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Watch our sermons
on our website!

Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch noon - 1 p.m.)

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- Parish Associate
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THE WESTMINSTER LOG

I suppose that it happens every year, but I have found myself hesitating just a bit when it comes to writing the date lately. There’s something just a little strange about writing “2017” as the year and I’m not sure that I can put my finger on it. Perhaps it’s just coming to grips with the reality that 2017 will mark my 20th High School Reunion. It hardly seems possible to have left home so long ago, and Lord knows I’m much different than when I set out 20 years ago! And, I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Just a little less than 20 years ago, I took a class in ancient philosophy. I can’t recall much, but one thing I do remember is a little saying from Heraclitus: “You cannot step in the same river twice.” Heraclitus was a Greek philosopher working about 100 years before Plato in 500 BC, and Plato quotes him in a number of places, talking about how life is filled with change. You can’t step into the same river twice because by the time you “step in” again, new water has come and gone, new sediment and fish are flowing past. To really emphasize the point, not only have the waters changed, but we have as well. Even the experience of that single previous step has given us perspective we did not have before. Our lives and our experiences constantly make us new, change our points of view, and direct us to new ways of being in the world. Like watching a movie for the second time - it’s an entirely different experience - not necessarily better or worse, just different.

The story of the magi, the “Three Wise Men” from Matthew’s gospel, ends with them setting off again to their home. They have seen the Lord, they have been warned of Herod’s danger, and so they go home “by another road.” James Taylor wrote a song about the wise men called, “Home By Another Way,” which opens: “Those magic men the Magi / Some people call them wise / Or Oriental, or even kings / Well anyway, those guys / They visited with Jesus / They sure enjoyed their stay / Then warned in a dream of King Herod’s scheme / They went home by another way. Yes, they went home by another way / Home by another way // Maybe me and you can be wise guys too / And go home by another way.”

As Christians, when we experience the presence of Christ, when we feel the love of God move into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, when we - like the wise men - meet Jesus, our lives are forever changed. When we worship, we learn, we grow, and in large and small ways, we do not go home the same. We are “wise guys too” and go home by another way. And that’s okay, because change is part of life. It certainly is part of our life as a congregation. From a practical perspective, this month will see us move into the second phase of our renovation, where we will experience some welcome changes, and some changes still asking for our continued flexibility and patience. But growth is change, wisdom is change, life is change! Instead of trying to retrace our steps and make everything how it used to be, to step back into the same river we knew before, we can embrace that we can go “home another way” and be okay.

In 2017, we embark to uncharted waters. Like always. We go home by another road. Like usual. But, we do it with one another, and with the Lord. We wouldn’t have it any other way.

Pastor Matt



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	2 Church Office Closed	3 6:00 p.m. Personnel 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150
8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Breakfast & Bible Study 9:15 a.m. New Members Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:45 a.m. "Un-Hanging" of the Greens	9 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. Deacon Meeting 7:00 p.m. Family & Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Stewardship	10 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 1:00 p.m. Lions Sight & Hearing 6:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop
15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. New Members Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	16 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:45 p.m. My Tempo	17 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. New Members Class/Received 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	23 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:25 p.m. My Tempo 6:30 p.m. Small Group	24 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 12:00 p.m. Aging & Spirituality 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150
29 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	30 9:30 a.m. My Tempo 2:45 p.m. My Tempo	31 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 1:00 p.m. Log Crew 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 1:00 p.m. Log Crew 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays@ Westminster 6:00 p.m. Property Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships	5 8:30 a.m. TOPS 7:00 p.m. PW Board Meeting	6	7
11 5:45 p.m. Bay City Fireworks 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 p.m. Worship Committee	12 8:30 a.m. TOPS	13	14
18 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	19 8:30 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Esther Circle 1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle	20	21
25 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Westminster 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	26 8:30 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Hannah Circle	27	28
JANUARY		Happy Birthday to... Marlene Mehlhose Bonnie Darling Thomas Lange Russel Marvin Arlene Oettmeier Marian Larive Mary Kay Prudden Barbara Timm John Butts	

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

WINTER 2017 COMMUNION SERVERS



January

Phil Reagh
Penny Reagh
John Tapley
Martha Tapley
Heather Heidtman
Ann West
Diana Hennrick
Judy Randall
Joy Thompson
Pati LaLonde

February

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

Dear Westminster Family,

Our family is very thankful for the blessing our church family has been to Mom and Dad over this past year.

