



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Photo shared by a visitor March 2019

Believing Nineveh

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 24, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Believing Nineveh

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Like wood, reality has a grain... Like a river, it has a current. Like a story, it has characters and setting and conflict and resolution...Creation reveals wisdom through its patterns. It reveals wisdom about its source and purpose and about our quest to be alive...if we are paying attention.

—Brian McLaren

Opening Voluntary

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

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Mary Beth Bennett

Melody: 9th Century

Arrangement: 2009

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn 373

“O Day of Peace”

Jerusalem

**O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God’s grace our warring world
shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.**

**Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.**

Prayer of Confession

Ed VanderPloeg

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

Forgiving God, there are many moments when we resist what you ask of us. We become scared and stubborn. We find ourselves awkward and inadequate. But you have called us to speak and act. You have called us to follow. Lord of surprising light, forgive us and ready us again to be your people. Teach us to love our enemies, proclaiming in our lives that love is stronger than hate and mercy is greater than vengeance. We have a lot to learn. Lord, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Assurance of God’s Grace

++ Response Hymn 817

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

Dunlap's Creek

(verse 1)

**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

“Canto Serioso”

Carl Nielsen

Paul Austin, Horn
Janlee Richter, Piano

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Old Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Believing Nineveh

Rev. Jen Porter

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.)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune
God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. 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.**

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

“Choralfantasie for Horn and Organ” (adapted)

Jan Koetsier

Paul Austin, Horn
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

++ 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

Holy God, we commit ourselves again to you this day. Strengthen our resolve to follow, even when we are not sure of the way, even when we cannot see the whole way ahead. Take our hearts, our voice, and our actions that your Spirit may bring life to us and to this world. Let inward love guide every deed, that we may worship, and so be freed. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 761

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Beecher

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Fanfare for Yorkminster"
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Francis Jackson

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care
Liturgists Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
..... Ed VanderPloeg, Elder

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians Paul Austin, Horn; Janlee Richter, Piano; Josh Leckrone, Baritone

Technology Team Peter Larson and Dan Cisler

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Recorded from the Westminster Sanctuary

January 31 — Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

The Ordination and Installation of Officers

Whose Authority?

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Music: Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

Kathy VanderVelde, Soprano and John Schlafley, Tenor

February 7— Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Mercy, Might and Right

Rev. Laurie Hartzell preaching

Scripture: John 8:1-11

Music: Janlee Richter, Piano

Kathy VanderVelde, Soprano and Eric Richter, Tenor

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 or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

This year's Annual Meeting will be held TODAY at **11:30am via Zoom**, to elect officers, approve pastoral terms of call, approve proposed amendments to the by-laws, receive the 2020 annual reports, and honor members who joined the Church Triumphant. [Click here for the Zoom link.](#)

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE YOUTH GROUPS will meet via Zoom **Sunday, January 24**. The High School group will meet at 3:30 p.m. using this [link](#). The Middle School group will meet at 4:30 p.m. using this [link](#). Reach out to Emily or Laurie with any questions!

PARENTS OF WPC YOUTH: A TIME TO CHECK-IN: On **Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m.**, parents of youth are invited to a ZOOM meeting to check-in and talk about the ongoing changes in the youth ministry leadership. Initial plans for a youth Spring retreat day and the annual Middle School and High School summer trips will also be shared. [Here's the ZOOM link:](#) Laurie Hartzell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY: Church member, Lily Fiore is again selling cookies for donation to the food pantry. The clients of the food pantry really look forward to this treat. Last year, Lily was able to donate over 100 boxes to the food pantry thanks to the generosity of our members. The cost this year is \$5.00 per box. The sale will continue through January 29, 2021. If interested please contact Leslie Fiore at lfiore648@gmail.com for more details.

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 for more information.

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. 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.

ANNUAL ALL CHURCH VALENTINE'S EVENT: Even though we can't get together to have our big Valentine's event, we can still share our love! The Children and Families Ministries Committee will have kits available for pick up so that you can put together bags filled with valentine cards, treats, and toiletries for our friends who come to the food pantry. Sign up [here](#) to drop off items and pick up kits. Questions? Ask Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org with questions.

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.

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.

CAMP HENRY HAS A NEW WAY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY: Need a spot for your family to play or exercise? Check out our Jacobs Recreation Pavilion! Full-length court, Basketball, Volleyball, and Pickleball Walls can open for access to fresh air and Bathrooms are available. Connect with Jordan Bont, Guest Experiences Director, to reserve your spot! Email jordanb@camphenry.org or call 231-652-6472.

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 worshipping 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.

