



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February 2021

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and
Livestream Worship Service

www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

Nursery Newsletter
emailed each Friday to Families with
Children Birth – Age 3

WPCConnections Newsletter
emailed each Friday to Families with
Children Pre-K - Grade 5

February 7

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40:21-31; I Corinthians 9:16-23

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Illumination and Perspective

February 14

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Do Not Blink!

February 21

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 19:9-15

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Covenant of Colors

February 28

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38

The Rev. Trajan I. McGill
Winter Promises

*Sermon manuscripts are located in the West
Narthex and online at www.wpcspi.org.*

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

LENTEN THEME: THE POWER OF WORDS

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Each year, our faith community begins the 40-day journey of Lent toward Holy Week with an Ash Wednesday Communion Service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This year we will miss gathering for a simple dinner prior to worship. Worship highlights include:

- **CHILDREN LEAD LITURGY:**
*Taryn Barnett, Ben Bassett, Lucy Bassett,
Abigail Eldridge, James Maeda, Macklin Metzger*
- **SPECIAL MUSIC** presented by youth *Amelia Tungett*
- **MEDITATION** by the *Rev. Christian Choi*
- **HOLY COMMUNION**
- **SYMBOLIC IMPOSITION OF ASHES**
- **A BOOKMARK**

This year a bookmark will be included in the communion bags for worship participants as a reminder of the power of words on our journey toward Holy Week.

40 Days, 40 Words, 40 Prayers: Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life,

This book written by former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, will be highlighted on our journey. *A word and a prayer from this book will be emailed each day of Lent.*

Family Lenten Devotional Bags

Each Westminster family will receive a Lenten Devotional Bag which includes a word for each day of Lent. Families are invited to discuss the meaning of each word as we remember the power of words. A prayer calendar was also prepared to assist families.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE

During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

LENTEN GIVING:

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed. Lenten fish boxes will be mailed to families and then be presented on Palm Sunday, March 28.

The **Lenten Coat Drive Box** will be located in the West Narthex for our annual collection of new or gently-used coats. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, March 28 and then be donated to Contact Ministries.

FROM THE PASTOR by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

It was about 9:00 p.m. on Friday when I received an unexpected text from Marci Irvine, who serves on the Board of the Illinois Presbyterian Home with Ralls Melotte. As IPH prepared to give the COVID-19 vaccine to their residents and volunteers, Marci thought of me and other Presbyterian pastors who lead their worship regularly.

This past Monday, Rev. McGill, Rev. Choi, and I received the vaccine along with some of Westminster's valued

IPH volunteers. *Pictured (from left to right: Sue Baker, Judi Mier Ann Collins, Marci Irvine, Nancy Canady and Lynne Cleverdon.*

While visiting with staff and Joyce Matthews, IPH board member and elder at the Witt First Presbyterian Church, we discovered that our own June Flood (100 next summer) was the first to receive a vaccine and our own Margie Dobson (100 this month) is the oldest resident at IPH. We are grateful for the continued collaboration between IPH and WPC through the years! Along with the many gifts from Presbyterian Women, Westminster provided IPH with two grants from the Mission Endowment: \$10,000 in 2018 for operational expenses and \$5,600 in 2020 for pandemic-related expenses.

2020 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year with a positive net total of \$115,595 more income than expenses. While pledge and non-pledge giving were less than budgeted, mission giving and income from the CARES Act PPP loan forgiveness more than made up for the shortfall. Expenses were under budget in total by \$14,601 resulting in part from personnel being under budget by \$38,125 and property expenses over budget by \$23,339.

2020 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,141,979	\$ 1,040,985	\$ 100,994
Expenses	\$-1,026,384	\$-1,040,985	\$ 14,601
Net Total	\$ 115,595	\$ 0	

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign reached nearly 98% of its \$810,000 goal. We have received **245 pledges totaling of \$791,312**. This included pledges from 10 new or newly committed families. In January, the Session adopted the 2021 budget totaling \$1,006,553 in expenses with \$991,553 in budgeted income. We will draw on our surplus of over \$271,000 to make up the income shortfall.

