

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Call it the persistence of wonder, or the stubbornness of the miraculous: how Christ casts his circle around the fragments, will not loose his hold on what is broken and in pieces. How he gathers them up: a sign of the wholeness he can see; a foretaste of the banquet to come."
—Jan Richardson

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

"Adagio ma non tanto"
from Violin Sonata in E Major BWV 1016
Eric Tanner, Violin
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

J.S. Bach

++Call to Worship

Rev. Jen Porter

One: Come, you who hunger for food.

All: **Worship the Lord who turns want into plenty.**

One: Come, you who hunger for justice.

All: **Worship the Lord who turns weeping into laughter.**

One: Come, you who hunger for life.

All: **Worship the Lord who is our hope and our strength.**

++Hymn 509

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

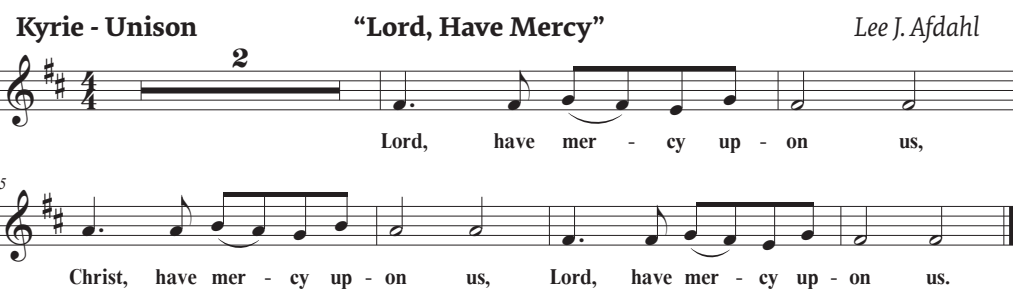
Holy Manna

Prayer of Confession

Christ our Savior, when the crowds surrounded you, hungry for bread and for your word, you took a meager offering of bread and fish and made for them a feast. Still, we doubt the abundance of your grace. We hesitate to share the gifts we have. We wonder whether there is enough for all. Forgive us, O God, and make us more generous. Empower us to share the gift of our lives, and help us to perceive the miracles around us, for you are the giver of grace upon grace. Hear us as we offer our confession to you...

Silent Confession

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



Assurance of God's Grace (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

One: Hear the Good News: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All: **All this is from God, with whom we are reconciled through Christ. Thanks be to God!**

++Response Hymn 817 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" Dunlap's Creek

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

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

All: **And also with you.**

Ministry of Music "Duet No. 4" (Polonaise) from 12 Duets KV 487 W.A. Mozart

Eric Tanner, Violin
Stacey Tanner, Cello

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

(Children three years through fourth 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

John 6:1-15

New Testament p. 97

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"In Praise of Tiny Magic"

Bryce Wiebe

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.

Prayers of the People and 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

"Duet No. 1"
(Allegro Commodo) from 3 Duets
Eric Tanner, Violin
Stacey Tanner, Cello

Ludwig van Beethoven

++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!

++Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

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.**

We rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received from you. Multiply these gifts that we give, so that the world may more deeply know the fullness of life in you. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 498 "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

Beach Spring

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Dialogue sur les grands jeux"

François Couperin

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

August 21

Sacrament of Baptism

It's Not About the Fish—Part 3

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Jonah 4:1-11

Music: Harper Davis, Soprano

August 28

Look Deeper

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Music: Mark Jackson, Tenor

SUMMER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

During the summer, children's ministry focuses on reading children's books that teach children how to apply biblical concepts to real world situations. Your children can join the children's centers during worship, or you can follow along with your children at home!

This week: *The Belonging Tree* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler and Kristine A. Lombardi

Next week: *Change Sings - A Children's Anthem* by Amanda Forman and Loren Long

Leaders: Katie Prince and Alissa Enzenberger

The *Belonging Tree* is a thoughtful picture book about respect, inclusion, and acceptance in a woodland community of animals. Life was ordinary in the big oak tree on Forest Lane. Squirrels lived in every part of the tree, and the Gray squirrel family inhabited the knot in the middle. But the neighborhood starts to change as the big oak tree welcomes families of chipmunks, beavers, and birds. And with each new arrival, the Grays become increasingly unhappy. Can't everything remain just as it was? It will take an unexpected moment of heroism from a thoughtful inhabitant to finally open hearts and bind together this diverse animal community.

Activity: Children may draw a self-portrait on a cut-out leaf to put on a church family tree.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherBryce Wiebe, Associate at Eastminster Presbytery
LiturgistsRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Eric Tanner, Violin
..... Stacey Tanner, Cello

Ushers..... Team B
..... Bernie and Kathy Smith, Gordon Griffin
..... Stephen Marshall, Randy Block, and Chris Mayhew

ABOUT TODAY'S PREACHER:

We welcome today's guest preacher, Bryce Wiebe. Bryce is currently serving as Associate for Vital Congregations at Eastminster Presbytery (Ohio) and collaborating with individual congregations seeking transformation through their own re-expression. Previously, Bryce served as Director, Office of Special Offerings for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Bryce earned his Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, and his B.A. in Music and Business Administration from Hastings College.

