

MORNING WORSHIP
Lent Is Not for the Faint of Heart

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because [God] wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things [God] now has in store."

— N.T. Wright

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary "O Lord, I Now Must Leave You"

Johannes Brahms
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

++Call to Worship

Sara Zallar

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey that begins in the wilderness.

All: We follow the way of Jesus, who faced hunger, doubt, and temptation.

One: Like Jesus, we are not alone.

All: The Holy Spirit is with us.

One: Let us worship and walk the journey together,

All: for God is leading us to new life.

++Hymn 182 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Kingsfold

Prayer of Confession

Create in us clean hearts, O God. As we begin Lent, we confess our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. We are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you. Our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will. We are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others. We look to the sensational rather than the humility of Christ. We are tempted to manipulate you to satisfy our own needs. Create in us clean hearts, O God, cleansed by your mercy, and made strong by your love...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: God freely offers mercy to us through the grace of our baptism—safe passage through the sea, justice rolling down like water, deliverance from sin and death forever. Rejoice and give thanks!

All: Through God's love in Christ, we are washed clean and created anew.

One: Friends, believe the Good News.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 434 "Restore in Us, O God"

stanzas 1 & 3

Baylor

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Soon and Very Soon"

Crouch/Dilworth

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!
No more crying there, we are going to see the King.
Should there be any rivers we must cross, any mountains we must climb,
God will supply all the strength that we need 'til we reach the other side.
We have come from every nation, God knows each of us by name:
Jesus took his blood and washed our sins away.
Yes, there are some of us who have laid down our lives,
But we all shall meet again on the other side.
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!
Tenor and Bass Choir

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

(Children three years through second grade may finish their time of worship in the worship centers. Children's worship leaders or parents will shepherd them from the sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)

Congregation: As you worship together, may God be with you.

Children: And also with you.

Congregation: Go in peace!

THE WORD

Scripture

Luke 4:1-13

New Testament p. 61

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Lent Is Not for the Faint of Heart"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith ("A New Creed," United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Commissioning of Cuba Travelers

Susan Jennings & Jeanne DeWaard

Offering Our Lives

Rev. Jen Porter

Offertory:

"We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace" arr. William Appling
We shall walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

We shall walk through the valley in peace!

And if Jesus himself shall be our leader,

We shall walk through the valley in peace!

There will be no sorrowing there.

And if Jesus himself shall be our leader,

We shall walk through the valley in peace!

Tenor and Bass Choir

++Doxology

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

For those worshipping in the sanctuary, we invite you to come forward down the center aisle to receive the pre-packaged communion elements and return to your seats by way of the side aisles. We will hold the elements until all have been served and take them together. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament. You may place the used packaging materials on the communion racks on the back of the pews and then dispose of them in bins when you exit the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.

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 of Response

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

St. Flavian

Stanzas 1 & 2: All sing

Stanza 3: Tenor and Bass Choir only

Stanza 4: All sing

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Prelude in F Minor"

J.S. Bach

CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE

Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to all that is good. Return no one evil for evil. Do justice. Walk with those who are fainthearted. Help those who suffer. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

March 20 – Third Sunday in Lent

**Come to the Waters
Sacrament of Baptism**

Rev. Jen Porter

Isaiah 55:1-13

Music: Sanctuary Choir

March 27 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Youth Sunday

Music: Kirk Singers, Chapel Singers, Carol Choir

AHEAD IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

March 13, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

"Coming out of Exile," Inductive Bible Study on the Book of Ezra with Rev. Kyle Kooyers

March 13 and 20, 11:15 a.m., Parlor

Broad Based Organizing House Meeting

March 20, 27; April 3

The contribution each of us makes to the healing of the world is our gift of Active Hope. Led by Rachel Hood, Heather Lermont-Pape, and Rev. Jen Porter

COMMISSIONING OF CUBA TRAVELERS

Marc Bohland, Ralph Hammond, Pat Hornick, and John Nienhuis.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Worship service
- 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Youth Group and Youth Choirs
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Sunday School and Children's Choirs

NEW CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE

- 11:00 a.m. Kids three-years-old to 5th-grade are led to the art room by their parents after the 10:00 a.m. service for a snack.
- 11:15 a.m. Three to four-year-olds do activities in the gym or Nurturing Center. Young fives can decide what best suits them. Kindergarten through second-grade kids stay for church school and 3rd through 5th-grade kids go to choir in room 309 upstairs.
- 11:50 a.m. The grades switch for choir and church school.
- 12:15 a.m. The children are led downstairs to their parents at the check-in tables to go home.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
 Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
 Sara Zallar, Youth Ministry Coordinator
 Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care, Mission, and Membership
 Jeanne DeWaard, Elder for Social Justice
 Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families
 Musicians Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
 Tenor and Bass Choir
 Janlee Richter, Accompanist