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$35 per member as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support the ministry of our denomination in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your special per capita contribution of \$35 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN gifts received toward pledges in 2020 totaled \$33,213, and 2020 non-pledge gifts were \$246,740 which includes 4 estate gifts totaling \$224,000, and one restricted endowment of \$10,000. In the five years of the campaign, we have received \$4,423,265 in endowment donations: \$1,607,764 toward pledges of \$1,648,120 and non-pledge gifts of \$2,815,501.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

BON VOYAGE GATHERING ON ZOOM

On Thursday, January 28, the Westminster Choir had a zoom farewell party for Leah Duling, who is moving to St. Paul, Minnesota.

When Leah and Marty moved to Springfield in 1998, one of the early connections that she made was joining a choir. Leah had made many moves during her life in a military family and knew that one of the best ways to become a part of community was to align with a church choir family. With Leah's easy manner, she was quickly enfolded into the Westminster Choir. In 2001, she traveled with us to England and Scotland.

We will miss Leah in the back row altos, in the choir, and at Post-Choir Study Group. We send her our very warmest best wishes and a framed picture of the Westminster choir gallery where she spent many hours.



DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, OUR SOLOISTS WILL BE:

FEBRUARY 7, FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: Adam Miller, tenor. One of the pieces that Adam will sing is Starry, Starry Night, which will make more sense when you pair it with the sermon on that day.

FEBRUARY 14, TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY: Eleanor VanDeventer

FEBRUARY 17, ASH WEDNESDAY: Amelia Tungett. Amelia is a student at Rochester High School and comes from a long line of outstanding sopranos. Her grandmother, Marilyn Tungett and her aunt, Eleanor VanDeventer both sopranos in the Westminster Choir.

FEBRUARY 21, LENT I: Logan Campbell, bass. Logan is the new Director of the Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Assistant Conductor for the Illinois Symphony

FEBRUARY 28, LENT II: Jim Bogue, solo handbells

A MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

New COVID-19 cases in Sangamon County remain steady. Local hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline.

The church had their first in-person services after our region moved to Phase Four. 50 worshippers are allowed under the governor's guidance. All attendees wore masks and social distancing was honored and practiced. There continues to be no singing or recitation. It was good to be back!

Despite all the good news in our community, we must all remain vigilant and diligent in our approach. This is no time to let your guard down! Continue wearing your masks, maintaining social distancing, and washing your hands often.

Weekly messages can be found on the home page of our website. If you have a specific question for us, do not hesitate to reach out on our email: WPCCoronavirus@gmail.com

Ellen Carpenter, RN
Virginia Dolan, MD
Peter Kieffer, MD
Todd Knox, MD

Michael Nenaber, MD
Marilyn Rigney, RN
Cara Vasconcelles, MD

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7



Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship this Sunday, February 7. Come by the church between 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, drive-through our drop-

off lane to drop your donations in a pot and take a small snack with you to watch the Super Bowl. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).

Please contact Rev. Choi if you are able to participate in collecting donations on Sunday, February 7.

CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

11:15 a.m. - Confirmation will study Session 22: Hope and Healing from *Echo the Story* curriculum.

5:00 p.m. - Sr. High Youth will discuss a topic of religion and science: understanding COVID-19, vaccinations, variations/mutations, and what it means moving forward.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:15 a.m. - Confirmation will study Session 23: Miracles from *Echo the Story* curriculum.

5:00 p.m. - Sr. High youth will discuss the topic of loneliness, utilizing the *Uncommon* curriculum. Although our youth have gone back to school in a limited capacity, the longing to close to friends and people with which they associated is not being fully quenched. We will discuss the realities of social/friendships during this COVID era.



