



## Peace Be With You

**"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)**

"Peace be with you," we say while greeting one another in worship. "Peace," is how I sign most of my emails. But peace is so much more than a polite phrase or a simple wish.

We live in a world where peace often feels fragile or inaccessible. We continue to be shaken by the devastation and violence in Gaza. As horrific images appear on the news, I resist my desire to hide in my own peace, to look away and pretend it isn't happening. Peace feels hard to imagine. The school year had just barely begun when another school shooting, this time in Minneapolis, reminded us of the fear so many students live with every day. Peace feels urgent. We've felt the tearing apart of community through political rhetoric steeped in anger, suspicion, and distrust. Peace feels countercultural. In it all, our faith constantly points us back to the power and presence of peace through Christ. Peace when it feels impossible. Peace despite the odds.

In worship this September, we will once again enter the Season of Peace, a time of reflection, prayer, and practice leading up to World Communion Sunday on October 5. Each week, we'll consider a different aspect of peace: the peace that calms our restless hearts, the peace that heals relationships, and the peace that reaches across borders and divisions to embrace the whole world. Along the way, we'll notice the many layers of nuance and challenge that come with living as peacemakers.

As I've been planning, I've had the song lyric running through my mind, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." It's a simple line, but a strong invitation. Peace does not only come from powerful lawmakers, global treaties, or heroic changemakers. Often, it begins with our daily choices, with the ways we speak to one another, with the way we listen, with the way we trust God to lead us with wisdom and grace.

We may be mere individuals, one small congregation. But together, bound in God's love, our witness matters. When we extend forgiveness, when we choose gentleness, when we pray for enemies and seek justice for the vulnerable, we participate in the peace Christ gives and the world so desperately needs.

So as we pass the peace each Sunday, may it be more than a familiar ritual. May it be a reminder of who we are: a community called to embody Christ's peace in our own hearts, in our relationships, and in the wide world God calls us to love.

Peace,  
*Rev. Hannah Lundberg*



# Engaging Our Neighbors



## Gemini Concert

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! Attendees are encouraged to bring a donation of canned or dry goods that will be collected for Food Gatherers.

## Lunches for Hope Clinic

This Fall, the Mission Ministry Team is again sponsoring Sack Lunches for Hope Clinic. These simple lunches are intended to “tide folks over” between the nightly dinners available at Hope, so they are very basic, but greatly appreciated. Since the need is so great, we are hoping to pack out 96 lunches this time! Twice as many as in the spring!

Food items need to be either cellophane wrapped or pop-top cans so that no can openers or other utensils are needed. Also, many of our recipients will not have access to stoves, so we would like things that can be eaten right from the container, if necessary. Many of these items come in sets of 6, so that’s how they are listed on the signup. If you want to get 12, just sign up for two slots. Please, provide the sizes indicated as bag space is a bit limited. (No super-sizing for this project.)

Visit [westpresa2.org](http://westpresa2.org) for the signup to provided needed items. Drop off items at Westminster beginning on Sunday, September 7th and continuing through to Sunday, October 12th. Collection bins will be located at the Scio Church and West entries.

If you have questions or would like to help with the packing out of the lunches on October 13th, contact Lynda Berg (743-649-0036 or [lrwberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrwberg@sbcglobal.net)).

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity as we reach out into the community and continue to help our neighbors in need.



## Football Parking is Here!

Michigan Football season is upon us! Each home game, we will welcome visitors to Westminster when they park. 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 join us! We typically start gathering around 3 hours before kickoff. We eat good food, share some laughs, enjoy talking to neighbors walking by, and also park some cars. Michigan home games include: 9/13, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, and 11/29.

# Our Life Together

## 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. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help us plan for food. There are also opportunities to help with food prep, service, and cleanup.



## Blessing of the Animals

Some photos from our joyful Blessing of the Animals service!



## Celebrating 30 Years!

On Sunday, September 7th, we will celebrate 30 years of faithful music ministry at Westminster with our beloved Director of Music, Shawn McDonald. After worship, join us for a cake reception as we give thanks for Shawn's gifts, leadership, and the steady presence he has offered through music across the decades. You may bring a card for Shawn that day (or send one to the church office in advance) as we share our gratitude, honor this remarkable milestone, and look forward to the music still to come!



## 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](http://westpresa2.org/online-giving).



## This Month's Preaching Schedule:

**\*\*11am Worship Time Resumes\*\***

**September 7:** Rev. Hannah Lundberg (Communion)

**September 14:** Rev. Hannah Lundberg

**September 21:** Rev. Hannah Lundberg

**September 28:** Nate Veldhoff



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