I received while I was laid up, it was a long time. It will be good to get back and see everyone.

*Thank you,
Pat Horning*



Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for the concern and love you showed to us, and the prayers lifted up during Sam's illness. Special thanks to everyone who helped with the memorial service and luncheon and we're so grateful for the Spaghetti Dinner that you hosted in the fall to help with medical bills.

Without our church family we wouldn't have gotten through this time.

Sincerely,
Matt, John and Joyce Hegenauer

Thank you, Westminster! Everyone was so helpful and supportive of me for my March 20 neck surgery. Your cards and prayers and support obviously were successful. I'd especially like to thank Pastor Jamie, Seth, Rachel, and the Personnel Committee for their teamwork while allowing me to be gone for my surgery and recovery. A special thanks goes to the entire Chancel Choir for their hard work, and Judy Hudson for her beautiful prayer quilt. It was difficult to be absent for Holy Week and Easter Sunday, but the nice work done by the Recording / Livestream crew helped me feel like I was still worshipping with all of you. It is wonderful to be back.

With Love and Music,
Dawn Auger

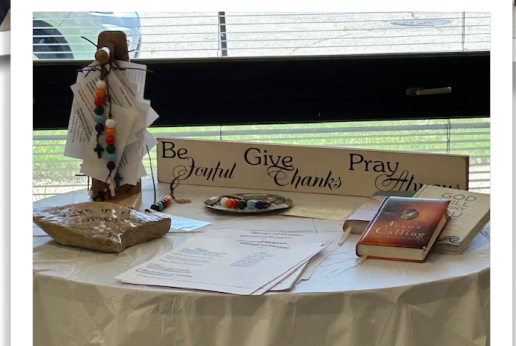


Wings of Prayer Luncheon

You'll notice with the thank you notes above that Pat, Dawn and the Hegenauer family, share their gratitude for prayer. In addition to the prayers we lift up on Sundays and the personal prayers we lift up daily, Westminster has a Wings of Prayer group. This group, fifteen members strong, form a prayer chain, lifting up prayers and concerns whenever they are needed.

On May 5th, Deacon Karen Mitchell, hosted a thank you luncheon for these prayer angels. On behalf of our congregation, thank you Karen, for leading this vital ministry, and to all our Wings of Prayer members. We are so grateful for the support you give to our congregation and beyond!

If there is a time you need prayers for yourself, family or friends, don't hesitate to contact Karen or the church office.





FACES OF OUR FAITH

BOLD & UNTOLD STORIES

Summer Worship Schedule

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. This summer, we'll dig deep into the bold and untold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives, hoping these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace. Some names will be familiar, while others may leave you scratching your head trying to remember if you've heard their story at all. Join us throughout the summer as we hear their stories with fresh ears and open hearts.

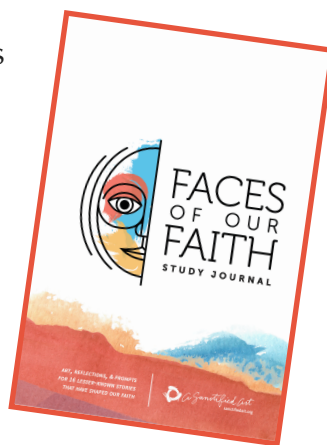
- June 16: Philemon
- June 23: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- June 30: Puah and Shiprah
- July 7: Eutychus
- July 14: Lydia
- July 21: Jonah
- July 28: Queen Vashti
- August 4: Mary Magdalene

Thursday Evening Summer Devotional Series

There are many well-know figures in the Bible; we spent the Lenten season learning more about Peter, Jesus' beloved disciple. During last year's Christmas pageant, we heard the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah. This summer, with "Faces of Our Faith", we have an opportunity to hear and delve into stories of some not-so-well known individuals and their faith journeys.

This will be both the summer worship-sermon series as well as the Thursday evening Zoom Bible study series. **Beginning on Thursday, June 20th at 7 PM via Zoom** we will consider the faith of Philemon and how his life as an early Christian speaks to ours today. Then throughout the next 8 weeks we will look at THE CHARACTERS of • Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego (Daniel 3) • Puah & Shiprah (Exodus 1) • Queen Vashti (Esther 1) • Jonah (Jonah 4) • Mary Magdalene (Mark 16) to name a few. Each week we will be reading about the character's life story, read a short devotional, and then reflect on how these lesser known Bible characters still speak to us today as we navigate this world in *our* journey of faith.

The Study Journal (similar to the devotional booklets we used in our Lenten Peter series) have been developed by Sanctified Arts to enhance this Bible study series and are available in the church office. Please contact Rev. Linda with any questions.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

VBS 2024

AUGUST 5-8

REGISTER NOW!