Confirmation / Youth Group Zoom information

Meeting ID: 856 0948 4055

Passcode: 956992

<https://bit.ly/39EZ6UC>

YOUTH SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

A couple of WPC's youth are making the LRS Ice Rink into a reality through their Sangamon CEO Program. Avery Pound and Ben Parker (Ben, on far right, is pictured with his friends) are learning about how to create a sustainable, entrepreneurial, local business through this program. Ben and his friends used our music room to create a mural for the skating rink. For more information about the ice skating rink, visit: www.sangamoceo.com/ice-rink.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

WPCONNECTIONS GALLERY



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

2/7/21 The Short Man Luke 19:1-10

2/14/21 The Thankful Woman Luke 7:36-48

2/21/21 The Thankful Man Luke 17:11-19

2/28/21 The Very Thirsty Woman John 4:1-32

MINISTRY TO INFANTS AND TODDLERS

FROM NEW FROLIC PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Have you ever wondered what it means to speak the language of faith? When we learn a spoken or signed language as a young child, we learn it primarily because we are immersed in that language. It is the language that our parents, older siblings, daycare providers, and others around us speak. The language of faith adds a layer to this type of language learning. Faith language refers to how we talk about God and express our faith during our everyday lives. What if the children in your family began to develop fluency in the language of faith at an early age? What if they encountered native speakers of this language each time they were in their home or at church? Would these concepts stay with them as they grow, just as their native language does? The answer is yes! Could we make this faith language a "first" language for our children? Again, the answer is yes.

Here are a few ways to weave faith-based language into your daily interactions:

- Say "Look at the beautiful day God has made!" instead of "What a beautiful day."
- When you see a rainbow in God's creation, tell a child the story of Noah and God's promise.
- Say a prayer before enjoying a snack together.
- Sing faith-based songs as you comfort a toddler or rock an infant to sleep.
- Pray for a friend who is sick or injured.
- Along with taking other comfort measures, pray with your child when they are feeling upset.

PREPARING FOR LENT: THE POWER OF WORDS

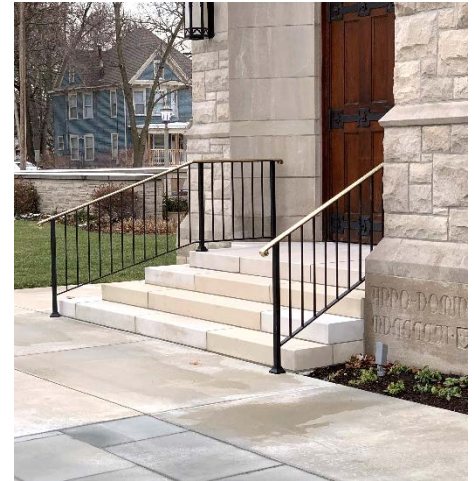
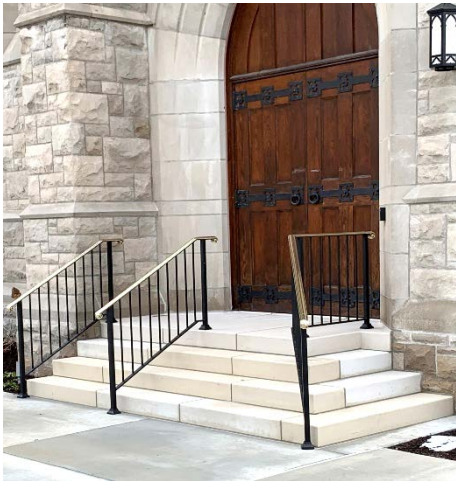
Westminster Families will receive a Lenten Mailing in February. It includes a devotional bag with 40 words, one for each day of Lent, a prayer calendar, and the One Great Hour of Sharing Fish boxes. Throughout Lent, children are invited to fill their fish boxes with donations as we remember those in need and support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hunger and disaster assistance programs.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

On January 19th, we were so happy to get back to in-person preschool! For the first time since March of 2020, we are able to enjoy our indoor classroom again. The children have loved our construction site in the dramatic play center, holding our guinea pigs Panda and Ginger, building in the block center, painting at the easel, and watching our new guppies swim in their tank. We remain committed to spending time outdoors and are still enjoying our "outdoor classroom" for a large chunk of our day. While bundling up preschoolers is a task, it was worth every moment when we were able to play in the snow!

Early registration for the 2021-22 school year (limited to current families, alumni families, and church members) ends February 8th. We will then open for general enrollment. If you know of any interested families, please direct them to our website. The application is available there and in the church office. We hope to have an open house for prospective families in March and also make a virtual tour available.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SITE PLAN COMPLETION NEW FENCE, LIMESTONE LANDING AND STAIR RAILINGS



Following the installation of the East Entry limestone landings in December, Lou Fehring and his team installed the brass railings which completes the Steadfast Neighbor Site Plan. Fehring Ornamental has been responsible for designing and installing Westminster's railings over the years and we are grateful for their excellent craftsmanship.

