

Mission and Community Service 2021




Westminster Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Illinois

Mission and **Community Service** are inextricably intertwined in the Christian life. Our calling as followers of Christ is to share the Gospel through both word and deed, loving our neighbors after the example of Jesus.

Every person called by Christ is called to mission and service. It is our hope that together all of us will find and engage the particular ideas, passions, and causes God has placed on each of our hearts, joining with one another to multiply our efforts and encourage each other.

The church is a people told to go, to meet and know our neighbors and care for them, across the whole world that surrounds us, from the local community to the furthest reaches of the earth. It is our hope that we will engage, learn, and listen, that we might continually grow in our understanding of the cares and needs of persons both nearby and far away, and meet them in love, humility, and service.

This booklet describes the mission and community service efforts which are recent or ongoing at WPC. You are invited to peruse it, find things that interest and excite you, roll up your sleeves, and get involved. And  when you feel the stirring of the Holy Spirit at work, showing you something new, not yet found in these pages, you are invited to imagine, to dream, and to offer up your own ideas for how we, jointly, as the body of Christ, can live out our mission of service in our Lord's name. Come, and be a part of this church's mission to the world!

Mission and Community Service Committee 2021:

Mary Caroline Mitchell (Chairperson), Bob Leffler (Vice Chairperson), Jessica Borland, Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Rachael Hickman, Nancy Huston, Richard Leary, Samantha Magalis, Lynn McMenamain, Mary Peura, Krista Steller, Peter VanGieson, Jess Weitzel.

Staff Liaison: Rev. Christian K. Choi **Head of Staff:** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) MISSION



Westminster supports numerous denominational mission projects and the worldwide ministry of the Presbyterian Church through PC(USA) Mission Giving and Per Capita contributions. These funds sustain work at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, and come from WPC's Operating Fund and individual per capita giving.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) MISSION GIVING:		\$ 74,687
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$ 9,770
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance		\$ 5,000
Pentecost Offering		\$ 989
Peace & Global Witness Offering		\$ 1,365
Christmas Joy Offering		\$ 3,374
Per Capita		\$ 37,189
General Assembly		\$ 7,225
Synod of Lincoln Trails		\$ 850
Presbytery		\$ 8,925



One Great Hour of Sharing

This Lenten, ecumenical offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Every year brings natural disasters to communities both near and far, in multiple regions of the United States and other nations. Westminster members have responded in support of Haiti relief efforts.



Pentecost Offering

This denomination-wide special offering, collected in June, “helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children,” locally and around the world.



Peace and Global Witness Offering

This fall denomination-wide special offering supports worldwide peacemaking work of the PC(USA) in areas of deep conflict and embrace our God’s mission of reconciliation.



Christmas Joy Offering

This special offering brings assistance to church workers in times of need and provides leadership development and education at PC(USA)-related racial/ethnic colleges and schools.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION

Presbyterian Women directly support and participate in efforts and organizations and other projects including clean water and domestic disaster relief.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION GIVING	\$ 6,835
Blankets Plus	\$ 1,755
Other Mission Programs	\$ 2,080
World Mission	\$ 3,000



Blankets+

Presbyterian Women hold an annual fundraiser to support the Church World Service Blankets program, which provides needed emergency supplies and home necessities to people worldwide in times of need, particularly moments of emergency and disaster.



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS MISSION

WPC pursues to act out God's love, justice and mercy by working towards eradicating systemic poverty; one of three foci of being a Matthew 25 congregation of PC(USA).

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS MISSION GIVING		\$ 20,923
Contact Ministries		\$ 12,176
Helping Hands		\$ 8,747

Contact Ministries



WPC was one of the founders of Contact Ministries, whose mission is “to daily serve the greater Springfield community by providing food, shelter, clothing, financial assistance referrals, and life skills education and training through Christ’s love & compassion,” with a broad array of services, including shelter for homeless women & children. WPC has two Board members, and takes part in many individual projects as described elsewhere. The PW Elizabeth Circle also typically volunteers monthly at their housing center.

Helping Hands



Helping Hands assists people with shelter and financial management assistance. WPC provides \$4,000 annually, and members provide the shelter dinner monthly. In 2021, Westminster supplied the agency with an additional grant for additional needs.



