

MORNING WORSHIP

Gather

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Whatever the problem, community is the answer." - Margaret J. Wheatley

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

"The Moon in the Sky" Vidas Pinkevicius (b. 1976) Meditation on a Ukrainian Folk Song

++Call to Worship (based on Psalm 1:1-3)

Paul Karsten

Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk.

Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of greed.

Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

++Hymn 15

"All Creatures of Our God and King" Lasst uns erfreuen (Stanzas 1-4)

Prayer of Confession

United in your love, O God, we are one body across the globe. We are branches of one family whose roots run in the waters of grace. Still, we do not act like one body. We find ways to distance ourselves with more than miles. We find ways to divide ourselves into endless groups of "us" and "them." Again and again, you call us back to the waters; again and again, we turn away. Forgive us and challenge us to tend to each other's wounds...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for the Kyrie Unison piece, including lyrics: 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

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 "Jesus My Breath, My Life, My Lord" K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

Jesus my breath, my life, my Lord, take of my soul the inmost part; Let vision, mind and will be stored with Christ the master of my heart.

Jesus my Lord, my breath, my life, my living bread for ev'ry day, In calm and comfort, storm and strife, Christ be my truth, as Christ my way.

Jesus my life, my Lord, my breath, the pulse and beat of all my years, Constant alike in life and death and when eternal day appears.

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

Hebrews 10:16-25 New Testament p. 224 Mark 10:13-16 New Testament p. 46

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Gather" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 515

"I Come with Joy" Dove of Peace (Stanzas 1-3)

Recognition of 10th Anniversary of Rev. Jen Porter's Installation

Elder Mike Lunt

Focus on Stewardship

Scott Jennings, Anita Sukenik, & Cheryl VanTill

Offering Our Lives

Rev. Jen Porter

In addition to our regular offering, today we receive the PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering, which addresses systems of conflict and injustice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. 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

"Ave Verum Corpus" W.A. Mozart (1756-91) Translation from Latin:

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for humankind, from whose pierced side flowed water and blood: Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death!

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!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

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.

The Words of Institution

Communion Music

"Пори року" (The Seasons), Op. 37a Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky X. октябрь (October) (1840-93)

Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

Blessed are you, Lord God, author of hope and giver of life. You have satisfied our souls with this feast of grace. Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 301

"Let Us Build a House" Two Oaks (Stanzas 1, 4, & 5)

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "12 Noble Waltzes, D. 969" Franz Schubert (1797-1828) V. Waltz in C Major

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

October 13

A Community of Hope: Engage

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Mark 10:17-31
Westminster Winds
Sanctuary Choir

October 20

A Community of Hope: Bless

Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson
Mark 10:35-45
Sanctuary Choir

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

In the Chapel Fifteen 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. Join us!

CUBA INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 13, In the Parlor Fifteen 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.



**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 and serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Worship liturgies adapted from Thom Shuman and re:Worship and Call to Worship Journal.
Kyrie used by permission of composer.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Paul Karsten
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Mike Lunt, Elder for Personnel
..... Scott Jennings, Anita Sukenik, & Cheryl VanTill, Stewardship Committee

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Organ
..... Sanctuary Choir

Acolytes..... Eva DeVries & Abby Schnepf

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

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. 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

Gather

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

SHARING THE BOUNTY WALK: Today, 1:00 p.m., Meeting in the Parking Lot

The walk will center on the Heartside area of Grand Rapids with stops along the way to learn about the significance of local buildings and murals. Not available to join, but still want to support? Scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to donate.

DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS: Dégagé vouchers will be on sale for \$2 each in the Gathering Place after worship. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks asking for money; these vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé Ministries, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more.

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.”

FALL REFLECTIONS: Join us as we celebrate the stories of Westminster and share in the life of the church. Read the new edition at westminstergr.org/reflections/.

YOUTH UPDATE: There is no youth lunch this Sunday. Middle schoolers will rehearse following worship. High schoolers will have dinner, choir, and their meeting Sunday evening from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. High schoolers, please bring a picture of your favorite place, and feel free to wear/bring a costume to make our closing game more fun!

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: October 9, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Arktos Meadery Join us!

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY SESSIONS: October 12, 10:00 a.m., Oakdale Park Church This is a chance for you to hear from state and local candidates from both parties on a variety of issues of importance to our community. You can register to attend on Westminster's website or by stopping by our table in the Gathering Place after the service.

BAPTISM SEMINAR: Seminar October 13, Baptism October 20 If you are interested in baptism at Westminster, we offer a seminar to talk about what this important sacrament means to all of us. Contact Nancy Greidanus (nancyg@wpcgr.org) for more information.

LET'S HANG OUT! October 15, 7:00 p.m. All are welcome for our all-ages fellowship program as we enjoy the fall weather, a bonfire, and fun at the home of John Nienhuis and Jerry Nardin. Come as you are to share in fellowship! Bring a lawn chair and your favorite beverage, and feel free to bring a snack to pass. S'mores will be provided. To register, please reach out to Deanna at deannac@wpcgr.org, and she will share the address with you. We hope to see you there!

FALL RETREAT: HONORING OUR ANCESTORS: November 1 & 2, Camp Henry Join us for our Fall Retreat led by Dominican Spiritual Director Cami Beecroft-Mann. Visit our website to learn more and register.

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. Stop by the table in the Gathering Place to learn more or contact susanj@wpcgr.org.

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 6

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Middle School Choir Choir Room
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation Dining Room
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal Choir Room
- 1:00 p.m. Sharing the Bounty Walk..... Parking Lot
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Service Porter Hills
- 4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group Library
- 6:00 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room

MON. OCTOBER 7

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room

TUES. OCTOBER 8

- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Conference Room

WED. OCTOBER 9

- 7:15 a.m. WPA Bus Trip Pick-Up Porter Hills
- 7:45 a.m. WPA Bus Trip Pick-Up Gathering Place
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee..... Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night.....Arktos Meadery

THURS. OCTOBER 10

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

SUN. OCTOBER 13

- 9:00 a.m. Westminster Winds Breakfast..... Dining Room
- 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 Meeting Parlor
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting..... Youth Room
- 4:00 p.m. Teacher Appreciation Party Offsite