These photos of our newly installed fence highlight the concealment of both the recycle and trash bins located behind the garage of 518 S. Glenwood and the Verizon equipment, which required an 8-foot fence.

SNOW DAY AT WESTMINSTER JANUARY 3, 2021

"Is anyone there?"

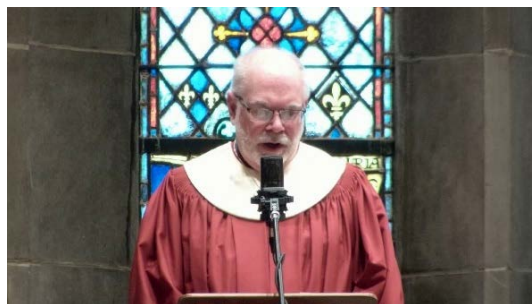
The first snowfall of the new year arrived in Springfield on Sunday, January 3. The sons of Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, August and Roscoe, are pictured outside the east entry listening to the organ music as they made their way to church that snowy Sunday. Along with listening at the door and climbing the mountain of snow, they took some time to create snow angels on our southeast lawn.

We miss August, Roscoe and all the "little angels" of Westminster during this pan'damn'ic. We anticipate their return to church sometime in 2021 with grateful hearts and much joy.

We got this...we can do this! Stay steadfast and immovable, beloved! We are almost there.



RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT AND COMMUNION JANUARY 10, 2021



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE JANUARY 24, 2021



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS in January included the Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant and Sacrament of Communion on the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Adam Miller introduced the renewal with "Shall We Gather by the River." The congregational response following the Children's Sermon returned during Epiphany with Lyle VanDeventer (the voice of Westminster) singing the response of the beloved hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light."

Ordination and Installation of New Church Officers was a highlight as we socially distanced on the Chancel wearing white gloves for the laying on of hands. Rebecca Huston joined us online with her twin daughters, Harper and Reese.

PARISH LIFE BY REV. TRAJAN MCGILL
MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



HUNGER ACTION TEAM – This new group is now regularly meeting, with big hopes for helping show God's love to the hungry people of this community, both by building on existing initiatives and developing new ones. The Westminster Hunger Action Team met on January 26. Members of

the team have been researching the many, assorted agencies, programs, and efforts to fight hunger in Springfield to understand where the practical and strategic holes or needs are, and to try to recognize what WPC's role might be. Some of the areas we are learning, with thanks to those team members who have been investigating them:

- **Micropantries** – Tom Owen
- **Food banks and other non-profit food giveaways** – Kathy Germeraad
- **Community gardens** – Mary King
- **State and federal agencies and programs** – Virginia Dolan
- **Schools** – Becky Martin
- **Faith communities** – Linda Chronister
- **Agencies focused on homelessness** – Mary Caroline Mitchell
- **Hospital and other health care agency employee assistance programs** – Marilyn Rigney
- **Other organizations whose work includes the area of hunger** – Krista Steller

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH



FEBRUARY MENU

Canned soups with pop tops, peanut butter, boxed crackers, applesauce, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, toothpaste. (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

HELPING HANDS MEAL

Thank you to Nancy Canady and Ann Collins for providing the dinner meal to the Helping Hands Shelter on January 8. The February 12 meal will be prepared by Julie McDonough, Jeanne Pittman and Mary Ray. Providers of this monthly meal are needed for most months still in 2021.



Please consider taking one or more dates (the 2nd Friday of each month) to prepare and deliver a much-needed dinner for the men at the Helping Hands Shelter. Reimbursement is available. Contacting Rev. Trajan McGill or Jennie Alt at the church office for more information.

FAIR TRADE

Westminster has for quite some time now promoted equitable and sustainable situations for small farmers in places where unjust practices have often dominated trade practices. Our monthly fair trade coffee and chocolate sales have not been consistently possible during the pandemic, but goods are still available. Please reach out to Becky Martin, Jeanne VanGieson, or Jennie Alt, Church Administrative Assistant, to make sure your orders are filled with equitably sourced coffee and chocolate products.



February Earth Care Tip: How do we avoid consuming God's precious forests and their capacity to reduce carbon dioxide? Buying antique furniture essentially reuses wood.

Crate & Barrel sells beautiful dark wood items recycled from crates and pallets. Bamboo, which can grow up to one foot per day, provides rapidly renewable wood for many of our needs from toothbrushes to toilet paper.

When buying, look for FSC wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council to be from recycled sources or responsibly managed forests. When discarding, bring wooden furniture to a resale shop or gently-used lumber to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

DANCING WITH THE STARZ, SATURDAY, MARCH 27



This annual fundraiser for the Springfield Art Association will be livestreamed on Saturday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. Last year, Tad and Beth Allen competed and continued WPC's winning tradition at the event. Dr. Scott Day is co-chairing the 2021 event.



This year, **Rev. and Mrs. Christian and Sophia Choi** will be representing WPC, sponsored by Marty Sumner. Members are invited to watch and take part in the silent auction. You can vote for the Choys and help support the Springfield Art

Association at: <https://e.givesmart.com/events/j1z/>

MISSION LEADERSHIP

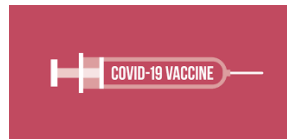
Along with members of the Session and Board of Deacons, the membership of the Mission and Community Service Committee also includes several members who are not actively serving as church officers. There are still two openings for the 2021 committee, which oversees mission work of WPC. These positions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The committee meets in the evening on the first Wednesday of each month (currently online via Zoom). If you sense a call to serve in mission leadership at Westminster, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill to learn more about what that involves.



PARISH NURSE MINISTRY by Ellen Carpenter

VACCINE INFORMATION

Just a friendly reminder to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can. Some people have gotten them through their cardiologists, others from the county as eligibility criteria have expanded. **If you would like me to sign you up, please call, and I can assist you (217-793-3412).** Useful to know: you will have to stay at the vaccination site for 15 minutes afterwards for monitoring. This is for your safety.



Please remember to wear a short-sleeved shirt, take your completed consent form with you to your appointment, and ask them to help

make your 2nd appointment.

You are also encouraged to sign up for the V-Safe online after-vaccination health checker. You can do so with your smart phone for yourself OR for a loved one. This is offered by the CDC to check-in on people and collect data about any adverse effects, and it is a confidential program.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions. I have signed up for alerts on area vaccine availability, and will be reaching out to those of you already on my list. I am more than happy to add others.

Blessings & Stay Safe!

WESTMINSTER SERVES AS TESTING SITE

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Westminster will host the SIU School of Medicine COVID-19 mobile testing on Friday, March 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the parking lot. The testing will be done outside in a drive-up capacity only. No appointment necessary.



SECOND HELPINGS MEAL MINISTRY



Westminster's meal ministry, initiated in winter of 2018, hopes to reach people just home from the hospital or in other situations where a meal would be appreciated. Thanks to Ellen Carpenter for coordinating this ministry. If you know of someone who could use a casserole, or if you'd enjoy occasionally

making and bringing a dinner to someone, please email Ellen Carpenter at ranell@comcast.net.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 – WELCOME BACK!

In-person knitting resumed on **Tuesday, February 2**. You are encouraged to bring "Show and Tell" items to share. Chairs will be placed at a safe distance. Please remember to bring your own beverage and to wear a mask. The final delivery of mittens, hats, and scarves will go to Kumler. Baby items such as caps, sweaters, and blankets will be collected through April.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m.** on Zoom. We will view the video and discuss Chapter 3, "Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished," in the book *Not a Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton.

LYDIA CIRCLE INVITES ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN to meet **Tuesday, February 16 at 9:30 a.m.** on Zoom. Carolyn Beatty will lead Lesson 6, "Lament over the City," based on the theme scripture of Psalm 137 in the 2020-2021 *PW Horizons Bible Study: Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lynn Miller. **Those who are not in Lydia Circle and would like to receive an email Zoom invitation, please email Jennie in the church office at jalt@wpcspi.org.**

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Mary Ann Nation celebrates 91 years on February 11.