CONSIDER JOINING THE INNER COMPASS, a small group meeting by Zoom twice monthly on the first and third Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30. We begin by praying scripture together (Lectio Divina) and continue with individual and group reflections related to our journeys along the Christian Way. The group resumes **Thursday, January 21**. If you would still like to sign up, email jennp@wpcgr.org to sign up, or contact Larry Slager at 616-821-2930.

THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP: Another month, another thought-provoking book. On **Sunday, February 21**, the WPC Fiction Book Group will meet via Zoom to discuss *The Dutch House*. Critics raved that this is her most powerful novel to date: "a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves, and of who we really are." We log on at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome! Email Marcie Beck at beckmarcella7@gmail.com for the link.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY groups are beginning to meet again on **Wednesday, February 3**. These groups will read a chapter of scripture each week and hold a few questions to share in conversation. Groups gather via zoom at 7:00 pm. Members, visitors, friends are welcome. [Sign up here](#).

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 Cisler 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.

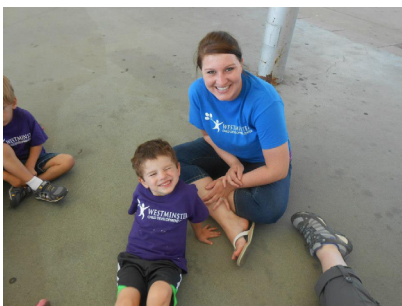
SANDWICH BRIGADE: This group is providing sandwiches each Monday to our neighbors at Heartside Ministries. Since our church building has been closed and therefore unable to provide a physical space to our neighbors through the Open Door Ministry, this is a way we can provide assistance to folks in the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

Westminster Child Development Center Teacher Spotlight - Amber Marz Momany

Our featured teacher this week isn't a teacher any longer, but she used to be. Amber Marz-Momany started out at WCDC in January of 2005 as a co-op student from GRCC. She learned the ropes fast and after finishing her degree, was offered a job to work in our school age program for the summer. Amber moved through the ranks quickly, becoming a full-time preschool teacher in the fall, and after just a year and a half at WCDC, was offered the Assistant Director position.

In 2009, WCDC, with the rest of the country, went through financial hardship, almost closing the doors permanently. With the current center Director gone, Amber, being the leader that she is, immediately stepped into that position and came up with a plan to cut costs, keep the doors open, and save our 20 employees' jobs and livelihoods. She hasn't looked back since.

Today WCDC is thriving like never before! During her career of 16 years, Amber has strived to improve the curriculum, building the integrity of the field of child care as a whole. She has promoted a high level of both teacher education and teacher salary with benefits, making WCDC a sought after facility in which to work. Just a fun fact: the average child care facility director's career lasts an average of only seven years. Amber, however, is still going strong!



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 Henry 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

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

SUN. JAN. 24

10:00 amOnline Worship
11:30 amZoom Annual Meeting
4:00 pm Youth Group Online

MON. JAN. 25

12:00 pmText Talks Online
7:00 pm Social Justice Committee Online

TUES. JAN 26

7:00 pm Broad Based Organizing Team Online

WED. JAN 27

7:00 pm Parents of Youth Meeting Online

SUN. JAN 31

10:00 amOnline Worship
10:00 am .. Ordination and Installation of Officers Online
11:00 amValentine kit pick-up (parking lot)

MON. FEB 1

12:00 pmText Talks Online
5:30 pmDeacon Moderators Online
7:00 pmSession Online



SOUPER BOWL

Saturday, February 6, 2021

“Souper Bowl”

Drive Thru Food Drive

Drive Up... (11:00a - 1:00p)

Drop Off...

Drive Away...

Enter the Westminster Parking Lot off Jefferson Ave.

Drop off your cans of soup by the entry doors.

Exit on Oakes Street.

The over 7,000 individuals served from the Westminster Food Pantry in 2020 selected 17 items from a list of approximately 50 products each visit; From dish soap, to rice, beef stew, crackers, and yes, also soup. In fact, almost always soup.

Soup is a staple for our Heartside neighbors. It's hardy, tasty, easy, can be mixed, often it can even be opened without a can opener. Soup is a vital component for many.

In 2020 we received over \$31,000 in “in-kind” donations, meaning actual gifts of product. Soup was one of the most popular donations—a huge help. We can purchase soup through Feeding America for a fraction of the cost at a grocery store.

Please assist the pantry in carrying out its mission to feed the hungry and give grace and assistance to those neighbors in need. Soup cans and cases, along with monetary donations can be brought to the church parking lot on Saturday, February 6. Thank you! Questions: contact angiek@wpcgr.org.

Cans... Cases... Checks...

Financial contributions can be made online by going to the website (westminstergr.org) and clicking on *Donations and Giving*.