

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Second Sunday of Easter  
7 April 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment      Trivia Night

Voluntary      O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing      Jean François Dandrieu

\*Ringing of the Bell      *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

\*Call to Worship      Psalm 133:1-3; John 20:21-22

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: How good and pleasant it is  
when we live together in unity.

Leader: Receive the Holy Spirit.

People: It is like precious oil on the head,  
the blessing of the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God.

\*Processional Hymn 238      Thine Is the Glory      *Judas Maccabeus*

\*Prayer of Confession      Holy and Loving God when we are quick to judge the doubts of others and not welcoming of their questions, when we are timid to speak out against injustice, forgive us. When we wait for proof instead of claiming your peace, when we shut ourselves off from the world, and hide behind walls of fear, forgive us. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon  
and 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.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

**Children's Sermon**

**Congregational Response** Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Donald Fishel  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

*Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class and Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation following the Congregational Response.*

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 133 Pew Bible, OT page 575

**Second Scripture Reading** John 20:19-31 Pew Bible, NT page 115

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

**Sermon** The Art of Transition Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Text: "A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" John 20:26*

**Anthem** Sing a New Song Heinrich Schütz  
Sing a new song to God the Lord,  
Sing and give praise with one accord.  
For his salvation he doth give,  
That, through his mercy, we may live.

Worship the Lord in holiness,  
Hymns of great joy to him address.  
Honor his works and bless his name,  
his grace and truth to all proclaim.  
Heaven above and earth below,  
Ocean and field His glory show,  
All of God's creatures sing his praise,  
Let us now too our voices raise.  
Glory and thanks to him belong,  
Honor him evermore in song. Psalm 96

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*A Brief Statement of Faith (Part I)*

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news  
to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal. 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

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

### Offertory

Toccatà

Pietro A. Yon

### \*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy and Loving God, we give you thanks for the presence of the living Lord among us during times of transition. By your Spirit who breathes within us, give us the uncompromising honesty of Thomas, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the Risen Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### \*Hymn 257

The Risen Christ

*Woodlands*

### \*Charge and Benediction

### \*Closing Response

Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

### \*Voluntary

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Healey Willan

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Macklin Metzger
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Lily Swanson
- **Greeter:** Linda Folsø
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Lyle VanDeventer, flute, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Braden Barton, Sophia Choi, Todd Lafrenz, Jim Parker, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Jim Dolan, Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God is in Control" (Queen Esther) *Caregivers: Sara Eldridge, Priscilla Kluge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.** Children begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
  - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story is "All in Common" (Acts 4:32-35). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Laura O'Reilly*
  - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** The story is "All in Common" (Acts 4:32-35). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Lindsay Boutelle*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon to review Old Testament of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray, Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
  - **Confirmation Grade 8 (Conference Room)** meet for a lesson on worship and to prepare for their meeting with Session. *Led by Dr. Peter Kieffer and Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Education Forum presents *Journey Through the Psalms* (Second Floor Classroom)** This is the second session of a three-week series on the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church. *Led by Lyle VanDeventer*
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)** will meet to enjoy Bible study, games, and dinner. A meal prepared by Mary Ray will be served.

## 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](http://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.

## TRIVIA NIGHT NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Each year, members support our youth mission trip at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. Childcare is available in the nursery. Sign up at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org).



**DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.** Dinner is available for \$5.00 and prepared by Pat Hymans and her kitchen team. Participants are also welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

**QUESTIONS BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M.** Once again, we welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions.

**SEVEN ROUNDS OF SEVEN QUESTIONS** with a bonus question each round. Tables who purchase a helium balloon for \$20 are invited to participate in the bonus question. The winning table will receive half of the funds raised through the purchase of the balloons.

**TICKETS ARE \$20.00** and can be purchased on our website or at a table in the West Narthex.

**RAFFLE TICKETS** will be sold at the door. One for \$5 or three for \$10. Gift certificates to Springfield restaurants will be presented to winning tickets between rounds.

**RED AND GREEN PADDLES** can be purchased at the door for \$10. Between round four and five, those who purchased paddles will participate in a yes (green) – no (red) special trivia. The winner will receive half of the funds raised through the purchase of the paddles.

**SPONSORSHIP IS \$100** - This year you or your business can sponsor a round. Your business will be featured on the screen between rounds. Contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org) for details.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on **Monday, April 8** at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Ann Kelson will lead Lesson 9 “People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

**BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP** (Grades 3-5) will resume **Wednesday, April 10** at 4:00 p.m.

