



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Youth Sunday
28 April 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Kieffer

Voluntary

English Suite: Aria

R. Bernard Fitzgerald

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Juliana Eastvold

Leader:

Has no one told you that truth is written on the scrolls of your hearts and that the Beloved dwells within you?

People:

Christ is the vine and we are the branches.

Leader:

Aspire to live as children of God, to honor all relationships and to acknowledge the sacredness of every path.

People:

Apart from Christ we can do nothing.

Leader:

Let us worship the One whose love we proclaim.

***Processional Hymn 826**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

***Prayer of Confession**

Macklin Metzger

Holy and Loving God, come into the secret places of our hearts and be our guest. Help us to understand and embrace the fears that bind us, that we may grow in courage, and challenge injustice wherever it prevails. For as we withdraw our projections upon others, balance and harmony adorn us. As our hearts are awakened to your presence within us, we are connected to your life-giving Spirit. 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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon

Sam Batterman and James Maeda
*Students in grades Pre-K – 5 will go to Sunday school
class during the Congregational Response.*

Congregational Response

Alleluia, Alleluia! Donald Fishel
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to God's name.

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 17:7-8 Maria Lafrenz

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-5 Liam Kiszely
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song Peter Cutts
The text for the response is 285 in the Glory to God hymnal

Meditations

Vine and Branches Kristianna Eastvold,
Will Hovey,
Sam Simonson
*Text: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I
in you, you will bear much fruit; John 15:5a*

Solo I am the Vine

Michael John Talbot

I am the vine and you are the branches
Live in me and you will never die.
I am the vine and my father is the keeper
Come to me Let the Spirit bring you life.
Like a tree planted by the living waters To stretch the fruits into the
living stream You will show no distress In the heat of the drought
But still bear fruits and leaves?
Come to me all you heavy laden My yoke is easy, my burden is
light. I will raise you up on the wings of an eagle.
And through God mountain will fly.
Come to me. Let the spirit bring you life.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Mary Ray

**God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them...There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with
punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection
in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who
say, 'I love God, and hate their brothers or sisters, are
liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom
they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not
seen. The commandment we have from Christ is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters
also. Amen.**

1 John 4:16b, 18-21

The Church at Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**
Leader: Let us pray.

**Prayers of the People
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 **Lead with Love** Melanie DeMore

Chorus:

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love put
one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love put
one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

Don't give up hope You're not alone don't you give up, keep
movin on. (Chorus)

Lift up your eyes don't you despair look up ahead the path is there.
(Chorus)

I know you're scared and I'm scared too but here I am right next to
you. (Chorus)

***Offertory Response** **Doxology** Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures here below

Praise God above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Abigail Eldridge

**Holy and loving God, give us the strength and courage to
lead with love though your nourishing Spirit which lives in
our hearts when we stay connected to you. Thank you
for the metaphor of the vine and branches to highlight the
importance of abiding in you. Through these offerings, O
God, extend your loving Spirit to a world in need of
healing and comfort. Make our many gifts one offering
for the world in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

***Hymn 726** **Will You Come and Follow Me** *Kelvingrove*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** **Dancing Toccata** Christopher Steele

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgists:** Westminster Senior High Youth
- **Acolytes:** Taryn Barnett and Kate Bryans
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Sam Batterman and James Maeda
- **Greeters:** Christie and Robyn Hovey
- **Music:** William Affrunti, trumpet; Harper and Reese Huston, Lily Swanson, trebles; Ben Bassett, bass; Junior and Senior High Youth Group, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Alexander Chipman, Sophia Choi, Todd Lafrenz, Coleman Moore, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson and Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Practice (Sanctuary)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Does Amazing Things (The Fiery Furnace)" *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Julie Sundquist, Sally Godbey*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Philip the Evangelist" (Acts 8:26-40). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz*
 - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Philip the Evangelist" (Acts 8:26-40). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Julie Robbs*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Adult Education Forum presents *Paul Tillich: The Courage to Be* (Parish Hall)** This week the class will explore Tillich's writings in preparation for the New Harmony Retreat May 2-4, 2024. *Led by Blythe and Peter Kieffer.*
 - **Tutoring English as a Second Language Informational Meeting (Second Floor Classroom)** Learn about one-on-one training twice weekly for Eva and Javier Velasquez. Knowledge of Spanish is not necessary. *Led by Lynn McMenamin and Jess Weitzel*
- **5:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Court of Honor (Blessed Sacrament Church)** Will Hovey will be installed in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on ecology and family from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

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.

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.

