



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

AUGUST 4, 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM IN THE HOLMES CHAPEL

THE REVEREND DR. THOMAS H. YORTY
PASTOR



Worship in the Sanctuary • 10 AM

Welcome to this Place of Christian Worship

Do not wait for someone else to begin worship. Pray silently for yourself, for those about you, for the poor and the oppressed, for those unable to be present, for those who will shortly lead our common worship. Latecomers may enter the Holmes Chapel during the singing of the first hymn or during the Response to the Assurance. Ushers are available for assistance. Please turn off all cell phones.

Opening Voluntary

Adagio e Dolce from Sonata No. 3, BWV 527

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Ferguson

Order of Worship

Chiming of the Trinity

The sounding of the chimes, invoking Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, is an invitation to prepare for worship through a time of silent reflection. Please be respectful of those who are praying.

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn that follows.

All who thirst, come and find living water:

We come to the Lord!

All who hunger, come and be nourished:

We come to the Lord!

All who seek wholeness and peace, forgiveness and love,

All who would know the boundless grace of our Lord:

Come worship the Lord our God!

We come to worship the God of grace,

The God of love, the God of life.

We come to worship the Lord our God!

Opening Hymn, No. 461

God is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and Merciful God,
We confess that we focus too much of our time
And energy on earthly matters.
We give too much of ourselves
To the things of this world,
When your Son calls us
To give ourselves completely to you,
Our lives ruled by grace, justice,
Compassion, and love.
Forgive us our waywardness, O Lord,
And wash us clean.
Refresh your Spirit within us
That we might live more faithfully
As your Son taught us,
Living as he lived.
We pray in the name of our Teacher,
Our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer.



Voluntary

At the River

#arr. Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather with the saints by the beautiful river that flows from the throne of God.

Sermon

Distracted

Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Hymn

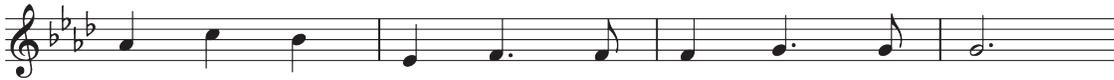
What is the World Like

NEW WORLD

The people stand to sing.



1. What is the world like when God's will is done?
2. What is the world like when God's will is done?
3. What is the world like when God's will is done?
4. What is the world like when God's will is done?
5. These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Invitation to the Offering



Offertory Anthem

The Deacons receive the gifts, a portion of the blessings God has given us, which we return unto God.

Simple Gifts

arr. Aaron Copland

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
Will be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning we come round right.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

It is the practice of this congregation to welcome all baptized persons, including those children whose parents have given their permission, to join in receiving the elements. Unfermented grape juice is used.

Invitation

Great 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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. Then you set us among all your creatures to love and serve you. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bonds of our oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom, and made covenant to be our God. By a pillar of fire you led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You spoke of love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh you lived among us, manifesting your glory. And so we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing.

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus the Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Jesus your Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing both joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and opened blind eyes; he broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to all who would hear, yet he was mocked, despised and vilified, and then beaten and killed. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, he won victory over death. Seated at your right hand, he leads us to eternal life. We praise you that Christ now reigns with you in glory, and will come again to make all things new. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate our redemption won for us by Jesus Christ in his dying and his rising, even as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you, to be a holy and living sacrifice, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.



Great is the mystery of our faith:



Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one with the living Christ, one with all who confess him as Lord and Savior, and one in ministry to all the world. until Christ comes in final victory and we feast with all the saints in the joy of your heavenly kingdom. Through Christ, in Christ, with Christ, With the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, All honor and glory is yours Almighty God Now and forever.

**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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

We distribute the elements of communion by intinction – simply take the bread and dip it in the cup. It is appropriate to say “Amen” or “Thanks be to God” when receiving the bread and the cup as they are gifts of God for the people of God. Westminster serves only gluten-free and dairy-free bread. Please take the aisle nearest you to the communion station at the front of that aisle, and return to your seat by the same aisle. If you are unable to receive the elements by coming forward to the elders, please raise your hand for the roving elder to come to your pew to serve the bread and wine.

Voluntary at Communion

Prayer After Communion

**Gracious God,
Through this holy meal you have lifted us into Christ’s presence
And made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have quenched our thirst, fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for service.
Now ask much of us, O Lord; expect much from us as you send us out,
Filled with the Spirit, to build a world of peace, acceptance,
And reconciliation grounded in your love.
We pray in the name of the One who is grace and love,
Our Lord Jesus the Christ. Amen**

Sending Hymn, No. 358

Help Us Accept Each Other
The people stand to sing.