HUNGER ACTION MISSION

Westminster is a certified Hunger Action Congregation, with many hunger-related ministries and now taking on a new level of commitment to fighting hunger by forming a member task force devoted specifically to looking at ways our church can grow its work against this problem in our community and all around the world.

Hunger Action Team 2021:

Linda Chronister, Virginia Dolan, Kathy Germeraad, Pat Hymans, Mary King, Becky Martin, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Tom Owen, Marilyn Rigney, Sue Sawers, Dale Smith, Krista Steller, and Jeanne VanGieson

Staff Liaison: Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

HUNGER ACTION MISSION GIVING	\$16,961
Central Illinois Foodbank	\$ 5,000
CROP Walk	\$ 7,793
St. John's Breadline & Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 2,793
Little Panty	\$ 8,104
Café Moxo Meals for Springfield Needs	\$ 1,375



Central IL Foodbank

The Central Illinois Foodbank is the central source of food for numerous food pantries in the region. Westminster supports this organization's mission through Give-a-Meal-a-Month, holding an ongoing collection for particular food items.



CROP Hunger Walk

The Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk is an annual fundraiser to fight world hunger.



St. John's Breadline

Springfield's St. John's Breadline provides daily, hot, nutritious meals to anyone in need, giving people the opportunity to spend their time seeking jobs and education instead of food.

Souper Bowl of Caring



A thought and work of small Presbyterian youth group of sharing bowl of soup during Super Bowl in Columbia, SC launched this work over 30 years ago. WPC youth members joins this effort and annually raise funds on Super Bowl Sunday, sending every dollar collected to local food pantries.

Little Pantry



WPC built and maintains a micropantry at Graham Elementary School, offering food and basic supplies according to a “Take what you need; leave what you can” model. The pantry has sparked participation from the rest of the neighborhood and has seen heavy use. Westminster members visit the pantry everyday to keep it clean and well-stocked. The church maintains a supply of food and reimburses purchases for the pantry, on top of many independent contributions from WPC & community members.

Meals on Wheels



WPC takes on two weeks of deliveries each summer in service of Meals on Wheels, a Senior Services of Central Illinois program that supports independent living by delivering food to seniors with difficulty preparing their own meals.



Westminster Day Laborers

Members of the church annually donate land, seed, and time to planting and harvesting sweet corn used to supply local food pantries with much-needed fresh vegetables. We are grateful for Grigsby Farms for their partnership in this ministry.

Café Moxo Meals for Springfield Needs



Hunger Action Team and Youth Group partnered with Café Moxo to distribute food in front of the restaurant to give out free sandwiches to people who were in need of food during the pandemic.



NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY MISSION

Westminster believes it is in the world for ministry, and it begins at where we are called: at the corner of Walnut & Edwards and central Illinois.

Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach Task Force 2021:

Todd Knox, Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Brad Milliman, Jess Weitzel

Staff Liaison: Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Rev. Christian Choi, Dale Rogers, Gary Warnick

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY MISSION GIVING	\$14,189
Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Mission Component:	\$ 36,289
Matching Grants	\$ 14,994
Service Week	\$ 13,191
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$ 400
Motherland Gardens	\$1,000
Creative Reuse Market	\$ 1,500
Bundles of Joy	\$ 1,000
Wouldn't It Be Lovely	\$ 7,000



Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor

Neighborhood Service Week – 72 members of the Westminster family, including youth and adults, spent a week in the summer tackling home and property improvement projects on behalf of neighbors of the church, taking on numerous painting, fence-building, bricklaying, landscaping, power washing, and other assignments by request of the homeowners.

Matching Grants – WPC also offered nearby residents the opportunity to request grants to help them pay for other needed repairs and improvements to their homes.

Funded by the Support & Endowment Fund, we are committing \$450,000 (years: 2020 - 2030) to serve WPC's neighborhood.



Adopt-a-Street

Westminster members head out on a quarterly basis to clean up streets in the church neighborhood.



Children of Abraham

WPC joins with faith groups across ethnic & religious boundaries, bringing children and youth together to build mutual understanding and respect.



Faith Coalition for the Common Good

This faith-based group links community institutions and people to build power and change systems for fairness, equity and participatory decision-making.



Motherland Gardens

This community project looks to address the social-economic equity in low-income region of Springfield by working towards creating a sustainable access to fresh produce,



Creative Reuse Market

Creative Reuse Marketplace is a community donation center & marketplace focused on community development through job training, education & creative reuse.



