



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Stewardship Dedication Sunday  
24 October 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

<b>Ministry Moment</b>	2022 Stewardship Dedication	Pete VanGieson
<b>Voluntary</b>	If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee	J. S. Bach
<b>*Ringing of the Bell</b>	<i>The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.</i>	
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		
Leader:	The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Let our joy be complete!</b>	
Leader:	Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Love one another!</b>	
Leader:	Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:	
<b>People:</b>	<b>No longer servants but friends!</b>	
Leader:	Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Rejoicing in the friendship of God.</b>	
<b>*Hymn 36</b>	For the Fruit of All Creation	<i>Ar hyd y nos</i>
<b>*Prayer of Confession</b>	Merciful God, we are gathered today as one body, because you chose to call us your friends. We come from all walks of life, each lacking reverence and humility. We confess we are uncomfortable when others cry out and discourage them from seeking you. Forgive us for settling for religious cliques rather than seeing your face. Hear now our silent prayers of confession	
<b>*Sung Response</b>	Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us	Hymnal, Back Cover
<b>*Declaration of Pardon</b>		
Leader:	Friends, believe the good news.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.</b>	
Leader:	The peace of Christ be with you.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>	
<b>All:</b>	<b>Thanks be to God. Amen</b>	
<b>*Response of Praise</b>	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-5 go to Sunday School class following the Congregational Response.*

### First Scripture Reading

Job 42:1-6

Pew Bible, OT pages 488

### Second Scripture Reading

Mark 10:46-52

Pew Bible, NT page 47

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

### Sermon

Persisting in Humility

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Job 42:3*

### Anthem

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Raymond Brown

The text for the anthem is found at 418 in the hymnal.

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.  
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life...  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives. 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 and Prayer of Dedication

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

### Offertory

#### Feed My Lambs

John Angotti

In the whispers of the wind I hear your voice  
gently calling me to love and giving me the choice  
to choose between a life unknown where you will lead the way  
or follow earthly trends that will surely pass away.  
Lord, you know I love you, so what is your plan?  
In the silence of the music I hear your command:  
Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, bring the weary home to me.  
Be the eyes for the blind to see the truth.  
Spread the word: I am here. Bring good news to those who fear.  
I have loved you since the world began.  
Be my shepherds; feed my lambs.  
Called to be Christ to all the earth,  
Baptized in the Spirit, a new birth,  
We come broken like the bread. Servants until the end.  
The challenge is great but in Christ we find our strength!

### \*Offertory Response

#### Doxology

Hymnal, 606

### \*Litany of Thanksgiving and Dedication

*2022 pledges are presented in the baptismal font brass bowl  
as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community.*

Leader: Gracious God, as friends of Christ and stewards of your mysteries, let us give  
generously and with humility.

People: **Accept our 2022 pledges which we present on this Stewardship Dedication  
Sunday.**

Leader: Thank you for the joy of friendship and the privilege of belonging to this faith  
community.

People: **Thank you for the gift of children and for the privilege of our baptismal vows  
which provide a steadfast foundation.**

Leader: Thank you for the richness of our journey together

People: **and for the call to do the work of ministry at Westminster,  
a beacon within our community.**

Leader: Help us remember that our church family is made resilient when we grow in  
stewardship

People: **and our individual lives are enriched when we reach beyond ourselves.**

Leader: Holy and loving God, may each offering of gratitude open the doors of  
Westminster to become a way to serve friends beyond our faith community

**People:** and a way to welcome friends into the joy of the life we share in Christ. Amen.

**\*Hymn 716** God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*Beach Spring*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Voluntary** If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

J. S. Bach

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER**

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Dr. Glen Pittman from his family.
- **Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeters:** Camille and Tom Massey
- **Ushers:** Julie Pittman (Head Usher), Jessica Borland, Erin Ekstedt, Rachael Hickman, Bob Leffler, Mary Peura, Mike Sundquist, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady
- **Music:** Adam Miller, tenor, 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's story: Creation *Caregivers: Chelsea Ekstedt, 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** (Third Floor Chapel) Story: God Made Sarah Laugh  
*Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5** (Third Floor Classroom) Story: God Made Sarah Laugh  
*Teachers: Meridith Bryans (Lead), Karen Sherrick*
- **11:00 a.m. Westminster Art Exhibit** (Parish Hall) Today's insert includes a list of Westminster artists and the medium they are sharing in today's exhibit.
- **11:00 a.m. Spud Bake Pickup** (West Narthex) Members are invited to buy a Spud for \$5.00 and help our youth share God's love! Spuds can be picked up following worship to bring it home or enjoy it in Parish Hall while visiting the Westminster Art Exhibit.
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Ministry** (West Narthex) Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon Adult Ed Forum** (Second Floor Classroom) What is the Christian Imagination? What does it mean to approach creativity from a Christian perspective? This two-week course will examine that question through the works of nineteenth- and twentieth century voices, culminating with an overview of C.S. Lewis, the subject of the 2021 Bay Weekend. Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about us is located on our website [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, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Choi.



**THE ANNUAL SPUD BAKE TODAY!** Youth are preparing loaded baked and sweet 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 picked up following worship to bring it home or enjoy it in Parish Hall while visiting the Westminster Art Exhibit.