Come join us, August 5-8 for a fun-filled week! Bay Shore Camp's "On the Road" Day Camp is coming to Westminster for VBS! Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

Grades: Entering K-5th

Thanks to a generous donation from a member of Westminster and the Vernon and Ruth Short Endowment, VBS will be FREE for all participants

Scan the QR code to register or call the church office for more details!

SUMMER CAMP



Summer Coming Attractions!

It's summer, so it must be movie time once again here at Westminster.

We will again be showing at least three movies this summer and are making plans to once again have an evening tea party and view Part 2 and Part 3 of Anne of Green Gables. We will be kicking off the season with a June showing of the movie Come Sunday. We will be gathering on WEDNESDAY (not our usual Tuesdays), June 12th at 1:00.

Come Sunday is based upon the true life story of an evangelist minister, Carlton Pearson, who after many years in ministry came to a different understanding of his core Christian beliefs. This 2018 film shares both his life story from childhood, his days in seminary, and his rise to Bishop in the African American Pentecostal Church. Come join us – **Wednesday, June 12th at 1:00**. As always, popcorn, soda, and candy will be served.



STARGAZERS AND SOULSEARCHERS

Writer and Presbyterian Pastor, Julie Hester shares each week (Email or post) a writing prompt, meant to be jumping-off points for us to write about what matters. She encourages us to use the prompts however we like—to journal, to draft thoughts for our own writing project, as meditation or prayer ideas, or for another creative endeavor. As she always says – “Grab your pen and paper and let your words loose on the page.”

In April and May we took her suggestion and a group of us began meeting for 1½ hours on two Tuesdays. We will be meeting again in June — 4th and 11th — to continue a time of seeing God all around us and seeing God at work in our inner lives. We could do that alone, but there is something meaningful in doing it in community, even if we do not share what we have written.

Phrases from the Beatitudes will be our writing prompts – reflecting on our own impressions of the Beatitudes for today’s world. Even if you did not participate last month or can only participate one time in June, come along anyway. Each session is complete in itself; one does not build upon another.

These informal sessions are convened by Judy Hudson and Pastor Linda. As always, no one will be required share their writing, unless they want to share. Hope to see you on **June 4th and June 11th at 1:00 p.m.** Please call the church office with any questions.

BOOK AND BRUNCH

June 23, July 21,
August 18

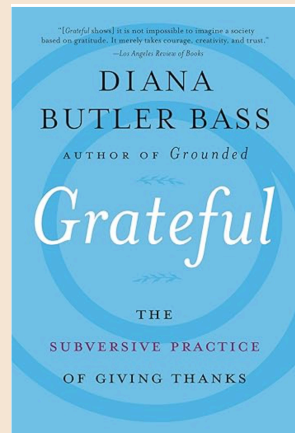


For this summer’s “Book and Brunch” series, we will continue our theme from last summer of hunger and food insecurity. Last summer’s book sparked great conversation and real change in the way that our own church addresses hunger in our community. We’ll continue learning about these important issues this summer.

While a book has not yet been chosen (watch the bulletin and Facebook for details), the dates for this year’s gatherings will be June 23, July 21, and August 18.

GRATEFUL BOOK STUDY

If gratitude is good, why is it at times, so hard to do? In *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks.



With honest stories and heartrending examples from history and her own life, Bass reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world, and even with our own souls. It’s time to embrace a more radical practice of gratitude—the virtue that heals us and helps us thrive.

Our gratitude journey continues in June as we meet on the 18th, discussing Chapters 5 & 6; and on the 25th discussing Chapters 7, 8 & the epilogue. We’ll meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex.



A bright smiling face you may have seen around the church is none other than Isaiah Lindahl Milton. As a child of God, Isaiah spreads joy and the energy of youth to our church family.



Isaiah is very involved in the activities of the church. He participates in the chime choir and sings in the children’s choir. He also can be seen every week in Sunday school learning more about the God who created him.

One other amazing thing about Isaiah is that he is always willing to lend a hand. He is a church acolyte on many Sundays lighting the candles for our service. He even helped the youth pass out meals during a Food of Faith at Messiah. All in all, Isiah is a willing and caring spirit who is yet another example of God’s love within this church family.



2024 End of the School Year Block Party



June 2 @ 1:00 p.m.

Our 2023 End of the School Year Block Party was such a success we’re doing it again! On **Sunday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m.** we’re opening our doors and we’re asking for your help and support. We’ll need help with food, set-up and clean-up and we’ll need you to help welcome our neighbors.

We have a great day planned for families with food and games, a Bounce House and Face Painting, In addition we’ll have 7 community partners joining us to share their resources.

