

MORNING WORSHIP

Engage

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"In God's economy, generosity...is the antidote to inequality because generosity counters the greed, hoarding, and scarcity thinking that exacerbate disparity."
-Lovett H. Weems Jr. and Ann A. Michel

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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

Opening Voluntary

"Choose Joy" Randall Standridge (b. 1976) Westminster Winds

++Call to Worship (based on Psalm 136)

Helen Engbers

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of all lords.
God's faithful love lasts forever.
Give thanks to the One who alone does great wonders.
God's faithful love lasts forever.
Let us praise and worship God!

++Hymn 336

"We Gather Together" Kremser

Prayer of Confession

You, O Lord, are the maker of justice and the source of righteousness; you hear the cries of those who suffer and satisfy the hunger of people who lack resources. Forgive us when we fail to reflect your just love: when we have too much food, yet do not share with any in need; when we have power for good, yet use it only for ourselves; when we hear the words of the prophets, yet cover our ears because they make us uncomfortable. Forgive us and draw us back to your way...

Silent Confession

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

Musical notation for the Kyrie Unison, including lyrics: Lord, have mercy up on us, Christ, have mercy up on us, Lord, have mercy up on us.

Assurance of God's Grace

Day to day, God offers us mercy and hope. Moment to moment, God's never-ending love surrounds us. Friends, trust this good news: God takes our prayers of confession and crafts them into words of grace, joy, and peace.
Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 772

"Live into Hope"

Truro

(stanza 4)
Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Teach Me, O Lord" Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)
Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.
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

Mark 10:17-31 New Testament p. 46

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Engage" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 774

"There Is Now a New Creation"

Stuttgart

++Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

Kat Hand

The kingdom of God represents the triumph of God over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation.
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Focus on Stewardship

Rachel Woodward

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. We invite you to fill out any of the pew cards and place them in the offering plate.

Offertory

"Salvation" Robert W. Smith (1958-2023) Westminster Winds

++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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.
Generous and merciful God, we thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. As we present our offerings, give us grateful and generous hearts, that we may follow Jesus in all we say and do. Help us to remember that every generous act of giving and every perfect gift comes from you. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 372

"O for a World" Azmon

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Flourish for an Occasion" Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

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.

Worship liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal, Phillip K. Gladden, and the Presbyterian Outlook. Choose Joy © 2022 Randall Standridge Music, LLC. Salvation © 2012 Birch Island Music Press (ASCAP). Kyrie used by permission of composer. "Flourish for an Occasion" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

October 20

Bless

Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson

Mark 10:35-45

Sanctuary Choir & Carol Choir

October 27

A Community of Hope

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Mark 10:46-52

Sanctuary Choir, Cherub Choir, & Chapel Singers

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

TOWARDS A FUTURE WITH HOPE: AN INDUCTIVE JOURNEY WITH JEREMIAH:

Led by Rev. Kyle Kooyers: Sunday, September 22 - October 13

Chapel, 15 Minutes Following Worship

As we journey with the “Weeping Prophet,” we’ll explore how we might lean into the gritty and faithful work of resilience amid darkness. In a world of uncertainty and chaos, trauma and pain, we must get our hands dirty in the hard work of hope.

CUBA INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

Sunday, October 13, Parlor, 15 Minutes Following Worship

Are you curious about Westminster’s long connection with Cuba? Would you like to learn more about our next partnership trip this spring? We travel in partnership with Guines Presbyterian Church and with First Hand Aid. These are not work trips or tourist trips—they are relational, partnering in ministry together.

PC(USA) MISSION ENGAGEMENT:

Sunday, October 20, Chapel, 15 Minutes Following Worship

As part of Stewardship Season, we welcome guest presenters from our PC(USA) denominational staff: Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson, Director of Ministry Engagement and Support, and Lauren Rogers, Mission Engagement Specialist. John and Lauren will lead the Adult Faith Formation gathering after worship. They’ll talk about the future of the church through a Matthew 25 lens and explore themes of stewardship and generosity. John will guest preach in worship on October 20; and they will also lead a gathering of church officers, both current and former, on Saturday morning.



**WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church**

Actively Engaged in the World

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists.....Helen Engbers

.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families

.....Kat Hand, Minister with Youth & Young Adults

.....Rachel Woodward

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music

.....Janlee Richter, Organ

.....John Martin, Westminster Winds Director

.....Westminster Winds

.....Sanctuary Choir

Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley

.....Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby

Welcome to Westminster

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Visit westminstergr.org to sign up for our weekly email newsletter!

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Crystal Hovey at crystalh@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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR A NAMETAG!

We encourage you to wear a nametag every Sunday to help us learn to know one another better and extend our welcome. If you would like a reusable nametag, please email Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org.

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



A COMMUNITY OF HOPE
GATHER, ENGAGE, BLESS



Art by Paul Stoub

Engage

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

**OCTOBER 13, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: The Mission Partnership committee has recently contributed \$5,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund on behalf of Westminster. These funds will go directly to the areas affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. If you would like to make a personal contribution to PDA, visit pda.pcusa.org or send a check made out to PC USA and mail to PC USA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264, indicating Hurricane Helene/Milton on the memo line.

PARKING REMINDER: If you park in the Corewell Health parking lot on the corner of La Grave and Weston on Sunday mornings, please note that the lot is only available until 1:00 p.m., and all cars must be moved before then.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR POSITION: We're excited to share that we have a new position at Westminster—Community Resource Coordinator! This role will focus on the mission of the Downtown Food Pantry and community engagement work in the Heartside neighborhood and beyond. The job description can be found on our website under “Get Involved.”

ELISABETH CIRCLE: **October 15, 1:00 p.m., Parlor** Elisabeth Circle will meet on Tuesday to discuss Chapter 2 and 3 in *The Story of Ruth*. For more information contact Sandy Topliffe at sttopliffe@comcast.net or 616-447-2941.

LET'S HANG OUT! **October 15, 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome for our all-ages fellowship program as we enjoy a fall bonfire at the home of John Nienhuis and Jerry Nardin (555 Clark Dr NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321). Bring a lawn chair and your favorite beverage, and feel free to bring a snack to pass. S'mores will be provided.

WESTMINSTER YOUNG ADULTS ORCHARD OUTING: **October 19, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Dunneback Orchards** Contact kath@wpcgr.org with any questions.

ALL GENERATIONS BRUNCH: **November 3, Dining Room after Church** Come and celebrate the generational love that God gives us! Food and fellowship for all ages.

WPA LUNCHEON: **November 13, 12:00 p.m.** Join us for a musical presentation and question answer time with Robert Ragoonanan, our new Minister of Music. WPA is Westminster's fellowship ministry for adults (55+), who may or may not be retired. Register on the website or call (616)717-5529 by November 1.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP: **Beginning November 19, 6:30 p.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Church** NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and Together West Michigan are offering a family support group for family members, partners and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. The group will meet once per month for an hour and will consist of ten members or fewer. The group will be co-facilitated by Cathy and Jim Lozer. If you are interested in attending, please register by calling Jim at (616)498-8723 or by email at jjlozer@att.net. Share the word!

CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP: **April 14-18, 2025** The Justice Committee is hosting a trip to Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery AL and Memphis, TN. Cost for the trip: \$1,470 for single occupancy; \$1,190 per person for double occupancy. Partial scholarships are available for Westminster members. Contact susanj@wpcgr.org to learn more, or pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk.

DONATION REQUESTS FROM THE SAMIMI FAMILY: The Samimi's, the refugee family our congregation supports, are in need of two twin size bed frames and mattresses. Contact Cheryl Bremer (616)328-3736 or Ellen Pool (616)581-1017.



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. OCTOBER 13

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Cuba Information MeetingParlor
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting..... Youth Room
- 4:00 p.m. Teacher Appreciation Party Offsite

MON. OCTOBER 14

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Online

TUES. OCTOBER 15

- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth CircleParlor
- 6:00 p.m. Memorial Trust Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting..... Parlor

WED. OCTOBER 16

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast.....Wolfgang's
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting..... Online

THURS. OCTOBER 17

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SAT. OCTOBER 19

- 8:30 a.m. Fall Work Day..... Camp Henry
- 9:00 a.m. All Boards Gathering..... Chapel

SUN. OCTOBER 20

- 9:00 a.m. Together West Michigan Core Team Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel