



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



*Passing on the Light*

THE TWENTY-FOURTH  
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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NOVEMBER 15, 2020

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

*Passing on the Light*

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*“But God has no qualms about making the most profound request in human history of a teenager, Mary...God asks this teenager to bring salvation to the world...”*

— Kendra Creasy Dean in *The Godbearing Life*

Opening Voluntary

*(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)*

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Deborah Zufall

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Call to Worship —Psalm 90:1 *The Message*

Morrison Maher and Charlie Patterson

**++Opening Hymn 35**

**“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”**

*Lobe den Herren*

*(The text is for reflection only. The soloist will sing the hymn.)*

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;**

**join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,**

**shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been**

**granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!**

**All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!**

**Let the amen sound from his people again;**

**gladly for aye we adore him.**

**Prayer of Confession**

*(Trusting that God is love, we express our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God.)*

**God of light, we confess that often times the darkness in our world and in our lives overwhelms us. We don’t know how to walk in the darkness and we tend to grab for anything and anyone that promises any kind of light—even if the light is woven with false lures of security. Forgive us for our anxious grabbing, God, and keep us attuned to your light deep within that shows us the way even in the darkest of times. Lord, hear our prayers...**

*Silent Confession*

**The Assurance of God’s Grace**

Nat DeWaard

**++ Response Hymn 536**

**“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”**

*Surge Ecclesia*

*(The text is for reflection only. The soloist will sing the hymn.)*

**(stanza 2)**

**Rise, transformed, and choose to follow  
after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed  
to release and to console.**

**Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.**

**++ Passing the Peace of Christ**

*(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)*

**Ministry of Music**

“Amazing Grace”  
Kate Reed, Soprano

*arr. John Ness Beck*

**THE WORD**

Introduction to the Scripture

**Prayer for Illumination**

Maren Gregg and Abigail Nelson

*(We pray that the words of Scripture may be encountered as God’s Word.)*

**Scripture**

Hebrews 11:28-12:1

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

***Passing on the Light***

Rev. Laurie Hartzell and Emily Anderson

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Our Confirmands Profess Their Faith**

Elder Geoff Miller

**Prayer for Our Confirmands and the Church**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we  
forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Offering Our Lives**

Adde Plantinga and Nadia Schoon

Offertory

“Blessing”  
Kate Reed, Soprano

*Katie Moran Burt*

**++ Doxology** *(means “words of glory”—they are a traditional expression of praise to God.)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**++Prayer of Dedication**

Kinsey McAleece

**Gracious God, we offer our resources and our lives to you. May your light fill us to the brim that we radiate as individuals and as a people with the love and justice of our God! Alleluia! Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

**++Closing Hymn 377**

**“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

Houston

*(The text is for reflection only. The soloist will sing the hymn.)*

**I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

**Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.**

**I want to look at Jesus.**

**Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.**

**Refrain.**

**I’m looking for the coming of Christ.**

**I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**Refrain.**

Charge

Ellen Mundell and Emily Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Closing Voluntary

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Johann Walther

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preachers ..... Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Executive Pastor, and  
Emily Anderson, High School Ministries Coordinator  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
..... Geoff Miller, Elder for Youth and Their Families  
Youth Liturgists ..... Morrison Maher, Charlie Patterson, Nat DeWaard, Maren Gregg, Abigail Nelson  
Adde Plantinga, Nadia Schoon, Kinsey McAleece, and Ellen Mundell  
Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musician..... Kate Reed, Soprano  
Technology Team ..... Rachel Kamstra, Stella Sheckler, Peter Larson, and Dan Cisler

### **AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

*Livestreaming from the Westminster Sanctuary*

**November 22 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

***I Was...and You...***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Music: Soloists: Harper Davis, Tristan Gerville-Réache,  
Maren Gregg, and Nadia Schoon

**November 29 – First Sunday of Advent**

***Longing In Hope***

Rev. Laurie Hartzell preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1 and Romans 8:18-25

Music: Quartet: Hannah Deboer, Elise Tripp,  
Josh Leckrone, and Eric Richter

We're glad you worshiped with us today! If you'd like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster, visit our website at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org), or contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org).

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Thank you to the 244 people who have pledged \$867,150 so far in this year's Stewardship Campaign! Though the formal season is over, it is not too late to turn in your 2021 pledge. You can do that by accessing the link below. You can do that by accessing the link [here](#). We give thanks to God for abundance—even in the wilderness!



**REMINDER:** If you haven't been able to keep up with your 2020 pledge, now would be a perfect time to catch up!

**ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS:** Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Kathy Cisler had been working on expanding ways for people to make donations digitally. We recognize that many are facing new and unforeseen financial implications in the wake of this pandemic and this message is not meant to put any pressure on people. However, we are also aware that many are able to continue, or increase, their offerings to help us pay our bills, our staff, and continue our ministry that brings justice, peace, and hope into a world God loves. Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on new ways you can give digitally to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy through her phone number at the church, (616) 717-5533.



