



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Confirmation Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter
15 May 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Allemande

Craig Penfield

***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 and proclaim the love of Christ.

***Hymn 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord of Sea and Sky, 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**

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.**
All: **Thanks be to God.**

***Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Service of Confirmation

Class of 2022

Benjamin Alan Bassett
Carter Aaron Magalis

Class of 2021

Alina Grace Vogler

Class of 2020

Kristianna Elizabeth Eastvold
William Andrew Hovey
Olivia Grace Simonson*

*Unable to be with us this morning

***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.

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.

For to the angels God's given command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

First Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Pew Bible, NT page 259

Second Scripture Reading

John 13:31-35

Pew Bible, NT page 108

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Alpha and Omega

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: " I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.
To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the
water of life. Revelation 21:6*

Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray
the Father, and he shall give you another comforter. That
he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit, the Spirit
of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you,
I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

St. John: 15-18

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ God's 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 and 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.**

The Church at Prayer

Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

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 and Dedication of Our Gifts

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

Offertory

Pavane

Craig Penfield

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are the first and the
last, you were there at our beginnings and you will
welcome us home at our endings. Accept these gifts which
we present with gratitude and joy for this momentous day
in the lives of your children. Amen.**

***Hymn 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Ar Hyd y Nos

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary**

Grand Choeur

Theodore Solomé

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

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.
WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS AND CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMANDS!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
OF 2020, 2021 & 2022
PERSONAL STATEMENTS OF FAITH



Benjamin Alan Bassett - Confirmation Class of 2022

Baptized on September 7, 2008 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Ben's mentor is Bill Deemer.

As we are taught, and I believe that God is the being who created life and the universe. Jesus is the Son of God. He stands besides the Father, who is God. Together, they help many through hard and good times in their lives. Regardless of our actions, may it be good or bad, God is still with us, no matter what. God, who is the Holy Spirit, is in all of us. Through the Holy Spirit, God cares for us and loves us. Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins.

Carter Aaron Magalis - Confirmation Class of 2022

Baptized on June 22, 2008 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Carter's mentor is Mary Ray.

I believe in Jesus Christ the man who died for our sins. I believe in God the creator of heaven, mankind, and this world. I believe in God because he is the creator, and he should be believed in. I believe in God because he loves everyone, cherishes everyone, and forgives everyone. God to me is a loving caring father, I believe this because, he wishes the best upon me, supports me, and forgives me for my mistakes. I love God, and he is my father for eternity.

Alina Grace Vogler - Confirmation Class of 2021

Baptized on November 3, 2013 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Alina's mentor is Susan Day.

I believe that God is an almighty power that created the universe. He has a plan for everyone and people should follow His set of rules, which are explained in the Bible. The Church was created to spread the word of God by using the Bible. I believe that Jesus is the son of God and died on the cross to forgive our sins. The Holy Ghost is what lives amongst us to keep God's spirit on Earth. Visiting the Jewish Temple opened my eyes to how other people can perceive God. It also confirmed my belief in Jesus and how the New Testament is a staple in my faith, Christianity. Jesus dying on the cross for our sins gives me hope knowing that even though we make mistakes as people, God forgives us.

Kristianna Elizabeth Eastvold - Confirmation Class of 2020

Baptized on November 11, 2007 – Chatham Presbyterian Church, Chatham, IL

Kristianna's mentor is Meridith Bryans.

I believe in God. I believe that God loves and cares for us. He has always wanted us to do the right thing and love each other even if we never do. His son, Jesus died on the cross for our sins, not his own. I believe this shows how much he cares and wants us to care also. He wants us to learn from our mistakes, be forgiven, and start over. But, we chose to do what we want, often forgetting what he did for us. He never gave up, he kept trying harder and harder to make it right.

I believe that Jesus, God's only son rose from the dead on the third day and I believe that one day he will come back to us. I believe that God accepts us no matter how we act or behave, after all he created us. I believe that God will never stop loving us. No human is perfect and I understand that sometimes we might do something very bad but I know that God will always be there to help me and forgive me. I believe that the church is the people and not just the building and without the people the church would not exist.

William Andrew Hovey - Confirmation Class of 2020

Baptized on December 3, 2006 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Will's mentor is Joe Fierstos.

I believe that faith is intangible. Though we cannot see or touch God, we know that God is with us wherever we go. Faith affects every aspect of my life, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic and in November when my Papa died.

The opposite of faith is not doubt; but, rather, it is certainty. My faith is a work in progress as it is constantly being challenged. I do not know the answers to everything. As I continue to grow in my faith, I am gaining in experience as I am surrounded by followers of God. I continue to believe in God because he always loves us, no matter the mistakes we make. God is extremely patient and forgiving. God will not force us to follow him, rather, God allows us to come to him when we are ready. We can always come back to the Lord, asking forgiveness, if we are true in our hearts.

