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**Watch our sermons on our website!**

**Facebook icon**

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# THE WESTMINSTER LOG

We are now four months into our renovation project here at Westminster, and have reached a very important milestone - we're halfway there! This past week, we moved everything that wasn't nailed down (and some things that were) to the "new" part of the church, to upstairs, and even to across the street in order to prepare for "Phase Two" of the project updating, repairing, and making Westminster more welcoming as we move into our "Next 150 Years!"



At present, we have held Sunday worship in the Fellowship Hall with great success as our sanctuary, completely emptied of its pews, undergoes asbestos abatement. We have been fortunate to have had so many capable volunteers from the congregation aid in the moving process, and the project is once again in the very capable hands of the professionals. It has been a joy to see them work, and to witness the great pride they have in a job well done as well as the respect they have for us, for our facility, and the work of Westminster in the community. Such a large project is certainly complicated work, but they are not in "over their heads" (despite occasional appearances to the contrary, like when inspecting steel and concrete supports in the narthex ceiling, at right).

In the meantime, the work of ministry continues. We are so profoundly grateful for the support we have received thus far, whether through gifts, prayers, or time lending a hand. Especially when the world around us can be so frustrating and unsure, it is a remarkable thing to have such a loving and diverse group of people come together around a shared love of Jesus Christ, and a desire to have a lasting impact on the people of our community through the work we are called to share. May God bless us with a willingness to love one another, to walk with one another toward new hopes and new dreams, to carry one another's burdens, and to dive "headfirst" into our mission: to live as an exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world!

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<div> <div>FEBRUARY</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            11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation            11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time         </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>7</div> <div>           9:30 a.m. My Tempo            10:00 a.m. Hearts &amp; Hands            6:00 p.m. Personnel            7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop         </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>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 &amp; Fellowship            7:00 p.m. Stewardship         </div>	<div>14</div> <div>           9:30 a.m. My Tempo            10:00 a.m. Hearts &amp; Hands            1:00 p.m. Lions Sight &amp; Hearing            6:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth            7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop         </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            11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time         </div>	<div>20</div> <div>           9:30 a.m. My Tempo            2:25 p.m. My Tempo         </div>	<div>21</div> <div>           9:30 a.m. My Tempo            10:00 a.m. Hearts &amp; Hands            7:00 p.m. Session Meeting            7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop         </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>27</div> <div>           9:30 a.m. My Tempo            2:45 p.m. My Tempo            6:30 p.m. Small Group         </div>	<div>28</div> <div>           9:30 a.m. My Tempo            10:00 a.m. Hearts &amp; 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>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div>           6:00 p.m. Wednesdays@ Westminster            6:00 p.m. Property Meeting            7:00 p.m. Choir Practice            7:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships         </div>	<div>2</div> <div>           8:30 a.m. TOPS            5:30 p.m. PW Board Meeting         </div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>
<div>8</div> <div>           10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting            5:45 p.m. Bay City Firework Comm.            6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster            7:00 p.m. Choir Practice            8:00 p.m. Worship         </div>	<div>9</div> <div>           8:30 a.m. TOPS         </div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>
<div>15</div> <div>           6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster            7:00 p.m. Choir Practice         </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>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>           8:00 a.m. Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan         </div>
<div>22</div> <div>           6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster            7:00 p.m. Choir Practice         </div>	<div>23</div> <div>           8:30 a.m. TOPS            6:30 p.m. Hannah Circle         </div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>
	<div> <div>Happy Birthday to...</div> <div> <div>           Gloria Bublitz            Florie Wright            Richard Case            Richard Hebner            Richard Talbot         </div> <div>           Gerald Wachowiak            Joyce Wachowiak            Ann Morse            William Auger            Margaret Belknap         </div> <div>           Robert Hanson            Ruth Hankinson            John Young            Mary Lou Higgins            Donna Horn         </div> </div> </div>		

\*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

# WINTER 2017 COMMUNION SERVERS



## February

Randy Thibo  
Sandy Thibo  
Pat Horning  
Betty Lunger  
Ruth Toth  
Tom Majcarzak  
Dawn Reszke  
Jan Witucki  
Lois MacPhail  
Jeff Rogers

## 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

## Two Coins A Meal

In 1989 the Presbytery of Lake Huron established this partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Costa Rica. We are asked to set aside two coins as a mealtime offering. This money is collected in a fish bowl placed in the Wenona Street Lobby the second Sunday of each month.

