



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, Herbert Boeckl, Angel's Chapel, Seckau

*Ministry Means Movement*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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MAY 2, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

*Ministry Means Movement*

**GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD**

In Preparation for Worship

*Faith found the water. Faith will always find the water.*

– Willie James Jennings

Opening Voluntary

“What God Ordains Is Always Good”

*Johann Walther*

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Easter Acclamation

Emma Richter

This is the Good news -  
The grave is empty,  
Christ is risen, Alleluia!  
This is the Good News -  
The light shines in the darkness  
And the darkness can never put it out.  
This is the Good News -  
Once we were no people.  
Now we are God's people!  
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**++Opening Hymn 245**

**“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”**

*Llanfair*

**“Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia!  
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Adoration**

**We praise you, Eternal God, for the gift of beauty that surrounds us in creation. We praise you for the gift of peace through your presence, the gift of challenge through your call to us, and the gift of love through Jesus Christ. Fill us with the hope and joy of new beginnings, so that we may share the good news of your liberating, life-giving power with all the world. We pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.**

**++Response Hymn 246**

(stanza 5)

Truro

**Christ is alive and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

**++Passing the Peace of Christ**

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Ministry of Music

“Laudamus Te” from *Gloria*  
Linda Nelson, Violin  
Hannah Nelson, Clarinet  
Helen Hofmeister, Piano

Antonio Vivaldi

**THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

New Testament

Sermon

Ministry Means Movement

Rev. Lynette Sparks

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Affirmation of Faith**

from 1 Cor. 15, Mark 16, Matt. 16, Rev. 22, and John 20

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

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:  
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised  
on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the  
last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

**Focus on Mission**

Mental Health Referral Panel

**Offering Our Lives**

Offertory

“Rondo” from *Duo No. 1*  
Linda Nelson, Violin  
Hannah Nelson, Clarinet

Ludwig van Beethoven

**++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!**

## The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

### GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 536

**Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen**

*Surge Ecclesia*

**Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia: God, the wonder of our days.**

**Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.  
Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.**

**Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive;  
present by God's loving nurture, Spirited then let us live.  
Alleluia, alleluia: Spirit, grace by whom we live.**

**Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;  
mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.  
Alleluia, alleluia: Rise, O church, a living faith.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"What God Ordains Is Always Good (Finale)"  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

*Johann Walther*

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission  
..... Emma Richter, Communications Manager  
Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musicians ..... Linda Nelson, Violin  
..... Hannah Nelson, Clarinet  
..... Lambert Zuidervaart, Bass  
Technology Team ..... Dan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, and Peter Larson  
Chat Host ..... Randy Block

**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

*Broadcast from the Westminster Sanctuary*

**May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Them, Too?**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48

Music: John Nienhuis, Baritone

Kathy Vandervelde, Soprano

**May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Hope, Riches, and Power**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Music: Peter Falb, Cello

Viviana Kloostra, Soprano

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**

### **CAMP HENRY'S FAMILY CAMP: May 28-May 30, Camp Henry.**

Enjoy camp with the whole family and get away with your loved ones to play, relax and connect with the outdoors. Camp Henry will provide programming for all ages, food service, and lodging for this fun-filled weekend! This event runs from Friday, May 28, at 7pm to Sunday, May 30, at 11am. Register [here](#) to reserve your spot!

### **PUT CAMP 2021 ON YOUR CALENDARS! Thursday, September 2-5, Camp Henry.**

Enjoy some late summer days at Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp2021. Camp2021 begins in the late afternoon of Thursday, September 2 and culminates with worship and camp activities on Sunday, September 5. Camp Henry has procedures and plans in place to keep everyone safe and healthy, and Camp provides a great time for spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and communal joy. Be on the lookout for more information and registration.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR: YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP HENRY WITH REV. ALONZO JOHNSON:**

**Oct. 23, 2021** We'll lean into how to do justice, love kindness, and walk with God on this special day together. This will be a time you don't want to miss!

**THE BARBARA MOLHOEK-CALLUM MCPHEETERS MENTAL HEALTH FUND:** Since 2015, Westminster has offered almost \$93,000 in financial assistance for people seeking mental health services. This has been possible through the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters fund and it has allowed folks that might not otherwise be able to afford care, receive much needed mental health services. This financial assistance is available to members and non-members alike. As we highlight the need for quality mental health care in the month of May, please consider a donation to this fund. And here's some really good news - the Shine a Light on Mental Health Foundation ([shinealightfoundation.com](http://shinealightfoundation.com)) has generously agreed to match any donation made in the month of May, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. To make a donation, click [here](#). Thank you for considering and thank you to the Shine A Light on Mental Health Foundation. For more information on the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters fund and the WPC Mental Health Referral Panel, click [here](#).

**NOMINATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP:** As the Nominating Committee considers members for roles in leadership, we ask that the congregation partner with us in this important work and let us know about those members who may have gifts for leadership as an elder, deacon, trustee, or member of the memorial trust. If you know of a member that you would like to recommend for consideration by the Nominating Committee, please complete the form [here](#). If you would like additional information on the leadership roles, click [here](#). The deadline to submit names for consideration is May 15. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org) or Carol Lautenbach at [cjlautenbach@gmail.com](mailto:cjlautenbach@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **CANVASSING GRAND RAPIDS NEIGHBORHOODS TO SIGN PEOPLE UP FOR COVID-19 VACCINES:**

There is a big initiative sponsored by the A. Philip Randolph Institute and several churches in the Grand Rapids area to canvas neighborhoods and register people for the COVID-19 vaccine. Volunteers are needed for this effort, and will be trained and work in pairs. For more information or to volunteer for a three hour shift in the next few weeks, click [here](#).

**SURVEY FOR YOUTH AND THEIR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS** We are discerning the timing for youth and youth choirs this fall and need your input! Please fill out [this survey](#) by May 4.

**GRADUATE VIDEO** Graduates! We are creating a video of all our graduates, both high school and college. Please send a photo of your graduate as well as the school they are graduating from, their degree, and any future plans to Laurie Hartzell ([laurieh@wpcgr.org](mailto:laurieh@wpcgr.org)) by May 22.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** The Sandwich Brigade is looking for volunteers! If you are interested in supporting this ministry that started in November 2020, we could use your help as the summer months approach. The brigade prepares 150 sandwiches every Monday to deliver to our neighbors at Heartside Ministries. We could use a few subs to fill in this summer as our 'regular' volunteers may be on vacation or out of town. We typically have 3-4 volunteers for each Monday, so you wouldn't be alone in this endeavor! If interested in participating, or if you have questions, please contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org).

**YOUTH MAILING LIST:** Did you know that each week an email is sent to youth and their parents with information about the upcoming youth events? If you didn't know this, have a teen living in your home, and would like to be on this email list, send a note to Laurie at [laurieh@wpcgr.org](mailto:laurieh@wpcgr.org). She will be sure you get on the list!

**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.

**SECURITY CARD ACCESS** In recent months, a new security system has been installed at the church. In conjunction with that, the Facilities Committee has established new guidelines for issuing access cards to optimize both security and accessibility for members who need it:

- Access will be given to committee chairs/moderators.
- Regular volunteers will have access based on time and date of service.
- Access with a card will be through the front door only, with exceptions based on specific roles (e.g. WCDC, Food Pantry, communion preparers).
- We request that all others turn in their old cards to minimize the cost of purchasing new cards.
- We also request that all physical keys be turned in to eliminate new purchases.
- When roles change, access cards are to be turned in so they can be given to new members in that role.
- All communication regarding security cards should be directed to Brad Hambelton, Facilities Manager, at [bradh@wpcgr.org](mailto:bradh@wpcgr.org).

**CAMP HENRY HAS A NEW PROJECT- AND THEY NEED YOUR HELP!** Camp Henry is super excited to be building Hank's House, a new Duplex that will be an amazing addition, and will help house some of our awesome year-round staff members. They are seeking volunteers to help with construction and carpentry - or skilled trades workers to assist with plumbing, electrical, drywall, HVAC, and more! Find out how to help [here](#).

**WESTMINSTER TECH ASSISTANCE TEAM!** The Tech Assistance Team is a group of Westminster volunteers who can assist the WPC Community with navigating the technology that has become so important for keeping in touch during the pandemic. The Tech Assistance Team can help you with questions such as:

- How do I watch the YouTube livestream on my Smart TV?
- What are all the buttons in a Zoom call for?
- How do I use Facebook?
- How can I prevent emails from being marked as spam?

...and many, many more!!

You can use the form any time to submit general tech assistance requests or you can call the office and they'll pass your request on to the team! Got a request? Let us know [here!](#)

**THE DEACON'S FUND:** This fund was established many years ago to assist church members with short term financial needs, such as utility payments, transportation, and insurance payments. The fund is generously funded by the congregation, and we want to put it to use for those that have been hard hit by under-employment, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances. To initiate a request, please contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org) or 456-1456. All information will be kept confidential.

**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 the church office at 616-456-1456.

**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.

**Westminster Child Development Center Returnables for Reading** WCDC is collecting bottles and cans to fund our ever-growing library. We strive to provide books that act as a mirror, where our children can see themselves, as well as those that are windows into the outside world, to reinforce the value of our differences and celebrate our diversity. Please join this effort to provide our young learners with the stories that will help them better understand the people and cultures of our world. If you have cans and/or bottles to donate, you can ring the bell under the blue WCDC awning (located on the La Grave side of Westminster Presbyterian Church) from 6:30 - 6:00 Monday-Friday, and a staff member will collect your donation. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of this crucial mission.

## 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. MAY 2**

10:00 am ..... Online Worship  
11:30 am ..... Walk for Good Food  
1:00 pm ..... Game On Board Game Group  
4:00 pm ..... Youth Group

### **MON. MAY 3**

12:00 pm ..... Text Talk  
5:30 pm ..... Deacon Moderators Meeting  
7:00 pm ..... Session Meeting

### **TUES. MAY 4**

5:00 pm ..... Sandwich Brigade

### **WED. MAY 5**

7:00 pm ..... Youth Committee

### **Thurs. May 6**

10:30 am ..... Food Pantry  
2:00 pm ..... Inner Compass

### **SUN. MAY 9**

10:00 am ..... Online Worship