BARONITA

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Caithness

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

*Immediately following the service, please join us for Meet & Mingle “Light” in the Holmes Room.
Thank you to our host today, Nancy Trimble.*

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Skip Ferguson, Preacher
Rebecca Montague, Reader
David Snyder, Guest Organist
Jack Saviola, Bass-Baritone

Elders Serving Today

Laurel Braun, Mary Callaghan

Deacons Serving Today

Ellen Bean, Teddie Granville, Jane Morris, Roberta Nickelsen, Joan Rice, Ron Sutz

Chancel Flowers

The flowers at the Lord's Table are given in loving memory of Douglas N. Reed by his family.

Notes on Today's Poet

While Tom and Carol travel along the road of the Romantic poets on a Lilly National Clergy Renewal Grant, we will read, each Sunday before the Scripture reading for the day, lines from a romantic poet. Tom and Carol are in Monterosso, Italy with their family near where the British Romantic poets spent summers.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a famous American lecturer, philosopher, essayist, and poet. He was one of the leading figures of Transcendentalist movement. Together with Henry Hedge, George Putnam, and George Ripley, Emerson founded the idea of Transcendentalism. He was considered as one of the greatest lecturers of his time, and had given more than 1,500 public lectures across the United States during his lifetime. The essay collections, namely *Essays: First Series* and *Essays: Second Series* were his most significant contribution to American intellect. Some of the important essays covered in these collections, including *Self-Reliance*, *The Over-Soul*, *Circles*, *The Poet and Experience*. gave an impression of his thinking process. He wrote on many topics such as individuality, freedom, and man's ability to realize anything. For his lecturing and orating skills, Emerson became the leading voice of American intellectualism at that time, and was oft-called the "Concord Sage". His works influenced many thinkers and philosophers, including Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Friedrich Nietzsche, and William James.

In the essay, "The Poet," Emerson affirms that for the person not distracted by the world whose eyes and ears and heart are open to nature around her, the gift and reward and beauty of life is unending, always present.

Notes on Today's Music

Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, New York, going on to study piano and composition in Europe for some time. He became one of the century's foremost composers with highly influential music that had a distinctive blend of classical, folk, and jazz idioms. Some of Copland's most prominent pieces included *Fanfare for the Common Man*, *El Salon Mexico*, and *Appalachian Spring*, for which he won the Pulitzer.

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PASTORAL CARE

During Tom's sabbatical, if you are in need of pastoral care, please contact The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate at 716-697-0919.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

One Worship Service at 10:00 AM in the air conditioned Holmes Chapel through September 1

August 11 • Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Dr. Skip Ferguson, Preacher • Luke 12:32-40

August 18 • Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Preacher • Luke 12:49-56

August 25 • Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Preacher • Luke 13:10-17

September 1 • Labor Day • Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Reverend Dr. Skip Ferguson, Preacher • Luke 14:1, 7-14

NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our programming or mission, please fill out a Welcome Card (found in the pews) and return it to a deacon or staff member.

- As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the LG-BTQIA+ community to membership and full participation in all ministries of Westminster.
- We light our Peace Candle to pray for peace—both in our own neighborhoods and across the world.
 - Bibles and children's worship guides are available at the Sanctuary entrances.
- For the hearing impaired, wireless receivers are available in the Church Conference Room.
 - Childcare for children 5 years old and younger is available from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the school building (across the garden).
- If you need assistance at any time, please ask a Deacon.
- Please pick up your generosity envelopes, which are available on the table in the Holmes Room.

CHURCH LIFE

INQUIRER CLASS

September 29 after the Worship Service

Friends and visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and the ministries we support are invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. We will share details of Westminster's history, discuss current outreach and mission programs in the city and region, and answer any questions. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. For more information, please contact Sawrie Becker, 884-9437, ext. 315, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org

Westminster's Alcohol/Other Drug Education and Referral service provides support to assist members and friends with issues and questions related to abuse of alcohol or other drugs. If you or someone you love needs help, call for free and confidential advice. Jen Read (228.7526) and Elizabeth Stewart (585.217.7878), Co-Chairs; Dave Carstensen (884.5403), Jane Morris (571.481.839), Ellen Smith (882.2064), Phil Stevens (839.3357).

If you are recovering from an illness/surgery, a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, Westminister can provide a simple meal for those in need. Please contact Jamie Adamczyk at jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org, 884-9437, ext. 326.

WEDI AND MISSION

WEST SIDE BAZAAR

Check out The West Side Bazaar, 25 Grant Street, for lunch and shopping. Sunday and Monday: Closed. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11 AM - 7 PM. Friday: 11 AM - 8 PM. Saturday: 10 AM - 8 PM.

