



the Link

JULY - AUGUST 2025

Let All Creation Praise the Lord

**"O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great."
(Psalm 104: 24-25)**

On these long days of summer, I aspire to spend more time outside than in. Whether it's gardening in the evening light, walking by the Huron River, or drinking coffee on my back porch surrounded by birdsong, the summer invites us to breathe more deeply and notice the world around us. In these moments, I often find myself more attuned to God's presence: in the hum of bugs in the trees, the rich smell of damp soil, or the cool hush of an unexpected breeze.

When I was a college student interning at a Methodist church in Minnesota, the pastor there introduced me to the idea of remembering our Baptism every time we encounter water. Not just "special" water in a baptismal font, but the drip of water falling off a kayak paddle, the cool surprise of a rainstorm, the joy of a garden hose with giggling children. In moments both sacred and mundane, every encounter with water can remind us of God's presence, and the fact that we are created, known, and claimed by a God of love. Now, when I feel summer rain on my face or dive under cool

water, I take it as a small reminder of my Baptism and God's enduring promise.

As people of faith, we're invited to notice not only how creation reveals something of God, but also how we are called to care for it. The earth is not simply scenery to be enjoyed, it is beloved by God. Our care for it is a form of worship, a way of living out our baptismal calling with reverence, attention, and joy.

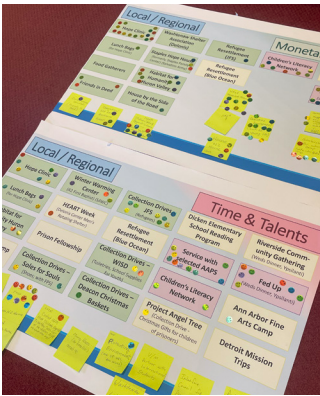
This August, we're leaning into that call in a few special ways. On Friday, August 15, join us on the church lawn for a Blessing of the Animals. Bring a pet, stuffed animal, photo of an animal, or just yourself, we're all beloved creatures, after all! We'll celebrate the joy and wonder of the animals in our lives and the Creator who delights in them. Then, on Sunday, August 17, worship will center on creation care and what it means for Westminster to be an Earth Care Congregation. Together, we'll explore how we might live more faithfully in relationship with the earth and all who dwell in it.

In this season of light and growth, may we listen well, and respond with care. And if the opportunity arises, go dance in a rainstorm, and remember your Baptism.

Peace,
Rev. Hannah Lundberg



Engaging Our Neighbors



Mission Workshop Recap

Thank you to all who joined the Mission Workshop on July 27! Together, we reflected on Westminster's history of service, community care, and global mission, and began discerning future priorities. Participants shared meaningful volunteer experiences, passions for specific causes, and hopes for the future of our mission work. The Mission Ministry Team will now compile this feedback, offer recommendations to Session, and present a full report at the September Congregational Meeting. In the coming year, we hope to engage more members in service and outreach, helping connect your gifts and passions with the needs of our community, nation, and world.



Gemini Concert

Mark your calendars- on Saturday, September 6 at 3pm, we will host Gemini for another concert on the lawn! Gemini writes and plays acoustic music for children and families, celebrating the fun, warmth, and humor of family life. This is a free event and a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors! Bring a lawn chair if you like, and join us for an afternoon of fun and music!

Football Parking is Coming Soon!

The Michigan Football season opener is on August 30! This means that in less than a month, it will be time once again to welcome visitors to Westminster when they park for football games. As we have in the past, we will enjoy a time of fun and fellowship while parking cars. If you haven't been to a Westminster tailgate, please plan to join us as we eat good food, share some laughs, enjoy talking to neighbors walking by, and also park some cars.



Leader Needed for Christmas Basket Program

Each year, Westminster sponsors families through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in celebration of Christmas. While the deacons have traditionally managed this effort, they are now seeking a volunteer from the congregation to lead it.

The new leader would coordinate with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, organize donations, and work with other volunteers to distribute wrapped gifts to the sponsored families. Initial work begins in August or September. The deacons have documentation and can walk you through the process and help.

If you are willing to lead the 2025 Westminster Christmas Basket Program, please contact your deacon or the deacon moderator, Janet Eaton (jmfeaton@umich.edu).

Our Life Together

“Our Stories” Pledge Campaign Update & Year-End Financials

Westminster is blessed with an extremely faithful and generous congregation! As a result, Westminster has completed a financially sound year. Some highlights at the conclusion of the fiscal year include:

- A recognition gift was given to staff to thank them for their service.
- The number of hours in the pastor job description were increased for the last six months of the fiscal year.
- Pledge income received was 106% of what was pledged a year ago!
- We ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$31,000. Ten percent of this was designated for mission, and the remaining balance will go toward the boiler and roof financing (see companion article).
- The “Our Stories” campaign resulted in an increase in pledge commitments (by 7%) for the first time in many years.
- Session passed a balanced budget for the 2026 fiscal year of \$450,500.



Thank you for your generosity, sharing your stories and gifts. Together, we step forward with hope, continuing to live into the story God is writing through us.



Blessing of the Animals

Join us for a joyful and interactive Blessing of the Animals on Friday, August 15th at 7pm! Bring a pet, a photo of a beloved animal (wild or domestic), a stuffed animal, or just yourself.

We'll begin with a brief outdoor worship service, reflecting on how God's love is revealed through our furry, feathered, and scaly friends. Then we'll mingle through stations offering blessings for animals and people, treats and toys for pets in attendance, and crafts to help care for creatures in the wider world.

We'll also be collecting supplies for the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Their list of most needed items can be found at hshv.org/wishlist.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, September 14**, following worship. We'll share lunch together, receive the annual report, and hear from select ministry teams. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this important gathering!



Boiler and Roof Campaign

Westminster is currently undertaking two major capital improvement projects. These include replacing the boilers for the sanctuary and replacing the roof on the original building. The existing boilers were installed in 1996, and the roof was last replaced in 1990. These efforts will keep the sanctuary and offices warm in the winter and prevent leaks and further damage to the original building roof. The cost of these projects is approximately \$130,000, which is more than the funds we have readily available to pay for these projects. We are seeking additional donations from the congregation to help

defray the cost of these facility upgrades. Donations should be designated for the "Boiler and Roof Campaign". There is also a special giving option at westpresa2.org/online-giving.



This Month's Preaching Schedule:

August 3: Rev. Hannah Lundberg (Communion)

August 10: Nate Veldhoff

August 17: Rev. Hannah Lundberg

August 24: Rev. Hannah Lundberg

August 31: Sean Eaton

****September 7: Resume 11am worship time****



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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