

MORNING WORSHIP
Knowing God

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“However you name God, the Many-Named God transcends and defies our attempts to number and name. Instead, God conspires. To conspire is *con spiro*, to breathe together, not just deceitful or treacherous planning. God breathes with us, breathes in us, breathes through us in this Pentecost season to change the world through the Church.”
– Wilda Gafney

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.

Opening Voluntary Fantasia on “Holy, Holy, Holy”
Variation IV

Piet Post (1919-1979)

++Call to Worship

Elder Sam Walma

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

In every time and place, God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Blessed are you, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit!

++Hymn 1 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Nicea

Prayer of Confession

Holy God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Mother, Child, and Breath of God—though we are made in your image, we distort the triune life. Instead of seeking the common good, we seek our own gain. Instead of living in equality and justice, we uphold systems that are unjust. Disrespect for others still rises up in us, and we elevate ourselves over them. We allow differences to divide and keep us apart. Merciful God, forgive us. Restore in us the divine image you intend. Make us tender in mutuality. Make us generous in equality. Make us grateful in diversity. Make us one with you and one another, through Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy"
Musical notation for the Kyrie Eleison with lyrics: Lord, have mercy up on us, Christ, have mercy up on us, Lord, have mercy up on us.

Assurance of God's Grace

Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up God's kin-dom on this earth.

Through the grace of Jesus Christ, God draws us together, offering salvation, forgiveness, and new life to all. Thanks be to God!

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 250 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

(stanza 2)

**There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Promise

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

“Be Still, My Soul” Finlandia, Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

arr. Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Words are found in the hymnal, #819

Maria Schoon, Soprano

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

Psalm 8

Old Testament p. 492

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Knowing God"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Ellacombe

Reception of New Members

The Meaning of Membership

Questions to the New Members

Questions to the Congregation

Charge

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. In addition to the regular offering, today we receive the PC(USA) Pentecost offering, which supports at-risk children, youth, and young adults. Envelopes are in the pews.

Offertory

“Come to the Water”

John Foley, SJ

Oh let all who thirst, let them come to the water

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord

Without money, without price, why should you pay the price,

Except for the Lord.

And let all who seek, let them come to the water

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord

Without money, without strife, why should you spend your life,

Except for the Lord.

And let all who toil, let them come to the water

And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord

All who labor, without rest, how can your soul find rest,

Except for the Lord.

And let all the poor, let them come to the water

Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord

Bring the children, without might, easy the load and light,

Come to the Lord.

Maria Schoon, Soprano

++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 God, you have poured out so much for us: the beauty of the world, the care of family and friends, meaningful work, and the gift of the church. For these, we give you thanks. Especially, we thank you for pouring your love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Through the gifts we offer, may your love spill over in glad abundance to bring relief, renewal, and hope to those in need. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 15 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Lasst uns erfreuen

(stanzas 1, 2, & 6)

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Fantasia on “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Piet Post

Finale and Hymn

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

June 22

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jen Porter
1 Kings 19:1-15
Janlee Richter, Bell Choir,
Harper Davis, & Mandy Stumbo

June 29

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jen Porter
Janlee Richter & Vivi Duncan, Piano

Honoring Our Graduates

High School Grads

Evan Behee, Marcos Calderon, Tristan Gerville-Réache, & Gabriella Lockwood: Forest Hills Northern
Harriet Engbers: City High
Helen Elizabeth Engbers: East Grand Rapids
Declan Hayes: East Kentwood
Charles N.J. Molitor: Forest Hills Central
Theo Mulder: Hudsonville
Billah Namutosi: Northview Public Schools
Jocelyn Eleanor Russell: Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, Rockford

University Grad

Lindsay Larson: Bachelor of Arts, George Washington University

Summer Books for Children's Worship

This week: *Ice Cream Man* by Armand and Freeman

Next week: *What the Crow Saw Below* by Tregoning and Stobbs

Augustus Jackson was born in 1808 in Philadelphia. While most African Americans were enslaved at that time, in Pennsylvania, slavery was against the law. But while Augustus and his family were free, they were poor, and they depended on their garden and their chickens for food. Augustus enjoyed helping his mom prepare meals for their family. He dreamed of becoming a professional cook. In 1820, when he was only twelve years old, he set off for Washington, DC. He applied to work in the White House, where the head cook offered him a job as a kitchen helper. After five years of working hard, Augustus, or Gus, was promoted to cook.

During his time at the White House, Augustus became an expert at making a popular egg-based dessert. He soon made an eggless version—known to us today as ice cream—and left the White House determined to make and sell the frozen treat to everyone, not just the wealthy. Gus headed back home to Philadelphia, and in 1830, he opened his very own ice cream parlor. He devised a way to keep the ice cream frozen so that it could be shipped and sold to other businesses. He created more ice cream with new flavors, and soon he was shipping product via train to places like New York City, which was 100 miles away. Gus's dream had come true, and better yet, he had brought smiles to many faces.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... Sam Walma, Elder for Membership Growth & Development
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
..... Maria Schoon, Soprano
Ushers.....Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller
.....Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV TeamDan Cisler, 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.



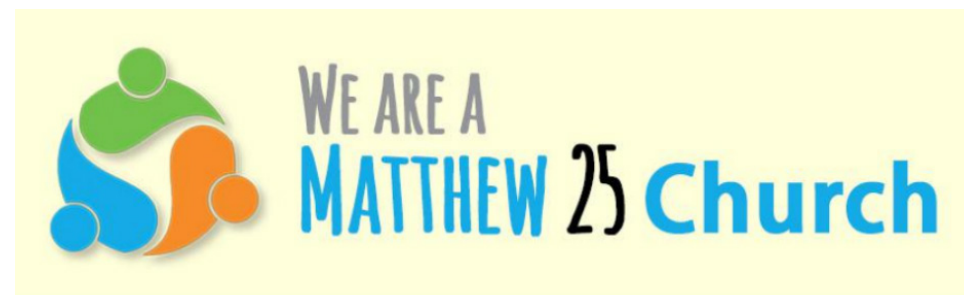
Trinity, Kelly Latimore

Knowing God

TRINITY SUNDAY

JUNE 15, 2025

10:00 A.M.



Announcements

WPC COMMUNITY NIGHT: LET'S HANG OUT AND GRILL! June 16, 7:00 p.m., Millennium Park, Open Shelter A Everyone is invited to a picnic potluck for our next WPC Community Night: Let's Hang Out and Grill! We will be cooking up hot dogs, and you are welcome to bring a side or dessert to pass! We hope to see you there! Email Deanna at deannac@wpcgr.org with any questions and to let her know you are coming.

SUMMER WORSHIP CENTER: CHILDREN AGE 3-THOSE FINISHED WITH 3RD GRADE During the summer months, we vary our curriculum to provide a time for children to apply biblical concepts to daily life situations by reading excellent children's illustrated books. Children will think and talk about how we should treat God's creation, each other, people who have lives that are unfamiliar to us; and what we can do to share God's love and beauty with others. We conclude our time together by lighting the Christ Candle and praying. The Summer Books Center will begin on June 15 and continue through September 7. Look for the book titles and activities each week.

DINE WITH NINE: If you'd like to join in the Dine with Nine, Summer Edition, stop by the table in the Gathering Place today to sign up. This is a casual and easy way to get to know other church members and friends. You don't have to be a member to participate—everyone is welcome! This will be a one-time gathering for groups of nine or so at someone's home (or patio, park, etc.) during the summer. You may also sign up on the website or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS: June 15, Library Need to update your directory photo? Stop by the Library after worship today!

DOWNTOWN WALK OF INDIGENOUS LANDMARKS WITH RON YOB: June 17, 10:30 a.m. Ron is the Chairman of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians and will provide a walking tour indigenous landmarks and explain their significance. We will gather in the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m. and carpool to the starting point at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Please contact susanj@wpcgr.org if you'd like to attend.

BROAD-BASED ORGANIZING TRAINING: June 20 & 21 Join Together West Michigan to learn, practice, and get to work at a Broad-based Organizing Training here at Westminster. The training is on Friday June 20, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., with dinner included and Saturday June 21, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with lunch included. Cost is \$30. Visit bit.ly/twmeffrain2025 to register.

WESTMINSTER CAMP: August 28-August 31, Camp Henry Registration for Camp 2025 is open! Visit the website to register.

REV. LYNETTE SABBATICAL: Rev. Lynette Sparks will be on part one of her sabbatical (with part two in summer 2026) from June 19 - August 17, 2025. During that time, we will welcome several familiar guest preachers; any other pastoral or staff-related questions that Lynette would normally handle should be directed to Rev. Jen Porter.

REFLECTIONS: Submit to the Summer 2025 edition of Reflections! Anyone is welcome to share stories, photos, art, or other works that tie back to the Westminster community. Submissions are due June 20, and can be emailed to reflections@wpcgr.org or dropped off at the church office.

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING: This week, we receive the Pentecost Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Your gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Please give generously as you are able.



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. JUNE 15

- 9:00 a.m. Session Meeting.....Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Member Directory PhotosLibrary

MON. JUNE 16

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership CommitteeOnline
- 6:30 p.m. FAS Group.....Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. WPC Community Night..... Millennium Park

TUES. JUNE 17

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 10:15 a.m. Indigenous Landmark Walk Parking Lot
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating CommitteeOnline
- 7:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal..... 3rd Floor Music Room

WED. JUNE 18

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby

THURS. JUNE 19

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby

FRI. JUNE 20

- 4:30 p.m. TWM Training.....Multiple Locations

SAT JUNE 21

- 8:00 a.m. TWM Training.....Multiple Locations

SUN. JUNE 22

- 9:00 a.m. Bell Choir Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place
- 12:00 p.m. Pride Festival Calder Plaza