



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*John Z*

"Abundance"

9.13.2020

*Gifts in the Wilderness: Missteps*

THE NINETEENTH  
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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OCTOBER 11, 2020

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

*Gifts in the Wilderness: Missteps*

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*“May all that is unforgiven in you be released.  
May your fears yield their deepest tranquilities.  
May all that is unlived in you blossom into a future graced with love.”* — John O’Donohue

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

*“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jeremy Bork

++Call to Worship - (*adapted from Psalm 106*)

Kate and Tim Woodburne

++Opening Hymn 802

*“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

St. Columba

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread’st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.**

**Prayer of Confession**

Larry Slager

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

**Faithful God: even as you go before us leading our way; even as you nourish our souls with  
your bread from heaven; even as you quench our thirst with living water from the rock; and  
even so, we turn to things that are not you. We devote our trust and time to things of this world.  
We forget quickly what you have done among us. We take matters into our own hands.  
In your mercy, forgive us and show us the way...**

*Silent Confession*

**The Assurance of God’s Grace**

++Response Hymn 490

*“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”*  
(stanza 2)

*Beach Spring*

**Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

++Stand as you are able

## **++Passing the Peace of Christ**

*(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)*

One: Christ welcomes everyone, no matter their background or status.

**All: Let us be Christ to everyone we meet.**

One: Let us open our hearts and homes and lives to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### **Ministry of Music**

“Glory Bound”  
Maria Schoon, Soprano

*Albrecht/Althouse*

## THE WORD

### **Prayer for Illumination**

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

Rev. Jen Porter

### **Scripture**

Exodus 32:1-14

Old Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

*Gifts in the Wilderness: Missteps*

Rev. Jen Porter

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### **Affirmation of Faith**

*from The Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)*

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

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. 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 people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

### **Focus on Stewardship**

#### **Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

#### **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

Offertory

“How Beautiful Are the Feet of Those That Bring Good News”  
from *Messiah*  
Maria Schoon, Soprano

G. F. Handel

**++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

**God of Covenant, you have gone before us and behind hemming us in from all sides. We now dedicate ourselves again to you the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Rebekah, the God of Israel and all who follow. Renewed in your grace, we set out holding love and peace in abundance. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

## GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

### ++Closing Hymn 774

“There Is Now a New Creation”

Stuttgart

**There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.**

**Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:  
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.**

**Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.  
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.**

**Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.**

**There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!**

### ++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Fantasie”  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Russel Schulz-Widmar

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jeremy Bork, Minister for Youth and Their Families  
..... Kate and Tim Woodburne  
..... Larry Slager

Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musicians..... Maria Schoon, Soprano and Nadia Schoon, Soprano

Technology Team ..... Rachel Kamstra, Stella Sheckler, Peter Larson, and Dan Cisler

### AHEAD IN WORSHIP

#### *Livestreaming from the Westminster Sanctuary*

#### **October 18 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost** ***Gifts in the Wilderness: God in the Rear View Mirror***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching  
Scripture: Exodus 33:12-23  
Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano  
Bruce Klein-Wassink, Baritone

#### **October 25 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost** ***Gifts in the Wilderness: A Vision for the Future***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching  
Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Music: Diane Helle, Violin  
Eric Richter, Tenor

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).

**Sermon Discussion Groups:** As we participate in our liturgy, and as we hear the scripture and sermon, we are paying attention to what delights, surprises, or challenges us. Then, following the service, we gather together on Zoom for discussion. Anyone is welcome to join by [clicking here](#).

**PRE-WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR:** Every Sunday we will share in a half hour of pre-worship fellowship from 9:30-10:00am. All are welcome to come and greet one another as we prepare to enter livestream worship together at 10am. [Join us here](#).

