

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



OCTOBER
2026

WPC
WESTMINSTER NEWS

WESTMINSTERAURORA.CHURCH

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

IDENTIFICATION, DECLARATION, CELEBRATION

In Acts 8, we meet an Ethiopian official traveling home from Jerusalem.

As he rides in his chariot, he is reading from the prophet Isaiah but struggling to understand what he is reading. God sends Philip alongside him, and beginning with that passage, Philip "told him the good news about Jesus" (Acts 8:35).

What happens next is wonderfully simple.

As they travel along the road, they come to some water, and the Ethiopian asks, "**Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?**" (Acts 8:36).

They stop the chariot, go down into the water, and Philip baptizes him. The man then continues on his way rejoicing.

His story gives us a beautiful picture of Christian baptism.
Baptism begins with Jesus.

Philip shared the gospel, the Ethiopian responded in faith, and baptism became the outward expression of what God had done in his life.

Throughout church history, Christians from different traditions have understood and practiced baptism in different ways.

Faithful Christians have disagreed about when baptism should occur, who should be baptized, and how baptism should be administered. Those differences are important and worth understanding.

**But at its most basic level,
Christian baptism points us to Jesus
and the new life we have in Him.**

Whatever our church background or tradition, baptism is ultimately about Christ and His saving work.

One simple way to understand the meaning of baptism is through three words:
Identification, Declaration, and Celebration

- **Baptism is Identification.**

In baptism, we *identify* ourselves with Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection. Paul writes that we have been “buried with Him through baptism into death” so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, “we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4). Baptism by immersion beautifully pictures this reality. Going beneath the water symbolizes our identification with Christ in His death and burial; coming out of the water symbolizes His resurrection and the new life we have received in Him. Baptism says, “I belong to Jesus. My life is now joined to His.”

- **Baptism is Declaration.**

Our faith in Christ is deeply personal, but it was never intended to remain private. Baptism is a public expression of an inward faith. It is our opportunity to stand before others and say, “I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, and I want to follow Him.” Baptism does not save us—Jesus does. We are saved by grace through faith. Baptism publicly declares the faith that is already present in our hearts.

- **Baptism is Celebration.**

I love the final detail in the Ethiopian’s story: after his baptism, “he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). Baptism is a joyful celebration of the grace of God. We celebrate what Jesus has done, the new life He gives, and the evidence of His continuing work in people’s lives. And that celebration belongs not only to the person being baptized, but to the whole church. When someone is baptized, we rejoice together.

That is why baptism should be such a meaningful moment in the life of a church. It is much more than participating in a religious ceremony.

It is a visible picture of the gospel and a public testimony to the grace of God.

Identification. Declaration. Celebration.

And perhaps the Ethiopian’s question is still a good one for those who have trusted Christ but have never taken this step:

“What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

PASTOR JEFF



YOU NEVER WALK ALONE

There are weeks when we need more than food to keep going—we need hope. Sometimes that hope comes through a song, a story, or a reminder that we are not alone. The familiar words of *You'll Never Walk Alone* have encouraged generations: *Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone.*

Those words resonate because they echo a deeper truth found throughout Scripture. God never promised His people an easy road, but He did promise His presence. Isaiah reminds us, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2). Jesus gave the same assurance before returning to heaven: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Many of us know what it feels like to walk through storms. We face personal struggles, unsettling news, broken relationships, and uncertainty about the future. In those moments, our greatest fear is often not the hardship itself but the feeling of being alone.

That is why the church matters. God designed us to carry one another's burdens, encourage one another, and remind each other that Christ has not abandoned His people. As the writer of Hebrews urges, we are to "encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

But God's presence is not merely meant to comfort us. It is also meant to guide us.

Because our heavenly Father created us and loves us perfectly, His commands are never given to restrict our joy but to protect and deepen it. The One who knows us best always leads us toward what is best. His Word is not simply a list of rules; it is the path of life.

Oswald Chambers wrote, "**The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else.**" When we trust the Lord, we discover that obedience is not a burden but an expression of confidence in His wisdom and goodness.