I would like to briefly relate a bit of scripture from the Book of Job Chapter 1. Job was extremely successful and a devout follower of God. Believing that Job only followed the Lord because of his success, Satan challenged Job. The Devil took away all of Job's land, family, health, and wealth, thinking that this would surely shatter Job's faith. However, if anything, Job's faith was likely strengthened. Job knew he would be lost and the Devil would win if he became angry, jealous, or bitter with God.

Though not everyone is rewarded here on Earth, all who perform good deeds and follow God's word will be rewarded with eternal life in Heaven.

Olivia Grace Simonson - Confirmation Class of 2020

Baptized on November 29, 2005 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Olivia's mentor is Beth Kincaid.

I believe in the Trinity, the three separate entities of God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit, yet all the same. I believe that Jesus came to Earth as a baby, fully God, fully human. He taught, healed the sick, rose the dead, ate, and conversed with sinners and outcasts, and gathered disciples. He died for our sins, and since he had not committed a sin, he was able to pay the price for us to go to heaven. I believe that though I am not perfect, I am forgiven through Jesus. I believe that we are all to love one another as Jesus loved us. It is our job as Christians to show kindness and acceptance to everyone, as well as share the Word with others, not through forcing it upon them, but by showing God's love in everything we do.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian Choi
- **Greeters:** Amanda and Clayton Kurmann
- **Ushers:** Alyssa Haaker (Head Usher), Bud Green, Melanie Green, Rachael Hickman, Richard Leary, Jim Parker, Camille Massey, Mike Sundquist
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Adam Miller, tenor, Eleanor VanDeventer, soprano, Dale Rogers, organ

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2- & 3 year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play, and Bible stories. This week: “*God’s Wonderful World*” Caregivers: Caroline Haynor, Leigh Milward, Valerie Leonatti, and Sue Scaife
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school (Third Floor Chapel) following the Congregational Response. This week’s lesson: “*Jesus Gives Peter a Job*” Teachers: *Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)**– Fair Trade products, such as chocolate, coffee, nuts, cocoa, tea, olive oil are available for purchase.
- **11:00 a.m. The Confirmation Reception (Parish Hall)** The Board of Deacons will host a reception honoring the Confirmands following worship.
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon Adult Education Forum: Raising Butterflies Roundtable (Second Floor Classroom)** will be hosted by the Earth Care Team in the Second Floor Classroom. The discussion will be led by Susan Shaw. Come, join the conversation!

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
A GARDEN PARTY
HOSTED BY KATHY GERMEAAD
1800 ILLINI ROAD
SATURDAY, MAY 21 AT 9:30 A.M.
RSVP at jalt@wpcpi.org





2022 FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 22

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

PICNIC RECEPTION AT 11:15 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

Join us Founders' Sunday, May 22 for worship at 10:00 a.m. and a picnic reception following in Parish Hall. Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. **Those who make a donation or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 18 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 22 and in the June Reporter.**

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

This year we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Westminster Cooperative Preschool. Alumni and Preschool teachers will be recognized in worship and the picnic reception will be a celebration of our rich history.



The tables will be decorated in preschool colors with centerpieces created by preschool students. A PowerPoint Presentation and Memorabilia Table will feature photos and treasured items from our archives.

SPECIAL EARTH CARE ACTIVITY

Children attending the Founder's Picnic Reception will participate in a meaningful and fun activity and planting craft prepared by Susan Shaw of the Earth Care Committee.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

The Westminster Choristers will present "Heroes of the Faith" on Founders' Sunday. The musical, directed by Dale Rogers, is a field trip through the Heroes of the Faith Museum where we encounter Moses, Deborah, Elijah, and David. Choristers are Lucy Bassett, Cara Swanson, Harper and Reese Huston and Lily Swanson.



DEDICATION OF STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SITE & LANDSCAPE PLAQUE



This Founders' Sunday we will dedicate the final detail of the Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan: a newly installed history plaque located outside the northeast corner of the Sanctuary. The bronze plaque is mounted on architectural stone from our 1871 church building which has been stored on the Blythe Farm for many years.

Dale Rogers designed the plaque and Peter Kieffer collaborated in the concise distillation of Westminster's 186-year history into less than 75 words:

Thirty ardent abolitionists, some of whom conducted the Underground Railroad, founded this congregation in 1835 at our first church known as Second Presbyterian. Our 1840 tower bell, which tolled for the Emancipation Proclamation in our second church, still calls worshippers today. This plaque rests on stone remaining from our third church. We now worship in this fourth church, designed in a rural English Gothic style by Cram & Ferguson, dedicated in 1908, and later named Westminster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS. Information about who we are can be found on our website at www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, you are invited to speak to one of our pastors.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE SUFFRAGE PLAY POSSIBLE on Mother's Day Weekend. Because of this labor of love Westminster welcomed over 200 who watched the performance and raised \$2,881 for the 2022 Youth Mission Trip. Written by Carole Kennerly and directed by Kelly Robertson, the play Westminster members performing in the play included Lucy Bassett, Carolyn Beatty, Ann Collins, Jay Kennerly, Kate and Michael Morthland, and Bill Ward. Sabrina Holmes assisted with props. Pat and Al Hymans designed the sets and costumes. Eleanor VanDeventer and Dale Rogers shared a brief musical presentation to introduce the play.



PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY PW and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services provides blankets, tents, and food in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home; wells for families in drought prone areas and gardens; literacy training and microcredit for women. During May, make checks payable to Westminster (memo: Blankets+) or donate online

PHOTO SESSIONS FOR WESTMINSTER'S NEW DIRECTORY are May 17, 18, 24, and 25. Evening appointments are still available, so please contact the church office to make an appointment or see our website to signup online.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m.** in Ziegler Library. They will study lesson Eight "Mary 3 and 4." Sharon Zook will bring the devotions.

LIBRARY GUILD MEETING - will meet **Tuesday, May 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** in the Children's Library to keep our beautiful libraries stocked and maintained. Additional ministry partners are welcome to join us. Please contact Karen Sherrick if you have any special requests or suggestions at ksherrick@wpcspi.org or call the church office.



FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD BREAKFAST - All are invited to the Faith Coalition's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser on **Thursday, May 19, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**, hosted by Westminster again this year in our Parish Hall. The featured speaker will be Jamar Scott, Chief Equity and School Improvement Officer for District 186. Dr. Kieffer will provide the invocation and the meal will be catered by Pat Hymans.

HUNGER ACTION TEAM meets on **Tuesday, May 24 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Josh Sabo, Executive Director of the Heartland Continuum of Care, will update us on the Strategic Plan addressing homelessness in Springfield. Interested members are welcome to join us in the Second Floor Classroom. Jeanne VanGieson is the new chair of the Hunger Action Team.

APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet **Tuesday, May 24. 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library. The May book is *The Day Lincoln Lost* by Charles Rosenberg. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



2022 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE WEEK JUNE 27-JULY 1 – If you would like to participate in the service week, please sign up on SignUpGenius found on the home page of the website. Please indicate your name, email address, days you are available to work. Members of the mission task force team made house visits this past week and are excited to welcome new neighbors. We have several interesting projects and hope you will consider partnering in this ministry. The Team Building meeting will be Tuesday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall.

MILITARY PLAQUE UPDATES NEEDED - Each Memorial Sunday, the Military Plaque in the East Narthex is highlighted. A slide show of the Military Plaque is posted on our website. We are grateful for the sacrifices and years of service to our country by each person listed. *If you or a family member have served in the military and are not included, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org with name, rank, branch and years of service.*

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - Summer Sunday school begins on May 29! Children preschool age thru those finishing second grade will gather in the Third Floor Chapel to learn about the Parable using the Young Children and Worship curriculum and materials. Children finishing third grade and older will remain in worship for the summer. If you are interested in teaching contact Karen at ksherrick@wpcspi.org or check available dates at <https://bit.ly/3vhRvGr>.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - This summer, June 13-17, 9:15 a.m. to noon all children age 3 through grade 5 will gather to experience God's love while exploring scriptures that refer particularly to God's use of water as an agent of creation, salvation, healing, blessing, and health. We will learn about the way in which access to water effects the everyday lives of children in other parts of the world, and some suggestions about ways we can help. Contact Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org if you would like to join our team of VBS Ministry Partners. Register your children here: <https://bit.ly/3KgF8yD>



BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY is June 5. All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 5 bulletin and the June Reporter. Please contact Jennie Alt as soon as possible via email (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information or fill out the web form on the church website.

CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY ALL-CHURCH COOKOUT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 17

The Eighth Annual All-Church Cookout to welcome new and milestone members will be Friday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Kieffers'. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive evening hosted by the Membership Committee. **The congregation is invited!**

Please RSVP soon (online or Sunday mornings) and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. New and milestone members will be our guests. The evening will include a sing-along and boat rides.



THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, May 16

- 5:00 PM Strategic Planning (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM Compass Volunteer Dinner (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, May 17

- 9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
- 9:30 AM Visitation for Linda Lee Janus
- 10:30 AM Memorial Service for Linda Lee Janus
- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 2:00 PM Pictorial Directory Photos (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM COMPASS
- 4:45 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
- 6:00 PM Worship, Music & Arts (Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, May 18

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 10:30 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
- 11:00 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 2:00 PM Pictorial Directory Photos (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Choristers (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Session (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, May 19

- 7:30 AM Faith Coalition Breakfast Fundraiser (Parish Hall)
- 7:30 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, May 20

Saturday, May 21

- 9:30 AM Women's Garden Party at the Germeraad Home (1800 Illini Rd)

Sunday, May 22 –

Founders' Sunday -

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 AM Picnic Reception (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415
<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

Deb Watts Elliott
*Saturday Worship Pianist and
Music Coordinator*

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

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