

MORNING WORSHIP  
Love One Another

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."  
—Mother Teresa

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary "Beloved Jesus, We Are Here"

Chorale: J. S. Bach  
Setting: Marcel Dupré

++Call to Worship

Helen Engbers

One: Come and hear what God has done:  
**All: God has listened to our prayer.**  
One: When we pass through the torrent of deep troubles,  
**All: God turns the sea to dry land.**  
One: When we are tested as silver is tried,  
**All: God keeps us in the land of the living.**  
One: When we go through fire and water,  
**All: God brings us to a spacious place.**  
One: Come and hear what God has done:  
**All: God surrounds us with steadfast love.**

++Hymn 17 "Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!" *Wie lieblich ist der Maien*

Prayer of Confession

**God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

*Silent Confession*

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

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,  
Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the Good News: God seeks those who are lost, brings back those who have strayed, binds up those who bear wounds, and strengthens those who are weak.  
**All: In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Thanks be to God!**

++Response Hymn 6 "I Bind unto Myself Today" *St. Patrick*  
(stanza 1)

**I bind unto myself today  
the strong name of the Trinity  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three in One and One in Three.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ *Rev. Jen Porter*

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

Ministry of Music "O Thou Who Camest from Above" *Philip Stopford*  
*Text: Charles Wesley*

*O thou who camest from above, the pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle the flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart.  
There let it for thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return in humble prayer and fervent praise.  
Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work and speak and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up thy fight in me.  
Still let me prove thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat;  
Till death thy endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete.*  
Sanctuary 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 Acts 6:1-7; Galatians 6:1-10 New Testament p. 123; 191

One: The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Love One Another" *Rev. Lynette Sparks*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith *(from the Confession of 1967)*  
**The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.**  
**The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society.**

Focus on Mission: FASD Awareness *Rob Wybrecht*

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" *John Rutter*  
*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower; sun and moon and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*  
Sanctuary 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!**

++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.**  
**Generous God, from the abundance of your creation we have all we need; you have blessed us richly. Bless us again by receiving these gifts, multiplying them, and using them, that we might see your kin-dom at work among us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 308 "O God in Whom All Life Begins" *Noel*

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Oh Love, How Deep" *arr. Michael Helman*

**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

**October 2**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**Love Your Neighbor(hood)**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
John 8:1-12; Romans 12:9-18  
Music: Sanctuary Choir

**October 9**

Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks, Guest Preacher  
Music: Sanctuary Choir  
Westminster Winds

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**September 25 and October 2, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary**

It's time to build community. In these first weeks of our program year, we are pausing our normal faith formation offerings to re-connect and deepen relationships through conversation. We will take time to have coffee and fellowship and then gather in the Sanctuary 15 minutes after the end of the service. Whether or not you participated last week, everyone is welcome to join in today!

STAYING CONNECTED

As we head into the fall, there are many ways to make sure you're up to date on what's happening at church! You can visit our website at westminstergr.org, which has regular updates on worship, programs, and events. You can subscribe to our email newsletters by using the link at the bottom of the home page of the website. Use the same link to sign up for weekly prayer emails from our pastoral care team, which share prayer requests from our community. If you don't use digital media and would like to receive updates in the mail from Westminster—or if you have any questions—please reach out to the church office at 616-456-1456.



*Actively Engaged in the World*

*"O Thou Who Camest," "For the Beauty of the Earth," "Oh, Love, How Deep" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.  
"Kyrie" used with permission of Lee J. Afdahl. Call to Worship from "An Improbable Gift of Blessing" by Maren C. Tirabasi & Joan Jordan Grant.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Helen Engbers  
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Their Families

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music  
..... Sanctuary 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, Sharon VanderWilp

Worship Center 1 ..... John Meyers  
Worship Center 2..... Tim Born  
Nurturing Center ..... Mckensay Heinonen

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 Minister with Youth and Young Adults Kat Jonker at katj@wpcgr.org.



*Memorial to the Persecuted - Bearing a Heavy Weight Together, Péter Gáspár*

Love One Another

SEEING THROUGH  
MATTHEW 25

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022  
10:00 A.M.

# Announcements

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**FASD SUPPORT GROUP:** Many of you may be aware that a group of young adults and parents who are navigating Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder gather at Westminster for conversation, support, connection, and information sharing. They encourage you to look up FASD and send a letter of advocacy to your local politician in support of the FASD Respect Act. A group of young adults will be available after the service to talk more about their experience and other ways to help.

**YOUTH IN NINTH GRADE:** Confirmation class has begun! If you missed the first meeting, it's not too late to join. Meet with us this Sunday to connect with each other, look ahead to what confirmation will look like, and play some games! Email Sara for more information at [saraz@wpcgr.org](mailto:saraz@wpcgr.org).

