

HOMECOMING SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

September 10, 2023

"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you." Exodus 12:14a

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Forlana

Gerald Finzi

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Psalm 92:1-2, 4

Leader:

It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord, to sing praises to you, O God Most High,

People:

to declare your steadfast love in the morning

and your faithfulness by night.

Leader:

For you, O Lord, have made us glad; at the work of your hands we sing for joy.

People:

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the journey and praise the Lord.

*Hymn 401

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we gather in this place joyous that we belong to one another in this community of faith and grateful for the gift of memory which holds us together. O Holy One, we name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet, there are times when we forget and fail to recognize you in the dailyness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom. Forgive us and 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 Educational Leadership Commissioning

Congregational Response God welcomes all, strangers and friends

God's love is strong and it never ends.

Children in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 will go to Sunday school

class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Exodus 12:1-14

Pew Bible, OT page 58

Second Scripture Reading Romans 13:9-14

Pew Bible, NT page 162

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation In Remembrance

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you."

Exodus 12:14a

Anthem Jubilate Deo

Charles Villiers Stanford

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,

and into his courts with praise.

Psalm 100

The Presentation of Our Gifts At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass

the Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew.

Offertory God Gave Us Music

Dale Wood

*Offertory Response Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you. Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

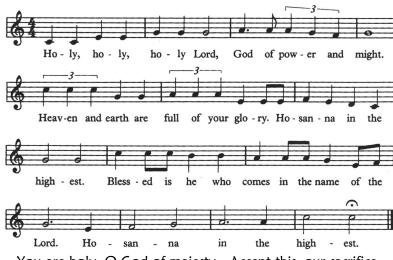
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and

praise, Creator God. ...Therefore, we lift our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and

place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:



Leader:

You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.... Hear now the prayer

Christ taught us to pray, saying

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Music at Communion In Remembrance

Burvl Red

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine, In remembrance of me pray for the time when God's own will is done. Take, eat and be comforted; drink and remember too, that this is my body and precious blood shed for you. In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me feed the poor. In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbor in, let them in. In remembrance of me search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love. In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart, look for God. Do this in remembrance of me.

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ. Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

*Prayer after Communion

Holy and loving God, in remembrance of you we eat this bread and drink from this cup. In remembrance of you we heal the sick and feed the poor. In remembrance of you we search for truth and look for you within our hearts. We do this in remembrance of you. Amen.

*Hymn 515

I Come with Joy

Dove of Peace

*Charge and Benediction

Closing Response

Forth In Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

*Voluntary Toccata David Hegarty

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

Chancel Flowers are given in memory of Gerry Hale by her loving family.

• Sunday Liturgist: Rev. Christian K. Choi Worship Leader: Will Hovey

• Acolytes: Lucy Bassett, Lily Swanson Greeter: Sue Sawers

- Bible and Cross Carriers: Abigail Eldridge, James Maeda
 Safety Team: Todd Knox
- Ushers: George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- Today's Communion Bread is whole wheat honey cinnamon bread and was lovingly baked by Mary Leffler.
- Communion Prep: Ann Collins, Bill Deemer, Priscilla & Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Mary Ray, Krista Steller
- Elders Serving Communion: Jim Kontio (Team Leader), Will Hovey, Gregg Humphrey, Becky Huston, Jay Kennerly, Dave Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Pat McNutt, Michael Morthland, Karen Sherrick, Brad Steller, Eleanor VanDeventer
- Home Communion Teams: Becky Huston and Sara Eldridge,. Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer, Dee Dee Duff and Bruce Strom, Mary Ray and Val Leonatti
- Music: Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist,

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. Nursery Guild members will participate in Mandatory Reporting Training in Parish Hall. The training will be led by Meleah Berkowitz.
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Parent and Youth Meeting in the Sanctuary to meet one another, the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2023-2024 schedule and expectations. Led by Dr. Kieffer and Mary Ray
- 9:30 a.m. 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story. This week: "Disciples Follow Jesus". Caregivers: Millie McNutt, Maria Lafrenz
- 10:00 11:00 a.m. Children Pre-K Grade 5 will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Making Things Right" Matthew 18:15-20 *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*.
- 11:15 a.m. Homecoming Sunday Reception (Parish Hall) As we begin the year together, a brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship, ministry displays, children's activities and a slide presentation looking back on the 2022-2023 program year.
- 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Fellowship and Dinner (Parish Hall) Dinner: Mary Ray and Bill Deemer. Ministry Partners: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray

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, earing 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.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONING

We are grateful for the following members who have agreed to serve as ministry partners on the education leadership team for 2023-2024.