Perhaps your next step is to forgive someone, speak the truth in love, break a sinful habit, offer encouragement, or simply trust God with a burden you've been carrying alone. Whatever He is asking of you today, remember that He never calls His children to obey without also giving them the grace to do so. Through His Holy Spirit, He provides both the strength to endure and the power to obey.

So, whatever storm you may be facing today, keep walking. Walk with hope. Walk in faith. Walk in obedience.

You never walk alone,
because Christ walks with you—and He always leads His children home.

Andy

Congratulations, Tim Mack!

We are proud to celebrate Tim Mack on earning the rank of Eagle Scout! For his Eagle Scout project, Tim helped restore the terraced wall and beautiful flower garden outside our sanctuary—a lasting addition to Westminster that will be enjoyed for years to come.

During his Eagle Scout ceremony, which was held at Westminster, Tim presented one of his special Mentor Pins to Bob Hall, recognizing Bob's guidance and help in organizing the construction of the project.

Congratulations, Tim, on this outstanding achievement!



Women's Bible Study Is Underway!

The Monday Women's Bible Study kicked off on September 14 and is spending this semester studying the Book of James.

It's a wonderful time of Bible study, fellowship, and growing together in faith.

Here are some of the ladies enjoying their time together!

Interested in joining them?

See ***Dawn Pulgine*** for more information.
All women of Westminster are welcome!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

If you happened to walk through Westminster on a Monday during Women's Bible Study, you would likely hear the sounds from Fellowship Hall before you saw it. Nearly 65 women are talking, laughing, catching up, meeting someone new, and eventually settling in with Bibles open and pens ready.

And I love it.

This is the largest group we have had in Women's Bible Study in many years, but what excites me even more than the size is the enthusiasm in the room. These women genuinely want to study God's Word. They are asking questions, making connections, learning to dig into Scripture for themselves, and building new friendships along the way.

This fall, we are studying the book of James, which means James wasted no time making us uncomfortable. Within the first chapter, he has already taken us straight into trials, perseverance, wisdom, temptation, and the condition of our hearts.

So yes, we are having fun. But James is also making sure we have plenty to talk about. By the time you read this, we will already be a few weeks into the study, and one thing we are learning is how practical James is. He keeps taking our faith out of the abstract and asking, "What does this actually look like in real life?"

In our first few weeks, we have discussed what it means to "count it all joy" when we face trials, not because hardship is fun or because Christians are supposed to pretend it is, but because God can use difficulty to build steadfastness in us. We have discussed wisdom and the wonderful reminder that when we do not know what to do, we can simply ask God. And we have begun to examine temptation, desire, and how pressure can reveal what is going on inside us.

Basically, James is already stepping on a few toes. And that's only chapter one!



What I love most is that the women are not simply coming to hear a teaching each week. They are learning to slow down, observe the text, ask thoughtful questions, and study Scripture for themselves. My hope is that long after we finish James, they will feel more confident opening their Bibles and asking, "What does this actually say? What does it teach me about God? And how should it shape the way I live?"

That is at the heart of so much of what we want discipleship to look like at Westminster. We gather, we learn, we grow, and then we live it out in the ordinary places God has put us. And James is going to give us plenty to work with.

We still have much ahead of us, including listening before speaking, being doers of the Word, showing no partiality, understanding the relationship between faith and works, taming the tongue, pursuing godly wisdom, praying faithfully, and learning what patient endurance entails. So yes, we have a long way to go.

But what a wonderful way to begin Fall: nearly 65 women gathering around God's Word, growing in confidence, building friendships, and encouraging one another in their faith. There is a lot to be excited about at Westminster right now, and I am grateful to have a front-row seat to this little corner of the action.

Much love,

Dawn

P.S. Ladies, feel free to join anytime! It's never too late to dive into Bible study.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

11 Laura Dillard

12 Mike McCullough

14 Carolyn Hansen

16 Susan Heeg

17 Kim Saunders

17 Hans Lehmann

24 Shawn Harms

26 Marguerite Chicoine

29 Ray Gonzalez

31 Arnell German

31 Vince Arena



Our Indoor picnic and job fair was a tremendous success. Great food, clever set up, and lots of volunteers signed up to help make our "Unreasonable Hospitality" a reality in the coming year.





COFFEE & CONNECTION

WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME!
REMEMBER CHEERS—THE PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNEW YOUR NAME AND
THEY WERE ALWAYS GLAD YOU CAME?

WELL, WE MAY NOT BE A BOSTON PUB, BUT WE THINK THEY WERE ONTO
SOMETHING!

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY MORNING FROM 9:00–11:00 A.M. FOR COFFEE &
CONNECTION—A CASUAL, FUN GATHERING FOR SENIORS WHO ENJOY GOOD
COFFEE, GOOD CONVERSATION, PLENTY OF LAUGHTER, AND BEING AROUND
GOOD PEOPLE.

THERE'S NO AGENDA, NO HOMEWORK, AND NO PRESSURE. JUST SHOW UP,
GRAB SOME COFFEE, PULL UP A CHAIR, AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT LIFE, FAMILY, WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THE
GOOD OLD DAYS, THE NOT-SO-GOOD OLD DAYS, AND PROBABLY SOLVE A
FEW OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS BEFORE 11:00!

MOST OF ALL, THIS IS ABOUT CONNECTION.

GOD CREATED US FOR RELATIONSHIPS. WE NEED PEOPLE WHO KNOW OUR
NAMES, NOTICE WHEN WE'RE MISSING, CELEBRATE THE GOOD DAYS WITH
US, AND WALK BESIDE US THROUGH THE DIFFICULT ONES.

AS SCRIPTURE SAYS:

"ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP." — 1

THESSALONIANS 5:11

THAT'S WHAT WE HOPE COFFEE & CONNECTION BECOMES—A PLACE FOR
FRIENDSHIP, ENCOURAGEMENT, SUPPORT, LAUGHTER, AND MAYBE A
SECOND CUP OF COFFEE.

COME EVERY WEEK. COME ONCE IN A WHILE. BRING A FRIEND. MEET
SOMEONE NEW.

TUESDAYS | 9:00–11:00 A.M.

THE COFFEE WILL BE HOT.

THE CONVERSATION WILL BE LIVELY.