Fifty-five percent of the offering is used to support hunger programs with children and the elderly in Costa Rica. Twenty percent is designated to the Presbyterian Hunger Program to respond to the crisis of hunger in the United States and around the world. The remaining 25% is designated to meet hunger needs in our local community.

We have noticed that the amount collected each month for Two Coins A Meal has decreased. Many people in our congregation have commented they are not sure what the program entails. We would like to take this opportunity to bring this ministry to everyone's attention, and invite you to either become active in this program again, or to consider becoming a new donor.



Thank you



I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits during my recent knee surgery.

*Penny Reagh*

### Dear Members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your support of the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region with your gift of \$500. It's truly appreciated. All of our program areas are working hard to advocate, intervene, and prevent child abuse and neglect and your thoughtfulness will assist us in our mission.

We have special plans for 2017. Just a few of our goals include increasing parent support programming to teach and coach parents of children between the ages of 0-18, training critically-needed CASA volunteers that will speak for children in the court system when they need a voice, and expanding our CAC services through our partnership with the CMU Medical Program at Covenant HealthCare.

Thank you all so much for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Greenberg  
President/CEO



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

In the past, Westminster has held "The SOUPer Bowl of Caring" meal, benefitting our food pantry, the same day as the annual meeting. Because of construction, we will not have the space we usually do. So, the Family and Fellowship Ministry Group have asked that we celebrate the "SOUPer Bowl of Caring" in another way.

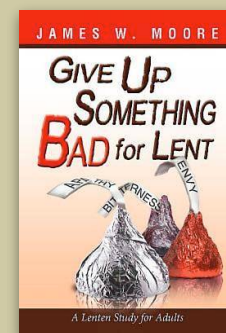
Instead, you are invited to bring with you to worship on February 5th cans of food or non-perishable food items (not necessarily soup, but that would be great) to contribute to the Food Pantry, as we celebrate the same spirit of caring and love as in years past, sharing our blessings on Super Bowl Sunday with those who might have need. THANK YOU!

NOTE: The Crisis Committee asks that if you donate soup, please consider donating the "chunky" variety. This soup is heartier and can be used more as a meal than the condensed variety.



### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us during the Lenten Season,  
beginning Sunday, March 5  
at 9:15 a.m., as we study  
**"Give Up Something Bad for Lent"**

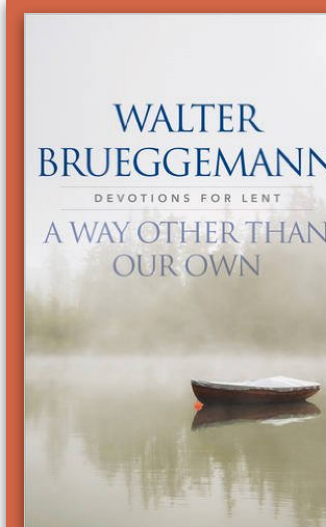


"During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore challenges readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually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

**Annual  
HOCKEY  
for the  
HOMELESS  
Broomball Hockey  
CHALLENGE**



**Saturday March 4, 2017**

Registration fee  
is just \$250  
**Register your  
team today!**

- Limited to 8 teams!
- Tournament runs prior to the Hockey for the Homeless game.
- Play-off Game is during first intermission.
- Each team will receive 10 tickets to the Spirit game.



For more information and to register your team contact Kimberly at  
**989.752.6051 ext. 123** or [kancel@r3monline.org](mailto:kancel@r3monline.org)  
BENEFITTING RESCUE MINISTRIES OF MID-MICHIGAN

### *Valentine's Day Care Packages for College Students*

The Family and Fellowship Committee would like to mail Valentine's Day care packages to college students.



Members, if there is a college student in your family and you would like to surprise him or her with a special treat, please contact Neil Harrelson at 989-971-7748 or [neildollar@gmail.com](mailto:neildollar@gmail.com)

"In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'"

—From "A Brief Statement of Faith"

## Emmaus HOUSE

### BENEFIT CONCERT



A benefit concert, "Our Choirs Love Emmaus House" will be presented on Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Court and Harrison Streets in Saginaw.

The Emmaus House assists women coming from prison, jail, and rehabilitation to reside in a family-like Christian environment as they develop the necessary skills to live independently. To date, over 1,200 women have lived and received services at Emmaus House.

Six area choirs will perform, including special selections from the Ladies of Emmaus House. We anticipate a joy-filled musical celebration of love and faith.

A free will offering with a suggested donation of \$20.00 will be taken. Refreshments and afterglow will follow the performance.

We hope you will join us for this inspirational event!

