



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Confirmation Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter
21 April 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Central Illinois Food Bank

Voluntary

Trumpet Voluntary in D

William Boyce

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Belonging to God: A First Catechism

Leader: Who are you?

People: I am a child of God.

Leader: What does it mean to be a child of God?

People: That I belong to God, who loves me.

Leader: How do you express gratitude as a child of God?

People: By worshiping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

Leader: Let us worship God of Sea and Sky.

***Hymn 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving Shepherd, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgement that hinders your hope and vision for humanity. Forgive us for our inability to embrace the wideness of your mercy and to hold your people in our heart. Give us a repentance that leads to life for all creation. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

*Sung Response	Lord Have Mercy Upon Us	Hymnal, Back Cover
*Declaration of Pardon and Passing of the Peace	Leader: Friends, believe the good news. People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Leader: The peace of Christ be with you. People: And also with you. Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.	
*Response of Praise	Gloria Patri	Hymnal, Back Cover
	Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end, Amen, Amen.	
Children's Sermon	<i>Students in grades Pre-K – 5 will go to Sunday school class during the Congregational Response.</i>	
Congregational Response	Alleluia, Alleluia!	Donald Fishel
	Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to God's name.	
	<i>Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.</i>	
First Scripture Reading	Psalm 23	Pew Bible, OT page 501
Second Scripture Reading	John 10:1-10	Pew Bible, NT page 103
	Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.	
	People: Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	Goodness and Mercy	Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
	<i>Texts: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord. Psalm 23:6</i>	
Anthem	The Lord is My Shepherd	Mack Wilberg, arr.
	Text: Psalm 23	

Service of Confirmation

Class of 2024

William Charles Affrunti
Juliet Kathryn Boutelle
Juliana Charis Pinckney Eastvold

*Affirmation of Congregation

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel; and we promise to treat you, with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick & the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Commissioning Solo

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord Michael Joncas
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in God's shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"
And God will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**
Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People
and The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

The Presentation of Our Gifts

At this time all worshipers are requested to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.

Offertory

Sheep May Safely Graze

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us, and we are yours. You provide your beloved children with green pastures and still waters. Bless these tithes and offerings that they may be a part of your presence in times of need for all who need your comfort and restoration. Amen.

***Hymn 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Ar Hyd y Nos

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly.

***Voluntary**

Sortie

Henri Mulet

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2024 PERSONAL STATEMENTS OF FAITH



William Charles Affrunti

Baptized on December 6, 2009 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

William's mentor is Dave Leonatti.

During confirmation I have learned a lot about the church and how it functions. I have also learned who God is and what God does for me and everyone around me. I believe that God is all powerful and has existed since the beginning of time. I believe that God is always looking over me and helping me to do good in my life and help others. God is also like a parent because God loves everyone equally and wants everyone to succeed. Because of that, I am trying very hard to do everything to the best of my ability. I know that I can never be worthy of God's love, but I will still try every day. No matter how hard this life is, I know God will always help me.

Juliet Kathryn Boutelle

Baptized on August 25, 2019 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Juliet's mentor is her grandfather, the Rev. Gerald Boutelle.

I believe that God is a being who created the heavens and earth. I believe that God created the conditions that needed to be met for humans to not only survive but thrive. God made sure that humans would be able to find happiness. I believe God cares about and loves every single human being individually, and that God knows us better than we know ourselves. I believe God is always watching us, checking in on us, and is always ready and willing to step in if necessary. I believe in the Holy Trinity, the father, the son, and the holy ghost. I believe that church provides us with ways to show our appreciation towards God. I believe that church teaches us about God, making us closer to God.

Juliana Charis Pinckney Eastvold

Baptized on August 22, 2010 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Summerville, SC

Juliana's mentor is Valerie Leonatti.

I believe in the Trinity. I believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins and that God is always with all of us and guiding us through even the simplest of tasks. I believe that God has a plan for all of us and everything will work out for the best. I believe that if I just look closer, I will be able to see that God is with me every step of the way. I am learning to notice God in everyday moments. I believe that God forgives our sins and only asks from us to have faith in God and try to love each other as God loves us. I believe that God only wants the best for us and everything happens for a reason. I believe that God loves us no matter what we do or do not do. I believe that God created us in God's own image and God will always be proud of us even if we make a mistake. I believe that God always understands everybody inside and out and God knows what is best for us and what God's next plan is. As long as we trust in the Lord, everything will work out for the better. I also believe that God is the best listener and listens to all of our prayers and walks along with all of us on our paths. God is the only person, place, or thing that anyone needs.

