

MORNING WORSHIP
Hope in Spite Of...

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“The world does not need the church to talk about what is already possible. The work of the church is to battle the world’s definition of what is believable and unbelievable.”

—Walter Brueggemann, A Gospel of Hope

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 “Four Preludes in E-flat Major”

Anton Bruckner (1824-96)

I. Moderato

Ministry of Music

“The Angel Rolled the Stone Away”

Spiritual

The angel rolled the stone away. arr. Betty Jackson King (1928-94)

‘Twas on a bright and shiny morn, when the trumpet began to sound.

Sister Mary came a-runnin’ at the break of day.

Brought the news from heaven that the stone had rolled away.

I’m a-lookin’ for my Savior, tell me where he lay.

High upon the mountain and the stone had rolled away.

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

1 Peter 1:3-9

New Testament p. 232

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Hope in Spite Of..."

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 247

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

Noël Nouvelet

++Affirmation of Faith (from Book of Common Worship)

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: **that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, **and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

Focus on Mission: First Hand Aid

Ron Bouwense

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

"Selections from Waltzes, Op. 39"

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

++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. You may either dip your bread in the cup of grape juice, or take an individual cup from the trays provided. 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 of the People

Communion Music "Six Studies in English Folksong"

Movements I - V Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Diane Helle, Violin

Prayer of Response

Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord. Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 536

"Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen"

Surge Ecclesia

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Six Studies in English Folksong"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

VI. Allegro vivace

Diane Helle, Violin

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.

++Hymn 238

"Thine Is the Glory"

Judas Maccabeus

Prayer of Confession

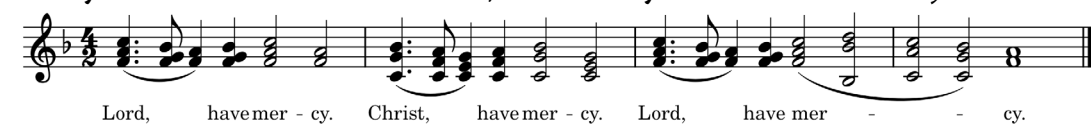
Gracious God, you give us new life, but we choose the ways of death. You breathe peace upon us, yet we pursue conflict. You seek us out when we are afraid, yet we cling to our fears. Forgive us for turning away from you. Shine your light upon us and banish all shadows, that we may live faithfully and joyfully for you.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison



Assurance of God's Grace

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. Rejoice in the good news:

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

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

Truro

(Stanza 5)

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.

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Sunday, April 19

**Third Sunday of Easter
On the Road Again**

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Luke 24:13-35

Viviana Kloostra, Soprano & Cheri Reid, Mezzo-Soprano

Sunday, April 26

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Doing Life Together**

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Acts 2:42-47

Sanctuary Choir, Cherub Choir, Carol Choir, & Bell Choir

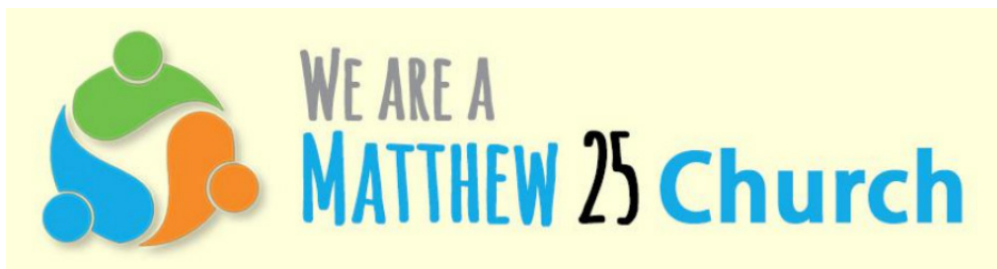
Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Sunday, April 12, Chapel following worship

Is our congregation being called to a new Matthew 25 ministry? The Justice Committee has been exploring ways to serve immigration detainees at the Baldwin Detention Center—providing backpacks, clothing, phones, transportation, and visits to people who often arrive with nothing. We've been inspired by the witness of Westminster member Delight Lester and others from several churches who have been pioneering this work. Join us after worship on April 12 to hear Delight's testimony and to pray and discern together what faithful response might look like for our church.

Sunday, April 19, Chapel following worship

A group representing WPC attended a Creation Justice Ministries retreat in March to learn about Christian leadership in a climate changed world. In faith formation, Jonathan Hand will be recapping this retreat and facilitating a discussion about creation care work at Westminster. Whether you are very passionate about climate action or know little about it, please feel welcomed to attend!



