



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
23 July 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Meditation

Jules Massenet

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 139

Leader:

God searches us and knows us.

People:

**God knows when we sit down and when we stand up
and is acquainted with all our ways.**

Leader:

Even before a word is on our tongue,
God knows it completely.

People:

**God is behind us and in front of us,
and God's hand is upon us.**

Leader:

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us.
It is so high that we cannot attain it.

People:

Let us worship God with reverence and joy.

***Processional Hymn 12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

***Prayer of Confession**

**O God, you have spoken to men and women of old
through dreams and visions, yet we confess that too often
we rely on reason and tradition alone. Open our eyes to
the possibilities that abound during the in-between places
of struggle and transition. Give us the courage to live with
the uncertainties of life and renew our sense of reverence
in your presence. 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

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

*Children in grades Pre-K-3 will go to Summer Sunday School
class following the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 28:10-19a

Pew Bible, OT page 25

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:24-30

Pew Bible, NT page 14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

In-Between Places

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*The text: "Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely
the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it.'" Genesis
28:16*

Solo Let it Be

Lennon/McCartney

When I find myself in times of trouble Mother Mary comes to me speaking words of wisdom, let it be. And in my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be. Let it be, let it be let it be, let it be, whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the broken-hearted people living in the world agree, there will be an answer, let it be. For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see. There will be an answer, let it be. Let it be, let it be let it be, let it be, whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the night is cloudy, there is still a light that shines on me. Shine on until tomorrow, let it be. I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me. Speaking words of wisdom, let it be. Let it be, let it be let it be, let it be, whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

*Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and death we belong to God. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, 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

Solo: Surely the presence of the Lord 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 the Lord 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

Sleepers, Wake! For Night is Fleeting

J. S. Bach

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

God of Grace and God of Glory, accept these gifts given in gratitude for the wisdom and courage you grant us throughout our lives. You know us through and through and love us. Renew within us a sense of reverence for you and your ways which are too wonderful for us. Amen.

*Hymn 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

*Charge and Benediction

*Voluntary

Rondo in G

John Bull

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

In the Reformed Tradition, the Exchange of Peace follows the Declaration of Pardon and is a response to God's forgiveness. This exchange of signs and words of unity and of Christ's peace is an ancient greeting. This is a time when we extend to one another what we ourselves have received from God in Christ. You may shake hands and say "The peace of Christ be with you" or simply "Peace be with you," the greeting of Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. By exchanging the Peace of Christ to one another, we witness to God's reconciling love.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Georgina Hudspeth and Kathy Moore
- **Worship Leader:** Louisa Eldridge
- **Acolytes:** Abigail Eldridge and Maria Lafrenz
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Kristianna Eastvold, Kathy Kenyon, Camille Massey, Susan Shaw, Bruce Strom, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Julie James
- **Music:** Adam Miller, tenor, Lucy Yockey, bassoon, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Sam Simonson, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 – 11:15 a.m. Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's lesson: "Thank You, God" *Caregivers: Sally Godbey, Caroline Haynor*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 2** begin in worship with their families & go to Summer Sunday school (Third Floor Chapel) following the Congregational Response. Today's lesson: "Two Sons and Their Father" (Luke 15:11-32) *Teacher: Karen Sherrick*

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards, and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

The Library Committee has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on refugees, immigrant people and children in other lands, and back-to-school books from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout.
Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are 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, please speak to a pastor.

CONTACT MINISTRY BACKPACK COLLECTION - Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries through a backpack collection. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries and at a special vaccine event hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield in late August. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 13. As of Thursday, we have received 44 and last year, we collected 190 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, July 25 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. (The group did not meet in June.) New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

SALVATION ARMY CENTER MONTHLY MEAL – On Wednesday, July 26, bagged meals for the Cooling Center will be packed by siblings of Krista Steller. Please contact Krista to participate in packing meals next on Wednesday, August 23.