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: October 2** On Sunday, October 2, we will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering of the PC(USA). Through this offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation around the world and here at home. Please give what you can.

**PARENTS AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL HOUR: October 6, 9:30 a.m., Children's Ministry Hallway** Parents and children are invited to join for refreshments, conversation, and play. We'll discuss getting together on a regular basis for stories, music, excursions, and creating friendships. To RSVP or with questions, contact Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org).

**SCHWALLIERS ORCHARD OUTING FOR THIRD THROUGH FIFTH GRADERS: October 9, 12:15 p.m.** All third through fifth graders are invited to lunch and a trip to Schwalliers Orchard for shooting apple cannons, a corn maze, and picking apples! Contact Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) for more information and to sign up.

**RUN FOR CAMP 5K October 15, 10 a.m., Camp Henry** The 2022 Run for Camp 5K is back again this fall! We are excited to welcome runners and walkers back to Camp Henry. Can't make it? No problem! Register for the Virtual option and you choose your place to rock the 3.1 miles!

**ALL CHURCH EVENT BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE) October 16** After the service on October 16 when our third graders receive their Bibles, join everyone for brunch, fellowship, and games. Show off your own third grade Bibles if you still have them!

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:** Interested in Membership at Westminster? Our next new member orientations are Sundays, October 16 and 23, 11:10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (lunch included). New members will be formally received into membership on Sunday, October 30. If interested, please contact Nicole at [nicolek@wpcgr.org](mailto:nicolek@wpcgr.org).

**PARKING LOT INFO** We would like to remind everyone to not double park on Sunday mornings or park in front of the area from the edge of the sidewalk to the fence for the Consumer's Energy area and the garage and dumpster. This is a fire lane that must remain open at all times. For additional parking on Sunday mornings if the lot is full, please use the GRPS parking lot behind the Museum School across the street on Jefferson or the Spectrum parking lot across the street from our LaGrave entrance. These are both available to members on Sunday mornings. With any questions, please reach out to the church office.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SURVEY** The Communications Committee needs your input on how you'd like to hear from church and what you'd like to hear about. Please fill out this survey by scanning the QR code or filling out a paper copy in the Gathering Place. Thank you in advance! It should take about five minutes to complete.



# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. SEPTEMBER 25

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour..... Gathering Place
- 11:00a.m. Youth Group, Youth Choir..... Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Church School, Children's Choirs ..... Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation ..... Various Rooms
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds ..... Choir Room
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... Youth Room

## MON. SEPTEMBER 26

- 10:30 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee..... Hybrid, Conference Room

## TUES. SEPTEMBER 27

- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee..... Hybrid, Library
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee ..... Online
- 7:00 p.m. Evergreen Circle ..... Library

## WED. SEPTEMBER 28

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfangs
- 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Committee..... Online
- 6:30 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting ..... Online
- 7:00 p.m. Fear Not Book Group ..... Parlor

## THURS. SEPTEMBER 29

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

## SUN. OCTOBER 2

- 9:15 a.m. Worship Seminar for 3rd Graders.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour..... Gathering Place
- 11:00a.m. Youth Group, Youth Choir..... Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Church School, Children's Choirs ..... Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation ..... Various Rooms
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds ..... Choir Room
- 12:00 p.m. Game On Board Game Group..... Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. MS Artprize Walk..... Offsite

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## Announcements

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**CHILD CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED:** Our youngest children need you! If you would be willing to serve as a childcare provider in our Sunday morning nursery or on a weekday morning once a month, please let Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org). This can be a paid or volunteer position.

**SUNDAY GREETERS AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED:** Please consider signing up to offer a warm welcome on one or more Sundays. Families can greet together, and there are no set-up or clean-up duties required for hosting coffee hour! Email Jen Kotchenruther at [jkotchenruther@grcs.org](mailto:jkotchenruther@grcs.org) to sign up.

**FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED:** As the winter season is approaching, the Food Pantry is looking for new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves, and scarfs. They are also in need of canned meat, soup, and fruit, as well as plastic grocery bags. Items can be brought to the greeter's desk.

**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](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616) 717-5533.