Following worship, the congregation is invited to a reception in honor of the Confirmation Class hosted by the Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory of Erin Elzea and her Grandmothers, Naomi Elzea and Pat Calcaterra by Chris, Butch, Meg, and Meredith Elzea.
- **West Narthex flowers** are given in loving memory of Linda Rae Nelson Dillard by her family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Abigail Eldridge
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Greeters:** Doris Melvin and Mal Hildebrand
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Adam Miller, Tenor; Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Alexander Chipman, Sophia Choi, Todd Lafrenz, Jim Parker, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady and Jim Dolan
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m.**
 - **Confirmands and families** meet for photos (**Sanctuary Chancel**)
 - **Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Guild (Parish Hall)** meet to set teaching schedules. Led by Meleah and Arron Berkowitz
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Protects Us" (The Fiery Furnace) *Caregivers: Maria Lafrenz, Sara Eldridge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Caring Shepherd" (John 10:11-18). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Eric O'Reilly*
 - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Caring Shepherd" (John 10:11-18). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Marc DeJong*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Reception Honoring Confirmation Class of 2024 (Parish Hall)** Hosted by the Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons.
 - **Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)** presented by Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson.
- **11:30 a.m. - 12 noon - Adult Education Forum presents *Paul Tillich and the Courage to Be* (2nd Floor Classroom)** Learn about one of the most influential theologians in the 20th century and his writings in preparation for the New Harmony Retreat May 2-4, 2024. *Led by Blythe and Peter Kieffer.*

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on ecology and family from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

WE WELCOME BROOKE DUNN, a child of Westminster and Public Relations Manager for Central Illinois Food Bank, who will accept the \$1,370 raised by our youth on Souper Bowl of Sharing Sunday.

THANK YOU to all who supported the Youth Mission Trivia Night last Sunday raising \$4,355.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY - Join in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius on the church home page.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

JOIN THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER IN DONATING LAYETTE ITEMS during April in the box in the West Narthex. Items will be donated to Kumler Outreach Ministries in early May. If you would like to shop online, you can have them shipped directly to the church.

FAMILY MATTERS ZOO TRIP on **Saturday, April 27, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** for families with young children (birth to Grade 5). Families will meet in the zoo lobby at 3:00 P.M. Families can bring a picnic dinner to enjoy in the park across the street afterwards. Families will have to purchase their own tickets at the zoo. Please RSVP to Meleah and Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY APRIL 28 Our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year's theme is **Vine and Branches** based on John 15:5. Seniors Kristianna Eastvold, Will Hovey, and Sam Simonson will present meditations.

NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT - Twenty-seven members will join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers on a journey to New Harmony, Indiana for a Spring Retreat Thursday–Saturday, May 2-4. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and concludes at 12 noon on Saturday.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM presents *The Gospel of J. Edgar Hoover* on Sunday, May 5 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 100th Anniversary of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI career, learn his story. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet **Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** at Springfield Art Association (700 North Fourth Street) for their final 2023-2024 gathering. Join us as we participate in an art project honoring our theme "Serving our Community." Sign up with Meleah or Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION will be **Mother's Day, May 12** during the 10:00 a.m. service. The Children's Choir will also present a special Mother's Day anthem.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM presents *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* on **Sunday, May 12** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 200th Anniversary of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, learn the story. Led by Dale T. Rogers

FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 19 - Join us Founders' Sunday, May 19 for worship at 10:00 a.m. and a picnic reception following in Parish Hall. This year, we will highlight building and mission projects made possible through our endowment. Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. *Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 15 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 19 and in the June Reporter.*

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 22

9:30 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting
(3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, April 23

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
4:30 PM Support and Endowment Meeting (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)

Wednesday, April 24

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:00 PM Helping Hands Meal Delivered (Kitchen)
5:15 PM Membership Meeting (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Adult Ed (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, April 25

4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IPH (Off site)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, April 26

5:00 PM O'Shea/Almanzar Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 27

3:00 PM Family Matters at Henson Robinson Zoo (Off site)
4:00 PM O'Shea/Almanzar Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 28

10:00 AM Worship Service – Youth Sunday (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Third Floor Classroom)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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<http://www.wpcspi.org>

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Mary Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians