

MORNING WORSHIP
Community "Suggestion" Box?

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Understanding the Decalogue as a set of burdens overlooks something essential, namely that they are prefaced not by an order—'Here are ten rules. Obey them!'—but instead by a breathtaking announcement of freedom: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.'" —Thomas Long

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Opening Voluntary "Prelude in E Minor, BWV 555"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 19)

Elder Linda Bieze

One: The law of the Lord is perfect,

All: giving us new life.

One: The Lord's teachings last forever,

All: making ordinary people wise.

One: The Lord's instruction is right,

All: making our hearts glad.

One: The Lord's commands are clear,

All: giving light to our eyes.

One: Honoring the Lord is pure,

All: enduring forever.

One: The Lord's judgments are true and righteous.

All: They are worth more than gold, and sweeter than honey.

There is great reward in keeping them.

++Hymn 307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Cwm Rhondda

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have given us your words to rule and guide us. Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of bondage, and brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a fermata over the first measure. The lyrics are: 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: The Lord says, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Friends, trust the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 417

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

Southwell

(stanza 1)

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin.

From earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Eternal Life, A Prayer"

Olive Dungan

Words, St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Jonathan Bratt Carle, Solo

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

Exodus 20:1-17

Old Testament p. 66

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Community 'Suggestion' Box?"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 816

"If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" Wer nur den lieben Gott

Reception of New Members

Susan Jennings

The Meaning of Membership

Questions to the New Members

Questions to the Congregation

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

Please take a moment to sign and pass the red friendship pad located in the pew, and take note of those worshiping next to you.

Offertory

"Let This Mind Be In You" Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant,
And was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man,
He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, E'en the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him
And given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Trish Reid, Solo
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.
Lord God, we want to follow all your commandments—
to love you and to love our neighbor freely. Accept these
offerings and teach us to be generous, giving fully of
ourselves that we may be the body of Christ in this world.
Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 463

"How Firm a Foundation"

Foundation

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Grand Chœur"

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

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.

Please greet our new members in the Gathering Place after worship!

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

March 17
Fifth Sunday in Lent
A Community of Repentance

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 51:1-12
Sanctuary Choir

March 24
Palm Sunday
The Stones Would Cry Out

Children's Musical
Chapel Singers & Carol Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

February 18-March 24, 11:15 a.m., Chapel: Howard Thurman's *What Makes You Come Alive* Howard Thurman, known as the spiritual guide of the Civil Rights movement, becomes our guide through the weeks of reflection and preparation we are all called to during Lent. Using the vast collection of Thurman's teachings on spiritual maturity and spiritual discernment and drawing from Lerita Coleman Brown's book "What Makes You Come Alive," we reflect on our own spiritual lives and commitments. Join Rev. Jen for these weeks of learning, reflection, and conversation.

March 10, 11:15 a.m., Parlor: Court Appointed Special Advocates Would you like to make an impact in a child's life? Join us on Sunday, March 10, after the worship service to learn what it means to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Stephenie Sheler, Executive Director of CASA of Kent County, will be joined by Westminster members and CASA volunteers Deb Kammer and Jeannine & Ron Lemmon to discuss the important work of CASA and how you can help.



Actively Engaged in the World

Liturgies adapted from *Feasting on the Word Year B*.
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Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Linda Bieze, Clerk of Session
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
..... Jonathan Bratt Carle
..... Trish Reid
..... Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

Ushers..... Doug Dowling, Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari Fuller
..... Chris Fuller, Ann Jarvis, Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp

Welcome to Westminster

MEMBERSHIP

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

ACCESSIBILITY

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.

We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms available off of the Dining Room.

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.

EXTENDING THE WESTMINSTER WELCOME!

As we welcome guests and visitors each week, we encourage everyone to personally extend the "Westminster Welcome" to those you have not met. Yours may be the welcome that truly helps all feel included.



Ten Commandments illustrative wood relief carving from Paszym, Poland

Community
"Suggestion" Box?