NURSERY AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN (BIRTH – AGE 4)

Curriculum: Frolic Sunday School is a play-based curriculum that helps young children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful, memorable ways. Nursery Coordinators: Millie McNutt, Erin Winn, Nursery worker: Maria Lafrenz Nursery Guild: Linda Caupert, DeeDee Duffy, Sara Eldridge, Sally Godbey, Priscilla Kluge, Judy Knox, Meg Kontio, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, John McNutt, Leigh Milward, Sue Scaife, and Julie Sundquist.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (KINDERGARTEN- GRADE 5)

Curriculum: Feasting on the Word is a lectionary-based, multi-aged curriculum. This resource is designed to encourage cooperative learning across a wide age range. Children grades 3-5 will stay in worship Communion Sundays. Co-Directors for Children's Ministries: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Kate Morthland, Linda Purves, and Julie Robbs

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)

Theme: Created in God's Image Join us as we explore what it means to be created in the image of God and share in creative adventures with friends. . **Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz and Pat Roller**

CONFIRMATION PREP (GRADES 6-7)

Curriculum: We will study the Old Testament utilizing "Echo, The Story" curriculum. **Teachers: Tara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, Mary Ray**

CONFIRMATION (GRADES 8)

The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs. **Teachers**: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Peter and the Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Mary Ray

SENIOR HIGH (GRADES 9-12)

Curriculum: High School youth gather twice monthly for fellowship/games and dinner followed by Bible Study. **Mentors: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray**

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM (KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 12)

This inter-faith fellowship meets quarterly to build understanding and friendships Theme: "Serving our Community" **Team:** Dr. Kieffer, Dale Rogers, Mary Ray, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz,

LIBRARY GUILD

The Rev. Dr. Edward Ziegler Library and Elaine Ryder Children's Library provide a variety of resources. Guild members: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Peura, Kate Wilson

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

A list of the 2023-2024 schedule can be found at the Adult Ed table in Parish Hall. **Teachers**: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Kate and Michael Morthland, Dr. Debbie Parker, Mary Ray, Dale Rogers, Lyle VanDeventer, Dr. Roy Wehrle,

Family Ministry Committee: Mary Ray, Chair, Meridith Bryans, Jim Bryans, Will Hovey, Pat McNutt, Michael Morthland, Karen Sherrick, Brad Steller, Staff: Dr.Kieffer, Mary Ray, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz

Adult Education Committee: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Chair, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Jay Kennerly, Dr. Judy Knox, Lyle VanDeventer, Staff: Dr. Kieffer

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. 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. Our next New Member Classes will be Sundays, October 1 and 8.

2023-2024 WELCOME BROCHURES are in the pew pockets this morning. The Welcome Brochure includes inserts offering introductory information about the history and architecture of WPC and outlining the church's ministries and activities in Children and Youth, Adult Education, Worship and Music, Mission and Community Service and Congregational Life. It features photos of the Life of Christ stained-glass window located above the choir loft and contains a welcome from Dr. Kieffer. Look for the updated brochures on Homecoming Sunday in the pew pockets or at the Welcome Table.

H.E.A.L. FUND provides "helpful emergency assistance for living" to members of the Springfield community through Contact Ministries and within our church family as needed.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING This year, we are joining PC(USA)'s 40th annual commitment to peacemaking. Each September and 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.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE resumes on Monday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. The circle will study the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study <u>Sacred Encounters</u> by Olive Mahabir this year. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032) for details.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP - Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning **September 13**, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. beginning in the Children's Library. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes service opportunities, art projects, and interfaith gatherings. This year's theme is "Created in God's Image."

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes Thursday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m. The program will be "Westminster Refugee Ministry" presented by co-chairs Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel. Dr. Roy Wehrle will give the devotion and breakfast will be prepared by Nancy Canady. Men are encouraged to join this fellowship. RSVP to the church office or online.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, **September 16**, at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Rogers leads Church Mice.



THE NINTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR will be Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come learn about good health practices at interactive stations in Parish Hall following worship and receive your Flu Vaccine. Information on many topics will be presented, and several personal screenings and assessments will be available. We are grateful to Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter who is coordinating the fair

and the many other health professionals from our congregation and elsewhere for contributing their time and expertise. Forms for those who would like to receive a vaccine can be picked up today in the West Narthex and completed this week. Bring the completed form next Sunday.

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION begins next Sunday, September 17 Grades Six and Seven meet from 10:15 – 11: 00 a.m. during worship in the Conference Room and will study the Old Testament during these preparatory years and utilize "Echo, The Story" curriculum. Grades Eight meets Sunday mornings from 11:15 – 12 noon in the Conference Room following worship. The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs.

