

June 2025

# the Link

## Growing Season

One of my favorite hymns in our hymnal is “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” (#250). We sang it in worship on March 23, and you can hear it starting at 5:15 in that Sunday’s worship podcast. With its imagery of nature stirring to life after winter, the hymn reminds us that even in seasons of waiting, there is hope, growth, and possibility; evidence that God is already at work, whether or not we can see the results yet. I’ve been known to blast that hymn in the car in the middle of winter, willing it to be spring. But it feels fitting now too, as new life begins to emerge all around us.

Rachel and I have a small garden plot at County Farm Park, and this time of year is full of eager (sometimes over-eager) anticipation, planting seeds and seedlings, crowding them a little too close together because we can’t wait to see what will grow. Gardening always invites a kind of faith: placing something tiny in the soil and trusting that, with time and care, it will become something fruitful.

As our gardens begin to take shape in June, we’re reminded that much of the most important growth happens below the surface. That’s true not only in the soil, but in our spirits and in the life of the church. Summer may feel quieter here at Westminster, but I

pray it can also be a time of deep nourishment, rooting, and renewal.

How might you want to grow this summer? And how might you seek that growth in community with others who are planting, wondering, and watching alongside you?

I look forward to continuing in worship and community with you this season. On June 8, we’ll celebrate Pentecost in worship, when the Holy Spirit renews and energizes us for the journey ahead. That afternoon at 4pm, the Spirit will really burst through the doors as we gather for the joyful conclusion of our organ series. Come and be filled: by music, by Spirit, and by the gift of being together.

Later in the month, we’ll shift into our summer rhythm more fully. Beginning June 22, our Sunday worship time will move one hour earlier, to 10am, for the remainder of the summer. Wherever this season takes you, I hope you’ll find space for rest, reflection, and the quiet trust that something sacred is always taking root.

Peace,  
*Rev. Hannah Lundberg*



# Engaging Our Neighbors



## Continuing to Support our Refugee Neighbors

Once again this year, Westminster will support refugee families in our community through a summer-holiday donation drive running from Memorial Day through the 4th of July.

These are tough times for local refugees, who are working hard to integrate into American life and to build self-sustainability and independence. Washtenaw Refugee Welcome, a local nonprofit, reports that approximately 1,500 refugees reached Michigan in the last few months of 2024. However, the governmental funding freeze and resettlement ban implemented in January of this year have left these families without the crucial support needed to help set up their new lives here.

Yet local agencies, such as Washtenaw Refugee Welcome and Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS), are working hard to fill the void. Westminster is partnering with JFS who will distribute gifts and donations made through our refugee donation drive to local refugees in need. Monetary gifts may be made on the Westminster website, or checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church may be given to Dave Gross, Bookkeeper. Gift card donations should also be delivered directly to Dave Gross. Needed donation items include:

1. **Personal care items:** deodorant, razors, shampoo, conditioner, soap bars, body lotion
2. **Baby items:** diapers and wipes, baby shampoo, lotion and body wash
3. **Cleaning supplies:** Lysol all-purpose cleaner, dish soap, dish sponges, Clorox toilet bowl cleaner, laundry detergent
4. **Gift cards:** Meijer and Kroger, \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 or Visa gift cards (please deliver gift cards directly to Dave Gross, Bookkeeper)

Donation bins are located in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex. Let's work together to support our refugee neighbors!

## Church Buddies Keep At-Home Members Connected

A new deacon outreach program aims to pair each Westminster at-home member with a church buddy who already has an established, ongoing relationship with them. The buddy then serves as a liaison with the at-home member's deacon. At-home members are those who are no longer able to attend worship in person.

We are already seeing benefits. Church buddies have accompanied deacons on several visits to at-home members to introduce them and make new connections. Because they already stay in touch with at-home members, the church buddies are able to let deacons know when it would be helpful to reach out.

Deacons change every 1 to 3 years, but the church buddy/liaison provides a more permanent, personal connection. This new program also offers support to deacons, who are now responsible for connecting with more church members—and more at-home members—than in previous years.

If you have questions about the new program, contact Janet Eaton ([jmfeaton@umich.edu](mailto:jmfeaton@umich.edu)), deacon moderator. While we have buddies for almost all of our 18 at-home members, please let her know if you would like to be a buddy to an at-home member.



## Habitat House of Faith

One more opportunity left to serve with Habitat House of Faith this season! Westminster's final work day this year is **Friday, August 8**.

No experience necessary, and all tools will be provided! Visit our website for more information and to sign up, or contact Ron Fairchild with questions ([ron@thefairchilds.net](mailto:ron@thefairchilds.net)).

## Our Life Together

### Organ Recital Series Finale

The finale of our inaugural organ recital series will be on Sunday, June 8 at 4pm. This recital will feature the Westminster Choir, Kira Slovacek (soprano), and Shawn McDonald (organ). The program will include organ solos and choral selections with featured composers: Mozart, Rutter, Shaw, Sleeth, Purifoy, and Widor.

Immediately following, all are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to come enjoy this wonderful program of music!



### Summer Schedule Change

As summer rolls in with its lighter schedules and long hours of sunlight, we're adjusting our Sunday rhythm as well. From June 22 through August 31, worship will begin one hour earlier, at 10:00am.

Our adult education classes will shift along with us: the Fellowship Hall Class will meet before worship, from 9:00 to 9:45am, and Reading Through the Bible will gather afterward, from 11:15 to 12:15pm. Whether you're here every week or just checking in between summer travels, we hope you'll find space to worship, learn, and connect with the Westminster community during the summer months. Please spread the word and remind your friends as these weeks approach!



### Game Night

Our next game night will be on Friday, 6/6, 7pm in the fellowship hall. Bring a friend and join the fun!

### Movie Night

On Friday, June 20 at 7pm in the Sanctuary, we will be hosting a screening of "Alive Inside: A Story of Music and Memory". June is Brain Health and Alzheimer's Awareness month, and this powerful documentary highlights music's ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self in those suffering from it.

Popcorn and lemonade provided! Invite a friend, and come join us!



## Trusting God in the Journey

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*From Margaret Klammer:*

At the May 18 worship service, I shared how God has spoken to me through scripture and guided me through my journey with cancer. I also shared how I've experienced His presence during this difficult time.

If you or someone you know is going through a hard season, these scriptures that have encouraged me may offer strength, peace, and hope:

**Psalms 27:14** – “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

**1 Peter 5:7** – “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

**Joshua 1:9** – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

**Psalms 56:3** – “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

**Romans 8:28** – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

**Isaiah 41:13** – “For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

**Isaiah 43:19** – “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

These verses reminded me that even when I felt afraid or overwhelmed, I wasn't alone. God was with me—steady, faithful, and kind. Whatever season you're in, I hope you'll hold on to the truth that God is near. He walks with us through the valleys, gives us strength for the day, and gently reminds us: You are not alone.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

1500 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734-761-9320 | [www.westpresa2.org](http://www.westpresa2.org)