ENERGY

ENERGY (Education, Nurture, Encouragement, Readiness, and Growth for Youth) finished up their year on May 23rd

and said their final goodbyes to Alyssa, until her return as a volunteer of course! ENERGY began their summer program on July 8 in collaboration with the middle school program, FLY (Focused Learning for Youth). For the first summer, both programs will be operating out of the church for six weeks, Monday through Friday. Students will have their usual literacy hour in the morning, with some groups spending their morning in the library, and then in the afternoon they will have art, cooking, science, swimming, and field trips, all while learning about their new home, the city of Buffalo. When all goes well, FLY may find a permanent home in the church for the fall! Please feel free to reach out to volunteer@wedibuffalo.org if you would like to volunteer, or let us know if you would like to pop in for a visit and see what we are all about!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Year of the Bible Class provides participants the opportunity to read through the entire Bible, cover to cover, over the course of the year. Led by The Rev. Dr. Skip Ferguson, the summer schedule switches to 7 PM Monday evenings and runs through August 26 with no class on September 2, Labor Day. It's not too late to get started, so come join the group of more than 50 who have already begun! 15 minutes of reading each day is all it takes. By the end of the year, you will have read through the entire Bible! More important, you will grow spiritually in countless ways as you deepen your understanding of God's Written Word.

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATION SERIES

Case Library will resume on Sunday, September, 15, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Case Library

Every Sunday, Case Library Conversations provides an opportunity to discuss local, national, and global issues. With these conversations, we can examine our life-long adventure in faith. Offerings for the 2019-2020 program year will be announced in Sunday bulletins and newsletters. Please join us. All are welcome!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual Life will resume on Sunday, September, 15, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Spiritual Life creates opportunities for Westminister members and friends to explore and reflect together upon the interior life of faith. Discoveries and questions come from topics such as deep listening, gratitude, compassion, grace, and grieving. Poetry and art are frequently woven into a presentation. We are always interactive and supportive, looking for ways to apply important spiritual concepts to our daily lives. As a Christian congregation, we are also open to learning about other faith traditions and practices that nurture, sustain, and challenge the "inward journey."

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNITTING GROUP

Our group meets on various Tuesdays, 7 PM - 9 PM throughout the year and works on their individual projects, as well as prayer shawls, scarves and other handmade items for members of the church. contact Fran Holmes for more information and dates, mfranholmes@verizon.net. Beginners are welcome!

MEET AND MINGLE "LIGHT"

Sundays, following 10:00 AM Worship. Enjoy snacks and fellowship in the Holmes Room with friends old and new!

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP SERVICES EACH SUNDAY

Can't make it to Worship on Sunday or to a special event/concert? You can still connect with Westminster. Simply visit our website: www.wpcbuffalo.org and click on the link to LiveStream on our homepage.

HEAVENLY GROUNDS CAFE

Sundays, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Stop by the Oak Room for a cup of coffee or tea as you make your way to Adult Education programs between the worship services, or sit and enjoy with friends after worship.

ATTENTION GARDENERS!

The Garden Group welcomes new participants. They meet on Tuesdays, from 10 AM - Noon to work in the church gardens. They dig, plant, deadhead, and perform other gardening chores and after, share lunch. For more information, please contact Dot Brown.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW TOUR • Today after worship.

John McClive will lead a tour of the Sanctuary's magnificent stained glass windows following worship today. **The tour will start at 11:30 AM** and is open to all. Meet John in the Sanctuary by the baptismal font.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Westminster is a vibrant faith community because of the time and commitment our members dedicate. We are thankful for our volunteers, and encourage everyone to consider participating in our church life by volunteering your time and talent. If you are interested in the following opportunities please contact Sawrie Becker, 884-9437, ext. 315, or email sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org

Meet & Mingle Coordinator: 1 - 2 hours a month. Reach out to members to schedule hosts/shoppers/donors for the Meet & Mingle weekly fellowship hour.

Laundry Angel: 1 - 2 hours a month. Assist with tablecloth maintenance around events by laundering linens and returning them to the church.

WECP Coffee & Donuts: 2 hours a month. Greet WECP Parents with coffee, a donut, and a smile on the second Thursday or Friday of each month.

FUNDS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AT VIVE LA CASA

Vive's need to house and feed their huge number of refugees is on-going. Financial contributions are the most efficient for them at this point. You may send a check made out to: Jericho Road Community Health Center, with "Vive" noted in the memo section and mail to 184 Barton Street, Buffalo, 14213 OR go to jrhc.org, click on Donate to use your credit card and select the destination for your donation (i.e. where most needed.)