## Sunday Morning Conversations

Meet in the sanctuary after worship, September 25 and October 2



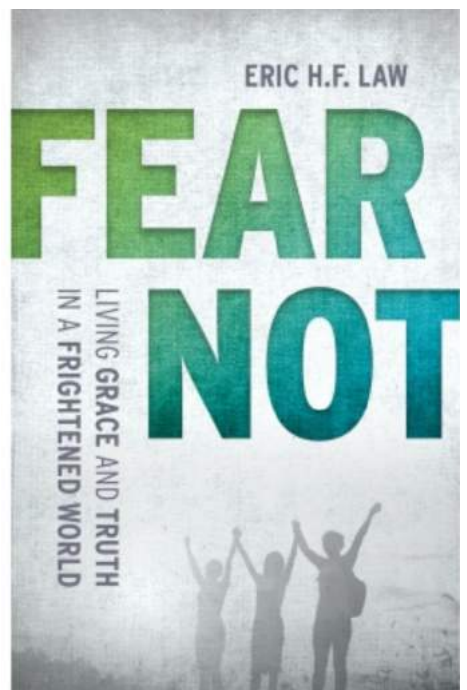
We are pausing our normal faith formation offerings to reconnect and deepen relationships through conversation.

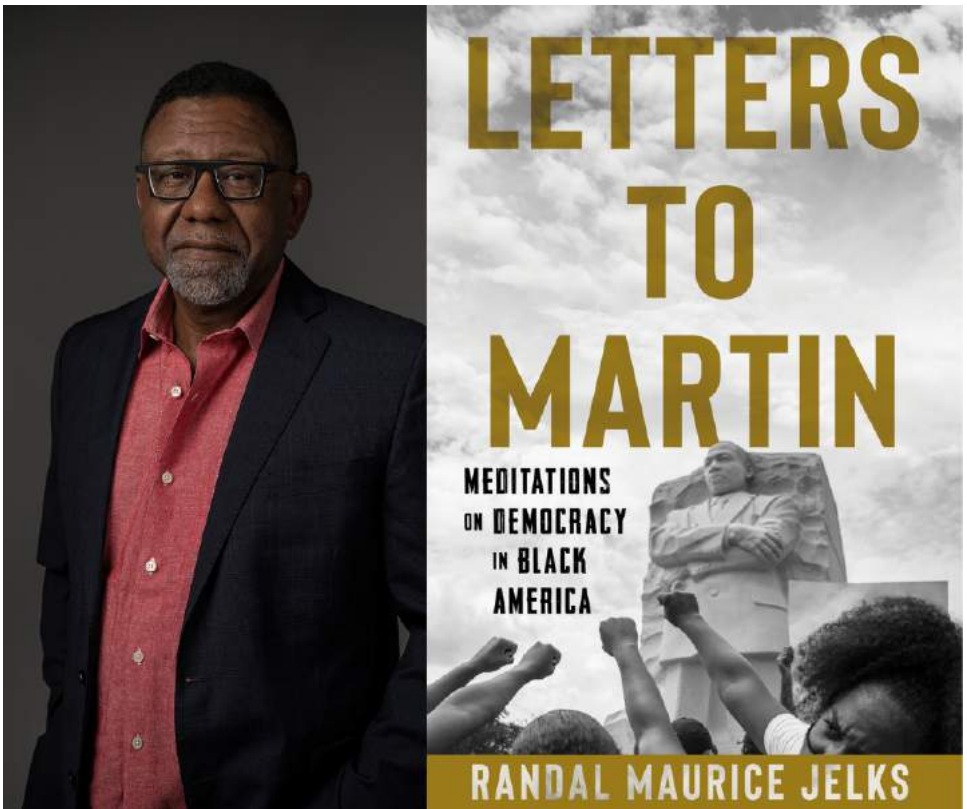
Come and join us to connect with a small group of nine to ten others and get to know each other.

## Fear Not Book Group

Wednesday evenings from September 28 to November 2,  
7:00 p.m. at church

We invite you to read and reflect on Eric Law's book *Fear Not*, a book that changed the way Rev. Lynette looked at fear. Law shares practical resources for bringing people together and helping us to be liberated from fear. Join us for conversation around building communities of courage, honesty and love. Sign up on the homepage on the website or by calling the church office at 616-456-1456.





**October 8, Westminster Sanctuary, check-in from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., event from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for this special event with Randal Jelks, Professor of African and African American Studies and American Studies at the University of Kansas, for this event celebrating his book *Letters to Martin* that was published this year. *Letters to Martin* contains twelve meditations on contemporary political struggles, evoking Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in the form of meditations and letters to King.

Randal Maurice Jelks is a professor, a documentary producer, and award-winning author. Jelks is an executive producer of the documentary *I, Too, Sing America: Langston Hughes Unfurled*. His writings have appeared in the *Boston Review* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and he also serves as co-editor of the academic journal *American Studies*. He is also an ordained minister in the PC(USA).

The event is free and open to the public, though we encourage you to RSVP using this link: <https://bit.ly/3xGGvmN>. You can also register by calling the church at 616-456-1456.