*"The two were going to a village named Emmaus...  
and Jesus drew near and walked with them."*  
Luke 24, 13-15

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

##### Building Improvement Fund

November Balance:

\$29,316.33

December Income:

\$2,798.12

December Expense:

\$0.00

December Balance:

##### Operating Fund

December Income:

\$34,452.51

December Expense:

\$47,189.71

##### Major Repairs Fund

Donate online at  
[www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org)

Elena hails from the Philippines and has lived in the United States for 15 years. She obtained her education at Delta College and currently works as a caregiver. Elena is excited about being a member at Westminster, and looks forward to learning more about Jesus Christ.



Elena Pake

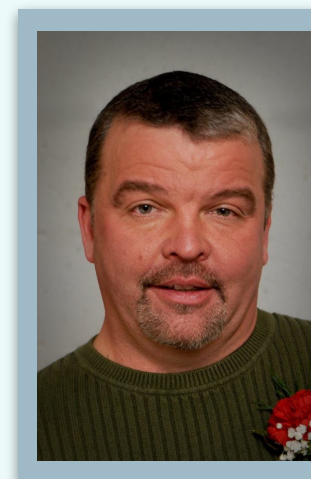


Ezekiel Crotzer

Ezekiel is new to the Bay City area and is looking for fellowship. He is a home gardener and the author of two published books. He enjoys lifting weights, cooking, and is an avid reader of fiction and non-fiction books.



David Fenske



Kevin Robinson

Both Kevin and David grew up being active in church. Kevin enjoys the sense of community that church offers. David appreciates the fellowship and support of organized religion. Both love to be close to home spending time with the four children they have between them.

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## Welcome New Members

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017



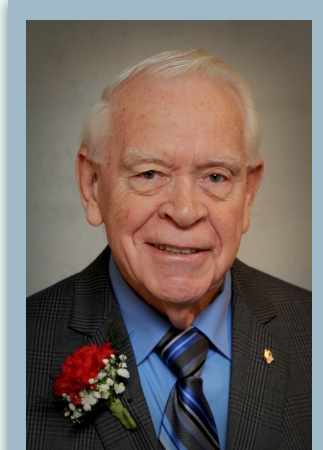
Bonnie Marsh

Bonnie looks forward to being an active church member, although during the summer months, she enjoys spending time away at her weekend home up north. In her free time, Bonnie enjoys cooking, puzzles, kayaking, fishing, wildlife, botany, and sewing.



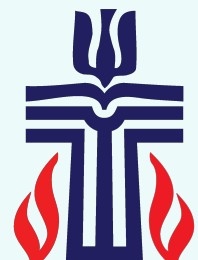
Richard Milster

Rich is a life-long resident of Bay City and a life-long Presbyterian. He is active in many community organizations and is an MSU fan. In his spare time he enjoys spending time up north.



Glenn Hignite

Glenn is a life-long resident of the Midland area. He is a retiree of Dow Corning, and recently married Westminster member, Sharon (Thomas) Hignite.



*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, God's own people,  
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts  
of the One who called you out of darkness  
into God's marvelous light.*

1 Peter 2:9



## Get to Know the Presbyterian Church

*Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.*

God comes to us in free and undeserved favor in the person of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and rose for us that we might belong to God and serve Christ in the world. Following Jesus, Presbyterians are engaged in the world and in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time.

Presbyterians affirm that God comes to us with grace and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for us so that we might have eternal and abundant life in him. As Christ's disciples, called to ministry in his name, we seek to continue his mission of teaching the truth, feeding the hungry, healing the broken, and welcoming strangers. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, giving us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Christ's faithful disciples in the world. (taken from [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org))



The name Presbyterian comes from the Greek term in the new testament for elder, presbuteros, a term used 72 times in the New Testament. The Presbyterian movement grew out of a time of among Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries on the appropriate form of church government. Some thought the church should be governed by bishops

(Greek: episkopos) and were the Episcopalian party, some by elders and were the Presbyterian party, and some directly by the congregation, the Congregationalist party.

Presbyterian church government emphasizes that the leadership of the church is shared between those called to be ministers and church members called to be elders within the congregation—we use the terms Teaching Elder to refer to ministers and Ruling Elder

to refer to church members called to be elders. This strong emphasis on Presbyterian church government is our heritage from Scottish Presbyterians.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is Reformed in its theology and Presbyterian in its church government.

