

MORNING WORSHIP  
What's One More Day?

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul. The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else..."

—Abraham Joshua Heschel, "The Sabbath"

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.

Introit

"Christe eleison" (Christ Have Mercy) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
from Mass in B minor, BWV 232

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 71)

Elder Cheryl VanTil

God alone is our refuge and hope,  
our shelter and protection.

**From our very first breath to our last,  
God's love and compassion never fail.**

So come, lift your voices in praise to God.

Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love.

**Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.**

++Hymn 796

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord" Land of Rest

Prayer of Confession

**O God, our creator, sustainer, and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and alienation; we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison



Assurance of God's Grace

This is the impossibly good news.

Love is the beginning. Love is the end.

And nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Neither day, nor night, nor anything else in all creation.

Friends, believe this Good News of the Gospel:

**In Christ's love, we are forgiven, we are accepted,  
and everything is made new. Amen.**

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 656 "We've Come This Far by Faith"

Sing through two times

**We've come this far by faith,  
leaning on the Lord,  
trusting in the holy Word;  
God's never failed us yet.  
O, can't turn around,  
we've come this far by faith.  
We've come this far by faith.**

This Far By Faith

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Ministry of Music Cantata "Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt"

J.S. Bach

(God So Loved the World), BWV 68

II. Mein gläubiges Herze (My Faithful Heart)

Translation from German:

My faithful heart, rejoice, sing, be merry, your Jesus is here!

Away with sorrow, away with lamentation, I shall just say to you: my Jesus is close.

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Children three years through third 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

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Luke 13:10-17

Old Testament p. 162

New Testament p. 76

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"What's One More Day?"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 700

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

I'm Gonna Live

++Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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

"Laudamus te" (We Praise You)

W.A. Mozart (1756-91)

from Mass in C minor, K. 427

Translation from Latin:

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you.

++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, we give you thanks for the gifts of creation, and for the gift of life itself. We dedicate our resources to you, trusting that they will build up your work in our world. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 295

"Go to the World"

Sine Nomine

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"35 Miniatures for Organ"

Flor Peeters (1903-86)

XIII. Allegro maestoso

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.

Liturgies adapted from Roger Gench, The Presbyterian Outlook, and re:Worship. Bulletin art from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Kyrie used by permission of composer. Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

August 31

**Worship at Westminster**

Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks  
Janlee Richter

**Worship at Camp Henry**

**Wanted: For Life**

Rev. Jen Porter  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
Sanctuary Choir & Robert Ragoonanan  
Josh Leckrone, Baritone

September 7

**Kick Off Sunday**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Sanctuary Choir & Cheri Reid, Mezzo-Soprano

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Cheryl VanTil, Elder for Stewardship  
Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Viviana Kloostra, Soprano  
..... Rebecca Russcher, Mezzo-Soprano  
Ushers..... Bernie & Kathy Smith, John Boerman  
..... Stephen Marshall, Sherrill Vore, Marian Vanderwall  
..... Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel  
AV Team ..... Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Ricky Rivard, Stella Sheckler



Tree of Hope, Julie Leuthold

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 & 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](mailto:kath@wpcgr.org).

616-456-1456 / [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org) / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Summer Books for Children's Worship

**This week:** *Just What to Do* by Lukoff

**Next week:** *What Happened to You?* by James Catchpole

When you see someone sad, it's only natural to want to cheer them up. But how? Some people like hugs but others don't. Sometimes a joke is more comforting than a card. How can you do the just-right-thing if you don't know what it is?

With its spare, poignant text and unexpectedly levitous illustrations, *Just What to Do* offers an important lesson about how to offer comfort to loved ones by setting aside your assumptions and following their lead.

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.**

This initiative and vision unite churches across the PC(USA), energizing our common mission to serve and embody the radical love of Jesus.

What's One More Day?

SEASON OF THE SPIRIT

AUGUST 24, 2025

10:00 A.M.

# Announcements

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**CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN AUGUST 28: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Choir Room** Choir rehearsals for the fall semester begin August 28! We welcome new members at all times of the year, but the beginning of the fall is a particularly good time to join! Please email Robert Ragoonanan with questions at [robertr@wpcgr.org](mailto:robertr@wpcgr.org).

**GOOD SOIL HARVEST POTLUCK: August 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gathering Place**  
To conclude the *Good Soil* book discussion, we will gather for a summer harvest potluck and conversation with author Jeff Chu. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join. Participants are asked to bring an offering for our harvest feast, something with fresh in-season ingredients or a family recipe, as we celebrate what has grown from the land and in our lives. Visit the website to sign up.

**KICKOFF SUNDAY: September 7** Reconnect with Westminster as we renew our energy and begin our program year. Kickoff marks the official beginning of programming as we return from summer rejuvenated. Our children's ministry program will have registration following worship, and there will be an all-church meal with time for fellowship for all.

**BACK TO YOUTH GROUP NIGHT! September 7, 8:30-10:00 p.m.** This is for all middle and high schoolers and their parents! Our time together will include important announcements about the year, as well as opportunities for leaders and youth to meet one another and for parents to socialize together.

**MARY MARTHA REUNION: September 11, 11:30 a.m., Parlor** A time to get together for all former Mary Martha members for fellowship and lunch! A catered lunch of a taco buffet with beverages will be served. Cost is \$25 per person. Please RSVP by September 2 to Sharon Stiansen at [Slimerance@gmail.com](mailto:Slimerance@gmail.com) or 616-460-8108.

**MISSION PARTNERSHIP ACTION FAIR: September 14** Mark your calendars for our first Mission Partnership Action Fair! On Sunday, September 14 following worship, we will have several community organizations gathered in the Dining Room for an Action Fair. The purpose is to learn more from the various organizations about their work and mission and ways to get involved. Organizations such as Community Food Club, United Campus Christian Fellowship, AYA Youth Collective, New City Neighbors, Realism Is Loyalty and more will be present.

**BAPTISM SEMINAR: September 21, 9:30 a.m., Parlor. Baptism: September 28**  
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](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org)) before September 14 if you'd like to attend.

**FALL FESTIVAL OF ARTS: SAVE THE DATE** Poet Anita Skeen and linocut block printing artist Laura Delind, long time teachers at PCUSA's Ghost Ranch, will join us on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18. We will have the opportunity to learn and to participate. Robert Ragoonanan will perform a concert in the afternoon on Saturday, October 18. More details to come.

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:** The Food Pantry recently completed a significant expansion of our refrigerator and freezer capacity. Due to increasing attendance at the food pantry, we had been unable to serve everyone on several peak attendance days this year. Our new equipment will increase our capacity by more than 25%. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work to ensure all of our Heartside neighbors have access to enough quality food.



**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. AUGUST 24

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place

## MON. AUGUST 25

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry ..... Front Lobby
- 12:00 p.m. Justice Committee ..... Library
- 6:30 p.m. *Good Soil* Harvest Potluck .....Gathering Place

## TUES. AUGUST 26

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry ..... Front Lobby
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting.....Online

## WED. AUGUST 27

- 6:30 p.m. High School Prayer Breakfast ..... Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry ..... Front Lobby

## THURS. AUGUST 28

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 4:00 p.m. Westminster Camp Begins..... Camp Henry
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

## FRI. AUGUST 29

- All Day Westminster Camp ..... Camp Henry

## SAT. AUGUST 30

- All Day Westminster Camp ..... Camp Henry

## SUN. AUGUST 31

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service ..... Camp Henry
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place