

# Westminster Presbyterian Church



## Easter Sunday Worship

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

# Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship*

*Easter Sunday*

*everything [in] between*

*“grief & hope”*

April 20, 2025

**8:30 and 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/RACHEL WEBB**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**OPENING OF THE ALLELUIA BOX**

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Those who are comfortable standing are invited to do so as we lift our spirits to the God, joining in our opening words for today!

My dear friends, we have known grief.

We have known loss.

We have known the long road, tired and winding.

We have whispered prayers on bended knees.

We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today —

**today we know hope.**

Today we know life.

**Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

It is Easter.

May hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones,  
that today is a new day.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## †OPENING HYMN

*“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”*

EASTER HYMN

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

**Forgive us, God,  
when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.  
Forgive us, God,  
when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.  
Forgive us, God,  
when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices  
of our neighbors.**

In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

**Show us how to hold onto hope.  
Show us how to run toward you.**

— *Continue in Silent Confession* —

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of Faith, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're  
grieving,  
when we're shouting and when we're silent,  
when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.  
God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days,  
and every day in between.**

**Thanks be to God for this good news!  
Alleluia! Amen.**

## †RESPONSE

*Tune of Hymn No. 22 (Angels From the Realms of Glory)*

*Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;  
heavenly music let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

## †SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Let us share the joy of our resurrection as we greet one another with love using these traditional words spoken by Easter Christians throughout the centuries: Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

**First Gospel Reading  
Luke 23 (selected verses)**

**Second Gospel Reading  
Luke 24:1-12**

## SERMON

*"grief & hope"*  
Rev. Jamie Milton

## †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us join together in our affirmation of faith:  
In the dark before dawn,  
**we believe that God is alive.**  
In the midst of our grief,  
**we believe the Spirit is at work.**  
In the chaos of our broken world,  
**we believe that love is on the loose.**

For no stone could keep God at bay,  
**and no violence could keep God's love from us.**

So today we sing,

***Alleluia!***

For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,  
**hope lives.**

Christ has died,  
**and Christ has also risen.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND LIVES**

### **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

*8:30 A.M. - CONTEMPORARY CHOIR - MERCY TREE (WORDS AND MUSIC BY MICHAEL WILLIAM NEALE AND KRISSEY NORDHOFF; ARRANGED BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN)*

*10:30 A.M. - CHANCEL CHOIR, GUEST ORGANIST CARL ANGELO, TRUMPETER DAVE CROOK AND THE WESTMINSTER BELL CHOIR - AN EASTER FLOURISH (WORDS BY JON PAIGE; MUSIC BY DAVID ANGERMAN AND JON PAIGE)*

*~ Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad" ~*

### **†DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### **†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **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.

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Once you receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice, please take communion before returning to your seat. If you wish to remain seated, someone will bring communion to your seat. If you require gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know.*

### **UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of the mountain, the valley, and every step in between,  
may this meal be a fresh start.**

**May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed, be  
the start of something new.**

**Show us how to carry the love we experience here from the  
walls of this church into the world we encounter in the days  
ahead.**

**Show us how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our  
path and everywhere in between.**

**With deep hope we pray, amen.**

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.*

*In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

**BENEDICTION**

May you find the risen Christ in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God.  
You are not alone.  
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,  
and everywhere in between.



Believe the good news:  
Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*At the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service, congregation members will be invited to come forward and join the choir in singing the Hallelujah Chorus by George Frideric Handel.*

## POSTLUDE

**SETH CUNNINGHAM/RACHEL WEBB**



Liturgical texts taken from:

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC| [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

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MINISTERS

All the People

PASTOR

Rev. Jamie Milton

PARISH ASSOCIATE

Rev. Linda Williams

LITURGIST

Heather Heidtman (8:30 a.m.)

Tom Tolles (10:30 a.m.)

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Leah Sneller

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Elaine Edwards

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Dawn Auger

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

Seth Cunningham

YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR

Judy Harrelson

ORGANIST

Seth Cunningham

PIANIST

Rachel Webb

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Martha Tapley

SECRETARY

Bill Petzold

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Pat Foster

FACILITIES MANAGER

Harold Miller

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL 20, 2025

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.

PW is once again sponsoring our **ANNUAL BABY SHOWER**. We will collect new baby items on **Mother's Day, May 11th**. Items will be distributed to moms and babies in the area who could use a helping hand. Donations of baby diapers, wipes, clothing, bedding, etc., are appreciated.

On May 4th and May 11th, **your PW Board will be distributing a letter** with an update on what we've been doing and what we have planned. Included in the letter will be an opportunity for you to submit your ideas on what the PW priorities should be for 2025.

**LUNCH AND LEARN:** Kristen Freeman from Bay County Library will be our April speaker and share information about the many resources we have available through the county library system. Come join us on **Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** at noon in Fellowship Hall – an opportunity to gather with friends and learn a little bit more about our community. Any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION,** **Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** Our bereavement support group continues to meet monthly in the Lounge here at Westminster. We seek to provide a safe and collaborative space to process our

grief journeys – no matter what the loss, be it spouse, parent, sibling, dear friend. For more information, call Rev. Linda or the church office.

The **CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed tomorrow, Monday, April 21st. It will be open for normal hours beginning Tuesday and the rest of the week.

The **BOOK STUDY group** will continue to meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the lounge. We are currently reading and discussing "Grace (Eventually)" by author Anne Lamott.