PENTECOST OFFERING - The denominational offering unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith. **Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminster and our portion will support the 2024 Youth Mission Trip.**



2024 YOUTH MISSION TEAM Preparations continue for their journey to New Orleans the week of **June 15-22**. To date, twelve youth and ten adult leaders will serve on the team led by Mary Ray. Along with Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) through the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, the team will visit the World War II Museum in NOLA and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, MS.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR for Senior Will Hovey is today, **Sunday, April 28, 5:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church**. Will is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Boy Scout Troop 31 and is grateful to Westminster for the mission grant funding Will's project which included 2 benches made from recycled plastic bottle caps and a Little Free Library he built in the shape of a school bus and to the many members who donated hundreds of children's books to stock the library.

WOODEN IT BE LOVELY Spring Showcase furniture will be discounted today **Sunday, April 28** from noon to 2:00 p.m. at 501 S. Douglas Avenue. Support this local non-profit social enterprise designed to give women in need unique and empowering employment and job training.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY - Join in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius on the church home page.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. 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.

NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT - Twenty-seven members will join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers at New Harmony, Indiana for a Spring Retreat **Thursday-Saturday, May 2-4**. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant.

ADULT ED FORUM presents *The Gospel of J. Edgar Hoover* **Sunday, May 5** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 100th Anniversary of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI career, learn his story. Led by Dr. Berkowitz

LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD presents *Creation: Revelation of the Divine* **Saturday, May 4 - Saturday, May 11**. A week of interfaith celebration of the liturgical arts programming held at various places of worship. The festival is inspired by the beautiful diversity of faith traditions within our own community. LAFS programs are accessible to those of any faith. **Admission is free.** See the program list and locations at lafspringfield.org.

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 for an art project with lunch bags prepared by Temple B'rith Sholom. Sign up at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION will be **Mother's Day, May 12** during the 10:00 a.m. service. The Children's Choir will also present a special Mother's Day anthem.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM presents *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* on **Sunday, May 12** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 200th Anniversary of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, learn the story of how Beethoven's hearing loss expanded his creativity. Led by Dale T. Rogers

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY POTLUCK Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study celebrates their 2023-2024 journey through Genesis, John, and the Holy Land Revealed on **Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m.** with a potluck dinner at the Kieffer home. They will also celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY presents *In Paradisum* on **Friday, May 17** at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Joined by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, featured works by Faure, Bruckner, Barber, Dalglish, Dodson, Duruflé, Kirchner, and Trumbore will be included. Westminster choir members who also sing in Choral Society include Jim Kontio, Craig Kniffin, Adam Miller, Lyle and Eleanor VanDeventer, Brian Richardson, Dale Rogers, and Jennie Alt.

GARDEN PARTY All women of Westminster are invited to a Garden Party on **Saturday, May 18** from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the home of Linda Purves, 6 N. Cotton Hill Lane. RSVP to Jennie Alt.



FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 19 - Join us on Pentecost and Founders' Sunday, May 19 for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a picnic reception in Parish Hall as we celebrate our new neighbors, the Velasquez Alonso Family. This partnership with WelcomeCorps and the Exodus World Service has been one of Westminster's greatest joys in 2024. The Betty Smith Mission Endowment Fund along with the hospitality of so many members is truly inspiring. Come, join our fiesta featuring a Nicaraguan dishes as we welcome our new neighbors. 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 17 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 21 and in the June Reporter.**

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 2 Graduating high school seniors are honored during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship. All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 2 bulletin and the June Newsletter. Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information by Friday, May 24

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT JUNE 3-7, 2024 Monday – Friday, June 3-7 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to experience God's love surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills! Campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world. Registration is open at <https://wpcspi.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



MISSION TRIP CAR WASH/BAKE SALE FUNDRAISERS Sunday, June 9 - 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

All Mission participants will arrive at church at 9:30 a.m. in previous years' mission T-shirts. Bring a bucket for the Car Wash and baked goods for the Bake Sale! Cars will be washed in our parking lot, so bring all the family cars along! Thanks to **Dave Leonatti** and **Mary Ray** for organizing the Car Wash and to **Julie Sundquist** for organizing the Bake Sale.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 29

Tuesday, April 30

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
- 4:00 PM Memorial Garden Committee
(Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, May 1

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 12:30 PM Reporter Mailing
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Mission & Community Service
(2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, May 2

- New Harmony Spring Retreat (Off site)
- 11:00 AM Green Tree Plastics Appointment (Off Site)
- 1:30 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group (2nd Floor)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)

Friday, May 3

- New Harmony Spring Retreat (Off site)

Saturday, May 4

- New Harmony Spring Retreat (Off site)

Sunday, May 5

- Parish Nurse Ministries
- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 1:00 PM Nurse Honor Guard (Parish Hall)
- 1:45 PM Nurse Honor Guard Reception (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465
<http://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

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