SUPPORT THE BUFFALO IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP TEAM (BILT)

Community Celebration, Saturday, August 17, 4 - 7 PM at First Presbyterian Church. Developed through VOICE- Buffalo, BILT is dedicated to growing immigrant and refugee leaders to become civically engaged in social justice issues that matter to their populations in Buffalo. Their first campaign has focused on education, specifically to address the needs of our refugee and immigrant children in the Buffalo Public Schools. The Community Celebration is BILT's major fundraiser, and a \$20 ticket includes food and entertainment. There will be raffle tickets available as well. Sponsorship levels begin at \$50. Westminster is a member of VOICE-Buffalo and this is an opportunity to show additional support for their work. More information about the Celebration is available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is calling for thoughtful nominations for elder and deacon positions. Three Year terms will start January 2020. People may self nominate or nominate others. The nominee must be a church member and willing to serve in one of these special leadership roles in the church. Look for nomination forms on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. Nominations should be submitted to Sherrie Bernat 716.536.4906 or sbernat@roadrunner.com, or placed in the nominating committee mailbox or offering plate. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, August 4

9:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care
10:00 AM Worship/Communion
11:00 AM Meet & Mingle Light

1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Monday, August 5

10:00 AM Summer Fly/ENERGY Program
7:00 PM Year of the Bible

Thursday, August 8

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
10:00 AM Summer Fly/ENERGY Program

Tuesday, August 6

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
10:00 AM Summer Fly/ENERGY Program
10:00 AM Garden Group
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Friday, August 9

10:00 AM Summer Fly/ENERGY Program
12:00 PM Noontime Al-Anon

Wednesday, August 7

10:00 AM Summer Fly/ENERGY Program

Sunday, August 11

9:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Meet & Mingle Light

An Interfaith Day at Chautauqua Tuesday, August 6



The Reverend Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*

Please join us for what promises to be an exciting interfaith day at Chautauqua Institution. Renowned preacher and New York Times bestselling author, Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor, will discuss her new book, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*.

Learning from other traditions requires empathy, understanding, respect, and a lot of effort. It requires us to learn what other people believe, why they believe these things, and what aspect of God they address.

- Carpool from the Westminster parking lot leaves promptly at 10:30 AM. **You must sign up if you intend on carpooling.**
- **For carpooling, please sign up on the Information Table in the Gallery Room or contact Jamie, 884.9437, ext. 326, jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org**
- At Chautauqua, we will park in the Main Lot (\$10) and purchase half day admission tickets (\$15). Please bring a bag lunch for a picnic on the Hall of Philosophy lawn before the lecture begins at 2 PM in the Hall.
- After, we are cordially invited to Claude Welch's Chautauqua cottage for refreshments and socializing.
- Participating Organizations: Buffalo Unitarian Universalist Church, Congregation Havurah, Muslim Public Affairs Council, North Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

An Eco-Justice Tour of the West Side of Buffalo Saturday, August 10 • 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and climate change. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy... To deal with those issues we need a spiritual and cultural Transformation – and we scientists do not know how to do that."

-Gus Speth, former Dean of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University,
quoted in Jim Antal's book, *Climate Church, Climate World*, page 9.



While global awareness is indispensable, local knowledge is crucial for effective corporate and individual actions. To complement the content of Jim Antal's *Climate Church, Climate World*, you are invited to spend a Saturday morning learning about the environmental challenges of Buffalo's West Side, where degradation has amplified the effects of poverty, and inequality.

To help us see what is happening to the air, soil, and water on the West Side, we will visit areas around the Peace Bridge Plaza and Columbus Park, the Niagara River corridor, and, if time permits, expand to the Tiff Nature Preserve or the Tonawanda Coke plant.

Our guide will be Joshua Wallace, a 2019 graduate of UB Law School and a 2016 Ph.D. in Chemistry from UB. Dr. Wallace did extensive environmental research and consulting on the West Side while in graduate school, and his work encompassed air quality, water quality, and soil degradation. His knowledge of the area is granular, and he is an engaging presenter and equally skilled at fielding questions. As well as being Editor of the Law Review, Joshua was the winner of the Dale Margulis Award for his contributions to the community as well as the Carlos C. Alden Award for his work with the Law Review. Dr. Wallace will join Phillips Lytle in September, working in the areas of intellectual property, scientific, and environment law.

**Sign-up sheets are available in the Holmes Room. Space is limited.
More detailed information will be emailed to participants in the week before the tour.**



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 313

The Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling
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