The Pastors, Deacons, and every member have been so kind and so thoughtful. Words cannot express what it has meant to us!

Karen Schoeppach



Thank You



In Memory...



Prayers of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Lloyd Schoeppach. Lloyd passed away on Friday, December 9, 2016.

A Memorial Service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 17 with Rev. Matthew Schramm officiating.

Stephen Ministers are here to help

Westminster has a total of seven Stephen Ministers. If you know of someone in our congregation who is going through a rough time and could use a listening ear, support, or someone to pray with them, please call Pastor Matt or Pastor Linda (989-686-1360) or Jan Witucki (989-686-1557).

Wings of Prayer

If you would like to include someone on our prayer chain, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.

Members of Westminster,

To say "Thank You" for the outpouring of love and sympathy, through cards, phone call, and personal touch, would not come close to how you have touched me. My church "family" is amazing, and I am proud to be a member.

Lee Pratt

Thank You



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!



Spirituality of Aging

After a couple of interruptions, Spirituality of Aging will resume on **Tuesday, January 24 at noon.** (Remember your sack lunch and beverage.) We will focus on "The Gift of Years," reflecting on how "God has made everything beautiful in its time." (Ecclesiastes 3:11) And asking the question: **If life is sacred, how does one sanctify time, making it creative rather than stale?**

Please join us for a lively discussion. Any questions, please call or see Pastor Linda.

If you are interested in exploring your faith and what membership at Westminster Presbyterian Church means, please consider attending New Members Classes beginning Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 9:15 a.m.

Please call the church office at 686-1360 for more information.



Bible and Breakfast Series will kick off once again on January 8. We will explore a variety of topics, including those suggested by discussions that bubbled up in our previous series. This will include exploring the meaning and implication of "predestination," what is meant when folks talk about the "rapture," and also some beliefs we think we have held for some time, but we're not quite sure about what they mean — statements like, "God helps those who help themselves," or, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it," as well as other statements and cliches that sound true, but yet we wonder..."Do I really believe that; should I believe that?"

Come join us on Sunday, January 8 at 9:15 a.m. in Room 105 for a continental breakfast and what should be the start of several weeks of lively discussion. Each week will be self-contained, so you need not plan on attending all eight weeks. Also, one topic may suggest another topic of interest, and we will try to accommodate that as well.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Linda.





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



Wednesday @ Westminster

An evening of music, fellowship, and workshops for children of all ages

Handbells - Grades 5 and up
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Children's Choir - Grades 3 and up
6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time - Grades 3 and up
(For those not participating in handbells or choir)
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Workshop - For all ages
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE
HOCKEY
for the
HOMELESS

SATURDAY
MARCH 4, 2017
Tickets \$13!

Join us March 4, 2017 for praise concert, children's activities, broomball hockey and exciting Saginaw Spirit hockey game. Group ticket rate is available.



For more information, contact
Kimberly at kancel@r3monline.org
or 989.752.6051 x 123

December 5, 2016

Dear Friends of Girl Scouts,

On behalf of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, I would like to thank you for your gift of program space for Amuse Journey.

Without the help of dedicated volunteers and donors like you, we would be unable to provide innovative programming that gives girls courage to discover new things about themselves; the confidence to connect to others, and the character necessary to take action to make the world a better place.

Thank you again for your generosity. You have truly made a difference.

Sincerely,

Lyah VanSickle
Regional Development
Specialist



*"For the Lord hears the needy
and does not despise his own
people who are prisoners."*
--Psalm 69:33

"Thank you for the Bibles! We greatly appreciate them."

Westminster recently purchased Bibles for use in the women's chaplaincy program at the Bay County jail.

Emmaus HOUSE

December 13, 2016

Dear Parishioners;

Thank you so much for your donation of \$300 to Emmaus House. Your gift will be used to continue our mission to help women who have come to us from jail, prison and drug/alcohol rehab. We also appreciate your bi-annual donations from your rummage sales.

We are blessed by your faithful and generous support. We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and New Year.

