

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The idea that hope teaches us a language—indeed, is a language—in which we can articulate our deepest longings for a life of human flourishing and fulfillment both as God's gift and as our right as children of God, that can lift us out of the depths of despair, empower us to find the liberating and hope-giving God, who "makes a way out of no way," as the spiritual says, drawing us into the vast expanse of our wider imaginings of freedom and joy, is singularly inspirational."  
— Allan Boesak

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

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

Introit

"We Thank God" Kathleen Hart Brumm (b. 1958)

We thank God for giving us life; We thank God today.  
On this day and every day; Let's thank the God of love.  
We thank God for giving us love; We thank God today.  
We thank God for giving us joy; We thank God today.  
Cherub Choir

++Call to Worship

Eleanor Engbers & Kat Hand

God has gathered us together from every corner of our community.

**We come from many kinds of dwellings and families.**

We come from many places of work and learning.

**From near and far, we join our hearts and voices to glorify God.**

God welcomes all in this place.

**Hallelujah! Let us worship in hope!**

++Hymn 619

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

Lauda Anima

Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us. Heal us of the spiritual blindness we have too often chosen: closed eyes when faced with the world's suffering, gazes turned away from the needs of our neighbors, and failure to recognize your image in others. Open our eyes to the beauty of your grace, and fashion us into a community of hope for all people...**

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 "Uyai mose (Come All You People)" Alexander Gondo (b. 1936)

arr. John L. Bell (b. 1949)

Translation from Shona and transcription from English:

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker; come all and worship the Lord.

"And I Will Praise Him" Michael Jothen (b. 1944)

And I will praise him, praise him with the cymbal,  
with the tambourine, on this day, forevermore!

I will praise him for the earth so green, for the stars unseen,  
for his endless love, I will sing to the Lord.

For mountains high and seas that roll I will praise him ev'rywhere I go,  
praise his mighty name, I will sing to the Lord!

Chapel 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

Scriptures

Mark 10:46-52

New Testament p. 47

Ephesians 3:20-21

New Testament p. 193

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"A Community of Hope"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm Gonna Live

Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Jen Porter

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Amanda Stumbo.

Reception of New Members

Elder Sam Walma

The Meaning of Membership

Questions to the New Members

Questions to the Congregation

Charge

Focus on Stewardship and Dedication of Giving Intentions

Paul Stoub & Elder Ben Boerkoel

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

Offertory

"I Can Tell the World"

Spiritual

arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

I can tell the world about this, I can tell the nations I'm blessed.  
Tell 'em what my Lord has done, tell 'em the conqueror has come,  
and He brought joy to my soul.

My Lord done just what he said. He healed the sick and he raised the dead.

He lifted me when I was down. He placed my feet on solid ground.

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.**

**Receive the gifts we offer, O God. Receive the gift of our lives—  
from the smallest to the largest. Bless them all to your  
transforming, hope-filled work in the world. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 712 "As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

Forest Green

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccata on Great Day"

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

**November 3**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends  
All Generations Sunday**

**Do Not Be Afraid**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Matthew 14:22-33

Sanctuary Choir, Carol Choir, & Kirk Singers

**November 10**

**It Is Enough**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Mark 12:38-44

Sanctuary Choir

**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation**

**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 Dalai 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 choose to learn and to practice another way of being.



**WE ARE A  
MATTHEW 25 Church**

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.

**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](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org).

*Worship liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal, and LiturgyLink. Kyrie used by permission of composer. "Uyai Mose," "And I Will Praise Him," and "I Can Tell the World" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

Liturgists .....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission

..... Eleanor Engbers

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

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

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

.....Sam Walma, Elder for Membership Growth & Development

.....Paul Stoub

..... Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children's Ministries

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

..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano

.....Lindsey Hoekstra, Cherub Choir Director

.....Cherub Choir

.....Chapel Singers

.....Sanctuary Choir

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

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

AV Team .....Karsten Kotchenruther, Ricky Rivard, Stella Sheckler

**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

A Community of Hope

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

# Announcements

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**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:** We will be bringing our giving intentions 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.

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THE FALL RETREAT! November 1 & 2, Camp Henry** Join us for a spiritual retreat at Camp Henry this fall! Visit the website to learn more and sign up. The deadline to register is this Monday.

**OUR BAPTISMAL FONT:** Our historical baptismal font has been in continuous use since 1887. Our baptisms today continue this legacy.

**CHILDREN'S ART:** Just as Moses witnessed God in the burning bush, we witness God in our lives. Come and see the oil pastel illustrations the children created to show where they witness God's presence in their lives. They are hanging in the children's ministry hallway.

**INTERESTED IN BELL CHOIR?** Sonja Fryer is organizing a bell choir group! Contact [robertr@wpcgr.org](mailto:robertr@wpcgr.org) if you are interested in participating.

**MEMBER DIRECTORY PHOTOS:** Directory photos will be taken after the service today in the Library. The next opportunity for a photo will be November 3, before and after the service.

**HIGH SCHOOL TRIP REGISTRATION OPEN!** Read our flyer in the newsletter and on the website for FAQ. There will be a trip Q&A on Google Meet on October 30 at 5:00 p.m.

**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.

**CUBA/FIRST HAND AID MEDICINE COLLECTION:** In November, a group of folks from First Hand Aid will be traveling to Cuba with Westminster member Marc Bohland. They will deliver much needed medicine and other supplies to Havana and other areas of Cuba. We will have a collection table available in the Gathering Place on Sunday, November 3, 10 and 17. Thank you for helping our friends in Cuba!

**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** The Skill Cafe is an event where folks who need something repaired can talk to people who have the skills to repair them. Do you have the skills to fix something or you need something fixed? Reach out to Deanna at [deannac@wpcgr.org](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org) to get involved.

**THANKSGIVING INGATHERING: November 24** We will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Westminster Downtown Food Pantry.

**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:** 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. If you think you can help, please contact Deb Toering at [dtoering@icloud.com](mailto:dtoering@icloud.com) for details.



**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 27

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Member Directory Photos ..... Library
- 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour ..... Gathering Place
- 11:15 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

## MON. OCTOBER 28

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group .....Multipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation .....Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Justice Committee Meeting ..... Online

## WED. OCTOBER 30

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast.....Wolfgang's

## THURS. OCTOBER 31

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

## SUN. NOVEMBER 3: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

- 9:30 a.m. Member Directory Photos ..... Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. All Church Brunch ..... Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Member Directory Photos ..... Library
- 11:15 a.m. Middle School Choir .....Sanctuary
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds..... Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room