**WESTMINSTER ARTISTS EXHIBIT TODAY!** 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 following the service with a time for the artists to speak about their work and time to enjoy a spud.



## ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: What Is the Christian Imagination? - October 24 and November 7

Today the Adult Education Forum introduces a two-week course entitled "What is Christian Imagination?" taught by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Department of Language and Literature, Lee University. Join Katie as we explore what it means to approach creativity from a Christian perspective? We will examine this question through the works of a few nineteenth- and twentieth century voices, culminating with an overview of C.S. Lewis, the subject of Bay Weekend 2021.

### 2021 BAY WEEKEND – Saturday and Sunday, November 13-14, 2021

We welcome Dr. Chad Schrock as our 2021 Bay Weekend speaker. Dr. Schrock is Associate Professor of English at Lee University in Cleveland, TN and a colleague of Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold. Chad will open our eyes to Christian imagination in his presentation: "Knowing God in Paradise: C.S. Lewis' *Perelandra*." The congregation is invited to a Welcome Reception on Saturday, November 13, 5:30 -8:30 p.m. at the Sherrick Home. On Sunday, November 14 Dr. Schrock will provide the communion meditation during worship and present from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. An English dinner will be served following his presentation. Sign up on-line.

**COMPASS FOR KIDS** will begin Tuesday, October 26 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. This weekly tutoring after-school program also offers a life skills class and snacks for the children.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet **Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Meg Kontio, 3508 Briana Dr. (62711). Please RSVP to Meg at 217-670-2052.

**PW LUNCHEON** is **Friday, November 5 at 12 noon** in Parish Hall. Please R.S.V.P. on our website or by calling Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415.

### 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 (11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m.) for a festive gathering. Highlights include: **A delicious lunch** will be served. **Pumpkin Crafts, storytelling 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.



### TODAY WE CELEBRATE STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY! 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION – I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS

Linda and I moved from Bloomington-Normal to Springfield in 1964. Linda attended Park Methodist Church and I attended Second Presbyterian. We joined Westminster Presbyterian Church 55 years ago in 1966. The Rev. Dr. Edward Ziegler was Pastor and Head of Staff. He and his wife lived in the parsonage behind the church facing Edwards St. The Rev. James Barge was the associate pastor, and the choir director was John Thompson. Our family consists of three adult children, who were baptized here. Two of the three were married in this beautiful church.

I sang in the choir for over ten years under the direction of David Mitchell. On May 1, 1986, Dale Rogers became the new Director of Music & the Arts. He has on occasion invited former members to sing with our outstanding choir. I have had the privilege of serving as Deacon in the class of 1990 and as Elder on Session in the class of 1994.

There have been many changes throughout the years. A decision was made after much thought, by vote of the congregation to stay in our present location verses moving to the Westside of Springfield. This helped result in building out the church, a new Parish Hall and kitchen, remodeled classrooms, staff offices, and an elevator was installed. Westminster has had a pre-school for over 50 years. A Memorial Garden was constructed. In 2015, the highly successful Building a Legacy of Faith Campaign was introduced to increase mission and community outreach by growing Westminster's Endowment Fund. The Steadfast Neighbor site and landscaping have now been completed. We have met our friends and neighbors and have become instrumental in helping them make improvements to their homes and yards through the weeklong Steadfast Neighbor Service Week. We now have a little pantry located at Graham Elementary. Westminster prepares a meal for Helping Hands each month, works with Habitat for Humanity, and supports Contact Ministries. Our youth have fundraisers to purchase items for the annual Contact Ministries Christmas distribution each year.

All of these things and more would not occur without financial support from our members and friends who pledge annually. We ask all of you, our friends, to prayerfully complete your 2022 pledge card and return it to the church this Sunday, October 24. Together we can create and continue to grow and provide financial support for the many things we do now and will be able to accomplish in the future. - **Bill Schlosser**

As of **Friday, October 22**, we received **131** pledges for a total of **\$554,271**. This is **70%** toward our dollar amount goal. Stewardship brochures and pledge cards are located in the pew pockets.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, October 25

9:30 AM King's Board Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)  
6:00 PM Landscape Guild (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Tuesday, October 26

10:30 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:30 PM Compass for Kids (Parish Hall)  
4:30 PM Support & Endowment (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:45 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)  
5:30 PM Hunger Action Team (Pastor's Study)  
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Offsite)

### Wednesday, October 27

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel  
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)  
11:30 AM Staff Luncheon (Offsite)  
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)  
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:45 PM Chorister's (Music Room)  
5:30 PM Session (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Thursday, October 28

4:00 PM COA Planning Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study  
7:30 PM Choir (Parish Hall)

### Friday, October 29

6:30 PM AGO Gathering (Parish Hall)  
6:00 PM Read the Bible in a Year Celebration  
(Finley's Tap)

### Saturday, October 30

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

### Sunday, October 31

10:00 AM Worship Service  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Harvest Fest & Luncheon (Parish Hall)  
5:00 PM Senior High Dinner and Youth Group

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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## 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*

**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*