Bundles of Joy

Bundle of Joy aims to serve the under-served families with newborns by providing a 'bundle' consisting of clothing, a blanket, books, and a diaper bag.



Wooden It Be Lovely

Wooden It Be Lovely offers hope and employment to women healing from lives of poverty, addiction, and abuse by providing transitional employment, mentoring, recovery tools, education, community networking, and a safe community.

Historic West Side Neighborhood Association

Westminster Presbyterian Church is a member of this association, which since the 1970s has been involved in city planning, advocacy, and development of the residential character of the neighborhood in which our church sits.





SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION MISSION

One of Westminster’s common purpose is “to teach children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church” (Mission Statement).

SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION MISSION GIVING		\$ 35,700
Blackburn College Chaplaincy		\$ 1,000
COMPASS		\$ 5,000
Kemmerer Village		\$ 3,000
Frontiers International		\$ 1,500
Scholarships		\$ 4,466
	Camp Barnabas- camp scholarship	\$ 466
	Illinois College-Liberia Student Scholarship	\$ 3,000
	Mervice Abung	\$ 1,000
The Outlet		\$ 2,500
YMCA Matthew Project		\$ 1,000
Word Up of Central Illinois		\$ 2,700
Youth Mission Trip		\$ 14,534



Blackburn College Chaplaincy

WPC provided \$1,000 from the Support & Endowment Fund annually to support the chaplaincy at Blackburn College, a Presbyterian school in Carlinville, IL.



Compass for Kids

Westminster hosts this weekly after-school program of homework help, life skills, and hot meals for at-risk children from Graham Elementary, partnering with Central Baptist and providing numerous volunteers. Participating children are also supplied with nutritious food for each weekend. Compass has continued in adapted form **during the pandemic, meeting children's academic, social, and nutritional needs** despite the inability to gather in person.



Kemmerer Village

Kemmerer Village is a Presbyterian Child Care Agency which helps children and youth facing stress and turmoil in their lives to attain skills and dignity and become well-adjusted members of family and society. Several members are directly involved with this ministry. We also collect box tops to contribute to their educational programming.



Frontiers International Inc.

Frontiers was formed to provide men and women of various backgrounds an opportunity to offer community leadership and community service, particularly in the African-American communities.



Scholarships

WPC provides scholarships annually, usually for minority students or those in need, from endowment funds designated for this purpose. We have supported three individuals through this funds.



The Outlet

The Outlet works with young male ages 8—22 to help develop the capacity and skill sets to make responsible life-decisions, acquire and maintain spiritual and ethical values, explore their gifts, talents, and recognize their dreams and aspirations through male role-models/tutors.



YMCA / Matthew Project

The YMCA annually hosts summer programming for the Matthew Project, a Springfield agency serving homeless children.

Youth Mission Trip

Westminster Youth Group's summer mission theme was the Civil Rights Movement and was hosted at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, AR. Youth created readily usable care kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, worked on their mission house, barn, and created a repurpose garden. We also partnered with Arkansas Food Bank and Women & Children First Shelter in Little Rock, AR.



Ready 4 Success

WPC members donated approximately 195 backpacks in July and August to this annual back-to-school giveaway of Contact Ministries.



Word Up of Central Illinois

Word Up aims to provide language learning opportunities to the children ages 1—4 by giving books to young families through various partnerships in Springfield area.



Westminster Cooperative Preschool

Westminster Coop Preschool is celebrating 50 years, offering a NAYC accredited, safe, small preschool to our community. WPC hosts and shares many of its resources with the preschool, offers funding to assist families who need help with tuition at our educational mission partner to our community.

EARTH CARE MISSION



WPC is an Earth Care Congregation, committed to caring for God's earth in worship, education, facilities, and outreach, promoting environmental stewardship in property decisions, administrative practices, and teaching.

Earth Care Team 2021:

Peter Kieffer (Chair), Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Becky McDonald, Lynn McMenemy, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller



GENERAL AID MISSION

Westminster explored and supported the following mission opportunities in 2021 to live out Micah 6:2— “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

GENERAL AID MISSION GIVING	\$ 30,282
Worship Mission (Online Outreach)	\$ 11,561
HEAL Fund	\$ 11,121
Heifer Project	\$ 125
Adopt A Family	\$ 475
Marion Medical Mission-wells in Africa	\$ 4,500
Breath of India	\$ 2,500



Worship Mission

The need for outreach to people unable to worship in person grew tremendously with the onset of worldwide pandemic. WPC’s Support & Endowment Fund has been invested in 2021 in building the equipment infrastructure to support online streaming of worship services and zoom meetings.



