

the Link

November 2025

Practicing Generosity

**“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”
(1 John 3:17-18)**

This fall we’ve begun rebuilding our faith formation program for children and youth, with a few more young members joining our community. In October, we gathered for the first time using a PC(USA) curriculum called Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living. The Follow Me series focuses not just on teaching Bible stories, but on nurturing practices that help us live our faith every day. We’re starting with the theme “Practice Generosity,” exploring how generosity is rooted in justice and connected to caring for our neighbors’ minds, bodies, spirits, and lives in community, just as Jesus modeled.

Our children and youth already embody this kind of generosity beautifully. I see them creating art for one another, noticing and tending to the needs of friends, sharing their time and attention to celebrate others, and raising their voices for issues that matter in their schools, teams, and communities. It’s rewarding to connect what they’re already doing with the stories and wisdom of our faith.



Our youngest members also learn generosity by watching the adults around them. They see how you step up to help one another, take time to learn about each other’s passions, and give of your time, resources, wisdom, and love in open-hearted ways. These shared practices form the fabric of our community, weaving together the everyday and the sacred.

There are many situations in the world right now where it’s easy to feel powerless, to hold our fear and despair apart from any reasonable action or concrete hope. Yet when we choose generosity, we model another way. Each act of care, each moment of listening, each gift freely offered is a quiet resistance to hopelessness. In giving to one another, we affirm that abundance still exists, that gratitude and compassion can still take root. As we all practice generosity together, we learn that faith is not only what we believe, but how we live with open hands in a fearful world. I felt that hope when gathering with the middle/high school group in October, and I look forward to it again on November 9th, the next time we meet.

Finally, a small pitch: This fall we are piloting a once-a-month gathering for elementary, middle, and high school students, and it’s exciting! However, we’d love to offer children’s faith formation more often than once-a-month in the spring. If you’d be interested in joining in as a teacher or assistant, I would love to talk with you! This curriculum is easy to follow, our children and youth are such kind, curious, and interesting people. I am confident you would get more out of it than you put into it! Let me know if you would like to learn more!

Peace,
Rev. Hannah Lundberg

Engaging Our Neighbors



Thanksgiving Food Drive

During this past year, ministry team members have met with Ann Arbor Public School officials to build relationships and better understand community needs. One area identified for support is Pattengill Elementary School.

The principal at Pattengill has requested donations to assist families in need during this Thanksgiving season. Westminster is inviting members of the congregation to help by providing food and/or cash donations to support five Pattengill families.

Many have already signed up, and there are just a few spots left! Check our website for the list of needed items. You may also choose to make a cash donation online or by mailing a check to Westminster.

All food donations may be dropped off in the green bins located next to the church library. Please have all donations to the church by Sunday, November 16.

Thank you so much for considering this opportunity to bless these families!

HOPE Lunches Recap



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Fall Hope Lunch Bag project. We packed out 96 lunches on a Monday morning and delivered them to Hope Clinic by noon. Our trusty team of volunteers took just 30 minutes to assemble the bags and pack them into Amy's car for transporting. We also had a number of bonus items donated, which will be donated to the general pantry at HOPE.

A special shout-out goes to the children of Westminster who helped decorate all the bags and add personal notes for the recipients. Our entire team was so touched by their artwork and messages. We know the recipients will appreciate their extra thoughtfulness and care as well.

Our Life Together



Thanksgiving Eve

It's time for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Bread Exchange event. Our celebration will be on Wednesday, November 26th, 7:00pm, at Westminster. Everyone is invited to participate by bringing a loaf of bread, homemade or from a bakery, to exchange during the Service. Please attach a note if your bread contains nuts or is gluten-free. If you would like to attach a personal Thanksgiving note on the loaf, please feel free to do so.

During the Thanksgiving service, every person or family will be invited to come up and take a loaf of bread from the baskets for their Thanksgiving table. All the bread that is left over will be given to at-home members. If you are unable to attend on Thanksgiving Eve and would like a loaf of bread, please contact your Deacon or Suzanne Lange (sueegnal93@gmail.com).

We look forward to welcoming all of you to Thanksgiving Eve and sharing a special loaf of bread for this holiday.

Getting Your Ducks in a Row: Planning for Life, Legacy, and Care

Talking about aging, declining health, and the end of life can feel uncomfortable. Yet as people of faith, we can approach these realities with courage and hope. Our tradition reminds us that death is not the end of the story, and that preparing well for this season of life is an act of love for ourselves and those who care for us.

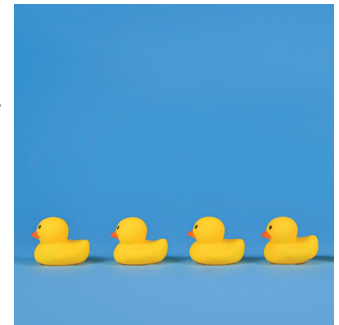
On Sunday, November 9, Westminster will host "Getting Your Ducks in a Row", a Lunch & Learn workshop after worship for people of all ages. Whether you are planning for yourself, walking alongside aging parents, or simply hoping to be better prepared, this gathering will offer tools and conversation to help you think ahead with confidence and peace.

We will explore spiritual, financial, and practical dimensions of end-of-life planning. Gordon Beeman will share guidance on financial and estate planning. Stacey Frisinger, of Choice Senior Home Care, will

discuss options for various levels of supportive care as one's needs change. Pastor Hannah will lead a conversation about memorial planning and spiritual care.

Our goal is to create a no-fear environment where questions are welcomed, stories are shared, and participants leave with greater clarity and peace of mind. Preparing for the future, spiritually, relationally, and practically, is one more way we live out our gratitude for the life we've been given and the hope we share in Christ.

We will meet downstairs following worship. A light lunch will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office to reserve your spot.



Game Night!

Our next game night will be on Friday, November 7, 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and join the fun!

Looking Ahead to Advent



Christmas Decorating

Happy Fall Holidays! They are coming upon us quickly now, and so is Advent! Westminster always looks so beautiful when the sanctuary, Narthex, and Fellowship Hall are all

decorated with festive greenery, twinkling lights, and adorned Christmas trees. But, this magic doesn't happen with a wave of a wand. It takes team work and a few hours of dedicated time. Traditionally, we take on this project the morning after Thanksgiving, and this year will be no exception. We have jobs for everyone, and with a full team of volunteers, the church will be ready for the holidays in no time at all.

Some of you volunteer to help every year, and we so appreciate that! You will be the ones we count on to help the "newbies" find just the right job. We need people to decorate the trees, fluff up the bows that have been stored since last Christmas, untangle the lights and garlands, and the list goes on. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board which you can check out for needed jobs. Don't worry if you're not super mobile, we can still use your help and support. So, please save a little time before or after church to check the list, sign up for a job, and then save the morning of **November 28th** for fun, fellowship, and a little bit of work to make the holidays something truly special this year for Westminster!

Questions: contact Lynda Berg (lrwberg@sbcglobal.net)

Save the Date: Caroling and Cocoa

Mark your calendars for Caroling and Cocoa on Friday, December 5! We will gather inside and sing around the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7pm. All are then welcome to stick around for Game Night immediately following. Cookies and hot cocoa will be provided! Invite friends and family for this time of joyful holiday music!



Deacon Christmas Baskets

This year, we will once again have the opportunity to serve families in need through our Deacon Christmas Basket program. When family information becomes available from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, a signup form with requested gifts will be made available to the congregation. More info coming soon!



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