

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Every morning I want to kneel down on the golden cloth of the sand and say some kind of musical thanks for the world that is happening again—another day—from the shawl of wind coming out of the west to the firm green flesh of the melon lately sliced open and eaten, its chill and ample body flavored with mercy. I want to be worthy of—what? Glory? Yes, unimaginable glory. O Lord of melons, of mercy, though I am not ready, nor worthy, I am climbing toward you."
—Mary Oliver, from "On Thy Wondrous Works I Will Meditate"

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

"Allegro" from Sonata in A

Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

++Response Hymn 716 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Beach Spring

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Cantate Domino"

Giuseppe Pitoni

(Psalm 149: 1-2)

Cantate Domino canticum novum,
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.
Lætetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum,
et filii Sion exultent in rege suo.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in he who made them,
and the people of Zion rejoice in their king.
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

Luke 17:11-19

New Testament p. 80

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Hearts Open to Gratitude"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Belhar Confession)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family.
And we believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,
that we share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,
that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope,
which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ,
forever and ever. Amen.

Focus on Stewardship

Anita Sukenik and Scott Jennings

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Jen Porter

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.

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

"Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven"

Pepper Choplin

"Lay up your treasures in heaven, O people, lay up your treasures in glory Where nothing in this world can take them away." O listen, people, hear the Master say, "Come and lay up your treasures in heaven, O people, lay up your treasures in glory. Your treasures in this world will fade away, but the things of the Lord will last forevermore!" Well, the Lord looked out and saw the people there, tied up in worry and burdened with care. He said, "Seek first the kingdom and you will see the things that will last for eternity!" Some people trust in their silver and gold, they put their faith in the wealth they hold. But fortunes will fade and kingdoms fall, so put your trust in the Lord of all!
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.

God of abundance, we thank you for this earth, our home. We thank you for our senses, by which we see, and hear, and taste, and feel, and smell its splendor. Grant us hearts wide open to you, to your children, and to all you have given us, through Christ who loves us into wholeness. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 643

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Nun danket alle Gott

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

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.

"Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven" and "Now Thank We All Our God" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. "Kyrie" used with permission of Lee J. Afdahl.

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

Assurance of God's Grace

One: We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning. Believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God!

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

October 30
Hearts Wide Open
Stewardship Sunday; New Members

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Luke 19:1-10

=Music: Chapel Singers/Sanctuary Choir

November 7

Sent Out in Peace
Heritage Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends; Turn Clocks BACK One Hour

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Luke 10:1-12

Music: Cherub Choir/Sanctuary Choir

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN Q AND A: October 23, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Grab your coffee, cookies, and questions and come to a brief Q and A style meeting in the sanctuary after worship. Westminster's Together West Michigan team will give an informal update for any members of the congregation wanting to know what's going on with TWM. The broad-based organization is moving ahead with six research teams: affordable housing, transportation, mental health, childcare, support for immigrants, and public safety. We're working toward proposed actions to vote on in February at a big assembly.

Congregational Vitality: October 23, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Join some of our church leadership in the Chapel to explore the ways that we see the marks of church vitality among us and where we are led to experiment, grow, and deepen. This fall we focus on three of the Matthew 25 marks of vitality.



Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, the Presbyterian Church (USA) decided to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

This initiative and vision unite churches across the PC(USA), energizing our common mission to serve and embody the radical love of Jesus.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Their Families
..... Anita Sukenik and Scott Jennings, Stewardship Committee
..... Kia Weeldreyer, Adult Faith Formation Committee

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Sanctuary Choir

Ushers..... Team A
..... Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, and Chuck Wylie,
..... Bill Baguley, Tom Kormos, Jeanne Marshall,
..... Michael Marshall, Bill and Carole Warren,
..... Todd Helle, and Heather Lermont-Pape

Worship Center 1 Leslie Fiore
Worship Center 2..... Liz Maher
Nurturing Center Maggie Atwater

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, 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.



Artwork by Delia Venema

Hearts Open to Gratitude

HEARTS WIDE OPEN

OCTOBER 23, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

STEWARDSHIP: What is your highest priority? What are you willing to sacrifice in order to achieve it? How would you finish the statement: The best long-term investment I can make is ____? As you ponder these questions, we ask that you respond with joy in affirming Westminster as your highest priority for our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Ponder about all of the program areas where God has touched your heart and shaped your life as you read through the HEARTS WIDE OPEN brochure. Thank you for responding generously.

WPA LUNCHEON: Wednesday, November 2, 11:30 a.m. Join us for the next WPA event and learn what it means to be a Matthew 25 church from Rev. Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo and members of her congregation. They will be sharing what being a Matthew 25 church has meant to them over the past year. We'll start with registration and a punchbowl at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the presentation, Living Matthew 25, at noon. Don't miss this inspiring opportunity! WPA is Westminster's fellowship ministry for older adults, who may or may not be retired. There is no charge for this event. Sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3Dh7MQ7> or call the church office at 616-717-5529.

YOUNG ADULTS COMMUNICATIONS: Looking to build community with other 20s/30s adults in the church? Reach out to katj@wpcgr.org to get connected!

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: 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.

CHILDCARE PROVIDERS NEEDED: 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 contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

THE FLORENCE AND MINNIE BEHL SCHOLARSHIP TO ALMA: The Behl Scholarship program offers approximately 10% of the yearly cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board to Westminster members and up to 5% of the costs to non-members/relatives of Westminster members attending Alma college. Applications for the scholarship are available in the WPC office or by contacting Mary Carrington at mwc545@sbcglobal.net.

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. OCTOBER 23

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Together West Michigan Q and A.....Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel

MON. OCTOBER 24

- 10:30 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee Offsite

TUES. OCTOBER 25

- 12:30 p.m. Stewarship Meeting Hybrid, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Evergreen Circle Library

WED. OCTOBER 26

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Breakfast Wolfgangs
- 6:30 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting..... Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Fear Not Book Group Parlor

THURS. OCTOBER 27

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Leader Social Dinner..... Offsite
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting Library
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SAT. OCTOBER 29

- 9:00 a.m. Worship/Faith Formation Retreat..... Chapel

SUN. OCTOBER 30

- 9:00 a.m. Session Meeting for New Members Chapel
- 9:15 a.m. Chapel Singers Rehearsal.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 9:30 a.m. Directory Photos Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Directory Photos Library
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group and Choirs..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel