



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Congregational Meeting
10 October 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment	I Have Called you Friends	Greg Swanson
Voluntary	Flute Tune	Thomas Arne
*Ringing of the Bell	<i>The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.</i>	
*Call to Worship		Psalm 22:3-5
Leader:	God, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.	
People:	In you our ancestors trusted, and you delivered them.	
Leader:	To you they cried, and they were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.	
People:	God, you are holy. All praise to you, now and forever!	
*Hymn 32	I Sing the Mighty Power of God	<i>Ellacombe</i>
*Prayer of Confession	Holy God, you are present in all the moments of our lives. You have given us hearts that question suffering and minds that resist easy answers. Forgive us when we accept only what we see as good. Have mercy on us when we turn away from what troubles and disturbs. Strengthen us to recognize your presence in the hurting places of our world. Give us the resilience and courage to care about what we do not understand and the faith to persist in lamenting. 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. Amen.	
*Response of Praise	Gloria Patri	Hymnal, Back Cover
Children's Sermon		

Congregational Response Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Children in grades Pre-K-5 will go to Sunday School following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Pew Bible, OT pages 471-472

Solo I Choose Love

Mark Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again I choose love.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.
When the world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground I will rise. I choose love.

Second Scripture Reading Psalm 22:1-11

Pew Bible, OT page 500

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

Sermon Persisting in Lament

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The text: Yet I am not reduced to silence by the darkness or by the mystery which hides God. Job 23:17

Anthem Benedictus es, Domine

Everett Titcomb

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers:
praised and exalted above all forever.
Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty.
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness.
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths and dwellest
between the Cherubim.
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy Kingdom.
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven.
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

***Affirmation of Faith**

(Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. Christ's human life involves the church in the common life of all people. Christ's service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. Christ's suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need. Christ's crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of Christ's coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Soloist: Surely the presence of 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: Let us pray.

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 found in the pew racks.

Offertory Impromptu Robert Jon

Offertory Response Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy and loving God, accept these gifts given in gratitude as we partner in Christ's service. May the act of giving strengthen our commitment to the ministries of mercy for which Christ died and engage us in the acts of compassion by which Christ lived. Amen.

*** Hymn 761** Called as Partners in Christ's Service *Beecher*

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Exultemus Noel Rawsthorne

Congregational Meeting

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeters:** Kelly Robertson, Lucy and Ben Bassett
- **Ushers:** Nathaniel Brower (Head Usher), Jessica Borland, Erin Ekstedt, Tara Fritsch, Bob Leffler, Mary Peura, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Mary Ray and Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** Jessica Borland, soprano, Lyle VanDeventer, bass, The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, two & three year olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story. This week: Creation. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Ella Kurmann*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
 - **Pre-Kind - Grade 2 Young Children and Worship** (Third Floor Chapel) Story: Abram and Sarai Find a New Home Teachers: *Chelsea Ekstedt (Lead) Adam Ekstedt*
 - **Grades 3-5** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The Story: Abram and Sarai Find a New Home *Teachers: Cathy Brower (Lead), Sara Eldridge*
- **11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting** (Sanctuary)
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Junior High Confirmation** (Third Floor Tower Room) Session 4: Flood from *Echo the Story*. *Ministry Partners: Rev. Choi, Jim Kincaid*
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Adult Ed Forum** (Second Floor Classroom) Hunger Action Series This session will begin at 11:30 a.m. following the Congregational Meeting and focus on hunger challenges faced in School District 186 and some of the ways they are being addressed. Leader: *Becky Martin*, a high school English teacher at Lanphier HS.
- **5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Senior High Dinner and Youth Group Fellowship** (Parish Hall, Youth Room) Theme: Sacrament and Covenant *Dinner: TBD Ministry Partners: Rev. Choi, Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Mary Ray*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us 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, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Choi.

THANK YOU to the 40 members of our community who walked on Sunday, October 3 and to Krista Steller, Becky Martin, and Linda Shafer for their leadership. As of Wednesday, October 6, Westminster members have given **\$2,255**. You still have time to donate.



ADULT EDUCATION HUNGER ACTION SERIES will hold its final session next Sunday, October 17 and will be led by Westminster member Stephanie Bess, who is a long-term administrator for the Illinois Department of Human Services. She will enlighten us about the state programs that address hunger, the people being served, and ways we might advocate to enhance this safety net, the main source of food assistance for the hungry in our community.

COMPASS FOR KIDS Orientation is **Tuesday, October 12, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall with in-person gatherings to begin at Westminster **Tuesday, October 19 at 3:00 p.m.** This weekly tutoring after-school program also offers a life skills class. A snack will replace the weekly dinner this year. We are grateful for the following ministry partners who will serve on the 2021-2022 team: *Cathy Allen, Rance Carpenter, Kris Gates, Carole Kennerly, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Lynn McMenamin, Kate and Michael Morthland, and Kate Wilson.*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – Children in grades K-2 gather on Tuesdays at 4:45 in the choir room.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP - Children grades 3-5 gather on Wednesday from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. in the Tower Classroom. **CHORISTERS** follows from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in the choir room.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be **Thursday, October 14 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. We welcome Julie Bobell, Advanced Care Coordinator from Memorial Medical Center, will speak about advanced care planning, palliative care, and end of life care. RSVP to jalt@wpcspi.org. Randy Germeraad will provide breakfast and Tim Kluge will lead the devotion.

