

MORNING WORSHIP
The Same Gift

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Christian faith for me is no longer a static location but a great spiritual journey. And that changes everything.” —Brian McLaren

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

"Beach Spring" Benjamin Franklin White (1800-79)
Youth Strings arr. Deborah Baker Monday

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 148)

Sara Zallar & Kat Hand

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord on high!

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!

Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, praise the Lord!

Leaders and citizens of the world, old and young together:

All people praise the Lord!

++Hymn 301

"Let Us Build a House"

Two Oaks

Prayer of Confession

Elder Ted Duncan

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Give us a vision for your beloved community, and guide us to work toward a new heaven here on earth.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison



Assurance of God's Grace

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the power of sin has been defeated. God's love is stronger still.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

(stanza 5)

Truro

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Gloria!"

Cynthia Dobrinski (1950-2021)

Bell 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

Acts 11:1-18

New Testament p. 130

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Same Gift"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 292

"As the Wind Song"

Wairua Tapu

Reception of Confirmands into Membership

Eleanor Engbers, Alex Lowry, Jackson Reid, Maggie Scholma, James Scholten-Holcomb, & Shay Venema

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

Offertory

"Beautiful Savior"

Silesian hymn

arr. F Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be Thine.

Sanctuary Choir & Guests

++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.

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to those who hunger, hope to those in despair, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

arr. Carl Johengen

String parts arr. Lee Copenhaver

Stanzas 1 & 2: Choir & congregation

Stanza 3: Choir

Stanza 4: Choir & congregation

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Carillon"

Herbert Murrill (1909-52)

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.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
Kat Hand, Minister with Youth & Young Adults
Sara Zallar, Youth Coordinator
Ted Duncan, Elder for Youth
Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children & Families

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
Sonja Fryer & Sarah Faasse, Bell Choir Co-Directors
Christy Roosien & Jennifer Kotchenruther, Youth Strings Coordinators
Youth Strings
Bell Choir
Sanctuary Choir & Guests

Ushers.....Bernie Smith, Kathy Smith, John Boerman
Stephen Marshall, Sherrill Vore, Marian Vanderwall
Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

AV TeamIan Dengerink-Van Til, Rachel Kamstra, Ricky Rivard

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 & YOUNG ADULTS

For more information about youth or young adult ministry, please contact our Minister with Youth and Young Adults Kat Hand at kath@wpcgr.org.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

May 25
Sixth Sunday of Easter
For the Healing of the Nations
 Rev. Lynette Sparks
 Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5
 Robert Ragoonanan

June 1
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Shaken Foundations
 Rev. Lynette Sparks
 Acts 16:16-34
 Stacey Tanner, Cello & Janlee Richter

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: May 18, 11:15 a.m., Parlor Are you curious about Together West Michigan, a local group that WPC is part of, supporting issues that affect our local communities? You will have two opportunities on May 18 to learn more and ask all your questions. We will have a "house meeting" in the Parlor discussing issues you care about! If you want to learn more about what issues have been addressed in the past and are ongoing, you can also stop by the table outside the Parlor to ask your questions. See you then!



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.

The Same Gift

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 18, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: May is Mental Health Awareness month and what better time to remind folks of our Mental Health Referral Panel. If you have financial barriers, the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters fund is available to assist with financial needs. Contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org with any questions or visit the website to learn more.

A COMMUNITY OF HOPE ART PRINT FUNDRAISER: May 18 & 25 If you would like to own a copy of the "Tree of Life" artwork created by Paul Stoub for the 2025 Stewardship Campaign, prints of the piece will be available for pre-order in the Gathering Place following worship on May 18 and 25. Prints cost a suggested donation of \$25 with all proceeds going to the neighbor fund.

YOUTH REQUEST: The high school youth group needs sleeping pads for our summer trip this June. We are seeking ones that pack small. Do you have one you'd be willing to lend? It would be a huge help to us! Email a picture to kath@wpcgr.org.

ELISABETH CIRCLE: May 20, 1:00 p.m., Library Elisabeth Circle will meet to discuss chapters 10, 11, and 12 in the *Story of Ruth*. For additional information, contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net.

WPC COMMUNITY NIGHT: LET'S HANG OUT & CRAFT May 19, 7:00 p.m., Parlor
Join us for a time to talk and work on projects. Feel free to bring sewing, knitting, crochet, drawing, or other portable art projects with you to work on!

SUMMER NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: June 1, 8, & 15 Our next new member orientation will be held on Sunday, June 1 and June 8 following worship with new members being received on Sunday, June 15. If you're interested in attending, please contact Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org.

DONATE TO THE CAMP HENRY WELCOME CENTER! Help Camp Henry raise \$250,000 by May 20 to match a challenge grant from the Bea Idema Foundation and allow Camp to complete its much-needed new Welcome Center this summer. Camp has already raised \$218,300 towards that goal. The Welcome Center will include "David's Ice Cream and Coffee Shop" in memory of David Abbott. You may learn more about the Extend Campaign and the ice cream shop, and make a contribution at <https://camphenry.org/donate>.

WPA EMAIL LIST: If you are 55 or older and would like to receive emails about upcoming WPA events, reach out to Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org, and we can add you to the list! You can also let us know if you are on the email list and would like to be removed.

NEXT CHURCH REGISTRATION: November 11-14, 2025 Westminster is excited to host the NEXT Church National Gathering: Already & Not Yet! To learn more and register to attend the gathering, visit nextchurch.net/national-gathering/. Options are available for the full experience and for a Local Leaders pass. We will also be looking for volunteers to help offer our best Westminster Welcome throughout that week. If you'd like to help, please contact Angie Kelley at angiek@wpcgr.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Open Door could use a few people who are available on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The Food Pantry could use a few people who are available occasionally on Thursdays to help with food distribution. Contact Brian Kamstra at briank@wpcgr.org to get involved.

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. MAY 18

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Kirk Singers Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 11:15 a.m. Together West Michigan House Meeting.....Parlor

MON. MAY 19

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Library
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Musical Program.....Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. FAS Group..... Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Online
- 7:00 p.m. WPC Community Night.....Parlor

TUES. MAY 20

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle Library
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting.....Parlor

WED. MAY 21

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast.....Wolfgang's
- 7:30 a.m. WPA Bus TripFront Lobby
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Library

THURS. MAY 22

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel

SUN. MAY 25

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 2:00 p.m. Larry Hollenbeck Funeral Service.....Sanctuary