

MORNING WORSHIP

Pilgrimage

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"In each of us dwells a pilgrim. It is the part of us that longs to have direct contact with the sacred. We will travel halfway around the world and endure great sacrifice and pain to enter the sanctuary, whether it is a temple, shrine, cemetery, or library. This is the way that is no way, but a practice." – Phil Cousineau, The Art of Pilgrimage

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

"Largo, Op. 3 No. 6"

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Diane Helle, Violin

Introit

"My God is So Great"

arr. C. Larsen

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do!

The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handiwork too.

Cherub Choir

"My Strength and Shield"

Robert J. Powell

The Lord is my strength and my shield; with my heart do I trust in the Lord, my God and King.

Therefore my heart shall greatly rejoice. With my song I will praise the Lord.

Carol Choir

Ministry of Music

"Al Shlosha D'Varim"

Allan E. Naplan

Al shlosha d'varim haolam kayam, al haemet v'al hadin v'al hashalom.

The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace.

Francis Heethuis, Solo

Chapel Singers

"Canon of Praise"

quoting Tallis' Canon

A hymn of glory let us sing, new hymns throughout the world shall ring, and we to you will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God ye heavenly host above. Praise him, my soul, for all his love.

Kirk Singers

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

Psalm 121

Old Testament p. 571

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Pilgrimage"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 450

"Be Thou My Vision"

Slane

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

One: In life and death we belong to God.

All: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

One: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

All: In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

One: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

All: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

One: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

All: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

All: we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

Focus on Mission—Camp Henry

Margaret Tuori

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 worshipping next to you.

Offertory

"And the Father Will Dance"

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

Adapted from Zephaniah 3:14, 17

And the Father will dance over you in joy! He will take delight in whom He loves.

Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?

No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!

My soul will make its boast in God, For He has answered all my cries,

His faithfulness to me is as sure as the dawn of a new day. Awake my soul and sing!

Let my spirit rejoice in God! Sing, o daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!

Cast away fear, for you have been restored! Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day.

Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song. God rejoices over you in song!

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.

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 536 "Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen"

Surge Ecclesia

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"III Allegro assai"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

from Violin Concerto in A Minor, BWV 1041

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.

++Call to Worship

Elder Ellen Shupe

One: We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

All: We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.

One: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

All: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

++Hymn 645

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Mit Freuden Zart

++Prayer of Adoration

God of grace, to this worried world, you reveal your presence in radiant glory and in gentle whispers, on mountain tops and in shadowed valleys, in classrooms and hospital beds, in homes and churches, in the quiet of nature and on busy streets. Yours is the presence that pushes past our fear to calm us; yours is the love that transforms our doubt with reassurance. We come to dwell in your goodness and offer you the praise you deserve. Draw near to us as we draw near to you in gratitude, in hope, and in Easter faith. Amen.

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

Truro

(stanza 2)

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick
Sanctuary Choir

May 12

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel

April 28: Mental Health Awareness and Support As mental health awareness month approaches, those working with the Together West Michigan (TWM) mental health team have invited in Steve Bergman, director of NAMI for West Michigan. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization working for awareness, education, and support. Unlike ways that support may come during other illnesses, mental health has been called the "no casserole illness." Together we learn what the TWM team is finding with mental health needs here in our community, and we learn about supporting those with mental health illnesses within our family and congregation.

May 5: Health Equity and Advocacy Nicholle Applewhite, MBA, of the Urban League of West Michigan and co-chair of the West Michigan Health Equity Coalition will be joining us for Adult Faith Formation. For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted black and brown communities and is now targeting youth, with menthol and other attractive-flavored products, including fruit and candy vaping flavors. We will learn more about the effects of these products and how we can help promote healthy choices. Currently in the Michigan Senate, there is a bill proposing a statewide ban on menthol and other flavored tobacco products, and Nicholle will help us understand how this proposal is related to health equity and issues of social justice and how we as a faith community can respond.



Liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal and Knox Presbyterian Church (Victoria, BC). "My Strength and Shield" and "And the Father Will Dance" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Ellen Shupe, Elder for Adult Faith Formation
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Margaret Tuori, Camp Henry Committee Member

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
..... Diane Helle, Violin
..... Francis Heethuis, Solo
..... Cherub & Carol Choir, Director Lindsey Doody
..... Chapel & Kirk Singers, Director Jackie Schoon
.....Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley
..... Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby

AV TeamDeanna Clark, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Rachel Kamstra

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 Hand at kath@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.

