



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Artwork, in Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, Port au Prince, Haiti  
For full description of artwork see page 4 of bulletin.

*Come to the Font*

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

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JANUARY 10, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

*Come to the Font*

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*Hear the voice of the heavens.  
Hear the voice that spoke  
from time's beginning  
declaring the goodness of creation.  
Hear the word proclaimed  
that speaks to all of time  
the goodness of God's Beloved.  
Hear the voice as it sings  
to all hearts that listen  
God's intention to bless the world.  
It resounds with the exuberance of joy.*

—From "And the Heavens Were Opened" by Andrew King

Opening Voluntary

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

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime: Huron Carol"  
Janlee Richter, Piano

*arr. John Carter*

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Call to Worship

John Nienhuis

**Opening Hymn 156**

**"Sing of God Made Manifest"**

*Salzburg*

**Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,  
to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,  
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:  
myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.**

**Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,  
"I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do."  
Then from heaven a double sign—dovelike Spirit, voice divine—  
hailed the true Anointed One: "This is my beloved Son."**

**Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest  
and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;  
further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave, and healed,  
bringing light and life to all who would listen to God's call.**

**Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,  
where the law and prophets waned so that Christ alone remained:  
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face  
towards the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.**

**Prayer of Confession**

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

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. Yet in this season of light to the world, we remain preoccupied with darkness. We want to live in hope, but too often we give into fear. We cling to destructive habits and hold grudges. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving kindness, free us from all that binds us. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace...**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

**++ Response Hymn 817**

**"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"**  
*(verse 1)*

*Dunlap's Creek*

**We walk by faith and not by sight;  
with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:  
"My peace be with you here."**

**++ Passing the Peace of Christ**

*(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)*

**Ministry of Music**

"Come to the Water"  
Isaiah 55:1-2, 6, 12  
Pat Macholan, Alto  
Tom Macholan, Tenor  
Janlee Richter, Piano

*Henry Hinnant*

THE WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

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

**Scripture**

Mark 1:4-11

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Come to the Font**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Affirmation of Faith**

from "A Brief Statement of Faith," Presbyterian Church USA

*(We affirm our faith together to remind us who and whose we are.)*

Rev. Jen Porter

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of Life.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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.**



## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
Liturgists ..... John Nienhuis, Elder for Membership Growth and Development  
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care

Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musicians ..... Pat Macholan, Alto; Tom Macholan, Tenor; Janlee Richter, Piano

Technology Team ..... Peter Larson and Dan Cisler

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### **AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

*Recorded from the Westminster Sanctuary*

#### **January 17 – Second Sunday of Epiphany**

***You Will See Greater Things***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: John 1:43-51

Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano

Mark Jackson, Tenor

#### **January 24 – Third Sunday of Epiphany**

***Believing Nineveh***

Rev. Jen Porter preaching

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Music: Paul Austin, Horn

Josh Leckrone, Baritone

We're glad you worshiped with us today!

If you would 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).

**Today's bulletin cover** - Artwork, in Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, Port au Prince, Haiti—mostly destroyed by an earthquake on January 12, 2010. Castera Bazile painted this section celebrating Christ's baptism. Attempts are underway to retain as many sections of the damaged murals as possible, so that reconstruction attempts can eventually begin, when appropriate and when funding has been secured. The entire cathedral interior was covered with murals painted by Haitian artists during the period from 1950-1951.

*Announcements following on page 5 - 6,  
Candidates to the congregation class of 2023 on page 7, church calendar on page 8*

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WPC YOUTH LOOKING AHEAD:** Westminster youth will have two outdoor events in January. This **Sunday, January 10, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**, we will meet at Prairie Wolf Park in Gaines Township (84th Street and Kalamazoo) to sled, hang out, enjoy a hot chocolate bar, and more. **On January 17**, youth will gather at Cannonsburg for group tubing from 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. Youth are also required to bring a signed release form [that can be found here](#). Dress warmly as the lodge will not be open for warming. Youth must sign up with Emily at [emilya@wpcgr.org](mailto:emilya@wpcgr.org) or Laurie at [laurieh@wpcgr.org](mailto:laurieh@wpcgr.org) by Friday, January 15 in order to attend.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** This is a reminder that each Sunday, our Children's Worship team creates videos for children that go with the themes of Sunday services and our church calendar. You can find these videos on the Westminster YouTube Channel. Contact Nancy at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) for more information.

**WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Only a couple of days are left to watch the Westminster Christmas Concert, if you haven't done so already! It was an inspiring mix of seasonal music and the word. To conform with performance regulations of the music and musicians, the event will be taken off the YouTube site on **Wednesday, January 13**. This music was a real gift in the current time of pandemic!

**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). The Pantry is also in need of clean plastic bags, which can be dropped off at church on Thursdays between 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. **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.

**SUPPORT FOR HEARTSIDE NEIGHBORS:** COVID-19 has been tough for most of us, especially the most vulnerable. Even as our Open Door Ministry is closed, we have been able to partner with Heartside Ministries in supporting our neighbors. Hats, mittens and books are needed by Heartside Ministries. If you are able to make a donation, please be in touch with Lexy McCullough at [lexymcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lexymcc@sbcglobal.net).

**COVID 19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:** We have received inquiries about making donations to Westminster's COVID 19 Emergency Assistance Fund. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so [by clicking here](#) or mail in your donation to the church with checks made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church and indicating COVID 19 fund in the memo. Your donations will continue to help the underserved in our community that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. To date, the fund has distributed close to \$40,000 to 12 organizations within our city! Some of those organizations include Cherry Health Heart of the City, GR Area Mutual Aid Network, Dégagé, Heartside Ministries, Boys & Girls Club, and Hispanic Center of Western MI. Thank you, people of Westminster, for your generosity.

**SPOTLIGHT: DAY CAMP | AGES 5-8:** Day Camp is the perfect way to get a taste of Camp Henry while still sleeping at home. Each day has a theme and new adventures await! Day Camp is for ages 5-8 and lunch is provided. Each session runs Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Dates and Rates: Cost: \$245 (Transportation from Grand Rapids \$40). Week 3: July 5-9, 2021; Week 4: July 12-16, 2021; Week 5: July 19-23, 2021. Learn more [here](#).

**PARENTS OF 3-YEAR-OLDS:** When Westminster children progress from the nursery to joining us in worship, we like to celebrate by giving them a Jesus Storybook Bible. Because we are not yet worshiping in person, we think it is even more important that our 3-year-olds have a Bible to read at home. If your child turned three anytime between March 2020 and the end of February 2021, please let Nancy Greidanus know at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org).

**ANNUAL ALL CHURCH VALENTINE'S EVENT:** Each year in February, we put together Valentine's bags for our food pantry clients—COVID can't stop us! We'll probably need to put them together at our houses, but start collecting personal-size toiletry items to put in the bags (remember, no mouthwash). Be on the lookout for more information in the next couple weeks. Email Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) with questions.

**CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS:** The pastoral care team will be hosting two zoom meetings for our members as we process together the recent changes in our pastoral staff. Please join us for a time to ask questions, lament, and to think with hope into what is next for Westminster. A member of our mental health panel will also be attending each session. Here are the dates and times: **Monday, January 11 at 3:00p**. Click [here](#) for the zoom link. **Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00p**. Click [here](#) for the zoom link.

**SANDWICH BRIGADE:** This group is providing sandwiches each Monday to our neighbors at Heartside Ministries. Since our church building has been closed and therefore unable to provide a physical space to our neighbors through the Open Door Ministry, this is a way we can provide assistance to folks in the Heartside area. If interested, or if you'd like more information, please contact Daryl Fischer at [darylkfischer@gmail.com](mailto:darylkfischer@gmail.com).

**THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP** begins the New Year on January 17 with a discussion of *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, *New York Times* Bestseller, *A New York Times* Notable Book, and a *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of 2018. “The best novel ever written about trees, and really just one of the best novels, period.”—Ann Patchett. *The Overstory* is a book for all readers who despair of humanity’s self-imposed separation from the rest of creation and who hope for the transformative, regenerating possibility of a homecoming. If the trees of this earth could speak, what would they tell us? “Listen. There’s something you need to hear.” We will meet via Zoom at 7:30p, January 17. All are welcome to join the meeting. Contact Marcie Beck at [beckmarcella7@gmail.com](mailto:beckmarcella7@gmail.com) for the link.

**ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS:** Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on 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

**WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP:** If you’re on Facebook and haven’t already, please join our WPC Community Group! We share reflections after services, our pets, our joys, and church updates in the group as another way to stay connected during these times. [Click here](#) to join the group. (in bulletin for 2 weeks)

### **Westminster Child Development Center Teacher Spotlight - Tanya Gilbert**

At WCDC when we hear the phrase “she wears many hats” Tanya Gilbert might come to mind. Tanya is currently our program’s Assistant Director. She started at WCDC in December of 1998 as floater, which meant that she had to fill various rolls throughout the center. I can say that Tanya’s official title has changed several times over the past 22 years but her ability to wear many hats hasn’t.

Tanya’s skills of working with our school-age children became very clear early on and she was assigned our after school and summer program coordinator. A role that is still near and dear to her heart. She worked solely in this role until the fall of 2009 when WCDC fell on some very trying times. It was at this point that we had to make the difficult decision to end our after-school program as our enrollment had severely dwindled due to the closure of the neighboring St. Andrew’s elementary school. This paired with the economic downfall meant several changes for both Tanya and WCDC as a whole.

In order to cover our operational costs WCDC had to cut previously outsourced services, such as catered meals and cleaning. We all worked together to fill in the gaps, with Tanya becoming the WCDC head chef. Tanya took this role on without question because it was what needed to be done. When WCDC found itself in a better financial situation, we were able to hire for the cook position, and again asked Tanya to shift her role.

It was at this point that Tanya was offered the role as Assistant Director. Between her many years at WCDC, and her educational background, Tanya was a perfect fit for this role and now serves as both our School-age Coordinator and the Assistant Director. If you are lucky you will get a to see her in action during the summer, she will be the one running with a group of kiddos to catch the Rapid bus.



With great joy, the Nominating Committee presents these Class of 2023 (except as noted)  
 candidates to the congregation, to affirm their call to ministry  
 at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Elder for Stewardship	Cheryl Bremer	
Elder for Children's Ministries	Tim Born	
Elder for Spiritual Life & Learning	Kyle Kooyers	
Elder for Camp Henry	Tom Macholan	
Elder for Older Adults	Karen Meyers	
Trustee	Brent Early	
	John Flietsra	(Additional year)
	Steve Schoon	
	Bill Warren	Class of 2022)
	Steve Wonch	
Memorial Trust	Jennifer Faber	
	Alix Thompson	
	Karen Stokes	
Administrative Deacon	Aaron Huntington	(Additional year)
	Eric Lanning	(Additional year)
	Deb Toering	(Additional year)
	Bob Van Sprange	
Caring Deacon	Diane Bartoszewicz	(Additional year)
	Joel Fortuna	(Additional year)
	Jen Kotchenruther	
	Margaret Tuori	(Additional year)
Supporting Deacon	Mary Dirkse	(Additional year)
	Pat Hornick	
	Josh Leckrone	(Additional year)
	Pam Marshall	
	Laurel Schantz	
Nominating Committee	Meredith Baker	(Continuing Member)
	Marcie Beck	(Continuing Member)
	Linda Bieze	(Deacon Rep, Continuing Member)
	Cheri Reid	(Continuing Member)
	Larry Slager	Continuing Member)
	Lisa Smith	(Continuing Member)
	Vacancy	(Trustee Representative)
	Vacancy	

# Upcoming Calendar of Events

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

**SUN. JAN. 10**

10:00 am .....Worship Online  
3:00 - 4:30 pm .....Youth Group Prairie Wolf Park Outing

**MON. JAN. 11**

6:30 pm .....Facilities Committee Online

**WED. JAN. 13**

4:00 pm .....Personnel Meeting Online

**THURS. JAN. 14**

7:30 am .....Core Missions Council Online  
10:30 am .....Food Pantry  
6:00 pm .....MGD Committee Meeting Online

**SUN. JAN. 17**

10:00 am .....Online Worship  
2:00 - 4:00 pm .....Youth Group - Cannonsburg Tubing

**THURS. JAN. 21**

10:30 am .....Food Pantry

**SUN. JAN. 24**

10:00 am .....Online Worship  
11:30 am .....Zoom Annual Meeting  
4:00 pm .....Youth Group Online