



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Nathaniel under the Fig Tree,” James Tissot (1836-1902)

You Will See Greater Things

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 17, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

You Will See Greater Things

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

You wish to see: listen. Hearing is a step toward vision. —St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Opening Voluntary

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

“The Lord Will Make a Way”

Dorsey/Sexton

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Call to Worship

Susan Jennings

Opening Hymn 317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

McKee

**In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

Prayer of Confession

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

Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully as ones who need your constant care. We confess that we have failed to hear your word and follow your will. We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves. Forgive us, O God. Do not let us hide any longer, but let us be changed by you. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Lead us to honesty and faith, as we come before you now...

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

"It Is Well with My Soul"

Words: Horatio G. Spafford

Music: Bliss/Beck

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."*

*My sin--O the joy of this glorious thought--my sin, not in part, but the whole
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" it is well with my soul!*

Mark Jackson, Tenor

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

John 1:43-51

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

You Will See Greater Things

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.)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Moses Hogan

*In the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus.
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.
Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Oh, when I comes to die, give me Jesus,
Nobody but Jesus, give me Jesus.*

Cheri Reid, Soprano

++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

Bless in every way, O Lord, the gifts we bring to you, that the work of your church may be faithful to your will. Give us hearts of gratitude and generosity for the sake of all who are in need. We pray in the name of Jesus, who gave himself to the world. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 729

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Festive Gloria”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Aaron David Miller

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Liturgists Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians Cheri Reid, Soprano; Mark Jackson, Tenor
Technology Team Peter Larson and Dan Cisler

“It Is Well with My Soul” Words: Horatio G. Spafford, Music: Bliss/Beck
“Give Me Jesus” arr. Moses Hogan
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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Recorded from the Westminster Sanctuary

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

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

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 on **Sunday, January 24 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. A separate email will go out next week with the Zoom link for the meeting.

*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: This Sunday, 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 or Laurie at 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 for more information.

MLK DAY LECTURE IN CELEBRATION OF MLK DAY: Jemar Tisby, author of the book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, will provide a lecture called "What is the Color of Compromise?" as part of Calvin University's January series on January 18 at 12:30pm. Please join us for a discussion of the lecture hosted by the Social Justice Committee at 7:00pm later that day. The lecture can be accessed [here](#) on January 18. Email laurieh@wpcgr.org for the discussion Zoom Link.

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.

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.

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 with questions.

THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP begins this **Sunday, 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 for the link.

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**. Email jenp@wpcgr.org to sign up, or contact Larry Slager at 616-821-2930.

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 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)

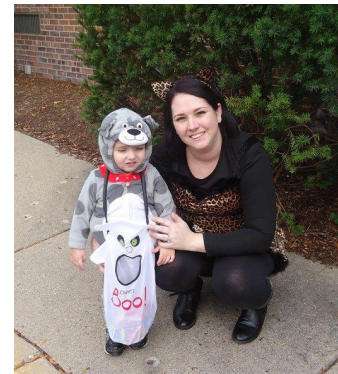
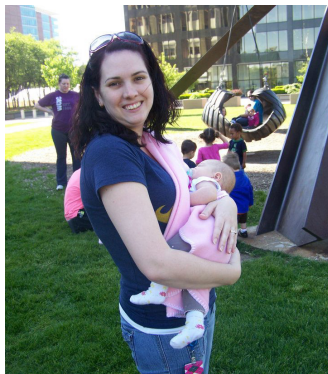
SANDWICH BRIGADE: This group is providing sandwiches each Monday to our neighbors at Heartside Ministries. Since our church building has been closed and therefore unable to provide a physical space to our neighbors through the Open Door Ministry, this is a way we can provide assistance to folks in the 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 - Jennifer Taylor

WCDC is proud to say that we have a dynamic duo in our infant room. One of these amazingly talented teaches is Jennifer Taylor, she has been with WCDC for nearly 20 years. Jen was assigned to our multi-age toddler room when she started. As the demand for infant and toddler care grew over the years, WCDC saw the need to increase our capacity to serve children of this age.

It was during this time that Jen offered to open our second toddler classroom. This was a huge undertaking, as we basically had to turn a classroom, fit for preschool aged children, into a space that our older toddlers would thrive in. This new classroom allowed WCDC to nearly double the amount of toddlers we were able to care for.

I am sure you are wondering how Jen became a part of our dynamic duo. It was in 2010 when our lead infant teacher position opened up. Jen jumped at the opportunity to move into the lead teacher role. Jen has always been a remarkable teacher, but it was working with infants that her gifts as a care provider were truly able to shine. Jen has an unbelievable natural intuition when it comes to infants. She's always able to pick up on their needs right away. This is a true skill, as many parents struggle to learn their own child's needs at first. It is because of this that Jen builds a very strong bond with her students, and loves them as her own. She'll tell you, once you're her baby, you're always her baby.



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. 17

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

MON. JAN 18

12:00 pm Text Talks Online
6:00 pm Mission Partnership Committee Online
6:30 pm Trustees Online

TUES. JAN 19

4:00 pm Way Forward Committee online
5:00 pm Communication Committee Online
7:00 pm Session Online

WED. JAN 20

7:00 pm Stained Glass Task Force Online

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

MON. JAN. 25

1:00 pm Text Talks Online
7:00 pm Social Justice Committee Online

TUES. JAN 26

7:00 pm Broad Based Organizing Team Online