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# Let The Doors Of This Church Be a Way to Service



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Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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## Mission and Community Service 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Springfield, Illinois

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
– Isaiah 52:7

Westminster Presbyterian Church believes it is in the world for ministry. With each new day, we affirm our common purpose: to join in the worshipful praise of God; to teach the children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church; **to be influential participants in society, by being accountable to the Gospel; to show the love and compassion of Jesus Christ toward each other, and toward those who are hurting; to be a caring community welcoming both friends and strangers;** to own our Presbyterian heritage, reformed and always reforming; and to be prayerfully open to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Let the door of this church be a way to service. Amen.  
– Westminster Mission Statement



**Thank you for your partnership in ministry through your generous giving and dedication to mission and service.** This booklet describes the mission and community service efforts during year 2023 at WPC. You are invited to peruse it, find things that interest and excite you and join us as partners in ministry.

**Every person called by Christ is called to mission and service.** It is our hope that together all of us will find and engage the particular ideas, passions, and causes God has placed on each of our hearts, joining with one another to multiply our efforts and encourage each other.

**Pray with us** as we discern where God is leading us to join in the effort of justice and extend the love of Christ throughout 2024, and to prepare for the international mission trip of 2025.

**Mission and Community Service Committee 2023:**

Lynn McMenamin (Chairperson), Jess Weitzel (Vice Chairperson), Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Kristianna Eastvold, Keith Hamilton, Rachael Hickman, Nancy Huston, Richard Leary, Bob Leffler, Krista Steller, Jeanne VanGieson, Pete VanGieson, and Erin Winn.

**Staff Liaison:** Rev. Christian K. Choi     **Head of Staff:** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

2023 Total Mission Giving: \$276,263		Thank You to companies, organizations, & in-kind Gifts which gave additional \$107,395 toward the Habitat Build.	
OPERATING FUND & SPECIAL OFFERINGS		SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT FUND	
Presbyterian Mission:		Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Mission	
General Assembly	\$ 7,225	Matching Grants	\$ 23,139
Synod of Lincoln Trails	\$ 850	Service Week & Little Pantry	\$ 16,543
Presbytery	\$ 8,925	Blackburn College Chaplaincy	\$ 1,000
Per Capita	\$ 36,939	Boy Scout Trip Scholarship	\$ 500
OGHS	\$ 10,252	Camp Barnabas-camp scholarship	\$ 466
Pentecost	\$ 1,315	COMPASS	\$ 2,500
Peace & Global Witness	\$ 779	Contact Ministries	\$ 1,500
Christmas JOY	\$ 2,365	Frontiers International	\$ 1,000
Adopt A Family	\$ 1,105	Habitat for Humanity	\$ 10,000
Contact Ministries	\$ 8,500	Helping Hands	\$ 4,000
CROP Walk	\$ 5,122	Helping the Homeless	\$ 2,330
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 44,708	Illinois Presbyterian Home	\$ 2,500
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$ 600	Kemmerer Village	\$ 1,500
HEAL Fund	\$ 6,280	Motherland Gardens	\$ 1,000
Heifer Project	\$ 350	The Outlet	\$ 7,000
Helping Hands Shelter	\$ 4,884	Refugee Ministry—Welcome Corps	\$ 13,157
Breadline Sunday	\$ 1,098	Western Illinois Dreamers	\$ 1,750
Souper Bowl	\$ 702	Westminster Cooperative School Family Scholarship	\$ 965
Contact Ministry Backpacks & Mitten Tree	\$ 270	Will Hovey Eagle Scout Project	\$ 770
UNICEF	\$ 246	Wooden It Be Helpful	\$ 1,500
Youth Gifts to Contact Ministries' Christmas	\$ 2,020	Wooden It Be Lovely	\$ 7,000
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 19,824	YMCA the Rise & Shine Initiative	\$ 1,500
Total Operating Fund & Special Offerings	\$ 164,359	Youth First: Inner-City Ministry in L.A.	\$ 1,500
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN		Total Support & Endowment Mission	\$ 103,120
Blankets Plus	\$ 1,515		
Other Mission Programs	\$ 4,269		
World Mission	\$ 3,000		
Total Presbyterian Women Mission	\$ 8,784		





Heifer Project

WPC children support Heifer International with Sunday morning offerings. This goes toward purchasing animals with which people around the world can gain sustainable income and independence. Children of Westminster supported the farmers with chicks this year.

Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission



This group of knitting enthusiasts gathers weekly at the church to share fellowship and knit numerous items to be donated to newborns, people served by the youth mission, and others. They often work with Kumler Outreach Ministries, and also sponsor a Mitten Tree during Advent for donations to the community.