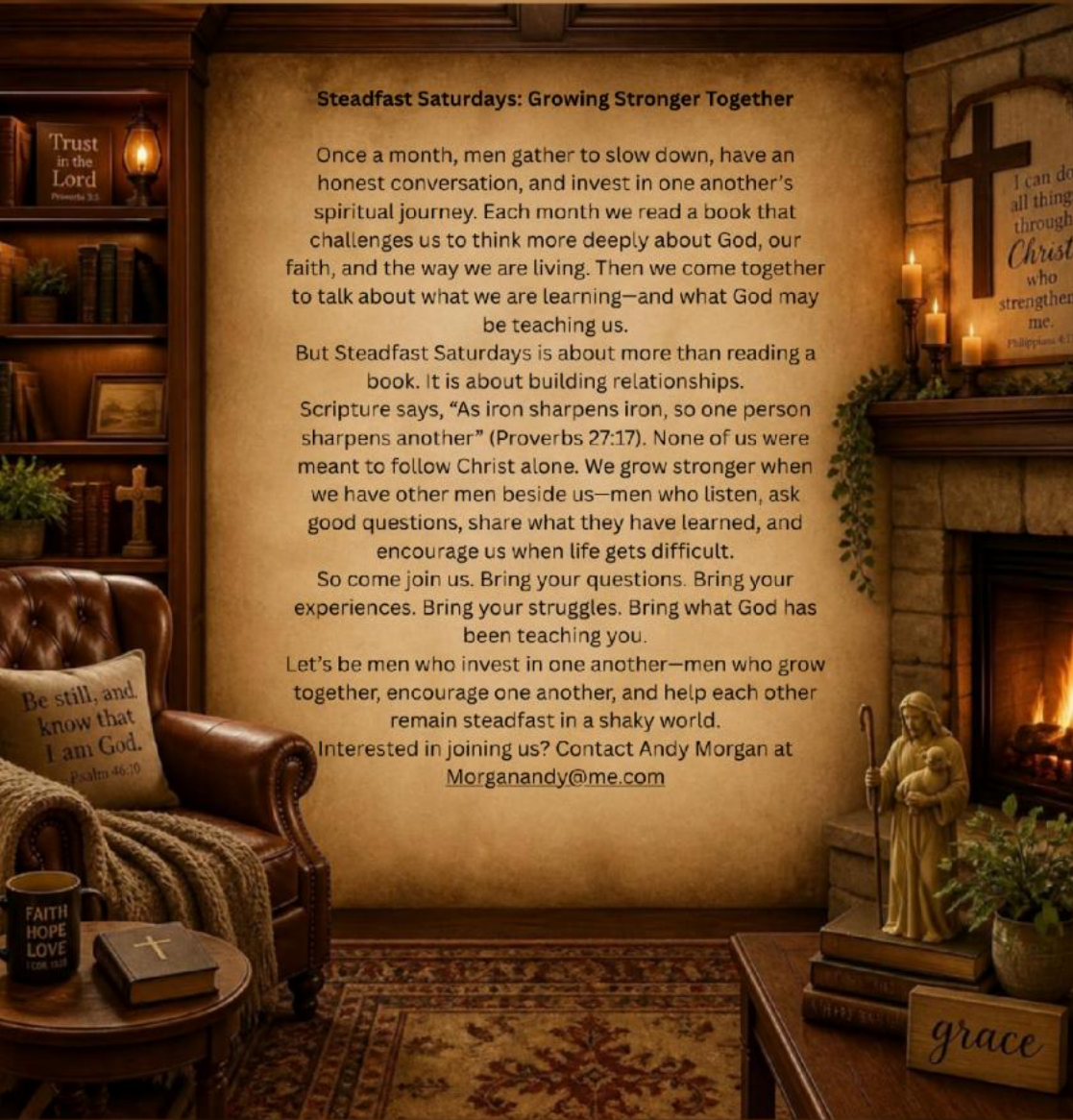
THE CHAIRS WILL BE WAITING.

AND BEST OF ALL...

WE'LL KNOW YOUR NAME—AND WE'LL ALWAYS BE GLAD YOU CAME!

COME SIP, RELAX & STAY AWHILE





Steadfast Saturdays: Growing Stronger Together

Once a month, men gather to slow down, have an honest conversation, and invest in one another's spiritual journey. Each month we read a book that challenges us to think more deeply about God, our faith, and the way we are living. Then we come together to talk about what we are learning—and what God may be teaching us.

But Steadfast Saturdays is about more than reading a book. It is about building relationships.

Scripture says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). None of us were meant to follow Christ alone. We grow stronger when we have other men beside us—men who listen, ask good questions, share what they have learned, and encourage us when life gets difficult.

So come join us. Bring your questions. Bring your experiences. Bring your struggles. Bring what God has been teaching you.

Let's be men who invest in one another—men who grow together, encourage one another, and help each other remain steadfast in a shaky world.

Interested in joining us? Contact Andy Morgan at Morganandy@me.com

Steadfast Saturdays

TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR A FUN, SAFE & CHRISTIAN
ALTERNATIVE TO TRICK OR TREATING AT
OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
WHERE: WESTMINSTER CHURCH

10 N EDGELAWN DR, AURORA (WEST SIDE
PARKING LOT ACROSS FROM RUSH COPLEY)

JOHN 8:12... "I AM THE LIGHT OF
THE WORLD..."

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!





WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 NORTH EDGELAWN DRIVE
AURORA, IL 60506

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October

Westminster Presbyterian Church | 10 North Edgelawn Drive | Aurora, IL 60506 US

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