Ushers..... Team C
 Doug and Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs
 Kari and Chris Fuller, Ann and Jim Jarvis
 Kevin Larr, Rich Zimmerman, and Sharon VanderWilp

Worship Center 1 John Meyers and Mike Herrick
 Worship Center 2..... Erin Molhoek
 Nurturing Center Sarah and Ben Pipher

Cover Artwork..... Emma Richter

Welcome to Westminster

MASKING UPDATE

Based on the most current guidance from the CDC, local vaccination rates, and the continued, significant decline in local COVID-19 case numbers, the Way Forward Committee has decided that masking in our facilities is now optional, including in Sunday worship.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at westminstergr.org. You are welcome and celebrated here!

ASSISTANCE

If you'd like a large-print bulletin or a hearing device, please ask one of the ushers at a sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T.

CHILDREN

Parents of three-year-olds to fifth graders, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your kids engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) is available during the service. Children (ages 3 through 2nd grade) will begin worship in the sanctuary and be invited to continue worship in the interactive settings of our worship centers. Leaders will shepherd them to their centers, but parents are welcome to lead them as well. Children will wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's Ministry hallway off the Gathering Place.

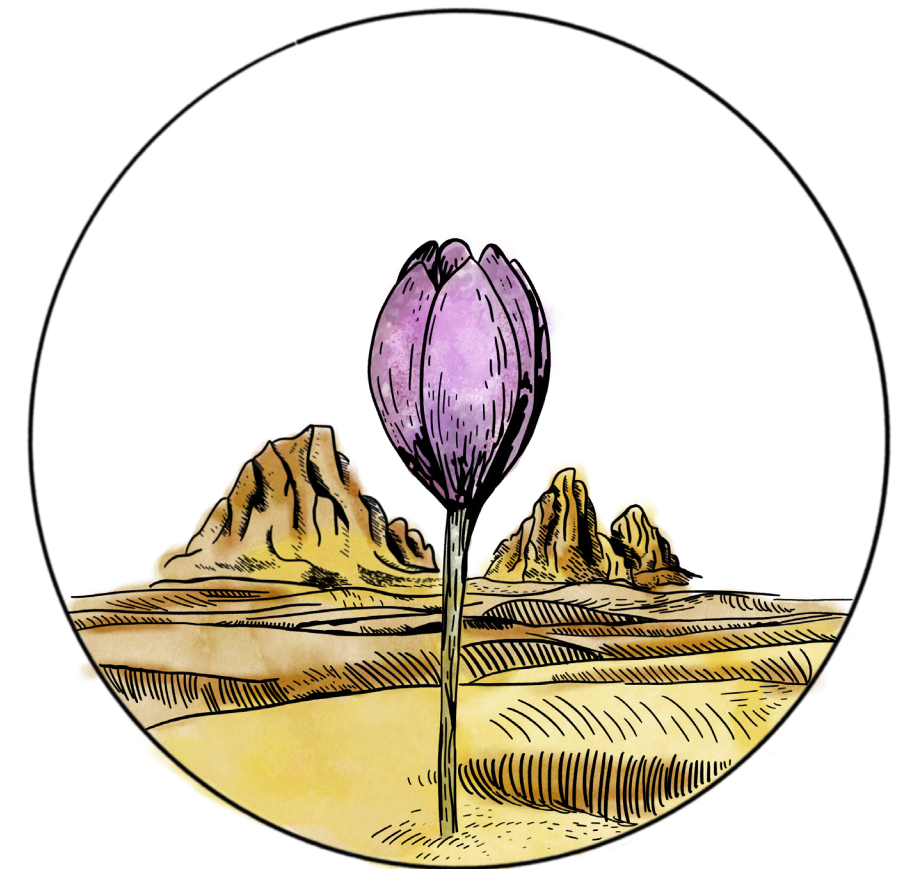
Youth

Our youth ministry serves middle and high schoolers through weekly meetings, youth choirs, retreats, and summer trips. Join us for youth group and choir after the 10:00 a.m. service from 11:00 to 1:30 p.m. If you would like more information about youth ministry, please contact our Interim Lead Youth Coordinator Christy Roosien at christyr@wpcgr.org. To sign up for updates via email from our youth program, email emmar@wpcgr.org.