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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
..... Deb Kammer, WPA Elder
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Ron Bouwense
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
..... Diane Helle, Violin
.....Sanctuary Choir
Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley
..... Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby
AV Team Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Marcos Calderon
.....Ricky Rivard, Dan Cisler

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 recommend you sit in front of the balcony for the best sound quality.

We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms 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

On most Sundays after worship, we have youth group and choir for middle and high schoolers. We begin with lunch in the Dining Room. All middle and high schoolers are welcome. Please join us; we'd be happy answer any questions!

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Christ shows himself to Thomas, Rowan LeCompte and Irene LeCompte

Hope in Spite Of...

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 12, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

FIRST HAND AID MEDICINE COLLECTION: Donations can be brought to the table in the Gathering Place today or during office hours this week!

STAFFING UPDATE: As part of our staffing plan in anticipation of Angie Kelley's retirement this summer, we are thrilled to announce that effective April 1, Crystal Hovey has been named church Operations Manager. Since joining our staff in 2024, Crystal has been an invaluable part of our administrative team. In this new capacity, she will oversee vital day-to-day functional aspects of our church (e.g., facilities, events, contracts and supervision of administrative and facilities staff), and will work closely with the new business manager (still to be named). Crystal's 20+ years of management/customer service experience prior to joining Westminster's staff will serve her well in this role. Please join us in congratulating Crystal!

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: April 16, 6:00 p.m., Chapel & April 19, 11:00 a.m., Parlor Together West Michigan is offering two more presentations of our slide show "Show Me The Public Money" next week. The presentation will be followed by small group discussions about things we are concerned about in our lives or the lives of our friends and families. Our concerns will be put into a platform that we will ask local and state candidates to commit to supporting.

CHAPEL CLUB: April 19 One Sunday each month, 3rd-5th graders may join their peers in the Chapel after the exchange of blessings.

ELISABETH CIRCLE: April 21, 1:00 p.m., Library We will discuss Chapters 6 and 7 in *Appreciate These Things*. For more information, please contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net.


YOUNG ADULT PUB(LISHER) NIGHT: April 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Schuler Books We invite you to bring a quote from your favorite novel as an icebreaker!

MOVIN' UP: May 3, 11:15 a.m. 5th grade and middle school, join us after worship on Sunday for "movin' up." More details coming soon, but for now we plan to have a great time and show the 5th graders a little taste of youth group.

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS: Our Open Door program is seeking a few more volunteers! This program provides a place for our neighbors to go from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday. Volunteers will help out by socializing with guests, offering them a warm welcome, and monitoring the area for a two and a half hour shift. We are most in need of regular volunteers on Tuesday and substitutes for all shifts. Please contact briank@wpcgr.org if you are interested.

MARK BILLY AND ROBERT RAGOONANAN CONCERT: May 8, 7:00 p.m. Nationally-performing Choctaw baritone and cedar flautist will perform with longtime collaborator Robert Ragoonanan on our new piano in the Chapel. Mark Billy is the leading Indigenous baritone of his generation. He is at the forefront of the current musical movement which combines the sacred cultural music of the Indigenous peoples and Western concert music.

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY: May 10 During the service on May 10, the Sanctuary Choir will present Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo's (b. 1978) Song of the Universal, for choir and chamber orchestra. The choir will then be joined by baritone Mark Billy in a presentation of Ralph Vaughan Williams' (1872-1958) Five Mystical Songs. Mark is also a Choctaw cedar flautist and will share music on the cedar flute during the service. It will be a powerful morning of music making centered on the ideas of grace and the goodness of creation!

 **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. APRIL 12

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel

MON. APRIL 13

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting DeaconsPastoral Suite
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons.....Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Library
- 7:00 p.m. West Michigan Opera Project Chapel

TUES. APRIL 14

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee..... Library
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting.....Parlor

WED. APRIL 15

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast.....Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Board Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting Library
- 6:30 p.m. Music Committee Meeting Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship GroupMultipurpose Room

THURS. APRIL 16

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle Parlor
- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Together West Michigan Presentation Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir3rd Floor Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. FASD Support GroupMultipurpose Room

SUN. APRIL 19

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Chapel Club..... Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Together West Michigan Presentation Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meet-Up.....Parlor, Library