The **Spiritual Growth & Faith Formation Committee** is offering an opportunity to "**De-Stress with Mark Making.**" This is part of our FYI Happening series. Pam Binder will lead the two classes. She has been using this meditative practice for several years as a way of opening herself to the moment in a way that gives God and our soul their voices. Stayed tuned over the next two weeks to hear more about this. Join us in May to learn how these marks and a bit of color can help reduce stress and be in the present moment.

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360

email: [office@wpcbc.org](mailto:office@wpcbc.org)

website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL 20, 2025

**HOSPITAL STAYS:** Please remember to contact the church office if you are in the hospital. Pastor Jamie and Rev. Linda are available for visits or a phone call; prayers and comforting words during this time.

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

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** classes are offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** in the Session Room or **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. The same study materials will be used at both gatherings. Please visit our Adult Bible Study page on our website at [www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org) or see Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions.

**YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Our Youth Group meets from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday nights. This time includes a meal together. If you are able to prepare and serve a meal (foods that young people like, such as Mac and cheese, chicken tenders, make-your-own sandwiches, etc.) or donate money towards dinner, please scan the QR code to sign up. Or call the church office.



The **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY** has been serving guests for **10 months**. With the help of many volunteers — who have spent hours stocking and restocking — **we have helped 1,478 families and distributed 48,740 pounds of food!** Thank you to our Westminster family and friends for helping accomplish this.

The **PANTRY'S ITEM OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL** is cookies.

**Scan the QR code** to visit the Westminster Community Pantry Facebook page.



**PER CAPITA FOR 2025** is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

If you have a name you would like added to **WINGS OF PRAYERS**, contact Patti Wesenick, 989-737-6844.

**TV AND SOUNDBOARD:** We're looking for individuals who can run the soundboard and help in the TV room on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office.

### 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](http://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!



# 2025 Easter Flower Dedications



**Paul and Shari Mehlhose:** A hydrangea in memory of Karen Smith, and a daffodil in memory of David Mehlhose.

**Ric and Karen Russell:** a tulip in memory of loved family in heaven.

**Sharon Hignite:** two daffodils in honor of my Bacigalupo children.

**Len and Sheryl Petroff:** a mum in memory of Ken and Maryann Walker and Len and MaryRose Petroff.

**The Kusterer family:** three gerbera daisies, one in memory of Sue Gustafson, one in memory of Sandy Thibo and one in celebration of Luetta Kusterer.

**Martha Tapley:** a daffodil in memory of Linwood, Helen, Jim and John Tapley and Rev. Elliott, Dorothy, David and Carol Bodwell.

The names of those who contributed Easter flowers, their dedications, and type are listed below.

For those who ordered flowers, you may take them after the service.  
Thank you!

**Justin, Heather, Collin and Dylan Heidtman:** a mum in memory of Herman and Louise Heidtman and Pati LaLonde.

**Sharon and Tim Rutzen:** a tulip and a daffodil in memory of Jane and Alfred Rutzen and Brian and Durward Lapham.

**Dale Sneller II, Karen Kayner, and Tom and Marilyn Kayner families:** two tulips in memory of Allen and Judy Kayner, Alfred and Dorothy Kayner, Gordon and Beverly Parks, Gordon Parks, Jr., Ray and Pearl Miller, Roy and Anna Sneller and Dale Sneller I.

**Marilyn Bechtel and family:** two tulips in memory of Jerry Bechtel.

**Larry and Deb Pryce:** two hydrangeas in memory of Jason Bleshenski.

**Jeff and Alicen Rogers:** three daffodils, one in memory of Rev. Marshall and Flora Rogers; one in memory of Don and Anne Morse and one in celebration of my sister, Bev Buchanan.

**Rick and Ceil Buchanan:** a gerbera daisy in memory of Don and June Buchanan and Bruce and Peg Rice.

**Carey and Mary Rose Davis:** a daffodil in memory of Norman, Rosemary and Tim Jay; and Jim and Kim Davis.

**Carey and Mary Rose Davis:** a tulip in honor of Helen Davis Jereau.

**Bonnie Marsh:** two daffodils and a gerbera daisy in honor of the staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**Jack and Janet Smylie:** a daffodil in memory of Jack's father, Ralph Smylie, who died on Easter in 1979.

**Jim Rowley:** a tulip in memory of Elizabeth Rowley.

**Mary Nicholson:** two gerbera daisies in memory of my daughter Cheryl and my parents and brothers.

**Sally Calvo:** a daffodil in honor of Royce and Bruce Irvine.

**Christine Thurman:** two gerbera daisies in memory of Dean and Helen Schroer and Ernest and Nadine Casper.

**Shelia Little:** an azalea in memory of my family in heaven.

**Karen Mitchell:** an azalea in memory of Ralph and Helen Davidson.

**Joy and Art Sponseller:** two daffodils in memory of Mary Kay Prudden and Lorraine Sponseller.

**John and Marilyn Len:** two gerbera daisies in memory of Kathryn and Henry Len, Hilda and Gerald Paul, and Keith Paul.

**Jason Hildebrant:** a hydrangea in memory of Lorna Thrush.

**Fred and Mary Ann Meyer:** a hydrangea in memory of Gladys and Ollie Allen, and Audrey and Father Fred Meyer.