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STEWARDSHIP 2020:

Dear Westminster Family, in these days when we can't see each other in person, the chance to share our stories in meaningful ways is more important than ever. We'd like to share some of your stories with the congregation during this Stewardship Season and have an easy way for you to do that. [Click here](#) to get an introduction to this process from Elder for Stewardship, Dave Driscoll. So please take a moment to record a 30-second to 1 minute segment of your Westminster story and why you give your resources to Westminster. [Click here](#) to get some prompts to help you and for instructions on where to send your video once it is done. We will use some of these videos in worship and others will be used on the church website and social media platforms. THANK YOU for sharing your abundance in this COVID wilderness! Grace and peace, your Stewardship Committee.



**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.

### **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING 2020 - BUILDING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD OF PEACE:**

Every year on World Communion Sunday, together with churches throughout our denomination, we receive this special offering which helps the church promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of this offering stays with our local congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. Please give as generously as you are able to support this work by [clicking here](#).

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE AND THE SESSION** are excited to announce Westminster's participation in the launch of an IAF-affiliated broad-based community organizing effort in Grand Rapids. This official launch will take place on October 24, and we hope to have many WPC members present. Broad-based organizing builds relational power to address social problems at their root, instead of just treating symptoms. By developing leaders in congregations, nonprofits, civic organizations, and neighborhood associations and forging connections within and across these institutions, organizing can effect change at a structural level. It's about moving from rhetoric to action, building collective power to help transform the world as it is into the world as it should be. It's about the transformative work of justice. More information about the October 24 event will be forthcoming.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER SIGNS:** More Black Lives Matter yard signs are now available! Contact Dan VanMeurs at [danvm56@live.com](mailto:danvm56@live.com) for delivery or pickup. Suggested donation is \$10; payment can be made on the church website. Any proceeds beyond the cost of the signs will be donated to the Grand Rapids chapter of Black Lives Matter. Last month we were able to donate \$282 from the sale of the signs!

**SHARE A SONG OR PRAYER:** Does your family have a special song or prayer that they use before meals or before bedtime? The Westminster family would like to add it to our monthly Memory Verse and Prayers list. Contact Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) to share it with us!

**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 beginning October 8**. Contact Sarah Zallar at [smjohnso614@hotmail.com](mailto:smjohnso614@hotmail.com) to register.

**PARKING LOT PARTY!** An **All Church Event on Sunday, October 18 from 3:00 - 4:00!** Bring your banks or donations for the BUILD THE BANK campaign, bring old T shirts to make into food pantry bags, bring your own beverage, or just bring yourself! We'll have a chance to see each other in person (with masks, of course), have packaged snacks, and contribute to the food pantry with our money and by making T shirt bags. Please park on the street so children can bring their scooters and can play in the parking lot or playground. **Please BRING IN YOUR OLD T- SHIRTS** - If you can't be at the Parking Lot Party on Sunday, October 18, bring your T-shirts to church on Thursday, October 15, or contact Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org).

**EMERGING YOUNG ADULTS:** Westminster's recently re-formed emerging/young adult group is going apple picking! We're meeting in the parking lot of Robinette's Apple Haus at **2:00pm on Saturday, October 17** for fellowship, fall festivities, and we'd love for you to join us. All are welcome. Email Jeremy at [jeremyb@wpcgr.org](mailto:jeremyb@wpcgr.org) for more information.

**THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP** has resumed meeting (via Zoom). Our next meeting is **Sunday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be discussing "Refugee" by Alan Gratz and, of course, new readers are always welcome. Anyone who has questions or is interested in being added to our emailing list can contact Marcie Beck at [beckmarcella7@gmail.com](mailto:beckmarcella7@gmail.com). A tour de force from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (Prisoner B-3087), this timely, and timeless novel tells the powerful story of three different children seeking refuge. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers - from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. Published in 2017, it received positive reviews that praised both its style and historical accuracy. Including: (among many others) 2018 National Jewish Book Award Winner for Young Adults YALSA 2018 Best Fiction for Young Adults

