



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Epiphany wood carving by Rev. Ray Kretzschmer*

*Following Stars*

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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JANUARY 3, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

*Following Stars*

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*"I will take the ring, but I do not know the way..."* —Frodo in "Lord of the Rings"

Opening Voluntary

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

"We Three Kings"

arr. Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

Call to Worship

The Calderon-Shupe Family

**Opening Hymn 150**

**"As with Gladness Men of Old"**

Dix

*(verses 1, 3, 4)*

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**Prayer of Confession**

Suzann Ogland-Hand

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

**Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, dropped all that they were doing, and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. And yet we recognize that at times we are more like Herod. Instead of everyone's health and safety being important, we find our needs more compelling than the needs of others. We cling to the security of our privilege rather than standing for the rights of the oppressed. We remain stuck in our fear and weariness rather than following the light of love and hope beckoning us down a new path. Forgive us, loving God. Show us the way...**

*Silent Confession*

**Assurance of God's Grace**

**++ Response Hymn 110**

**"Love Has Come"**

*Bring a Torch*

*(stanza 3)*

**Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

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

*(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)*

### **Ministry of Music**

“Spirituoso” and “Allegro”  
from *Fantasia No. 8 for Solo Violin in E Major*  
Eileen Doty, Violin

Georg Telemann (1681-1767)

## THE WORD

### **Prayer for Illumination**

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

### **Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

**Following Stars**

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

## 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

“Andante”  
from *Sonata No. 2 in a minor for Solo Violin*  
Eileen Doty, Violin

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**++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**

**Giver of Life, we offer ourselves and our offerings to you once again. Shine your soft light on the darkness inside us. Incense our minds and hearts with your grace. Be the treasure in our hearts. Be the gift that we give. Give us the courage to follow where you lead. In the name of Emmanuel, born to us, we pray. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

**++Closing Hymn 136**

**“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

*Go Tell It*

***Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain.***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain.***

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.***

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” (*Excerpts*)  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

*Dietrich Buxtehude*  
(b. 1637-1707)

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission  
Liturgists ..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership  
..... Suzann Ogland-Hand, Elder for Camp Henry  
..... The Calderon-Shupe Family

Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musicians ..... Eileen Doty, Violin, Janlee Richter, Organ  
..... Viviana Kloostra, Soprano, Eric Richter, Tenor

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

**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

*Recorded from the Westminster Sanctuary*

**January 10 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

***Come to the Font***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching  
Scripture: Mark 1:4-11  
Music: Tom Macholan, Tenor  
Pat Macholan, Alto

**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

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).

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WPC YOUTH LOOKING AHEAD:** In addition to planning **Youth Sunday on February 7**, the youth will have two outdoor events in January. On **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 **Sunday, January 17**, we will be tubing at Cannonsburg from **2 p.m. - 4 p.m.** More details will be coming soon. Contact Emily at [emilya@wpcgr.org](mailto:emilya@wpcgr.org), or Laurie at [laurieh@wpcgr.org](mailto:laurieh@wpcgr.org) with questions.

**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.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Save the date and please join us for the Zoom annual all-congregation meeting on **Sunday, January 24, 2021** following the 10:00a worship service. Join us to hear about the life of Westminster, celebrate the Lord's faithfulness, and remember the saints who have passed into the fuller life of the Church. The Annual Report will be available in digital format soon. More information will follow with a link to the meeting.

**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.

**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).

**THANK YOU FROM CAMP HENRY:** We are extremely thankful to the hundreds of generous donors who have chosen to support Camp Henry. Between gifts already received and pledged gifts, it looks like we are well on our way to reaching - and hopefully even exceeding - our goal of raising \$100,000 and fully taking advantage of the generous \$100,000 matching challenge gift. Because of these gifts we were able to serve campers and guests and provide awesome experiences in 2020, and we will continue to do so in the year ahead. We are extremely honored and blessed to have so many folks that enthusiastically support Camp Henry. If you are considering making year-end gifts, please consider a contribution to Camp Henry by [clicking here](#).

**SUMMER STAFF 2021 APPLICATION:** We are still accepting applications for next summer's team! Join us for a summer filled with fun, while also building your resume! Do you know an amazing individual who would love to be apart of our Summer Staff? Encourage them to apply today! [Apply here](#) and have the best summer ever!

**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](#).

**A MESSAGE FROM WCDC BOARD MEMBER:** As I reflect on 2020, I'm especially grateful for WCDC, the amazing teachers and staff, and this church community. WCDC's teachers and staff have handled the changes thrown at them this year with grace, re-imagined family-favorite events (click [here](#) to view the virtual Christmas program), and provided the children in their care with a sense of normalcy through all the change and uncertainty this year has brought.

This church community and your core mission makes this important work possible! Please consider making a contribution to the center and it's important work. Your donation will help WCDC continue to provide high-quality childcare with a sliding scale tuition in a Christian-environment for families of varying socio-economic levels in the area. Thank you, Ashley Lampen - WCDC Parent Board Member.

Donations to WCDC can be made via Venmo. The WCDC Venmo username is @WestminsterCDC. Please email [emmar@wpcgr.org](mailto:emmar@wpcgr.org) if you have any questions.

**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.

### **BUILDING USE AND WORSHIP CHANGES FROM THE WAY FORWARD COMMITTEE:**

We continue to follow these guidelines:

- There will be no in-person group meetings (both indoor and outdoor) at the church, including youth groups.
- Sunday morning worship will be pre-recorded; it will still be aired at its usual 10am time via our YouTube channel on Sunday mornings.
- Staff are encouraged to work remotely as much as possible.
- The Food Pantry will continue to operate as it has throughout the pandemic, as will WCDC.

One thing will not change: we will continue to live in faith and hope. Please continue to pray for and support all who are laboring tirelessly to develop effective responses to COVID, as well as for those who are affected physically, emotionally, spiritually, and economically by this pandemic.

## **Westminster Child Development Center Teacher Spotlight**

Patti Walsh is a preschool teacher at WCDC, who works mostly with our three year olds. Patti has been with WCDC since December 1981, which means this year she will be celebrating her 40th anniversary with us! Patti is one of the calmest, knowledgeable and loving teachers you've ever meet.

Patti started her career at WCDC when she was only 17 years old. She worked in our preschool program until she gave birth to her first child. During that time WCDC only offered care to preschool aged children so Patti choose to stay home and care for her son. She did, however, promise that if WCDC ever decided to open an infant and toddler program she would be back. Low and behold roughly 3.5 years later Patti received a call asking if she would spearhead the opening of our infant and toddler program. Patti made good on her promise and returned to WCDC, where she helped to build the infant and toddler program from the ground up.

Patti has never looked back from that day, she has been a dedicated WCDC teacher ever since. She is proud to say that all three of her boys are WCDC graduates and hopes that someday her grand babies will be too.



## 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. 3, 2021**

10:00 am .....Worship Online  
4:00 pm .....Zoom Youth Group

**MON. JAN. 4**

7:00 pm .....Zoom Session Meeting

**THURS. JAN. 7**

10:30 am .....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  
6:00 pm .....MGD Committee Meeting Online

**SUN. JAN. 17**

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