

MORNING WORSHIP

Bless

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

—Martin Luther King, Jr

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 "Courante from Suite IV, BWV 815"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Introit

"All Creatures of Our God and King" Anon, 17th c. Germany

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

See hymn 15 for the text of this anthem.

Carol Choir

++Call to Worship

God's greatness is beyond our understanding, yet we proclaim . . .

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

God stretched the heavens across the sky;

**let us marvel at the stars that fill it.**

God raised mountains above the depths;

**let us gather in wonder before them.**

++Hymn 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

St. Denio

Prayer of Confession

**Lord Jesus Christ, you know our sin. We want you to do whatever we ask of you, but we are often unwilling to do what you ask of us. We want to sit beside you in your glory, but fail to stand beside you in your suffering. We want to be first in your kin-dom, but we are often among the last to serve. Forgive us and wash us clean in your saving grace...**

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl



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.**

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 772

"Live into Hope"

(stanza 4)

Truro

**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

"O Heavenly Father"

Thomas Matthews (1915-99)

O heav'nly Father, who has filled the world with beauty; Open, we beseech Thee, our eyes to behold Thy gracious hand in all thy works; That rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve Thee with gladness; for the sake of Him by whom all things were made, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 10:35-45

New Testament p. 47

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Bless"

Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 314

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" Christ, Be Our Light

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

Lauren Rogers

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

Rev. Lynette Sparks

**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

Carolyn Morse

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

"Set Me As a Seal"

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.

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

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.**

**Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully entrust them to your work in this world.**

**May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need, and help relieve their burdens. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 320

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

Wareham

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Toccata in modo gravitazionale" Carlotta Ferrari (b. 1975)

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, Feasting on the Word, Teri Ott, and the Presbyterian Outlook. Kyrie used by permission of composer. "O Heavenly Father" and "Set Me As a Seal" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

October 27

**A Community of Hope**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Mark 10:46-52

Sanctuary Choir, Cherub Choir, & Chapel Singers

November 3

**All Generations Sunday**

**Do Not Be Afraid**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Matthew 14:22-33

Sanctuary Choir & Kirk Singers

**About Today's Guests**

Today we welcome guest preacher Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson, Director of the PC(USA)'s Ministry Engagement and Support team. Previously, he served congregations in the Philadelphia area, Rochester, NY, and Chicago. John is a graduate of Northwestern University (PhD), McCormick Seminary (M.Div.), and the College of Wooster. We also welcome guest liturgist Lauren Rogers, Mission Engagement Specialist for the Synods of Living Waters, Covenant, and Lincoln Trails.

**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation**

**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 and Lauren Rogers. They'll talk about the future of the church through a Matthew 25 lens and explore themes of stewardship and generosity.

**CULTIVATING EMOTIONAL BALANCE: Sunday, October 27, Chapel, 15 Minutes**

**Following Worship** Together we will learn techniques for cultivating healthy emotional responses. Rev. Jen guides us through a way to identify our emotional responses based on the Cultivating Emotional Balance work of Drs. Eve and Paul Eckman along with the Dali Lama. We learn how to "manage the everyday obstacles of our destructive emotions and cultivate a wholesome way of being." As tensions and polarities swirl around us, we can choose how we want to be in the world. We can chose to learn and to practice another way of being.



*Actively Engaged in the World*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher .....Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson, PC(USA) Mission & Engagement

Liturgists .....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

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

..... Lauren Rogers, PC(USA) Mission & Engagement

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

..... Carolyn Morse

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

..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano

.....Lindsey Hoekstra, Carol Choir Director

..... Carol Choir

..... Sanctuary Choir

Acolytes.....Jacob & Sammy Herrick

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

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

AV Team ..... Dan Cisler, Deanna Clark, Karsten Kotchenruther

**Welcome to Westminster**

**MEMBERSHIP**

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Crystal Hovey at [crystalh@wpcgr.org](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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](mailto:kath@wpcgr.org).

616-456-1456 / [westminstergr.org](http://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

**Bless**

**STEWARDSHIP SEASON**

**OCTOBER 20, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: October 27** Next Sunday, you are invited and encouraged to bring your 2025 Giving Intention cards to church. We will be bringing them to the front as our offering of ourselves and our resources for the ministry of Westminster in 2025. Gather, engage, and bless the world as a living community of hope.

**INTERESTED IN BELL CHOIR?** Retired music teacher, church musician, and Westminster member Sonja Fryer is organizing a bell choir group, which will share music in worship a few times per semester, rehearsing a few weeks prior to scheduled Sundays. Please contact Minister of Music Robert Ragoonanan at [robertr@wpcgr.org](mailto:robertr@wpcgr.org) if interested in participating.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL NIGHT: October 26, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., Post Family Farms** Middle school night is Saturday! Link in our newsletter to RSVP or email [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto:kath@wpcgr.org).

**MEMBER DIRECTORY PHOTOS: October 27, 11:00 a.m., Library** Interested in updating your member directory photo? Photos will be taken after the service next Sunday.

**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. Register on the website or call (616)717-5529 by November 1.

**WESTMINSTER SKILL CAFE: November 22, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., Gathering Place** Do you have a broken computer, a ripped knit sweater, a broken lamp, a cellphone you need help with, or some other item that you want to repair but don't have the skills? Do you have the skills to fix one of these things, or fix something else? The Skill Cafe is an event where folks who need something repaired can talk to people who have the skills to repair them. Quick fixes may be able to be completed during the Skill Cafe, while more complex fixes could be arranged at a later time with a willing fixer!

If you have the skills to fix something or you need something fixed, let us know what you can offer or what you're looking for (or both!) and we will be putting together a list of the skills people will have to offer! Reach out to Deanna at [deannac@wpcgr.org](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org) to get involved.

**COME TO THE MANGER SAVE THE DATE: December 10, 1:00 p.m.** The Elisabeth and Evergreen Circles host a "Come to the Manger" event with Rev. Kay DeMoss, a Methodist Christian Educator and communicator. Fifty nativity creches will be on display from her collection from around the world. Guests will hear stories and will be invited to share their own holiday memories. All are welcome.

**CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP: April 14-18, 2025** The Justice Committee is hosting a trip to Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery AL and Memphis, TN. Contact Susan at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org) to learn more, or pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk.

**ENGLISH TUTOR NEEDED:** We are grateful for the outpouring support of needed household items for the Samimi's, the Afghan refugee family that we are walking beside! The Afghan Refugee Committee is looking for volunteers to tutor Roqia, the wife and mother of the Samimi family, in English. Monday and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. are the days and times that work for her. All materials will be provided and there is very little prep time needed for the lessons. If you think you can help, please contact Deb Toering at [dtoering@icloud.com](mailto:dtoering@icloud.com) for details. Roqia is a smart, sweet person, and anyone volunteering will enjoy their time with her.

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



# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. OCTOBER 20

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 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

## MON. OCTOBER 21

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group .....Multipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships ..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FAS Group..... Dining Room

## TUES. OCTOBER 22

- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee..... Library
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee..... Online
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee ..... Online

## WED. OCTOBER 23

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 10:00 a.m. TWM Housing Meeting..... Conference Room

## THURS. OCTOBER 24

- 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Meeting..... Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry .....Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group ..... Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting ..... Library
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

## FRI. OCTOBER 25

- 2:30 p.m. Sandra Kratt Memorial Service .....Sanctuary

## SAT. OCTOBER 26

- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Night ..... Post Family Farms

## SUN. OCTOBER 27

- 9:00 a.m. New Member Session Meeting ..... Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Member Directory Photos ..... Library
- 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
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting..... Youth Room