

MORNING WORSHIP  
Cracked Cisterns

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"There are times when being truly free in the Spirit means being deeply bound to the outworking of God's mission in the world, with all the consequences of the fact that this mission and this world are so often fragmented and broken. In that sense, Jesus is not just a teacher of the Spirit but an embodiment of it."

—Robert C. Saler

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Brian Kamstra

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

Opening Voluntary

"Berceuse"

Andrew Moore (b. 1954)

++Call to Worship

Holy, holy, holy is our God;  
**Heaven and earth are filled with God's glory.**  
The God of glory thunders;  
**God's voice shakes the wilderness.**  
No one knows from where it comes, or to where it goes,  
**and all in God's temple say, "Glory!"**

++Hymn 307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Cwm Rhondda

Prayer of Confession

For times we embrace war when you call for peace,  
**forgive us.**

For times we dehumanize our neighbor instead of loving them,  
**forgive us.**

For times we serve powers and principalities rather than you,  
our Servant Savior,  
**forgive us.**

For times we domesticate you to our cultural identities,  
**forgive us.**

For selectively hearing your good news of grace for us without  
considering the same for others,  
**forgive us.**

For seeing ourselves less than the full person you created in beauty  
with delight,  
**forgive us, and grant us peace.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy" Kyrie Eleison



++ Stand in body or in spirit  
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

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.**

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

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.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Ministry of Music

"Folk Tune"

Andrew Fletcher (b. 1950)

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

Jeremiah 2:4-13  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Old Testament p. 699  
New Testament p. 77

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Cracked Cisterns"

Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 848

"Trust in God"

Song 13

**++Affirmation of Faith** (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA) Susan Jennings  
**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

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

"Meditation on Kingsfold"

June Nixon (b. 1942)

++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, teach us to give our whole lives to you. May the treasure become not the money gathered here, but the mission of your love in the world. For the giver, the gift, and the soon gifted, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 817

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Dunlap's Creek

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Go Forth With Joy!"

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

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 Call to Worship Journal, Kyle Walker, and the Presbyterian Outlook.  
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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

**September 7**  
**Kickoff Sunday**  
**Grace Disrupts**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Philemon 1-21  
Sanctuary Choir & Cheri Reid, Mezzo-Soprano

**September 14**  
**Grace Restores**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Luke 15:1-10  
Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks  
Liturgists ..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission  
..... Brian Kamstra, Community Resource Coordinator  
Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate  
Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, John Boerman  
..... Sherrill Vore, Marian Vanderwall  
..... Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel  
AV Team .....Dan Cisler, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, 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](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.

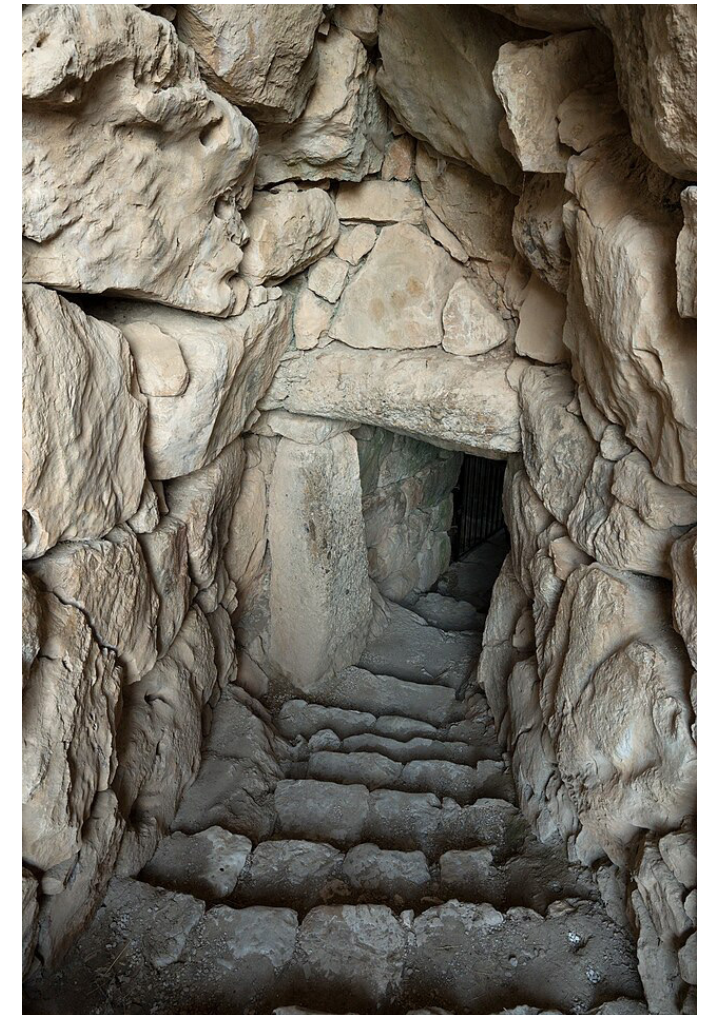
We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms available off of the Dining Room.

**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).



*Underground Cistern of Mycenae*

**Cracked Cisterns**

SEASON OF THE SPIRIT

**AUGUST 31, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M.**

Summer Books for Children's Worship

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

What happened to you? Was it a shark? A burglar? A lion? Did it fall off? A boy named Joe is trying to play pirates at the playground, but he keeps being asked what happened to his leg. Bombarded with questions and silly suggestions, Joe becomes more and more fed up...until the kids finally understand they don't need to know what happened. And that they're wasting valuable playtime!

Based on the author's real childhood experiences, this honest, funny, and authentic picture book is an empowering read for anyone with a disability, and for young readers learning how best to address differences.



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.

# This Week's Calendar

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## 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

## MON. SEPTEMBER 1

Church Closed for Labor Day

## TUES. SEPTEMBER 2

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry ..... Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting.....Chapel

## WED. SEPTEMBER 3

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry ..... Front Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. MGD Committee .....Online

## THURS. SEPTEMBER 4

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group.....Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir..... Choir Room

## SUN. SEPTEMBER 7

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Kickoff Sunday Brunch.....Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. Back to Youth Group Night .....Dining Room

# Announcements

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**LABOR DAY:** Reminder that the Church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day.

**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.

**YOUTH UPDATE:** Back to Youth Group Night is September 7, 6:30-8:15 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. Also, please register middle and high schoolers for the Fall Youth Retreat by September 2!

**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. Our goal, as a Matthew 25 church, is to connect folks with organizations in our mutual pursuit of justice, anti-racism, equality, and peace-making. This event is sponsored by the Mission Partnership committee.

**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.



**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.