



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Congregational Meeting  
8 October 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment      2024 Stewardship Campaign      Susan Day

Voluntary      Andantino      Louis Vierne

**\*Ringing of the Bell**      *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Listen well, O peoples of the earth,  
to inner promptings of the Spirit;  
Let silence enter your house that you may hear!

People: **For within your heart love speaks:  
not with words of deceit, but of spiritual truths  
to guide you upon the paths of peace.**

Leader: Do not hide this from your children;  
teach of the inward voice,  
and help all generations to listen in the silence,

People: **that they may know the Beloved  
and be free to follow the precepts of love.  
For the spirit of truth is written upon open hearts,  
that we might share the Divine Plan.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**\*Hymn 341**      O God, Show Mercy to Us

*Thaxted*

**\*Prayer of Confession** Holy and loving God, we have heard your call and we have answered yes. Yet, we have traveled down roads that do not lead us to do your work. Forgive us for the lack of follow-through on the good we intend to do. Help us to identify the ambivalence within ourselves so that we may respond more faithfully and consistently with our lives. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon**

**\*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. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

**Children's Sermon**

**Congregational Response**

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends.  
God's love is strong, and it never ends.**

*Children in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 go to Sunday School  
and Youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep  
following the Congregational Response.*

**First Scripture Reading** Exodus 17:1-7 Pew Bible, OT page 64

**Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 21:28-32 Pew Bible, NT page 23-24

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Yeas and Nays Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "one son answered, "I will not;" but later he changed his mind and went... the other son answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go."  
Matthew 21:29b and 30b*

**Anthem** Draw the Circle Wide Mark Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.  
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.  
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.  
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide."

**\*Affirmation of Faith** Romans 12:9-18

**Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.**

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Amen.**

**The Church at Prayer**

**Choir:** 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**

**The Presentation  
of our Gifts**

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

**Offertory**

Cantilene

Gabriel Pierné

**\*Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Holy and loving God, accept the offering of our lives and make us humble and reliable children who hear your call, recognize the nay within, and respond with a yea. Use these gifts for the doing of your work as we live in and shine your light to a broken world. Amen.

**\*Hymn 749**

Come! Live in the Light

*We are Called*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Choral Response**

Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

**Congregational Meeting**

**\*Voluntary**

Carillon

Louis Vierne

(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeter:** George Botanga
- **Worship Leader:** Ben Bassett
- **Acolytes:** Taryn Barnett and Juliana Eastvold
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Erin Ekstedt, Kathy Kenyon, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Bill Deemer, Sam Simonson

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 – 9:45 a.m. New Members Class (Pastor’s Study)** Visitors are welcome to learn about membership at Westminster. Led by Dr. Kieffer
- **9:00 – 12 noon Nursery (lower level)** Infants and toddlers begin in the Nursery. Preschoolers begin in worship with their families and leave during the Congregational Response. Today’s Bible Story: “Jesus Heals Us Too”. *Caregivers: Millie McNutt, Maria Lafrenz, Dee Dee Duffy*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
  - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response Today’s Lesson: “Serving God” (Matt. 21:33-46). Teachers: *Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children’s Sermon for Lesson Three: “Flood” of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray and Cara Barnett*
- **11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers (Sanctuary)**
- **11:15 a.m. Refugee Education Sub-Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)**
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Westminster’s On My Own Time Exhibit (Parish Hall).** We look forward to this display as members share their hobbies, collections, and fine art. This is a wonderful way to get to know one another better.  
**Participants include:** Jerry Boutelle, Ellen Carpenter, the Choi family, Linda and Roland Folse, Mal Hildebrand, Pat Hymans, Peter Kieffer, Priscilla Kluge, Richard Leary, Bob and Mary Leffler, Pat McNutt, Camille and Ted Proud, Kelly Robertson, and Dale Rogers.
- **4:30 – 7:00 p.m. Green Team Summit Watch Party (Parish Hall)** Join the Earth Care Team and Senior High youth at a gathering of Faith in Place, featuring keynote speaker, Leah Thomas – Founder of Intersectional Environmentalist & Author of The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet. A light dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m., and the viewing session and discussion will follow at 5:00 p.m.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, please speak to one of the pastors.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** today to elect the following church officers.

**Elders Class of 2026:** John Cross, Tara Fritsch, Rachael Hickman, David Jenkins, Dr. Vena Long, Greg Swanson, Julie Robbs, Brinton Wilkey, **Youth Elder:** Kristianna Eastvold

**Board of Deacons Class of 2026:** Julie Barton, Greg Boutelle, Kyle Duffy, Deb Fritsch, Todd Lafrenz, Joyce King, Bernie Wiseman, **Class of 2025:** Bill Schlosser

**APNC Committee:** Kristianna Eastvold

**Strategic Planning Committee Class of 2026:** Jeanne Pittman, Pete VanGieson

**2024 Nominating Committee:** Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, Julie Sundquist, Carolyn Swanson

**PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** Each October WPC receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

**THANK YOU CROP HUNGER WALKERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORTS!** Westminster was well represented with 20 walkers including 11 youth and children. They joined 60 walkers representing the following churches: Farmingdale Presbyterian, Douglas Ave Methodist, First Christian, First Church of the Brethren, Grace Lutheran, Hope Presbyterian, Kumler Methodist, Laurel Methodist, Third Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian. To date the Walk has raised \$11,019 and Westminster has contributed \$3,642. Checks are still welcome as we continue to work together to eliminate hunger.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on **Monday, October 9**, 1:00 p.m. at the IL Presbyterian Home. Eleanor will host and lead lesson 2 "The Exorcism of Gerasa" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032) for details.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** meets on **Thursday, October 14** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Scott Dahl, Director at Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, will speak on "Tourism in Springfield" Members will provide breakfast and devotions. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church.

**THE ANNUAL SPUD BAKE** is next **Sunday, October 15!** Junior and Senior High Youth will gather in the kitchen from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon to prepare loaded baked and sweet potatoes to raise funds for the Contact Ministries Christmas Gift Distribution.



**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM** presents "Reformation, Justification, and Ecumenism" next **Sunday, October 15 and Sunday, October 22** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Reformation Day (31 October) 2023 is the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, a document produced through ecumenical dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation that was later adopted by the World Communion of Reformed Churches (of which the Presbyterian Church is a member). This Adult Education Forum will explore the doctrine of justification that was at the heart of the Protestant Reformation and the ecumenical work of the Presbyterian Church to overcome the divisions between Christian churches and denominations.

Explore the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

**CHURCH OFFICER ORIENTATION** for Newly elected elders and deacons will be **Sunday, October 15**, 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Lunch will be Spuds.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on **Tuesday, October 17** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler library. Sharon Turner will host and lead lesson 2 “The Exorcism of Gerasa” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

**COMPASS FOR KIDS** meets on **Tuesday, October 17** to plant a tree at the Capler’s Habitat home in collaborative effort with First Presbyterian Church and their Earth Care Team.

**DMA (DON’T MENTION AGE)** will meet **Friday, October 20** at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Dena Gilly, owner of Gilly’s Organizing, will speak to us on “Organizing for Everyone.” RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.

**FAMILY BOARD GAME DAY** meets on **Saturday October 21**, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (right after Church Mice) in the Third Floor Chapel for board games designed for multiple age groups. Feel free to bring your lunch along!

**CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AT SHEEDY SHORES WINEGARDEN** (10300 Johns Creek Rd, Loami, IL 6266) on **Sunday, October 22** from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share with others in the beauty of fall as we enjoy the cooler weather as well as live music. The WineGarden sells a variety of wines as well as some beers. RSVP at <https://rb.gy/8zf3r> or use the QR code. More info is available from Melanie Green.



## 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION



Scott and I were happy to be asked to serve on the Stewardship (Campaign) because we strongly believe giving is an essential part of our faith life and that of our church family. Beginning 67 years ago, we watched our parents express their faith by giving and learned the joy of doing it firsthand alongside them. My Mother wrote a poem to her 8 children, every Christmas and on each of her birthdays. Her message was always the same - insisting we spend no money on her but share it with “the least of these.” THAT was her favorite gift. And yes, over decades, her family has purchased enough Heifer livestock to fill a small country and then some!

For the past 38 years, Scott and I have continued that walk and have shown our children what it looks like to care for others with time and money, as Jesus asks us all to do. Sometimes we give our time - singing praises from the choir loft, grooming the Memorial Garden, or building things with high schoolers in Appalachia. Each year, we prayerfully stretched towards giving ten percent of the money God has graciously allowed us to have. Reaching the “tithe” level of giving has been exciting - seeing that we can truly live just fine on 90% of what we earn, and watching God multiply blessings of all kinds as we set God’s portion aside first.

Thank you all for being such a wonderful church family of brothers and sisters with whom we can share this journey of life and faith, showing us all the ways God uses everyone’s hands and feet to care for this world. Please prayerfully consider how you will share a portion of your dollars so that Westminster can increase the ways we serve “the least of these” together.

Heart, Mind and Soul,  
Scott and Susan Day

**As of Thursday, October 5 we received 70 pledges totaling \$298,548 which is 30% of the \$850,000 goal.** Please complete the pledge card and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate by Stewardship Dedication Sunday, October 29, 2023. Pledges can also be made online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, October 9

#### **Columbus/Indigenous People Day – Church Offices Closed**

1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (Off site)

### Tuesday, October 10

9:30 AM Visitation for Barbara Fagin Croonquist  
11:00 AM Funeral for Barbara Fagin Croonquist  
12:00 PM KDO – Willing Circle (Youth Room)  
12:00 PM Knitters' Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
12:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
1:00 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
4:00 PM Memorial Garden Committee (Pastor's Study)  
5:30 PM Strategic Planning Committee (Pastor's Study)  
7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters Rehearsal (Music Room)

### Wednesday, October 11

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)  
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)  
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support (Conf. Room)  
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)  
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)  
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)  
5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:30 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)

### Thursday, October 12

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)  
4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)  
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, October 13

5:00 PM Meal Delivered to Helping Hands Shelter

### Saturday, October 14

11:00 AM Church Mice (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Sunday, October 15

Spud Bake Youth Fundraiser

Welcome New Members

9:15 AM Special Session Meeting (Library)  
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School K – Grade 5 (Chapel)  
11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)  
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)  
11:15 AM Church Officer Training (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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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

**Mary Ray**  
Interim Director for Youth

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

**Katie Moore**  
Director for Children's Music

**Millie McNutt, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

**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, Bill Hibbert,**  
Part-time Custodians