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY meets Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for a discussion of The Ten Commandments by Joan Chittister.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) meets **Friday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.** We begin with dinner (Provided by WPC) followed by the 7:00 p.m. Program: Dr. Todd Knox will speak on the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week. Please RSVP to the office or on the website by October 13.

FELLOWSHIP AT SHEEDY SHORES WINEGARDEN – **Sunday, October 17 from 2-4 p.m.**, Members and friends are invited to a time of fellowship at Sheedy Shores Winegarden. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fall scenery. This event is hosted by the Board of Deacons Congregational Fellowship Committee. Please RSVP by online <https://bit.ly/3ojoZRY> or by calling the church.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on **Tuesday, October 19 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Third Floor classroom. The lesson will be on *Tamar*. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

THE ANNUAL SPUD BAKE is **Sunday, October 24**, Youth will gather in the kitchen from 9:00 a.m. to Noon to prepare loaded baked potatoes to raise funds for the Contact Ministries Christmas Gift Distribution. Members are invited to buy a Spud for \$5.00 and help our youth share God's love! Spuds can be pre-orders at www.wpcspi.org/spudbake, pick up your spud following worship, bring it home or enjoy it in Parish Hall while visiting the Westminster Art Exhibit.



WESTMINSTER ARTIST'S EXHIBIT is **Sunday, October 24** Join us in Parish Hall for an exhibit of paintings, drawings, pastels, pottery, photography, collage and other medium created by our members. The exhibit will be on view prior to the 10:00 a.m. service and following the service with a reception and a time for the artists to speak about their work.

FAIR TRADE SALE – Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson will have items available for sale on October 24 in the West Narthex.

“READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR” CELEBRATORY DINNER – On **Friday, October 29, 6:00 p.m.** at Finley's Tap House, members and friends who participated in Reading the Bible in a Year Study are invited to an evening of celebration, fellowship, and discussion.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH – Canned Chili or soup with pop tops, biscuit mix, and 100% juice or water canned fruit.

REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 HARVEST FEST BEGINS AT 11:00 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

This year Reformation Sunday falls on Halloween so we are moving the Harvest Festival to the morning and inviting members to **wear costumes to worship** and join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service (11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.) for a festive gathering. Highlights and activities will include:



A delicious lunch will be served and **Pumpkin Crafts, story-telling and face painting** will be available for the children. The fun continues with a **harvest maze** in the Youth Room and **treat bags** will be sent home with the children.

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION – I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS



Westminster became my church home in 1969, fifty-one years ago when our family moved to Springfield. I was two. Each Sunday my parents, sister Susan, brother David, and I would go to church in our Sunday best. Westminster was our home for Sunday school, but we “kids” were also choristers (directed by Mrs. Singleton and Mr. Mitchell), attended youth groups, were youth Deacons and high school senior candle lighters on Christmas Eve.

Over those fifty-three years, there have been many changes. We have a new Parish Hall, remodeled offices and classrooms, added an elevator, pre-school, Memorial Garden and last year, the Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan was completed.

Just as important as our physical space is, Westminster has continued to expand our mission, giving in Springfield and beyond. There is an annual youth mission trip, a Little Food Pantry and Steadfast Neighbor Service Week and Matching Grants. We have been active in Helping Hands, Habitat for Humanity and more.

As a child I remember how excited I was to receive my personalized Bible. Then – back in the day – we also had personalized offering envelopes. I loved putting my coins into the envelope and carefully placing it in the Sunday School plate. After class, we would join the adults downstairs in the old basement hall where the children would have Mel-O-Cream donut holes donated by the Warren family and organized by Doris Ray (she always let me have extras!)

Adding my offering into the Sunday school plate was important to me as a child. Today I recognize the importance of all our combined offerings. Our church today is rich with worship traditions and a strong and ever-growing mission program. My husband, Jim, who joined Westminster this year and I are grateful to join in providing financial support. The pledges we each put into the offering plate will help Westminster continue to flourish and grow. We hope you will consider your pledge or/and gift for 2022.

- Julie Pittman McDonough

As of Wednesday, October 6 we received **69 pledges** for a total of **\$322,876**. This is 41% of our \$797,000 goal. *Please complete your pledge card and return by Dedication Sunday, October 24, 2021.*

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 11

Columbus/Indigenous People Day– Church Office Closed

Tuesday, October 12

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

1:00 PM Pastors Pray in the Chancel

1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

3:30 PM Compass Orientation (Parish Hall)

4:45 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

5:00 PM Congregational Fellowship (2nd Floor Classroom)

5:00 PM Congregational Care (Pastor's Study)

5:30 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)

6:00 PM Worship, Music, & Arts (2rd Floor Classroom)

7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Offsite)

Wednesday, October 13

1:00 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)

4:45 PM Chorister's (Music Room)

4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)

5:30 PM Board of Deacons (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, October 14

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)

6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study

7:30 PM Choir (Parish Hall)

Friday, October 15

6:30 PM DMA Dinner (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM Program -Steadfast Neighbor by Dr. Todd Knox

Saturday, October 16

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, October 17

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Adult Ed (Second Floor Classroom)

11:15 AM Confirmation (Tower Classroom)

2:00 PM Fellowship at Sheedy Shores WineGarden

5:00 PM Senior High Dinner and Youth Group

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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www.wpcspi.org

WESTMINSTER STAFF

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

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

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

Ella Kurmann
Nursery Worker

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
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

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