Over the years Westminster has always shown that we are a welcoming and open church. Let’s continue this wonderful tradition and show our community that “you are loved!”

WPC AND ME! (NEW MEMBER INQUIRY)

Have you been participating in the life and worship of Westminster and want to know more about what it means to become a member of the church? You are invited to attend our new member inquiry classes! We will hold two, one-hour classes before worship on Sundays, **June 2 and June 9**, beginning at 9:00 AM. Participants will learn about our PC(USA) denomination and what it means to be an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. There is no obligation to join the church after taking the class, but the classes are required for those who would like to become members. Please let Pastor Jamie or the church office know if you are interested in attending or know of someone who might be.



Each month the Spiritual Growth Committee will share a few thoughts on the journey of grief that we all experience. We hope these brief thoughts will be of help and support to all.

"The song is ended but the melody lingers on."

-Irving Berlin

The summer is often filled with traditions and milestones in life, from family gatherings and vacations to graduations and weddings. For those impacted by loss, these events may bring a sense of absence and a reminder of unfulfilled emotions. The warmth of the sun and the vibrant colors of nature may contrast starkly with the weight of loss. We might feel pressure to use more energy than we have access to right now. We might feel more sensitive or need more support than we are used to needing. Maybe we want to stay busy and keep the mind off of how we are feeling.

Grief may transform the way traditions are celebrated, incorporating new rituals to pay homage to the departed. Warm evenings and golden sunsets can offer opportunities for quiet reflection and cherished memories. They can also bring up deep sadness and loneliness.

A new relationship with favorite summer activities, especially ones once shared with departed loved ones, can become overwhelming.



Engaging can be a way to honor their memory. Engaging in rituals or visiting meaningful places can provide a sense of connection, allowing the bereaved to feel the presence of their loved ones in the beauty of the season. Or it can feel too intense and might not be of service to you this season. There is no correct way to grieve. It also does not mean a commitment to always doing it in this new way. Perhaps it is an invitation to listen deeply and intimately to what feels correct, in this moment, one moment at a time.

By acknowledging the complex feelings that might arise during this season and embracing moments of remembrance, we can find soothing and peace amid the warmth of summer's end.

We can know that, no matter how we are showing up in our grief, we are doing it right and best we can.



Summer Blues: Tips to Support Your Grief Journey

- Acknowledge your feelings: It's essential to recognize and accept your emotions during this time. Grief may intensify during the summer due to the stark contrast between your internal struggles and the external liveliness. Allow yourself to grieve without judgment or guilt.
- Create a summer remembrance ritual: Embrace the season as an opportunity to honor the memory of your loved one. Consider creating a remembrance ritual, such as releasing balloons with messages or visiting a special place, to celebrate their life and cherish the memories you shared during past summers.
- Seek solace in nature: Spend time outdoors and find solace in the beauty of nature. Take peaceful walks on the beach, hike in the mountains, or sit by a tranquil lake. Connecting with the natural world can provide a sense of peace and renewal.



- Modify summer traditions: Recognize that grief might change the way you approach summer traditions. It's okay to modify or skip certain activities if they feel overwhelming. Allow yourself to participate in the ones that bring comfort and joy while being gentle with yourself if you need to take a step back.
- Surround yourself with understanding company: Seek the support of friends and family who understand and respect your grieving process. Surrounding yourself with empathetic individuals who allow you to express your feelings can provide immense comfort.
- Create new summer activities: Consider incorporating new activities into your summer routine. Engage in hobbies that you find comforting or explore new interests. Creating positive experiences during the summer can help balance the weight of grief.
- Practice self-compassion: Be kind to yourself and practice self-compassion during this time. Allow yourself to take breaks when

needed and prioritize self-care. Remember that grief is a process, and healing takes time.

- Join a grief support group: Connecting with others who are experiencing similar feelings can be incredibly validating and reassuring. Consider joining a grief support group, either in-person or online, to share your journey and learn from others.
- Seek professional help if needed: If your grief feels overwhelming and is significantly impacting your daily life, consider seeking help from a mental health professional experienced in grief counseling. They can provide guidance and support tailored to your needs.
- Remember, there is no right or wrong way to grieve, and everyone's journey is unique. Be patient with yourself, and know that healing is a gradual process. With time, support, and self-compassion, you can navigate grief during the summer and find moments of peace and healing.

Mother's Day Baby Shower

Thank you, Westminster Family, for all the baby items brought in for the Mother's Day Baby Shower. Diapers, wipes, outfits in several sizes, and all the beautiful knitted and crocheted items have been distributed to the Diaper Alliance, the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, and the Women's Center. How wonderful to know that babies and mothers in need will receive these items and feel God's love through our efforts. Thank you, again, on behalf of Presbyterian Women here at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