H.E.A.L. Fund

Helpful Emergency Assistance for Living funds are shared by the congregation and distributed at the discretion of the pastors to individuals and Contact Ministries for emergency needs.



Heifer Project

WPC children support Heifer International with Sunday morning offerings. This goes toward purchasing animals with which people around the world can gain sustainable income and independence.



Adopt-a-Family

This ministry works with Contact Ministries to provide 200+ Christmas gifts for area families living in their shelter and working to transition from homelessness.



Fair Trade

Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate are sold monthly in the West Narthex after services, supporting economically just, environmentally sound products, and small, independent producers.

Fair Trade Ministry Team 2021: Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson



Christmas Distribution

Our Parish Hall hosts the Contact Ministries annual Christmas Distribution, in which over 400 area families are provided with numerous household needs, Christmas gifts, and holiday food.



Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission

This group of knitting enthusiasts gathers weekly at the church to share fellowship and knit numerous items to be donated to newborns, people served by the youth mission, and others. They also sponsor a Mitten Tree during Advent for donations to the community.



Spring Coat Drive

Coats are collected during Lent for Contact Ministries, and passed on to people in need. 78 Coats were collected and given in 2021.



Illinois Presbyterian Home

The Illinois Presbyterian Home Fair Hills Residence seeks to provide seniors with quality care and affordable living. Presbyterian Women volunteer regularly, and WPC members serve on the Board of Directors.



Breath for India Project

Breath for India Project an interfaith initiative of the Indian and Hindu Community in Springfield and the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, to provide immediate assistance to hospitals in India who are battling the overwhelming COVID infection rates .



Marion Medical Mission

Merion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with the extreme poor in Africa by providing sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water.

**2021 Total Mission Giving:
\$234,677**

OPERATING FUND & SPECIAL OFFERINGS	
Presbyterian Mission:	
General Assembly	\$ 7,225
Synod of Lincoln Trails	\$ 850
Presbytery	\$ 8,925
Per Capita	\$ 37,189
OGHS	\$ 9,770
Pentecost	\$ 989
Peace & Global Witness	\$ 1,365
Christmas JOY	\$ 3,374
Adopt A Family	\$ 475
Contact Ministries	\$ 8,500
CROP Walk	\$ 7,793
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$ 900
HEAL Fund	\$ 11,121
Heifer Project	\$ 125
Helping Hands Shelter	\$ 4,747
Breadline Sunday	\$ 1,199
Souper Bowl	\$ 1,594
Youth Gifts to Contact Ministries'	
Christmas	\$ 1,426
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 14,534
Total Operating Fund & Special Offerings	\$ 122,101

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	
Blankets Plus	\$ 1,755
Other Mission Programs	\$ 2,080
World Mission	\$ 3,000
Total Presbyterian Women Mission	\$ 6,835

SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT FUND	
Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Mission	
Matching Grants	\$14,994
Service Week & Little Pantry	\$21,295
Blackburn College Chaplaincy	\$1,000
Breath for India Project	\$2,500
Café Moxo-meals for Springfield need	\$1,375
Camp Barnabas-camp scholarship	\$466
Central Illinois Foodbank	\$5,000
COMPASS	\$5,000
Contact Ministries	\$2,250
Creative Reuse Marketplace	\$1,500
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$400
Frontiers International	\$1,500
Havey Foundation-Bundles of Joy	\$1,000
Helping Hands	\$4,000
Illinois College-Liberia Student Scholarship	\$1,000
Illinois Presbyterian Home-volunteers	\$1,200
Kemmerer Village	\$3,000
Marion Medical Mission-wells in Africa	\$4,500
Motherland Gardens-	\$1,000
The Outlet	\$2,500
PC(USA) Haiti Relief	\$5,000
PW:	
Illinois College-Liberian student scholarship	\$2,000
Scholarship-Mervice Abung	\$1,000
Wooden It Be Lovely-	\$7,000
Word Up of Central Illinois-	\$2,700
Worship Mission (Online Outreach)	\$11,561
YMCA Matthew Project	\$1,000
Total Support & Endowment Mission	\$105,741

Let The Doors Of This Church Be a Way to Service



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