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR** will rehearse **Wednesdays, April 17, April 24** and **May 1** from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**CHURCH MICE** meet Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom with Mr. Rogers.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon this **Tuesday, April 11**. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



**JOIN THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER IN DONATING LAYETTE ITEMS** during April in the box in the West Narthex. Items will be donated to Kumler Outreach Ministries in early May. If you would like to shop online, you can have them shipped directly to the church.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S BREAKFAST** will meet **Wednesday, April 10 (Note Day Change)** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Officer Chris Jones will speak about Crimestoppers program. Harvey Stephens will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on **Tuesday, April 16** at 9:30 a.m. at the Presbyterian Home Unit 604 garage. Joyce Matthews will host and Nancy Scott will lead Lesson 7 “An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

**REFUGEE MINISTRY** will present a Refugee Journey Simulation on **Sunday, April 14** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Those ministry partners providing resources for the Velasquez Alonso Family are invited to join Jody May, Director for Education from Exodus World Service in Chicago. In this interactive simulation, participants will gain a greater understanding of the roles of refugees forced to flee their homeland and the tough decisions made along the way. *Those who are willing and able to provide transportation for our family, please contact Krista Steller ([ksteller@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksteller@wpcspi.org)).*

**DMA (DON’T MENTION AGE)** will meet **Friday, April 19** at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and a program called Muni Preview Night presented by Mary Beth Maloney at 6:15 p.m. RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

**SPRINGFIELD EARTH AWARENESS FAIR** on **Saturday, April 20** The Earth Care team will host a table on Saturday, April 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a theme of Water Conservation. The Fair will be held at Union Station across from the Abraham Lincoln Museum. Westminster has again been recognized as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for 2024.



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY April 21** - The Class of 2024 will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, April 21, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth: *William Charles Affrunti, Juliet Kathryn Boutelle, and Juliana Charis Pinckney Eastvold.*

Confirmands will present to Session on Wednesday, April 17 and enjoy a dinner in the Library with their families and mentors following Session prepared by the Membership Committee.

**FAMILY MATTERS ZOO TRIP** on **Saturday, April 27, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** for families with young children (birth to Grade 5). Families will meet in the zoo lobby at 3:00 P.M. Families can bring a picnic dinner to enjoy in the park across the street afterwards. Families will have to purchase their own tickets at the zoo. Please RSVP to Meleah and Aaron at [berkowitz@wpcspi.org](mailto:berkowitz@wpcspi.org).

**YOUTH SUNDAY APRIL 28** Our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year's theme is **Vine and Branches** based on John 15:5. Seniors Kristianna Eastvold, Will Hovey, and Sam Simonson will present meditations.

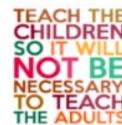
### **NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT - THURSDAY - SATURDAY, MAY 2-4, 2024**

Members and friends are invited to join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers on a journey to New Harmony, Indiana for a Spring Retreat Thursday–Saturday, May 2-4. Participants are welcome to drive down Thursday morning to visit the historic city, shop, and enjoy lunch. The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and conclude at 12 noon on Saturday.



The cost of the two-day retreat is \$250 per person. This includes two nights of lodging and five meals. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for 40 participants. Applications are available in the West Narthex and on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). **Registration deadline is Monday, April 15, 2024**

**THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM** will meet **Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** at Springfield Art Association (700 North Fourth Street) for their final 2023-2024 gathering. Join us as we participate in an art project honoring our theme “Serving our Community.” Sign up with Meleah or Aaron at [berkowitz@wpcspi.org](mailto:berkowitz@wpcspi.org).



**2024 FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 19 WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. PICNIC RECEPTION IN PARISH HALL AT 11:15 A.M.** Join us Founders' Sunday, May 19 for worship at 10:00 a.m. and a picnic reception following in Parish Hall. This year, we will recognize long-time Endowment Treasurer Steve Arbutnot as well as highlight building and mission projects made possible through our endowment. Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. *Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 15 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 19 and in the June Reporter.*

### **FIFTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK: June 17 – 21, 2024**

We invite you to join us for one or more days during the third week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood. Additionally, on Juneteenth, which falls in the middle of the week, we have the opportunity to come together to celebrate our abolitionist foundation and give back to the community. If you are interested, contact Todd Knox at [hardknox1@mac.com](mailto:hardknox1@mac.com).



## WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, April 8

- 12:00 PM Refugee Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Tuesday, April 9

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
12:00 PM Knitter's Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Wednesday, April 10

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)  
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)  
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)  
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group  
(Conference Room)  
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)  
5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Thursday, April 11

- 1:00 PM PEO BF Meeting (Parish Hall)  
1:30 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Pres Home  
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, April 12

- 1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep (Kitchen)

### Saturday, April 13

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

### Sunday, April 14

#### **Holy Communion**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)  
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Second Floor Classroom)  
11:15 AM Refugee Journey Simulation (Parish Hall)  
5:00 PM Youth Mission Trivia Night (Parish Hall)

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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**  
Director for Youth

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

**Katie Moore**  
Director for Children's Music

**Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinator

**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

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl**  
Part-time Custodians