LITTLE PANTRY NEEDS MINISTRY PARTNERS - Thank you to the devoted ministry partners who regularly stock and clean Westminster's Little Pantry located at Graham Elementary School daily. Ministry Partners are needed to join the team of dedicated members. There are August dates available for stocking our pantry. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here or contact Jennie Alt for details.



REFUGEE MINISTRY PRESENTATION SUNDAY, JULY 30

Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel, co-chairs of the Refugee Subcommittee, will present a Ministry Moment during worship on Sunday, July 30 followed by an informational meeting at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come and learn about Westminster's vision to host a refugee family who will call Springfield their new home. Session approved the framework of this subcommittee's plan in May to work through Welcome Corps, a government program initiated this year, (www.welcomecorps.org). Desserts and refreshments will be provided at this informational meeting as we learn more about Welcome Corps, the anticipated timeline, additional resources needed, and next steps towards hosting a refugee family.

THE LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD and the **GREATER SPRINGFIELD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION** will present a program of music, dance, readings, and prayers at Westminster Presbyterian on Friday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m. This program is a satellite event leading up to the 130th anniversary gathering of the Parliament of World Religions, an organization started in Chicago in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exhibition. The Springfield program will include Native American Flute, readings and prayers in the Muslim tradition, Diane Dietz singing a solo from the Celtic Christian tradition, a Native American drum circle, Kurdish flute, the Westminster Choir singing Mendelssohn, dancers from the Table of Life Church, and a closing blessing from the Hebrew tradition. A reception will follow in Westminster's Parish Hall.

ADULT EDUCATION SUMMER FORUM SUNDAYS, AUGUST 6 & 13, 11:15 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

On Sunday, August 6, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present a forum on **BIDENOMICS**: This term describes the new economic policies that President Biden and his administration are employing. This is a sea change from the fully free market policies of the last several decades for both parties. The new policies are fashioned to account for the changed nature of the world and rise of China. The emphasis is on using the government to manage markets where necessary, such as controlling foreign trade when needed to protect our security.

On Sunday, August 13, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present a forum on **BIG DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA**: Looking at contemporary Chinese policies will give members a view of several paths forward into the future based on current China policies and a taste of some of the ramifications for us and the rest of the world related to China's policies. The reason for suggesting such a topic now is because Xi has recently taken major domestic and foreign policy steps while faced with evolving domestic problems including lower growth, excessive debt levels, and a declining labor force.

ANNUAL MISSION TRIP REUNION - On Sunday, August 6, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., participants of the 2023 Mission Trip will gather for a reunion and a potluck dinner at the Home of Christy and Carl Pound (100 Pinehurst Drive 62704). We look forward to sharing memories, photos, youth will share how their experience changed them.

NOMINATIONS WELCOME

THE 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2026)

ELDER (CLASS OF 2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2024)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2026)

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer, at ehuitt@yahoo.com or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete it by August 13, 2023. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

2023 Nominating Committee members: *Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Mary King, Michael Nenaber Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, Carolyn Swanson, and Julie Sundquist*

Name of Nominee _____

Recommended for (check choice)

Deacon Elder Nominating Strategic Planning

1. Qualities that would make this person a good church officer

2. Past experience/current interests and activities in the church

3. Helpful information: special skills, training, employment, community involvement, etc.

Your Name (optional) _____

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, July 24

Tuesday, July 25

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Budget Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)

Wednesday, July 26

- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 12:30 PM Reporter Folding (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Warming/Cooling Center Meal (Kitchen)
- 4:00 PM Property Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:15 PM Membership committee (Pastor's Study)
- 6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, July 27

- 3:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conference Room)
- 5:00 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)

Friday, July 28

Saturday, July 29

Sunday, July 30

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre K – 2
- 11:15 AM WelcomeCorps Refugee Information Meeting
(Parish Hall)

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

Mary Ray
Interim Director for Youth

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**James Capler, Terry Gietl,
Bill Hibbert, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians