



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Labor Day Weekend
1 September 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Fanfare for the Common Man Aaron Copeland

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

***Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 84

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 by your works.
People: **At the work of your hands, we sing for joy.**
Leader: Those who hunger for righteousness gather gladly
in your reliable presence.
People: **O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in God.**

***Processional Hymn 509** **All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly** *Holy Manna*

***Prayer of Confession** Loving and wise God, thank you for setting the table
which nourishes our lives, and for calling us to set aside
immaturity and walk in the way of insight. Forgive us for
our hesitancy to sit at your table and for our tendency to
get caught up in the minutia of our lives and this world.
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
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

Congregational Response

Listen, Listen, God is Calling Neno Lake Mungu
**Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**
*Students in Kindergarten - Grade 5 will go to their Summer Sunday
school class following the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6 Pew Bible, OT page 591-592

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15 Pew Bible, NT page 42

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

Sermon

Table Manners Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: "Wisdom has set her table..." Proverbs 9:2b

Duet

The Gift of Love English Folk Melody
The text for the duet is found at 693 in the hymnal

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith

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.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of 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,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

The Church at Prayer

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 How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord Lawrence Schreiber

***Offertory Response** Doxology
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** **O God, receive these gifts for the work of your church.
With these gifts we dedicate ourselves
to live and speak the truth of your word,
May we seek justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with you;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Hymn 504** We Come as Guests Invited *Wie Liebrich Ist Der Maien*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Grand Choeur in D Alexandre Guilmant

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader:** Abigail Eldridge
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Juliet Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Susan and Mike Shaw
- **Music:** Ben Bassett, Baritone, Kelly Robertson, Soprano, Dale Rogers, Organist,
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Mervice Alah Abung, Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Kathy Kenyon. Julie McDonough, John McNutt
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **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: "I Can Help My Family." (Baby Moses) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Sara Eldridge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School** Children begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
 - **Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story is "Hear and Do" (James 1:17-27) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz*
 - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** The story is "Faith in Action." (James 1:17-27) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz*

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 from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Dr. Kieffer.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on **Thursday, September 5** at 7:00 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 14 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. If you have considered joining the choir, now is a great time.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. BRUNCH RECEPTION AT 11:15 A.M.



Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 8 as we explore a story of homecoming in Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11-33. Rembrandt's painting of "The Return of the Prodigal Son," which can be found at the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia was created at the end of Rembrandt's life, in the late seventeenth century. In the painting, Rembrandt captures the nature of God's compassion in the hands that embrace and welcome their son home.

We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., share the Sacrament of Communion, welcome the Westminster Choir and commission the Education Leadership Team. A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2023-2024 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL begins Homecoming **Sunday, September 8**. Join us at the reception in Parish Hall to select the animal for this year's Sunday School Offerings which support Heifer International. Envelopes will also be distributed. The following classes begin Sunday, September 8:

CHILDREN BIRTH-AGE 3 begin in the Nursery, located on the lower level. Following the children's sermon **Preschoolers** join them for a lesson from the Frolic Preschool Sunday School curriculum, which is play-based and helps our youngest children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful ways.

KINDERGARTENERS - GRADE 5 will gather in the Third Floor Chapel following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the Feasting on the Word curriculum, which is a lectionary-based. The curriculum invites learners into the rhythm of the church year. **Children grades Kindergarten through Grade 2** will meet in the **Third Floor Chapel** with Meleah Berkowitz and Ministry Partners. **Children grades 3-5** will meet in the **Tower Classroom** with Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Ministry Partners.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING - Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on Homecoming **Sunday, September 8** at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary with Dr. Kieffer. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another, the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2024-2025 schedule and expectations.

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

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins **Sunday, September 8 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning September 10. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall for dinner and fellowship/games, followed by Bible Study.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP - Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning **September 11**, 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.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes **Thursday, September 12 at 8:00 a.m.** The program will be Lynne Slightom, Development Director for Solar Cookers International, will show us how solar cooking works and its positive global impact on low-income families and the environment. RSVP to the church office or online.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: FAITH, ART AND ADVOCACY PART 1: REFUGEE MINISTRY **Sunday, September 15 and 22** Join us Sundays, September 15 and 22 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall to learn about Westminster's Refugee ministry which began in 1849 when we welcomed Presbyterian refugees from Madeira, Portugal who made Springfield their home. Presented by Rev. Dr. Kieffer, Archivists Carol Bloemer, Sue Cull, and Dr. Berkowitz.

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY will resume **Thursday, September 19, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. We will study the Prophets and the Letters of Paul in "Remember Who You Are." Sign up on Homecoming Sunday when the curriculum will be available for purchase.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet on Saturday mornings beginning **Saturday, September 21** 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.

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN INTRODUCED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 **Faithful, Hopeful, Loving** is the 2025 Stewardship theme based on I Corinthians 13:13, selected by Jim Dolan who is chairing this year's committee. People of faith are hopeful because God's steadfast and reliable love sustains us through the vicissitudes life presents. Our stewardship—what we do with what has been given to us—comes from hope. Let us give generously.

YOUTH WORSHIP LEADERSHIP The participation of youth enriches our worship service and heightens their sense of belonging. Junior High serve as acolytes each Sunday. Senior High serve as worship leader most Sundays and Bible/Cross carriers on Communion Sundays. Mary Ray will reach out to schedule youth participation.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS FAITH BASED OPPORTUNITY Dungeons & Dragons is the world's most popular tabletop roleplaying game. In D&D, the players take on the roles of adventurers in a fantastic world and use their imagination and storytelling skill (and their luck at rolling dice) to tell a collaborative tale. Dr. Aaron Berkowitz has offered to lead a faith-based Dungeons and Dragons inter-generational group. No previous experience necessary. If you are interested in participating, Contact Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.



APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP **Tuesday, September 24** The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, September 24 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Water Keeper* (A Murphy Shepherd Novel) by Charles Martin. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION **Sunday, September 29** On Sunday, September 29 we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954 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.

**THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE NINETH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL**

**PROGRAM:
THE DORCUS, ABIAH, AND ERASTUS ROAD TRIP
PRESENTED BY
WESTMINSTER ARCHIVISTS – SUE CULL & CAROL BLOEMER**

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

Sign up on 9/8 Homecoming Sunday and 9/15 in the West Narthex
or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 2

Labor Day – Church office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

- 10:30 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM KDO Willing Circle (Youth Room)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 4:00 PM Nominating Committee (Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, September 4

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Chancel)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Mission & Community Service (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, September 5

- 2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM W/PC Pastor at IPH (Off site)
- 6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 6

Saturday, September 7

Sunday, September 8

Holy Communion

Homecoming Sunday

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Kindergarten – Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel and Tower Room)
- 11:00 AM Brunch and Ministry Display (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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<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

Braden Barton, James Capler,

Terry Gietl, Javier Velasquez

Part-time Custodians