



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



An Impossible Assignment

THE NINTH
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 2, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

An Impossible Assignment

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"It is for us to see the Kingdom of God as always coming, always pressing in on the present, always big with possibility, and always inviting immediate action."

— Walter Rauschenbusch, *A Theology for the Social Gospel*

Opening Voluntary (A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)

"Allemande" from Suite XI

G. F. Handel

Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter & Susan Jennings

++Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 55)

One: Come to the water, all you who thirst.

All: Come drink deeply from the river of life.

One: Come to the water, all you who are weary.

All: Come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

One: Come to the water, all you who long for justice.

All: Come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

++Opening Hymn 509

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Holy Manna

**All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

Prayer of Confession (Trusting that God is love, we express our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God.)

God of abundance, you give us all we need. Yet too often we rely on our own devices. We have settled for things that can never satisfy our deepest hunger. We have neglected to feed those who are hungry, to provide for those who lack resources, and to care for those who are ill. We have left our black and brown neighbors without justice and treated them as less than human. Forgive us for failing to love our neighbor and see you in their faces. Compassionate and merciful God, hear us as we confess our sins to you...

Silent Confession

The Assurance of God's Grace

++Response Hymn 63

"The Lord is God"

Azmon

**The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: Jesus embodied God's message of peace on earth, blessing all creation.

All: To live in such a way takes practice.

One: So we practice now.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Sarabande" and "Gigue" from *Suite XI*
Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

G. F. Handel

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

(We pray that the words of Scripture may be encountered as God's Word.)

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture

Matthew 14:13-21

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

An Impossible Assignment

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: 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.

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. Bonnie Johansen-Werner

++**Doxology** *(means "words of glory"—they are a traditional expression of praise to God.)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, all that we have comes from you, and all that we are belongs to you. Receive these gifts we offer. Multiply them to satisfy the world's deepest hunger and meet the world's deepest needs. We pray in the name of Jesus, who is life abundant. Amen.

++Closing Hymn 498

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Beach Spring

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven, was their food forever more.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life out-poured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life out-poured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken, as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: “I am with you; do not fear!”
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life out-poured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care.
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life out-poured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Fugue in C Major”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Technology Team Rachel Kamstra, Avery Jennings, Stella Sheckler
Peter Larson, and Dan Cisler
Worship Musicians Kathy VanderVelde, John Schlafley

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

August 9 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Laurie Hartzell preaching

The Stormy Inbetween

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Music: Kathy VanderVelde and John Schlafley, Singers

Jake Westerbeke, Viola

Janlee Richter, Piano

August 16 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jeremy Bork

For All People

Scripture: Isaiah 56:1-8

Music: Mary Geurink, Eric Richter

We're glad you worshiped with us today! If you'd like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster, visit our website at westminstergr.org, or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

Join us for a Zoom - After Worship Coffee Time

Time: August 2, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time

Rev. Jeremy Bork is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 2

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81844031689>

Meeting ID: 818 4403 1689

The call-in number is (1) 929-205-6099. If people dial that on their phone as if they're calling someone, it will bring them into our Zoom meeting.

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 2

May the God of Summer be with you, enveloping you with the warmth of love, filling your heart with the brilliance of light, refreshing you and cooling you in the living water of God's grace. In the shade of God's guiding, protective presence, may your deepened experience of this presence draw others to God's warm, refreshing love. May the blessing of Summer be with you.

— Maxine Shonk, OP

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION! We are planning our next new member orientation via Zoom for Thursday, September 10 and 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. We will use this time to introduce ourselves to one another and present a general overview of Westminster. Our staff has put together short individual ministry videos that you may view at your convenience between the 2 meetings. We'll spend our second gathering reviewing the information from the staff videos and answering questions. New members will be received into membership on Sunday, September 27. If you are interested in attending the new member orientation, please contact Erin VandenBroek at erin@wpcgr.org.

OUR NEXT FAITHWORKS CONVERSATION is Wed. August 5 at 7:00 p.m. Together we reflect on our awareness of racial injustice and our participation as co-conspirators as we watch for the face of Christ and listen for what the Spirit invites us into. At our last conversation, attendees were invited to discern a particular way to respond to racial injustice. This may mean paying more active attention as situations naturally arise. On the 5th, there will be space to listen to what we have noticed and experienced. Everyone is welcome to join at whatever point we enter. Our Faithworks conversation holds together our action, our reflection, our formation, and our prayer. [Click here](#) for the Zoom link. Meeting ID: 882 9074 7000. Passcode: 980303

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Kathy Cisler had been working on expanding ways for people to make donations digitally. We recognize that many are facing new and unforeseen financial implications in the wake of this pandemic and this message is not meant to put any pressure on people. However, we are also aware that many are able to continue, or increase, their offerings to help us pay our bills, our staff, and continue our ministry that brings justice, peace, and hope into a world God loves. Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on new ways you can give digitally to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy through her phone number at the church, (616) 717-5533.