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on Tuesday, September 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. The circle will study the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir this year. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet Friday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Julia Turchetti and Joe Coppick, owners of Aviatori Coffee House, will be here to tell us about their history as pilots, aviation facts, and their coffee/brunch business. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.



WOODEN IT BE HELPFUL - The Mission and Community Service Committee unanimously voted to support Coleman Moore's vision of making furniture for Wooden It Be Lovely (WIBL)This ministry opportunity will begin Tuesday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m. and will meet weekly at Habitat for Humanity Restore. For additional information, contact Coleman Moore (csmoore56@yahoo.com or 414-617-0477). Coleman is looking for ministry partners of any skill level of woodworking to join in this mission. He has made a career of teaching novices to build beautiful pieces of furniture.

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY will resume **Thursday, September 21**, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will explore two Short-Term Disciple Studies: Invitation to Genesis and Invitation to John and view a video series: The Holy Land Revealed. Members and friends are welcome to sign up on Homecoming Sunday when the curriculum will be available for purchase.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION - On Sunday, September 24 we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1973, 1968, 1963, 1953 during worship. We are grateful for all the ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship to express our congratulations and appreciation.

REVEREND CHRISTIAN K. CHOI Celebrates Tenth Ordination Anniversary and will be recognized Sunday, September 24 during worship. Christian was ordained on September 28, 2013 by San Joaquin Presbytery at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA where he served from 2013-2018. Prior to his ordination, Rev. Choi served Lakeview Korean Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL from 2009 to 2013. Christian joined our staff in December of 2018 as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry and was called to become our Associate Pastor for Parish Life in October 2021.



2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith will be introduced on Sunday, September 24 and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 29. The stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 24 following the Session's approval of the 2024 budget.

Serving on the Committee: Susan and Scott Day, Jim Dolan, Becky Huston, Becky Martin, Jeanne Pittman, Bill Schlosser, Brad Steller, and Jay Kennerly, Chair.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN SPAIN On Sunday, September 24 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, Dr. Debbie Parker will share her recent experience hiking part of the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain. The Camino de Santiago is a network of ancient pilgrim pathways stretching across Europe and leading to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela.

Debbie Parker is a Senior Instructor at Western Governors University. She has a Ph.D. in English Studies from Illinois State University and lives in Springfield with her husband. They have two sons, Jacob (23), & Benjamin (20) who live in other cities.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, September 26 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss <u>The Woman They Could Not Silence</u> by Kate Moore. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on Wednesday, September 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield (3000 Stanton Street). This year's theme is "Serving our Community." Mark your calendar for the quarterly Wednesday Gatherings: September 27 at the Mosque, November 15 at Westminster, February 21 at Grace United Methodist, and May 8 at Springfield Art Association

THE REVEREND DR. LONNIE H. LEE will preach during worship and speak about his new book, *The Huguenot-Anglican Refuge in Virginia*, during the Adult Education Forum on Sunday, October 1, at 11:15 am in Parish Hall. Hardback copies of the book may be purchased for \$60 and signed by Dr. Lee at the end of his presentation. Anyone who is unable to attend on October 1 and would like a copy of the book can place an order through the WPC church office.

ANNUAL CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK is World Communion Sunday, October 1. Join the Springfield community addressing hunger in our world and community. The walk begins at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh) at 1:00 p.m. Krista Steller is an event coordinator, with Becky Martin organizing the Westminster walkers.

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE EIGHTH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

PROGRAM:

WESTMINSTER'S REFUGEE MINISTRY

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad.

Sign up on 9/10 Homecoming Sunday, 9/17, 9/24 in the West Narthex or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 11

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)

2:00 PMElizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, September 12

12;00 pm Knitter's Lunch (2nd Floor Classroom) 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

3:00 PM Compass for Kids

Wednesday, September 13

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

4:00 PM Bridges (Library)

4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support

(Conference Room)

5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, September 14

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
12:00 PM PEO BF Meeting (Parish Hall)
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Pres Home
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 15

5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall) 6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 17

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep Grade 6-7
(Conference Room)

10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K to Gr 5 (Chapel)
11:00 AM Biennial Health Fair (Parish Hall)

11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)

11:15 AM Confirmation Grade 8 (Conference Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church 533 S. Walnut Street

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Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465

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

Katie Moore

Director for Children's Music

Mary Ray

Interim Director for Youth

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz

Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

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

Garv Warnick

Building and Property Manager

Peter Bysko, James Capler, Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,

Part-time Custodians