Margie Dobson celebrates 100 years on February 16.

WEDDING

Chris Wright and Luiza Tharef were united in marriage on January 3, 2021 in Fort Myers, Florida. Chris is the son of Dr. William Wright.

IN MEMORIAM

Roy A. Baker died on January 17. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his children, Debra (husband, Ray) Wellman, Linda "Luan" (husband, Brian, deceased) Austin and their families.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Norma Adams-Johnson and Frank Johnson on the death of his mother, Esther A. Johnson, at the age of 101 on January 30 in Lincoln, IL.

NEW ADDRESS

Leah Duling, 900 Old Lexington Avenue South, Apartment 102, Saint Paul, MN 55116 *Starting February 15, 2021

Sabrina Holmes, 2808 Fox Bridge Road. Apartment A, Springfield, IL 62703

Luiza & Chris Wright, 6412 Bent Tree Ct., Springfield, IL 62712

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Will Hovey, for being accepted into the P4 Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program at SIU School of Medicine. This four-year experience for high school students familiarizes them with medical school coursework, admissions processes, test-taking skills, critical thinking, and specialty training.

THANK YOU

The nine transitional families at Contact Ministries' women's shelter who received Christmas gifts from Westminster this Christmas sent individual thank you notes in appreciation of the generosity of our members. The Contact Ministries staff sent a thank you in appreciation of the gifts for their playroom.

CHURCH OFFICE

Church Offices will be closed Monday, February 15, in observance of President's Day.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Megan and Greg Swanson, and their baptized daughter Lily, were received into membership at the January Session meeting. They come to Westminster by letter of transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, IL. Megan and Gregg will be recognized with the next new member class.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS THIS SPRING

SUNDAY, APRIL 18 & 25

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, April 18 and 25 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. The class will be led by the pastors.

New members will be received Sunday, May 2, during the 10:00 a.m. service following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall.



2021 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

The Strategic Planning Committee and Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force continue to address the mandate to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood within the decade. The outreach already in place includes:

MATCHING GRANTS

Local homeowners are invited to apply for matching grants toward simple property improvements, especially addressing certain needs such as safety, security, and energy efficiency upgrades. In 2020, Westminster was able to provide \$12,130.42 in Matching Grants to neighbors. We have already received calls from neighbors about this opportunity! With the program in place and the news spreading, we anticipate the applications will grow in 2021. **The letter and application will be mailed in February** with a follow-up letter and reminder in April. We will include the same timeline as we did in 2020 allowing for some of the grant requests to become projects during the service week.



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE WEEK AUGUST 2-6, 2021

Westminster invested \$13,029.51 in the projects completed during the 2020 Service Week. The dates for this year's neighborhood outreach have been set and are **the week of August 2-6**. Once again, we will assist with exterior repair and improvement projects. Please consider taking one or more days of the first week of August to

join us as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood once again! If interested, contact Todd Knox hardknox1@mac.com.

LITTLE PANTRY GRAHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Another neighborhood outreach initiated in 2020 is the Little Pantry, which was dedicated on May 15. Westminster invested \$1,984.24 in the Little Pantry last year. It continues to be a needed source of nourishment for our neighbors during the pandemic. Sign-ups to restock the pantry increased to seven days per week in January. We are grateful to all our ministry partners who sign up to restock the pantry in this meaningful outreach. Stop by the church before filling the pantry on your day to restock. Donated and purchased items are in the lower-level hallway outside the elevator. Thank you to Bill Deemer who joined Nancy Huston and Pete VanGieson on the shopping team in 2021 and to Bill Ward who will serve as a substitute. Additionally, we appreciate Sandy Bellatti, who assists Jennie Alt in assessing shopping needs.



Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
deb.watts@live.com

Karen H. Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Victoria Hollinshead
Kimberly Hollinshead
Jaymie Hale Ngoupa
Nursery Workers

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
kacey@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY AND LABYRINTH
March 28- April 2 in Parish Hall

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 1
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

March Reporter deadline is Sunday, February 28, 2021. Reporter folding and mailing will be on Thursday, March 4.