**Using Engage Giving by Scanning the QR Code:** Scan the code using a QR code reader app or the camera on your phone or mobile device. It will take you to the Engage Giving log-in window where you can follow the directions above for giving using the website.

**THE SOCIAL DILEMMA:** On **November 15 at 6pm**, our Faith Formation team will be hosting a discussion on zoom, facilitated by Brent Velting, to discuss the Netflix movie, "The Social Dilemma." Seeing the way that various social media streams affect our culture, individuals who were part of their creation speak out about how these vehicles are changing the ways information spreads and how we interact with one another. Prior to November 15, view the movie on your own and then join for a dialogue with our faith community about the choices before us. [Click here](#) for the zoom link.

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION:** On **Monday, November 23 at 7:00pm** the 21st Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, "Gratitude in Times of Challenge," will host a virtual celebration. Join us for a celebration where many traditions and cultures will come together to give thanks for one another, even in the midst of adversity and division. Through song, dance, prayer, and storytelling we will share gratitude with and for our West Michigan neighbors. A virtual free will offering will be taken for the work of Family Promise which works to eliminate homelessness in our community. To register for this event please [click here](#), or go to their website, [interfaithunderstanding.org](http://interfaithunderstanding.org), or call 616-331-5702. A link to access the celebration will be sent to all registrants.

**SPECIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 12 –** Each week, take a look at the Children's Ministry Resources on our church website. There are various videos, songs and prayers, and also different levels of Children's Bulletins. If you download a bulletin, you will find a game code printed on the bulletin that you can use to play games that fit with the worship text each week.

**MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO MADE T-SHIRT BAGS** for our food pantry! We were able to cut and sew almost 200 bags for our food pantry to use to distribute items before Thanksgiving. It was an All Church Effort!

**BROAD-BASED ORGANIZING:** As Westminster lives into its commitment to broad-based organizing in West Michigan, we invite you to build your own skills to help us in this work. On **Thursday, December 10th from 6-8pm** on Zoom, join with others from across West Michigan for one of two sessions to build your broad-based organizing skills and go deeper to organize within Westminster. Register now at <http://bit.ly/organizewmi>.

**THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP** has resumed meeting (via Zoom). Our next meeting is **Sunday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be discussing *Chances Are* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls*, Richard Russo. *Chances Are* blends everything we love about this author with something new. Yes, this is a novel about male friendships, fathers and sons, small-town class issues, and lifelong crushes. It provides the familiar pleasure of immersion in the author's distinctive, richly observed world and his inimitable ironic voice. But this is also a mystery about a 1971 cold case. A wonderful read! Of course, new readers are always welcome to join. Anyone who has questions or is interested in being added to our Zoom invitation list can contact Marcie Beck at [beckmarcella7@gmail.com](mailto:beckmarcella7@gmail.com).

## **GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FROM CAMP HENRY FOR THE FALL:**

### **2020 Camp Henry Virtual Luncheon | Friday, November 20 | 12 noon**

Camp Henry is excited to be holding the Camp Henry Annual Luncheon this year as a virtual event. An anonymous donor has offered a generous matching challenge for this year. This donor will match 1:1, dollar for dollar, every dollar that is raised at the luncheon this year up to \$100,000. Please consider joining Camp Henry for this annual event. A live streamed Annual Luncheon will be available to view at **noon on November 20**. Feel free to watch right at noon that day—or as you find time that evening or weekend. There will be videos, photos, interviews, and a short program to help tell people more about the mission, vision, and ministry of Camp Henry—and about the amazing life changing successes and accomplishments that have happened during 2020, even during a worldwide pandemic. To register for this event please [click here](#).

### **Trail Rides | Various Fall Dates | Ages 10+ | \$20 per person**

Camp Henry offers Trail Rides on our Camp Horses with their trained and knowledgeable staff. Bring your family and friends to camp for a scenic trail ride! Book your ride at [campheny.org/events](http://campheny.org/events).

### **Cabins and Lodges now on VRBO**

Looking for a warm and safe place to stay with your family? Look no further because you can now rent a cabin or lodge! The cabins and lodges are heated and have bathrooms. The lodges are two cabins connect with a middle common sitting area. Check out the VRBO postings for more info! Contact Jordan for reservations at [jordanb@campheny.org](mailto:jordanb@campheny.org) or (616) 717-5571

### **Camp Store Bundles** | Bundles are still available at our online store! There's a bundle for every occasion!

Back to School • Birthday • Camp Henry Starter Pack • Cozy • Holiday • Mystery (\$30, \$45, & \$60 options)  
Wow your friends and family with these popular Camp Henry items! Order yours [here](#).

Also, Summer Camp 2021 registrations are open and ready to reserve a spot for your child. Go to the Camp Henry website to register for Summer Camp 2021 at [campheny.org](http://campheny.org) or call for more information.

**WESTMINSTER FOOD PANTRY AND THE \$16.65 CHALLENGE:** Westminster Food Pantry will be hosting the 2020 Thanksgiving Ingathering called the \$16.65 Challenge. \$16.65 is the amount it costs the Food Pantry to serve their clients a one-month supply of food from Feeding America. Watch your mail or the Westminster Weekly this week for our **\$16.65 Challenge brochure** explaining how the ingathering will work, and how you can support the pantry's efforts to keep food on the table for our neighborhood clients. Questions: contact Angie Kelley, Food Pantry Director at [angiek@wpcgr.org](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org).

**FROM THE FOOD PANTRY: A COUPLE OF REQUESTS... MASKS!** The pantry is open on each Thursday and practices COVID masking and social distancing. Our clients really appreciate washable masks, and we are having a hard time keeping up. This will greatly enhance our ability to continue to serve safely. Also donations of **winter gloves and hats** would be appreciated for our pantry clients. New or gently used would be welcomed and may be dropped off on Thursdays when the Pantry is open (10:30a-2:30p).

**RECEIPTS:** the pantry is still participating in the *SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars* program. Please remember to mail in your D & W and Family Fare receipts to the pantry. The entire receipt. For each \$150,000 in receipts, the pantry receives \$1,000! This is a great revenue source for us. Keep praying for this ministry – It is vital to our purpose to help those in need.

**CENTERING PRAYER:** Join us for a time of quiet to connect to the holy within. This group shares time to check in with one another and as Richard Rohr says, "sitting in silence to open to God's love and our love for God." Whether we are new to this practice or continuing, all are invited to gather together. Led by Sara Zallar on **Thursday evenings**. Contact Sara Zallar at [smjohnso614@hotmail.com](mailto:smjohnso614@hotmail.com) to register.

**THE FLORENCE AND MINNIE BEHL SCHOLARSHIP TO ALMA COLLEGE:** If you are a high school junior or senior with many decisions ahead to make, consider the advantage Westminster members and relatives of members have at Alma College. Alma College is a Presbyterian liberal arts school located about 50 miles north of Lansing. Visit their website, [www.alma.edu](http://www.alma.edu), and you will get a sense of the wonderful educational opportunities available. The Behl scholarship program offers approximately 10% of the yearly cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board to members of WPC and 5% to relatives of Westminster members. Applications for the scholarships are available in the WPC office by contacting Kathy Cisler at [kathrync@wpcgr.org](mailto:kathrync@wpcgr.org), or Mary Carrington at [mwc545@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwc545@sbcglobal.net). Any questions, please contact Mary Carrington at [mwc545@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwc545@sbcglobal.net) or at (616) 633-5460. The time to start planning is now. GO SCOTS!



**21ST ANNUAL**  
*Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration*

**"GRATITUDE IN TIMES OF CHALLENGE"**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 7PM**

A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

A link to access the celebration will be sent to all registrants

Join us for a celebration  
where many traditions and cultures will come together to giving  
thanks for one another, even in the midst of adversity and division.  
Through song, dance, prayer, and storytelling we will share gratitude  
with and for our West Michigan neighbors. A virtual freewill  
offering will be taken for the work of Family Promise which works to  
eliminate homelessness in our community.

InterfaithUnderstanding.org  
Register at <http://bit.ly/interfaiththanks20>  
616-331-5702





*Welcoming our newest Westminster Members*

**Confirmation Class 2020**

Nat DeWaard

Maren Gregg

Morrison Maher

Kensey McAleece

Ellen Mundell

Abigail Nelson

Charlie Patterson

Addelin Plantinga

Nadia Schoon

Please welcome our new  
members with your prayers of celebration.

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WESTMINSTER'S BUILDING IS STILL CLOSED  
ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY  
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOOD PANTRY

**SUN. NOV. 15**

10:00am ..... Livestream Worship  
4:00pm ..... Youth Group  
6:00pm ..... Social Dilemma Movie Discussion/Zoom

**MON. NOV 16**

11:45am .....WCDC Board Meeting

**TUES. NOV. 17**

3:30pm ..... Stewardship Committee  
5:00pm .....Sandwich Brigade  
7:00pm .....Nominating Committee  
7:00 pm ..... Camp Henry Board Meeting

**WED. NOV. 18**

7:00pm .....Philippians Bible Study Group  
7:00pm .....Stained Glass Task Force

**THURS. NOV. 19**

7:00pm .....Children and Families Committee  
7:00pm ..... MRRP Meeting

**FRI. NOV 20**

11:30am .....Camp Henry Virtual Fundraiser Luncheon

**SUN. NOV. 22**

10:00am ..... Livestream Worship  
4:00pm ..... Youth Group