Using Engage Giving by Scanning the QR Code: Scan the code using a QR code reader app or the camera on your phone or mobile device. It will take you to the Engage Giving log-in window where you can follow the directions above for giving using the website.

FAITH FORMATION SURVEY: As we prepare for this fall, we are aware of the uncertainty of our reality a few months from now. Not many of us know now what we will desire at that point. Even so, our faith formation team would like to know our congregation's current longings and hopes as we plan opportunities to draw together as a community this fall through online venues. Please take a few minutes to complete [this 5-10 minute survey](#). It will be available until Monday, August 3. Even answering these questions may be an opportunity to reflect on your own current spiritual needs and longings.

CAMP HENRY UPDATE: Camp Henry is at the midway point of their summer camp season. Due to COVID-19, camp looks a little different this summer. Summer staff members have been working hard to continue to provide awesome life changing experiences while camp implements some safety practices and protocols. Campers are participating in cabin activities such as the Big Banana, Archery, the Giant Swing, and Arts & Crafts along with times to enjoy the Waterfront each day, spending time with the horses during their stay, and cooking a meal over a fire.

NEW GARDEN AT WPC AND PANTRY NEEDS: The food pantry has planted a garden to harvest and give to our clients. We started small this year with only peppers and tomatoes and hope to expand to a community garden next year! Everything is growing well and should be ready to harvest soon for our pantry patrons. **Please note** the Pantry continues to participate in the *SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars* program. Please save your **complete** SpartanNash sales receipts and send them in to the Pantry.

WAY FORWARD UPDATE - JULY 26: Your Way Forward Committee continues to meet to discern our path forward in these COVID days. At their July meeting, the Session approved a recommendation from the Way Forward Committee that in person worship in our sanctuary be suspended through December of 2020. You can read more about this as well as other decisions made on the church website. As the situation with COVID unfolds, the decisions may shift.

WCDC IS OPEN AND HAVING FUN! BUT THEY NEED YOUR HELP! Much like most of you, our routine and world as we knew it was turned upside down by COVID-19. During a typical summer our school-age classroom is out of our building four days a week exploring our beautiful city through park picnics, trips to the Grand Rapids Public Library, and behind the scenes tours of local businesses. This year we opted to err on the side of caution and stick close to WCDC. While originally this seemed like we wouldn't be having nearly as much fun this summer, we were pleasantly surprised to see how our more low key approach has built a love for good old fashioned board games among our students. In addition to having fun while playing the children are learning about teamwork, patience, and how to win and lose gracefully, board games can actually benefit kids' brains and language development as well. With all this new excitement surrounding board games we would like to add to our collection. If you have any gently used games that you no longer need, please email amberm@wpcgr.org about donating your unused items.



ONLINE WORSHIP: LOVE TO OUR TECH TEAM: **First**, before worship, please be sure that your computer speakers are ON, with the volume turned up. Also confirm that the volume on YouTube is turned up (you can do this at the speaker icon that appears when you hover at the bottom of the view screen). You may also want to consider wearing earbuds or headphones. **Second**, please remember that your technology team is working tirelessly to enhance our online worship experience. **Finally**, you may be interested to know that we have some additional new equipment which should improve the quality of our livestream. If you do have struggles during the service, please email livestream@wpcgr.org for assistance. That email address is actively monitored during each worship service. Since restarting livestreaming, we've also been encouraging those who are interested to join us in the chat feature during worship. Each week a staff member or elder will host that chat. If you are distracted by the chat, you can hide it by clicking on "Hide Chat Replay" in the bottom of the chat.

CAMP HENRY SUMMER CAMP 2020: Spaces Open for Summer Camp 2020

Looking for an awesome summer experience this year? There are limited spots available for Summer 2020 - and we would love to fill them! Please call us at 616-459-2267 for opportunities or follow the link below. Scholarships are available. [View our 2020 info sheet here.](#) Call 616-459-2267 or go to info@CAMPHENRY.ORG. And, 2021 Summer Camp Registration is already open. Go to the Camp Henry website to register for Summer Camp 2021.

ALL CHURCH SUMMER EVENT: Start building your bank in order to build our FOOD PANTRY bank with Fitness and Fun activities! The Children and Families Ministries Committee invites everyone to start either collecting money or pledging money for our BUILD THE BANK CAMPAIGN. At the end of the bulletin, you can find the instructional poster to help you get started today! If you have questions or would like to pledge to one of our children who are participating, contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

CHILDREN AGES 1-99 will enjoy engaging with our children's summer worship program! You can find it by going to our Westminster [YouTube channel](#) each week. We are enjoying illustrated books read by our WPC teachers and their families, books that help us think and talk about how we should treat God's creation, each other, and people who have lives that are unfamiliar to us; and what we can do to share God's love and beauty with others. Also, if you'd like to be on the list for children's special activities, songs, and lessons in addition to the YouTube channel, let Nancy Greidanus know at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SUMMER BOOK FOR THIS WEEK IS *Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border* by Matali Perkins read by Carla Fortuna. It's almost time for Christmas, and Maria is traveling with her mother and younger brother, Juan, to visit their grandmother on the border of California and Mexico. For the few minutes they can share together along the fence, Maria and her brother plan to exchange stories and Christmas gifts with the grandmother they haven't seen in years. But when Juan's gift is too big to fit through the slats in the fence, Maria has a brilliant idea. **Main Focus:** We show God's love when we connect with others, especially when borders separate us. **Activity:** Draw pictures for older people in your neighborhood and grandparents and mail them to them (or safely deliver them).

BUILD THE BANK CAMPAIGN

Fitness and Fun = \$\$ for our Food Pantry

MAKE YOUR OWN BANK

Decorate or use a food box, jar, or any container to use as your bank. We hope to have a collection parade later.

GET PLEDGES - Tell grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and friends about our church Food Pantry. Maybe you have visited the Food Pantry and can describe it or tell them how the pantry helps people. Ask them to pledge a specified amount of money for you to fulfill an activity or contribute for each minute or hour that you participate in activities.

DECIDE ON FUN ACTIVITIES - Possible ideas: Walking, biking, rollerblading, scootering, yoga, hopscotch, jump rope, swimming, running or any sport or game that involves lots of movement or even mowing the lawn.

Do something you love and remember to have FUN!

Checks can be made payable to Westminster Food Pantry



Please take photos and post on the WPC Parents Facebook page AND send photos and notes to Nancy so they can be shared with our church family.



ANOTHER FUN ACTIVITY to Grow your Bank: Fill in the contribution blanks before you start counting! Items that many people don't have, that we often take for granted.

<u>Contribution</u> <u>Per item</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Items counted</u>		<u>Total</u> <u>Collected</u>
_____	_____	For every beverage in your fridge	_____
_____	_____	For every piece of fresh fruit in the house	_____
_____	_____	For every fresh vegetable	_____
_____	_____	For every frozen food item in freezer	_____
_____	_____	For every canned food	_____
_____	_____	For every boxed food	_____
_____	_____	For every snack food	_____
_____	_____	Each time you eat take-out food	_____
_____	_____	Each time you use the dishwasher in a month	_____
_____	_____	For every mug or drinking glass you own	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Calendar of Events

— WESTMINSTER'S BUILDING IS STILL CLOSED —
ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOOD PANTRY

SUN. AUG 2

10:00 am Worship Online
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour
7:00 pm Youth Group in Riverside Park

TUES. AUG 4

5:00 pm Communications Committee

WED. AUG 5

7:00 pm Faithworks Group

THUR. AUG 6

5:00 pm Technology Committee

FRI. AUG 7

4:00 pm Camp Henry Executive Committee

SUN. AUG 9

10:00 am Worship Online
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

TUES. AUG 11

4:30 pm Way Forward Group

WED. AUG 12

4:00 pm Personnel Committee

FRI. AUG 14

4:00 pm Camp Henry Executive Committee

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES: As we seek to be active in response to the racism and struggles that continue to grip our nation and community, we must not underestimate the power of educating ourselves. We must learn to face the ways racism has been bred into us as white people and how we benefit from racist systems. This is necessary if we are going to be part of real, systemic change. Educating ourselves, facing our white privilege, and praying for healing are, in fact, meaningful actions as we learn to be allies in this anti-racism work. Throughout the past few days, people from our Social Justice and Mission Partnerships committees have been gathering resources. An abbreviated list of those resources [is attached here](#). It is also important that we work in partnership in our community. We have many community partners and will continue in those relationships. Another email later this week will share information about our partnerships. If you would like more resources, please reach out to laurieh@wpcgr.org or to someone from our Social Justice or Mission Partnerships committees.