In North America the first presbytery was organized in 1706, the first synod in 1717; the first General Assembly was held in 1789. Today's Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was created by the 1983 reunion of the two main branches of Presbyterians in America separated since the Civil War — the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The latter had been created by the union of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1958.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is distinctly a confessional and a connectional church, distinguished by the representation of elders in its government. The church has a membership of 1.7 million in all 50 states and Puerto Rico with nearly 10 thousand congregations and worshipping communities. (taken from [presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/what-makes-us-unique/](http://presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/what-makes-us-unique/))



March 1 marks the beginning of Lent, with Ash Wednesday. For Christians, Lent is a 40-day season of fasting, reflection and penance culminating in Holy Week and the Easter Sunday commemoration of Jesus' Resurrection.

### Ash Wednesday

#### Worship Service

March 1, 2017

7:00 p.m.



## REAL LIFE “HIDDEN FIGURES” MATHEMATICIAN IS LONGTIME PRESBYTERIAN

January 9, 2017 by Gregg Grekke, Presbyterian News Service

**Katherine G. Johnson computed trajectory of first orbital flights.**

LOUISVILLE – “Hidden Figures”—the movie about a group of brilliant female African-American mathematicians that aided NASA during the space race—took the second spot at the box office in its first weekend of wide release, narrowly bested by “Star Wars: Rogue One.” The movie features the story of Katherine G. Johnson, a longtime Presbyterian and 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee.

Based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly, the film tells the true story of Johnson and her colleagues, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan, who worked as “human computers” with the burgeoning space program of the late 1950s and early 1960s. They were charged with collecting flight data and verifying that NASA’s newly introduced electronic computers had correctly calculated the details of space missions.

A member of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia, for more than 50 years, Johnson served the church in several leadership roles including, not surprisingly given her gift with numbers, its finance chair.

The Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, former pastor at Carver Memorial and now Union Presbyterian Seminary’s president and professor of New Testament, called Johnson “a true space heroine, but one of the people you rarely hear about.” Blount spoke of Johnson’s humility, saying he had been the pastor at Carver Memorial for three years before he ever heard about her early work at NASA.



“She’s been a wonderful Presbyterian, [and she] served in all kinds of capacities at the church when I was there,” added Blount.

A NASA mathematician and aerospace technologist from 1953–1986, Johnson’s computations have influenced every major space program from the Mercury launches through the space shuttle program. Johnson was initially hired as a research mathematician at the Langley Research Center with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the agency that preceded NASA, after they opened hiring to African Americans and women.

Johnson exhibited exceptional technical leadership and is known especially for her calculations of the 1961 trajectory for Alan Shepard’s flight as the first American in space and for her 1962 verification of the first flight calculation made by an electronic computer, in this case for fellow Presbyterian John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth.

She is also famed for her trajectory calculations of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission, the first human voyage to the moon and on-the-fly computations that enabled the Apollo 13 astronauts to return safely home from space. In her later NASA career, Johnson worked on the Space Shuttle program and the Earth Resources Satellite and encouraged students to pursue careers in the science and technology fields.

In addition to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Johnson co-authored more than 20 important scientific papers for NASA. On May 5, 2016, the 55th anniversary of Alan Shepard’s historic rocket launch and splash down, the new Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research



Katherine Johnson sits at her desk with a globe, or ‘Celestial Training Device.’ (Photo courtesy NASA)

Facility was formally dedicated at the NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

## MICHAEL AND RACHEL LUDWIG

**SERVING AT THE INVITATION OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER SINCE 2014.**



Our December has been full of planning and preparation as we continue to have Community Health Evangelism (CHE), rickshaws, and teaching in our sights. But we also had a great visit with Michael’s parents and a very interesting Christmas celebration in our neighborhood. We want to thank you for all the support you’ve been in many different ways this year and we wish you a merry end of the Christmas season and many blessings in a happy New Year!

Our Christmas celebration was special on a number of levels. We celebrated with family and with some fellow missionaries in our city, but we also tried to do things a little the Nigerian way and

slaughter a ram at our house so that we could give out meat to our neighbors. The celebration at our church was exuberant as you might expect. We also handed out some treats for the neighborhood kids (candy canes and glow sticks) and had a chance to share a little about the meaning of Christmas with many people.

Michael’s parents had a good visit with us here over Christmas. They were impressed with all the development that happened in the town over the two years we’ve been here. They were also very complimentary about how much better we’re able to get around and communicate than last time! Since they were here two years ago we didn’t take them many places besides our normal routines of the market, work, and church. But while picking them up in the capital we did get to go on a boating expedition to see hippopotamuses. It was a treat to be on the river and we were pleased that we really did get a good view of these gigantic creatures.