Welcome to Westminster

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

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.



Loaves and Fishes, John August Swanson

In Praise of Tiny Magic

SEASON OF
THE SPIRIT

AUGUST 14, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

CONVERSATION SPACE: August 14, August 21, Parlor after worship If you are newly worshipping with us and are just beginning to get to know this congregation, we invite you to join us following worship. Our pastoral team will be present for informal conversation in the Parlor, the first room after you leave the Sanctuary—not far from the coffee and cookies. We offer this space for an opportunity to get to know one another.

BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE August 21 following worship in the Sanctuary The Session has called a brief Special Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, August 21 in the Sanctuary immediately following the morning worship service. This will be to elect two nominees presented by the Nominating Committee: Dennis Delano-Taylor, Elder for Membership, Growth, and Development; and Jackie Schoon, Supporting Deacon.

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2022: September 1-4, 2022, Camp Henry Join us as we explore our theme: “Re-Shaped.” We will deepen relationships with our church family in the beautiful setting of Camp Henry with all it has to offer: accommodations for many different needs, food prepared for you, plenty of activities for body and soul, and space to relax in God’s creation. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org if you have questions. Visit westminstergr.org to register.

WPA FALL LUNCHEON: September 8, Dining Room WPA (Westminster’s fellowship ministry for older adults, who may or may not be retired) is pleased to announce the return of our fellowship luncheons this fall. We’ll start with registration and a punchbowl at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. After lunch, we’ll have a rousing game of BINGO (with prizes). There is no charge for this event. Please call the church office, 616-717-5529, to sign up no later than September 1, 2022 or sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3JOb1jm>.

WPA FALL BUS TRIP: October 12 We’ll be traveling to Ludington to visit the new Mason County Research Center and the Port of Ludington Maritime Center, both of which have exhibits designed by our guest speaker, Valerie Van Heest, who is a shipwreck expert. Also included is a stop at the Ludington House of Flavors before heading back to Grand Rapids. All for the registration fee of \$10! Fliers with information on the trip and registration form are available at <https://bit.ly/3OneLuT>. Registration deadline for this trip is September 12, 2022.

RUN FOR CAMP 5K: October 15 The 2022 Run for Camp 5K is back again this fall at Camp Henry! We’re excited to welcome runners and walkers back to Camp. Can’t make it? No problem! Register for the virtual option and you choose your place to rock the 3.1 miles! More details and sign up here: <http://camphenry.org/runforcamp>.

CAMP HENRY HIRING PROGRAM SPECIALISTS: Camp Henry is seeking 3 to 4 fun-loving, hard-working, service-oriented folks, preferably with previous camp staff experience, to join our camping ministry and serve as Program Specialists. These positions will begin in August and run through November 12.

Donations: Donations can be made by scanning the QR code on this page, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. If you have questions about how to give to the church, please email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616) 717-5533.



This Week's Calendar

SUN. AUGUST 14

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Refugee Resettlement Meeting....Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. Conversation SpaceParlor
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place

MON. AUGUST 15

- 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Brigade..... Dining Room

TUES. AUGUST 16

- 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Conference Room

THURS. AUGUST 18

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. WPA Committee Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Committee..... Offsite

SUN. AUGUST 21

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational MeetingSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Conversation Space Parlor

Announcements

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: CANNED MEAT AND SOUP The Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned meat and canned soup during the month of August. The Pantry is also low on plastic grocery bags. Items can be brought to the greeter's desk. Thank you!

ASSISTANT FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION OPENING: We need your help finding an Assistant Facilities Manager! For more information, please visit the "Employment Opportunities" page on our website (under the "Get Involved" tab) or contact our Facilities Manager, Brad Hambelton, at bradh@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5536. Thank you for your help in finding someone to work in this vital role!

ELISABETH CIRCLE: The Elisabeth Circle has selected Wholehearted Faith by Rachel Held Evans as its book for the 2022-2023 year. September 2022 will be our first fall meeting. For information about purchasing the book or any other questions, please call Lois Waldecker at (616)784-0900.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: You have several opportunities coming up soon to engage in Westminster's broad-based organizing efforts! The Issue Team and Research Action Training will take place Wednesday, August 17, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. This event will help you learn more about issues identified as across our community and how to be a part of work on these issues. If you're curious about broad-based organizing or want to learn how to be a leader in different issue areas, we particularly invite you to the Broad-Based Organizing Training Friday, September 9, 6:00-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, September 10, from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at Park Congregational Church.