Refugee Ministry - Welcome Corps

Westminster has revitalized the rich history of supporting refugees as far back as 1850s. With a new governmental program, Welcome Corps, Westminster will sponsor a refugee family in 2024. To prepare for that endeavor, \$65,000 is designated for such purpose.



Toys for Tots

Toys are collected during Advent and Christmas for United States Marine Corps Reserve, and passed on to kids in their children’s program. 20 gifts were collected and given in 2023.



Spring Coat Drive

Coats are collected during Lent for Contact Ministries, and passed on to people in need. 105 coats were collected and given in 2023.



UNICEF

UNICEF work is to be an advocate for every child around the world. Being present in over 190 countries and territories, making a difference through education, medical, and food assistance.

Western Illinois Dreamers

Western Illinois Dreamers’ mission is to empower refugee communities by being a resource that will foster their successful integration into society. They have four Welcoming Centers—in Monmouth, Beardstown, Springfield, and Peoria.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) MISSION

Westminster supports numerous denominational mission projects and the worldwide ministry of the Presbyterian Church through PC(USA) Mission Giving and Per Capita contributions, These funds sustain work at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, and come from WPC’s Operating Fund and individual per capita giving.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) MISSION GIVING:		\$ 68,650
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$ 10,252
Pentecost Offering		\$ 1,315
Peace & Global Witness Offering		\$ 779
Christmas Joy Offering		\$ 2,365
Per Capita		\$ 36,939
General Assembly		\$ 7,225
Synod of Lincoln Trails		\$ 850
Presbytery		\$ 8,925



One Great Hour of Sharing

This Lenten, ecumenical offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people.



Pentecost Offering

This denomination-wide special offering, collected in June, “helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children,” locally and around the world.



**Peace and Global Witness Offering**

This fall denomination-wide special offering supports worldwide peacemaking work of the PC(USA) in areas of deep conflict and embrace our God’s mission of reconciliation.



**Christmas Joy Offering**

This special offering brings assistance to church workers in times of need and provides leadership development and education at PC(USA)-related racial/ethnic colleges and schools.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION**

Presbyterian Women directly support and participate in efforts and organizations and other projects including clean water and domestic disaster relief.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION GIVING		\$ 8,784
Blankets Plus		\$ 1,515
Other Mission Programs		\$ 4,269
World Mission		\$ 3,000



**Blankets+**

Presbyterian Women hold an annual fundraiser to support the Church World Service Blankets program, which provides needed emergency supplies and home necessities to people worldwide in times of need, particularly moments of emergency and disaster.



**GENERAL AID MISSION**

Westminster explored and supported the following mission opportunities in 2023 to live out Micah 6:2— “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

GENERAL AID MISSION GIVING		\$ 22,888
Adopt A Family		\$ 1,105
H.E.A.L. Fund		\$ 6,280
Heifer Project		\$ 350
Refugee Ministry—Welcome Corps		\$ 13,157
UNICEF		\$ 246
Western Illinois Dreamers		\$ 1,750



**Adopt-a-Family**

This ministry works with Contact Ministries to provide 200+ Christmas gifts for area families living in their shelter and working to transition from homelessness.



**Fair Trade**

Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate are sold monthly in the West Narthex after services, supporting economically just, environmentally sound products, and small, independent producers.  
***Fair Trade Ministry Team 2023:*** Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson



**H.E.A.L. Fund**

Helpful Emergency Assistance for Living (H.E.A.L.) funds are shared by the congregation and distributed at the discretion of the pastors to individuals for emergency needs through Contact Ministries .



## The Outlet

The Outlet works with young male ages 8—22 to help develop the capacity and skill sets to make responsible life-decisions, acquire and maintain spiritual and ethical values, explore their gifts, talents, and recognize their dreams and aspirations through male role-models/tutors. We are sponsoring them with large freeze drier needed to support their new mentoring program.

## Westminster Cooperative Preschool

Westminster Coop Preschool offers a NAEYC accredited, safe, small preschool to our community. WPC hosts and shares many of its resources with the preschool, offers funding to assist families who need help with tuition at our educational mission partner to our community.

## YMCA / The Rise & Shine Initiative

The YMCA's former Matthew Project has become the Rise & Shine Initiative, where it offers afterschool tutoring and summer programs. WPC's scholarship will assist underserved children's ability to participate in this program.

## Youth First: Inner-City Ministry in Los Angeles

This inner-city ministry's mission is to impact the lives of at-risk urban teenagers in the L.A. area with the love of Jesus Christ.

## Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Mission Team of 28 traveled the road to Selma for a life-changing week June 24-July 1 as they assisted members of the community rebuild following a devastating tornado, walked the Selma Bridge, and visited Civil Rights Museums and Memorials in Birmingham and Montgomery.

## EARTH CARE MISSION

WPC is an Earth Care Congregation, committed to caring for God's earth in worship, education, facilities, and outreach, promoting environmental stewardship in property decisions, administrative practices, and teaching.

### Earth Care Team 2023:

Peter Kieffer (Chair), Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Todd Lafrenz, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller.



## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS MISSION

WPC pursues to act out God's love, justice and mercy by working towards eradicating systemic poverty; one of three foci of being a Matthew 25 congregation of PC(USA).

### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS MISSION GIVING

\$ 78,212

#### Contact Ministries

\$ 12,290

#### Habitat for Humanity

\$ 54,708

#### Helping Hands

\$ 8,884

#### Helping the Homeless

\$ 2,330

## Contact Ministries



WPC was one of the founders of Contact Ministries, whose mission is "to daily serve the greater Springfield community by providing food, shelter, clothing, financial assistance referrals, and life skills education and training through Christ's love & compassion," with a broad array of services, including shelter for homeless women & children. WPC has two Board members, and takes part in many individual projects as described elsewhere. The PW Elizabeth Circle also typically volunteers monthly at their housing center.

## Habitat for Humanity

WPC partnered with Habitat for Humanity for 2023 Steadfast Habitat build to welcome the Capler family to our neighborhood. The vision that was generated during the first year of our Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor. The home was finished on time and the Caplers moved into their new home in June of 2023. Additional financing of this endeavor were generously funded by grants and in-kind gifts of individuals and organizations which was \$107,395 in addition to the amount reflected in the chart above.







Helping Hands

Helping Hands assists people with shelter and financial management assistance. WPC budgets \$4,000 annually, and members provided the shelter a bagged lunch on the second Friday and the fourth Wednesday each month. In 2023, Westminster supplied the agency with an endowment mission grant for additional needs. Moving forward, Westminster will prepare two meals each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Street) which is the old Juvenile Justice Facility off Dirksen Parkway. On 2nd Wednesdays, Westminster will provide 56 bagged meals and on 4th Wednesdays the same number of hot meals to assist those who are seeking shelter.

Helping the Homless

Helping the Homeless is a non-profit organization to help the ministry of Julie Benson, recipient of Sertoma’s National Service to Mankind award, the group’s highest recognition for a community volunteer in 2022. She advocates and works directly with the homeless in the Springfield community.



HUNGER ACTION MISSION

Westminster is a certified Hunger Action Congregation, with many hunger-related ministries and now taking on a new level of commitment to fight hunger by forming a member task force devoted specifically to looking at ways our church can grow its work against this problem in our community and all around the world.

Hunger Action Team 2023:

Jeanne VanGieson (Chair), Virginia Dolan, Linda Folse, Kathy Germeraad, Pat Hymans, Mary King, Becky Martin, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Tom Owen, Marilyn Rigney, Sue Sawers, Dale Smith, Krista Steller.

HUNGER ACTION MISSION GIVING	\$ 18,567
CROP Walk	\$ 5,122
Little Panty	\$ 11,645
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 702
St. John’s Breadline	\$ 1,098



Blackburn College Chaplaincy

WPC provides \$1,000 from the Support & Endowment Fund annually to support the chaplaincy program at Blackburn College, a Presbyterian school in Carlinville, IL.



Compass for Kids

Westminster hosts this weekly after-school program of homework help, life skills, and hot meals for at-risk children from Graham Elementary, partnering with Central Baptist and providing numerous volunteers. Participating children are also supplied with nutritious food for each weekend.



Frontiers International Inc.

Frontiers was formed to provide men and women of various backgrounds an opportunity to offer community leadership and community service, particularly in the African-American communities. Westminster is proud to be Platinum Event Sponsor for past 5 years to support the work of Frontiers International, Junior Frontiers Club, and Frontiers Youth Club.



Kemmerer Village

Kemmerer Village is a Presbyterian Child Care Agency which helps children and youth facing stress and turmoil in their lives to attain skills and dignity and become well-adjusted members of family and society. Several members are directly involved with this ministry.



Ready 4 Success

WPC members donated approximately 192 backpacks in July and August to this annual back-to-school giveaway of Contact Ministries. Each backpack is adorned with a Bible verse to remind them that they are loved by Westminster’s ministry partners.



Scholarships

WPC provides scholarships annually, usually for minority students or those in need, from endowment funds designated for this purpose. We have supported two individuals and preschool families.



Wooden It Be Helpful

Wooden It Be Helpful is a mission group led by Coleman Moore to support Wooden It Be Lovely by making furniture for them to paint and sell. Ministry partners get to learn the basics of woodworking while serving a great cause. They meet on Wednesdays at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.



