

## upcoming events

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### *Clothing Drive Ends After Great Success*

Thank you for making the Community Service Committee's second annual clothing drive a whopping success! We have helped fill the shelves at Ritter Center and Street Chaplaincy at least through January. We delivered over 20 large garbage bags of fabric love to keep our neighbors warm and dry. If you still have closets to empty, Ritter Center is right next to Goodwill in San Rafael so it's always worth checking their needs while you are making your own donation run.

### *Jeff Returns from Palestine and Israel*

**Today, 11:30 am, Room 201a/b**

Jeff Shankle will share lessons learned from his young adult trip in both Palestine and Israel. He'll encourage us about what actions we can take to share solidarity and promote a just peace in the region.

### *Gifts of the Dark Wood*

**Wednesdays, Jan 14-28, 9:30 am, Room 201a/b**

During Advent, we focused on the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. But what about experiences that may be more challenging, such as uncertainty, emptiness, and temptation? Though these often have negative connotations, they can also be helpful gifts. Facilitated by Rob and Bethany.

### *Thursday Choir Rehearsals to Begin*

**Thursday, January 15, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary**

Our new music director, Rita Lilly, begins her work at WPC next week. She will lead her first choir rehearsal on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome! Whether or not you have ever sung in a choir before, if you like to sing, give it a try. Rita invites everyone to join, regardless of singing experience.

### *Bible Study – Gospel of Matthew*

**Sunday, January 18, 11:30 am, Library**

Join Rob and Bethany for an in-depth look at the Gospel of Matthew. We will meet in the library; join for as many of the Sundays as you are available.

### *Annual Congregational Meeting*

**Sunday, January 25, 11:00 am, Sanctuary**

Westminster's annual meeting will be held to elect church officers, review the budget, and approve clergy salaries. While only church members can vote, the meeting is open for all to attend.

### *Women Connecting*

**Tuesday, January 27, 7:00 pm, Room 201a/b**

Buddhist priest, Elaine Donlin, will present on the topic, "The Ministry of Living in the Present." All Westminster women and friends are invited.



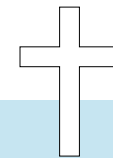
*January 11, 2026*

*10:00 am Worship*

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"The jealous are troublesome to others,  
but a torment to themselves."

~ William Penn



*Contact Us*

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# order of worship

<b>Prelude</b>	Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness ...	Johannes Brahms
<b>Welcome and Sharing of Peace</b>		Robert McClellan
<b>Introit</b>	Love is the Reason	Mac Powell
	<b>Love is the reason, love is the reason, love is the reason that I go.</b>	
	<b>Standing up for what I believe in, that's where my heart is leading,</b>	
	<b>and love is the reason that I go.</b>	
<b>Opening Blessing</b>		Erin Elliott
<b>* Opening Hymn</b>	Help Us Accept Each Other	No.754
<b>Community Prayer</b>		Bethany Nelson
	<b>We ground ourselves in your grace, dear God, calling to mind goodness shown us, unearned favor, pure gifts we have been presented in this life. Let us be mindful of the generosity we have received that we might not be resentful of generosity shown others. We acknowledge we can be jealous, we can root against our neighbors, we can secretly lament their success. Free us from the heavy burdens of bitterness that we might move forward freer. Amen.</b>	
<b>Silent Prayers and Assurance</b>		
<b>Joys and Concerns and The Lord's Prayer</b>	(page 35 in the hymnal)	Robert McClellan
<b>Anthem</b>	Walking Each Other Home	Kate Munger
	Rest Easy	Marilyn Power Scott
	You Are Not Alone	Kate Munger
<b>Time of Discovery</b>		Robert McClellan
	Go now in peace; go now in peace.	
	May the love of God surround you	
	Everywhere, everywhere you may go.	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Luke 15:11-32, pg. 850	Erin Elliott
<b>Sermon</b>	Whose Journey? - On the Road Revisited	Robert McClellan
<b>Silent Reflection</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	Andante	J. Play
<b>* Doxology</b>		No.609
	<b>Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!</b>	
	<b>Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.</b>	
	<b>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Prayer of Dedication</b>		Erin Elliott
<b>Life of the Beloved Community</b>		Robert McClellan
<b>* Closing Hymn</b>	Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive	No.444
<b>* Benediction</b>		Robert McClellan
<b>Postlude</b>	Prelude and Fugue in F Major	J.S. Bach

*\*Often, worshippers stand*

## Worship Notes

Referenced in today's sermon:  
New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine.

The anthem pieces today are repertoire of Threshold Choir - a volunteer a cappella singing organization, founded 25 years ago, whose mission is to sing for those on the threshold of life as well as their families. The choir members offer comfort, presence, and support while sing regularly - usually in trios - for those in hospice care, in nursing facilities, and in home settings. There are over 13 chapters in the Bay Area and over 200 chapters around the world. If you wish to learn more, visit [thresholdchoir.org/marin](http://thresholdchoir.org/marin).

## Ministry Staff

The Rev. Dr. Robert McClellan, Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Bethany Nelson, Associate Pastor  
Jeff Shankle, Director of Youth Ministry  
Patty Sempell, Worship Accompanist  
The Rev. Brook Scott, Parish Associate  
The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rowe, Associate Pastor Emeritus  
Erin Elliott and Barbara Kessell, Guest Musicians