Blessings,

Annette Ripper
Executive Director



December 16, 2016

Dear Friends!

On behalf of the countless survivors who come to Bay Area Women's Center for assistance, we would like to thank you for your most generous donation of \$300.00. Your contribution is being matched, dollar for dollar, by the Wirt-Lee Family Foundation.

Thank you again for not only making a BIG difference, but making double the difference for women, men and children in our community who are victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Truly,
Jeremy J. Rick
Executive Director

Lynn Weaver
Director of Development



2360 Midland Road
Bay City, MI 48706
989-922-5433
www.beaconofhopepcc.org

Dear Friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Sometimes, "Thank you" just isn't enough. It's all we have sometimes, but still, it is not always enough — at least from the receiver's perspective.

You need to know, women you will never know are grateful because you chose to give. They have a new perspective on life, and on the preciousness of every human life. They see their children now as a gift instead of as a burden. All many of them will ever know is that "those people there helped me."

So, though it hardly seems enough, "Thank you." Your investment in this work is truly a life-changer, for those we see — and for those who serve. We appreciate you, more than you know.

Amy Srebinski
Executive Director

warmer. safer. drier

December 15, 2016

Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church Family:

As we head into the season of Christmas, I'm thinking over the last months here at ASP and I'm so thankful. Thankful for the countless volunteer hours that have been served and the volunteers who served them. Thankful for the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing to rebuild Rainelle, West Virginia after the floods ravaged that community over the summer. Thankful for our partners in ministry here at ASP, who step up when times are difficult and support this work so generously and faithfully. That's right, I'm thankful for YOU!

As winter quickly descends on the mountains, our work continues for families in need of home repair and in some cases a new home. Thank you for helping us make even more homes warmer, safer and drier before the end of this year.

Your generosity makes this ministry possible. Every day, we hear from the families we serve and they all say something like the Hensleys from Breathitt County, Kentucky...

"My home was falling apart. I appreciated everything that was done to my home — and I needed the help! Hopefully when winter comes, we won't freeze to death. I would say don't ever stop this program for it just doesn't fix your home, but makes you new friends and that means a lot."

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00, as we close out 2016 and look ahead to 2017. Your partnership today and in the future is critical for ASP to accomplish all the good works we believe God is calling us to. THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas,

Dr. Walter B. Crouch
President/CEO



Per Capita

To share in the costs of being a connectional church and coming together to do the work of the church, each congregation makes a fixed contribution for every active member to local, regional, and national church bodies.

Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers.

It is how Presbyterians discern God's call in their lives.

It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly committees and commissions.

It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation" (*Book of Order, G-4.0101*).

The Westminster Confession says, "all believers, are therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth" (6.058).

Per capita is a fundamental way in which all the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church.

2016 Per Capita Apportionment Total: \$26.17 Per Member

General Assembly: \$7.29
Synod of the Covenant: \$3.25
Presbytery: \$15.63

If you would like to contribute your per capital costs, there is a specific envelope in your offering envelope packet. Or, you can write "per capita" on your check's memo line and include it with your regular contributions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Building Improvement Fund

October Balance:
\$28,847.33
November Income:
\$469.00
November Expense:
\$0.00
November Balance:
\$29,316.33

Operating Fund

November Income:
\$27,953.48
November Expense:
\$30,759.80

Major Repairs Fund

\$14,986.93

Donate online at
www.wpcbc.org



Westminster College
319 S. Market Street
New Wilmington, PA 16172
www.westminster.edu/yps

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARSHIP

The young Presbyterian Scholarship was established in 2002 to encourage and provide an opportunity for outstanding PC(USA) students to apply to Westminster College, one of the nation's best liberal arts colleges. The scholarship of \$76,000 for four years (\$19,000 per year) is for qualified high school seniors entering college Fall 2017.

Every PC(USA) congregation may nominate two students every year. If you are eligible and interested in attending Westminster College, please contact the church office for additional information. Pastor/Church nomination is due February 1, 2017. Student application is due February 15, 2017.

YPS Scholarship Qualifications

3.5 (cumulative) high school GPA

PC(USA) membership

Nomination by Pastor/
Congregation



Christmas Concert



Christmas Eve



Children's Christmas Program

December 18, 2016