Wooden It Be Lovely

Wooden It Be Lovely offers hope and employment to women healing from lives of poverty, addiction, and abuse by providing transitional employment, mentoring, recovery tools, education, community networking, and a safe community.



SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION MISSION

One of Westminster’s common purpose is “to teach children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church” (Mission Statement).

Table with 2 columns: Scholarship/Program Name and Amount. Rows include Blackburn College Chaplaincy (\$1,000), Compass for Kids (\$2,500), Frontiers International (\$1,000), Kemmerer Village (\$1,500), Scholarships (\$1,931), Boy Scouts Trip Scholarship (\$500), Camp Barnabas- Camp Scholarship (\$466), Westminster Cooperative Preschool Family Scholarship (\$965), The Outlet (\$7,000), YMCA—The Rise and Shine Initiative (\$1,500), Youth First: Inner-City Ministry in Los Angeles (\$1,500), and Youth Mission Trip (\$19,824).



Central IL Foodbank

The Central Illinois Foodbank is the central source of food for numerous food pantries in the region. Westminster supports this organization’s mission through Give-a-Meal-a-Month, holding an ongoing collection for particular food items.



CROP Hunger Walk

The Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk is an annual fundraiser to fight world hunger. Westminster joins fellow CROP walkers in the Springfield area in solidarity with those who are hungry around the globe on World Communion Sunday (first Sunday in October).



Day Laborers

Members of the church annually donate land, seed, and time to plant and harvest sweet corn used to supply local food pantries with much-needed fresh vegetables. We are grateful for Grigsby Farms and their partnership in this ministry.



Little Pantry

WPC built and maintains a micropantry at Graham Elementary School, offering food and basic supplies according to a “Take what you need; leave what you can” model. The pantry has sparked participation from the rest of the neighborhood and has seen heavy use. Westminster members visit the pantry everyday to keep it clean and well-stocked. The church maintains a supply of food and reimburses purchases for the pantry, on top of many independent contributions from WPC & community members.



Meals on Wheels

WPC takes on two weeks of deliveries each summer in service of Meals on Wheels, a Senior Services of Central Illinois program that supports independent living by delivering food to seniors with difficulty preparing their own meals.





Souper Bowl of Caring

A thought and work of a small Presbyterian youth group to share a bowl of soup during the Super Bowl in Columbia, SC launched this work over 30 years ago. WPC youth group members join this effort and annually raise funds on Super Bowl Sunday, sending every dollar collected to local food pantries.



St. John's Breadline

Springfield's St. John's Breadline provides daily, hot, nutritious meals to anyone in need, giving people the opportunity to spend their time seeking jobs and education instead of food.



NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY MISSION

Westminster believes it is in the world for ministry, and it begins at where we are called: at the corner of Walnut & Edwards and central Illinois.

Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force 2023:

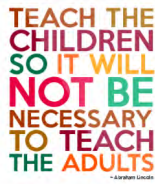
Tim Kluge & Todd Knox (chairs), Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Julie Robbs, Diane Rutledge, Pete VanGieson, Jess Weitzel.

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY MISSION GIVING		\$41,407
Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Mission Component:		\$ 28,037
Matching Grants		\$ 23,139
Service Week		\$ 4,898
Faith Coalition for the Common Good		\$ 600
Illinois Presbyterian Home		\$ 2,500
Motherland Gardens		\$ 1,000
Will Hovey Eagle Scout bench & little library		\$ 770
Wooden It Be Helpful		\$ 1,500
Wooden It Be Lovely		\$ 7,000



Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor

38 members and friends finished the Fourth Annual Steadfast Neighborhood Service Week on June 19-22. The church spent \$4,898 and awarded \$23,139 in grants to help neighbors upgrade their homes. We also made and donated 30 flower pots to participating neighbors since we began Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach in 2020. Westminster will subsidize \$450,000 in the neighborhood by 2030 with the Support and Endowment Fund.



Children of Abraham

WPC joins with faith groups across ethnic & religious boundaries, bringing children and youth together to build mutual understanding and respect.



Faith Coalition for the Common Good

This faith-based group links community institutions and people to build power and change systems for fairness, equity and participatory decision-making.



Illinois Presbyterian Home

The Illinois Presbyterian Home Fair Hills Residence seeks to provide seniors with quality care and affordable living. Presbyterian Women volunteer regularly, and WPC members serve on the Board of Directors.



Motherland Gardens

This community project looks to address the social-economic equity in low-income region of Springfield by working towards creating a sustainable access to fresh produce, led by Yves Doumen.



Will Hovey Eagle Scout Little Library & Benches

For his Eagle Scout Project, WPC's youth elder, Will Hovey, made and placed a little library & benches next to the Little Pantry at Graham Elementary. Recycled bottle caps were used to make the benches.