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Create in Me a Clean Heart



Lent Is Not for the Faint of Heart

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT**

**MARCH 13, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS: March 13, 11:00 a.m., Gathering Place Dégagé vouchers will be on sale for \$2 each this Sunday in the Gathering Place after the 10:00 worship service. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks asking for money; these vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé Ministries, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more. You can also purchase them online at <https://degageministries.org/voucher/>

HOUSE MEETING: March 13, 20, 11:15 a.m., Parlor Together West Michigan (Grand Rapids' newly named broad-based organizing group) is setting out to hold hundreds of house meetings in March and April among its twenty participating institutions. These meetings are a chance to share our stories and make connections with others eager to act on community concerns. Come to a house meeting in the parlor after the service today to participate in this powerful process.

WISDOM OF TRAUMA MOVIE: March 13, 6:30 p.m., Chapel Come join the Adult Faith Formation Committee for a viewing and discussion of the film *The Wisdom of Trauma*. This ground-breaking film was produced alongside Dr. Gabor Mate, who has spent his life working to understand the connection between trauma, illness, and societal stress. We hope this conversation will give space for vulnerability and connection - and a reorienting for how our church community holds and bears witness to the trauma in our own lives, communities, and society as a whole.

ELISABETH CIRCLE: March 15, 1:00 p.m., Parlor The Elisabeth Circle will be discussing chapter twelve of *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact Lois Waldecker at 616-784-0900 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION BOOK GROUP: March 20, 11:15 a.m., Chapel Adult Faith Formation will discuss *Active Hope* by Joanna Macy. She offers a process for strengthening our long-term commitment for the healing of the world. If you would like a book ahead of time, a limited number will be available this Sunday in the Gathering Place (suggested donation of \$10). Reading the book is not necessary to participate in the conversation. Led by Rachel Hood, Heather Lermont-Pape, and Rev. Jen Porter.

HEARTSIDE ART AND EXPERIENCE AUCTION: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m., The High Five GR, 19 La Grave Ave SE As a mission partner of Heartside Ministries, we support their ministry in many ways; the Art and Experience Auction is another way that we can support their important work! The Art and Experience Auction will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m., at The High Five GR, 19 La Grave Ave SE. For more info, click here: <https://buff.ly/3LvvgCZ>

FISH BANKS: Church School children are receiving fish banks and a page of ideas of how to observe Lent. Bring your filled fish to place in the baskets in the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 17. The money collected helps provide food and comfort for people all over the world as part of the One Great Hour of Sharing Program. For anyone else who would like a fish bank, there will be extras on the children's check-in tables. They are for everyone!

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 contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org or Cheri Reid, Elder for Nominations, at creid@yahoo.com by April 15. Thank you!

CULTURAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE: CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP April 18-21 The Social Justice Committee is offering scholarships to cover half the costs for two Westminster members interested in joining this trip! The Momentum Center of Grand Haven invites you to join this cultural immersion trip to open our eyes to the truths about racial injustices in America and commit to being anti-racists. We will travel via bus from Grand Haven, MI to Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama as well as a stop in Memphis, TN. We would love for you to join us as we explore important places in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. For more information, see www.momentumcentergh.org/civil-rights-road-trip. To inquire about the scholarship, please contact Dan VanMeurs at (616) 243-0787 or danvm56@live.com.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. MARCH 13: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. House Meeting Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Children's Choirs Upstairs
- 6:30 p.m. Movie & Discussion Chapel

MON. MARCH 14

- 9:30 a.m. Sandwich Brigade Dining Room
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group Multipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Administrative Deacons Meeting Online
- 6:30 p.m. Caring Deacons Meeting Online
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons Meeting Online
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee Library, Online

TUES. MARCH 15

- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Online

WED. MARCH 16

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgangs
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting Online
- 6:00 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus Choir Room

THURS. MARCH 17

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Committee Online
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Choir Room

SUN. MARCH 20

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. House Meeting Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Children's Choirs Upstairs

DONATIONS: Donations can be made by scanning the QR code on this page, through our secure online giving site, by check sent to the church office, and through other forms. If you have questions about how to give to the church, please email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616) 717-5581.



We welcome our new members that joined Westminster on Sunday, February 27! We are a new church with their presence, and we look forward to the ways in which we will respond, together, to God's call.



Ellen Adams, Caroline Potteiger and Jeff Potteiger



Linda and Dan Heyer