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



Mother Root ©Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

Pilgrimage

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**APRIL 28, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

TRIVIA PARTY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES! April 28, 11:10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Dining Room Children and families are invited to celebrate our church school after church today! We'll play a big trivia game and have food and fun together. Families joining for the party, your cookies and coffee are in the Dining Hall, so please go straight there after the service!

GRAND VALLEY PIANO CHAMBER SERIES: April 28, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary Join us this evening for a Grand Valley Piano Chamber Series concert! A pre-concert conversation will take place at 3:15 p.m. The concert is offered to the public free of charge. A cookie reception hosted by the Music Committee will be held following the concert.

UPDATED MEMBER DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE: We have updated our church member directory! If you'd like a copy, please contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5529. The directory is available in an eco-friendly electronic version or if you'd like a hard copy, it is available for a suggested donation of \$5.

SPRING 2024 REFLECTIONS: Check out our spring edition of Reflections at westminstergr.org/reflections! This edition includes a meditation by Rev. Lynette Sparks on what it means to be a Matthew 25 church, 2024 Senior Sermons, articles on the WCDC's impact, and more!

PARENTS' SOCIAL HOUR: May 2, 9:15 a.m., Children's Ministry Hallway Parents of children who are in 5th grade or younger, you are invited to the monthly social hours we have at Westminster! On the first Thursday of each month at about 9:30 a.m., parents with or without their children gather in the children's ministries hallway for some socializing, treats, and fun. Join us on May 2. Contact Nancy Greidanus (nancyg@wpcgr.org) to let her know you are coming or if you have questions.

VISIT THE GRAND RAPIDS INDIAN MOUNDS: May 2, 11:00 a.m. Join us as we learn more about the sacred Indian Mounds located in southwest Grand Rapids. Ron Yob, Chairman of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, will offer a tour on Thursday, May 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will meet at church at 11:00 a.m. and carpool to the area. If you'd like to attend this free event, register on our website or contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org by Tuesday, April 30. The area is muddy so sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Back up date for inclement weather is Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 a.m.

SIMPLY GIVE: From now until June 19, purchase a \$10 Meijer Simply Give donation card at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street to benefit the pantry! You can purchase one at check out, or pick one up at the Welcome Desk and scan it in the store. Meijer will take your donation and convert it to a food only gift card for us to purchase food with. You can also give directly to the pantry by scanning the QR code below or by sending a check to the church with "Simply Give" in the subject line.



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. APRIL 28

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Church School Party Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmand Picnic Gathering Place
- 3:15 a.m. Pre-Concert Talk.....Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Valley Chamber Music Concert....Sanctuary
- 5:20 p.m. Cookie Reception Gathering Place

MON. APRIL 29

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. TWM Childcare Meeting..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Justice Committee Meeting Library

TUES. APRIL 30

- 8:00 a.m. Museum High School Blood Drive.... Dining Room
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting..... Library

WED. MAY 1

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer BreakfastWolfgang's
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus.....Choir Room

THURS. MAY 2

- 9:30 a.m. Children & Parent Social Hour..Children's Hallway
- 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Group Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Indian Mounds Tour Parking Lot
- 5:00 p.m. Men's Inner Compass Group Chapel
- 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SUN. MAY 5

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir RehearsalChoir 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. MS & HS Youth Group Various Locations
- 4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group Library
- 4:00 p.m. Game On Game Board Group.... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Climate Book Study..... Online

Westminster Camp 2024

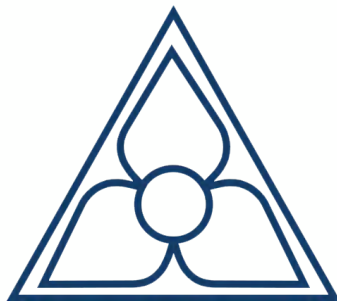


August 29-September 1, 2024, Camp Henry



Enjoy some late summer days at exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp 2024. Visit westminstergr.org/events/westminster-camp-2024 to register. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org with any questions!

BE KIND TO YOUR MIND



Walk for Mental Health

Sunday, May 19, After Church

After worship on May 19, we will be walking together to Cherry Park to raise awareness and funds for the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters Mental Health Fund. We will have lunch, fellowship, and activities for all ages!

Planning on joining? Let Nancy know at nancyg@wpcgr.org before May 6, so we can plan for Jimmy John's and order your free T-shirt!

About the Mental Health Fund:

This fund is available for anyone in our community who is seeking mental health care and who may need financial assistance to do so.

Scan the QR code to donate, or send a check to the church with "Molhoek-McPheeters Fund" in the memo line.