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

**Camp Henry | Run for Camp Virtual 5K Run & Walk.** The 2020 Run for Camp 5K has gone VIRTUAL! You choose the place to rock your 3.1 miles during the weekend of **October 17-18**. Need to take breaks during your walk? No problem! Trying to break your personal record? Great! You decide and once you have completed it, you'll submit your time virtually. Each participant will automatically become a Fundraiser for Camp, and they can share their personal fundraising page on social media and through email to help raise funds to get kids to camp. Folks who want to help raise funds but don't want to participate in the race can still become fundraisers and help get more kiddos to Camp Henry. Ready, Set, Go! Get involved at [runsignup.com/runforcamp](https://runsignup.com/runforcamp).

**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 [camphenry.org/events](https://camphenry.org/events).

**Fall Festival | October 17-18, 2020 | Ages 8-17 | \$125**

Fall is the most beautiful time of the year at Camp Henry! Come kick off the fall season at Camp Henry with a weekend full of fun and festivities! There'll be classic camp activities along with pumpkin carving, wagon rides, and other fall favorites.

**Camp 'n Treat | October 31 4:00p-7:00p:** Looking for an awesome way to celebrate Halloween? Camp Henry is hosting Camp 'n Treat - with trick or treating, pony rides, fall activities, a costume contest, snacks, and more! This is a free event with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Safety precautions will be in place. All ages. RSVP at [camphenry.org/events](https://camphenry.org/events).

**Dad and Me Weekend | Nov 6-8, 2020 | All Ages | \$99 (4 & under free)**

Dads, Uncles, and Grandpas! Get ready for a weekend packed full of activities at camp and quality time with the kids. You can look forward to some serious outdoor fun! Both sons and daughters are welcome. Registration for all of them are at [camphenry.org/events](https://camphenry.org/events) or call camp at 616-459-2267.

Also, Summer Camp 2021 registrations are already open. Go to the Camp Henry website to register for Summer Camp 2021 at [camphenry.org](https://camphenry.org) or call for more information.

**FROM THE FOOD PANTRY: A COUPLE OF COVID 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. **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.

**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!

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT:** Daniel Van Beek, from First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor has been called to serve the Franklin Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Kentucky, He is being ordained on Sunday, October 11 at 1 p.m. in an outdoor service at First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor. Laurie Hartzell will be preaching at this service.

# Calendar of Events

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

## **SUN. OCT 11**

8:30 am ..... Confirmation  
9:30 am ..... Pre-worship Coffee Hour  
10:00 am ..... Livestream Worship  
4:00 pm ..... Youth Group

## **MON. OCT 12**

6:30 pm ..... Deacon Meeting (online)

## **TUES. OCT 13**

5:00 pm ..... Communication Committee (online)

## **THURS. OCT 15**

10:30 am ..... Food Pantry  
5:00 pm ..... Technology Committee (online)

## **SUN. OCT 18**

8:30 am ..... Confirmation  
9:30 am ..... Pre-worship Coffee Hour  
10:00 am ..... Livestream Worship  
10:00 am ..... 3rd Grade Bibles (online)  
3:00 pm ..... All Church Event in Parking Lot  
4:00 pm ..... Youth Group

## **MON. OCT 19**

6:00 pm ..... Mission Partnership Comm. (online)  
6:30 pm ..... Trustees (online)

## **TUES. OCT 20**

12:00 pm ..... Memorial Trust (online)  
7:00 pm ..... Nominating Committee (online)

## **WED. OCT 21**

7:00 pm ..... Children & Family Committee (offsite)

## **THURS. OCT 22**

10:30 am ..... Food Pantry  
2:00 pm ..... Inner Compass Group (online)

## **SUN. OCT 25**

8:30 am ..... Confirmation  
9:30 am ..... Pre-worship Coffee Hour  
10:00 am ..... Livestream Worship and  
Stewardship Dedication Sunday  
4:00 pm ..... Youth Group