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

TAKE A NEW DIRECTORY PHOTO! March 10 & 24, Library Following worship today and on March 24 before and after worship (beginning at 9:30 a.m.)

CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE CHANGES AND ACTIVITIES FOR SPRING: Palm Sunday: Children's musical, no choirs or church school after the service. **Easter Sunday:** Bring in your Fish Banks, no choirs or church school. **April 7:** No choirs or church school. **April 28:** End of program year celebration for families.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: March 12, 7:00 p.m., Birch Lodge Pub night this month will take place at Birch Lodge on Michigan Street. Interested in learning more about WYA (Westminster Young Adults)? Email katj@wpcgr.org.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY CONVERSATION: March 15, 1:00 p.m., GVSU Pew Campus *Defending Democracy from Its Christian Enemies* makes a robust case for a renewed commitment to democracy on the part of Christians—not by succumbing to secular liberalism, but by drawing on our own best traditions. Please join us at the Loosemore Auditorium, GVSU Pew Campus, for a conversation and book talk with David P. Gushee and Kristin Kobes Du Mez. The conversation will focus on the premises presented in David's latest book with Eerdmans titled, *Defending Democracy from Its Christian Enemies*. Visit the community partnerships page on the website to learn more and register for the event.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN DELEGATES ASSEMBLY: March 16, 9:30 a.m., San Juan Diego Academy Join is for the first Delegates Assembly of 2024! Democracy is a sacred conversation about who we will be together as a community, and Together West Michigan has big goals for building and acting on that conversation this year. The focus will be to affirm our goals for 2024, make commitments for action, and build relationships across lines that tend to divide. Check the website to register.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN CONVERSATION: March 17, 11:15 a.m., Parlor Join Together West Michigan next Sunday to share what is on your heart and mind.

GRINNELL SINGERS: March 18, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Westminster will host the Grinnell Singers, a touring choir from Grinnell College in Iowa. Admission is free!

ELISABETH CIRCLE: March 19, 1:00 p.m., Parlor Elisabeth Circle will be discussing Chapter 4 in *Signs and Wonders* by Amy Jill Levine. For further information contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net or 317-691-9072.

SIMPLY GIVE: Purchase a \$10 Meijer Simply Give donation card at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street to benefit the pantry! Want to give more? The next double match day is March 23. For every \$10 donated at this store on March 23, Meijer will donate an additional \$20, resulting in \$30 to our pantry to use to purchase food for our shelves!

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1, Camp Henry Enjoy some late summer days at exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp 2024. Absolutely everyone is welcome! Camp 2024 begins in the late afternoon of Thursday, August 29 and culminates with worship and camp activities on Sunday, September 1. Be on the look-out for more information and registration. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org if you have questions.

REPAIR CAFE SURVEY: The Communications Committee is conducting a survey about the congregation's interest in repair cafes! Repair cafes are community events where participants volunteer their time and talents to make small repairs to clothes, electronics, and furniture at no cost. Please visit the website to fill out the survey!



DONATIONS: Donations can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. MARCH 10

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Member Directory Photos..... Library
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. CASA Conversation Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. YG & Musical Read Through Various Locations

MON. MARCH 11

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting Library
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons Meeting.....Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons MeetingPastoral Suite
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Online

TUES. MARCH 12

- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group Various Locations

WED. MARCH 13

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer BreakfastWolfgang's
- 11:30 a.m. WPA Punchbowl & Registration..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Luncheon & Presentation Dining Room
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee..... Library
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night..... Birch Lodge

THURS. MARCH 14

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Tech Team Meeting Online
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir..... Choir Room

FRI. MARCH 15

- 6:30 p.m. Children & Families Committee Meeting.... Offsite

SAT. MARCH 16

- 9:30 a.m. TWM Delegates Assembly Offsite

SUN. MARCH 17

- 9:00 a.m. TWM Core Team Meeting..... Library
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. TWM Conversational Meeting..... Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. YG & Musical Read Through Various Locations
- 6:30 p.m. Climate Book Study..... Online