



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Milestone Member Recognition
29 September 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment 2025 Stewardship Campaign Jay Kennerly

Voluntary Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
Johann Pachelbel

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

***Call to Worship** Psalm 145: 4, 6, 21

Leader: One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

People: **The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and we will declare your greatness.**

Leader: Our mouths will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless God's holy name forever.

People: **Come, let us lift our voices and worship the God of grace.**

***Processional Hymn 307** God of Grace and God of Glory *Cwm Rhondda*

***Prayer of Confession** Merciful God, sometimes we forget who you are and who you call us to be. Forgive us for being unable to hear the difficult truths about ourselves and our communities which lead to change and redemption. Forgive us for lacking honesty in our lives and in our relationships. Make us more perceptive and discerning in the ways we live our faith and share your love. 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

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends
God's love is strong, and it never ends.**

*Children in grades K-Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school
Classes and Youth in Grades 6-7 go to confirmation prep
following the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 Pew Bible, OT page 448, 450

Second Scripture Reading Mark 9:38-43 Pew Bible, NT page 45

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

Sermon A Time to Speak Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
*The Text: "Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won favor, O
king...let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of
my people—that is my request.'" Esther 7:3*

Anthem

Awake, My Heart

Jane Marshall

Awake, my heart and render to God thy sure defender,
a song of love and fervor. Confirm my deeds and guide me,
my day, with thee beside me, beginning, middle, ending,
will all be upward tending.
My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word my nurture given to bring me toward heaven.

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our
Creator. Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and
threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a
covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing
their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the
house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with
Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake
her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the
prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.**

The Church at Prayer

Choir: 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 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
and Prayer of Dedication

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

Offertory

Praise to the Lord

Johann Gottfried Walther

Recognition of
Milestone Members

*Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

*Charge and Benediction

Closing Response

The Lord Bless You

Anonymous

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you, may God's love always
surround you; protect you and guide you in all that you do;
Our prayer for you. Amen

*Voluntary

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow Brenda Portman
(*) The

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Pearson Perkins 12/05/1940– 09/19/2024
United with Westminster 10/03/1976

IN MEMORIAM

Penny Etson Rinehart 10/10/1953– 09/21/2024
United with Westminster 02/25/1961

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader:** Aerwyna Eastvold **Acolytes:** Cara Bryans and Rose DeJong
- **Greeters:** Pat and Alan Hymans **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Ushers:** Camille Massey (Head Usher), Mervice Alah Abung, Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Gregg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey. John McNutt, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney, Rich Canady **Video and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. Flu Shots (Church Office)** Organized by Ellen Carpenter, Parish Nurse before and after worship service.
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "We Praise and Thank God." (The Red Sea) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Children will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.**
 - **Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story is "Together in Prayer" (James 5:13-20). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Sophia Choi*
 - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** The story is "Pray Together" (James 5:13-20). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Eric O'Reilly*
 - **Grades 6-7 (Conference Room)** Lesson 20 of Echo titled "Baptism and Temptation" *Teachers: Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Grade 8 Confirmation (Conference Room)** Lesson Three: "Fall of Jerusalem" from Church History, Polity and Beliefs of the PC(USA).
 - **Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall)** presents "The Church and the Custody Battle of Public Education We will review the history of education in the United States, the role the "church" has played, and consider today's situation, and project into the future. Presented by Dr. Vena M. Long.

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.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION TODAY We honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954 during worship.

Fifty Year: Ginny & Jim Baker, Bob Blythe, Julia Dirksen, Mal Hildebrand, Sally Hildebrand, Peter Noonan, Bob Pyle, Dr. Bill Schultz, Cheryl White, Charles Wilkin, and Sharon Zook

Fifty-Five Year: Mary Barringer, Chas Blythe, Carol & Richard Cordier, Earl Henderson, III, Marilyn & Jim Rigney

Sixty Year: Sandy Hill

Sixty-Five Year: Cress Maddox and Bill Parr

Seventy Year: Charles Adams

Seventy-Three Year: Betsy Ruklick

The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship to express our congratulations and appreciation.

FLU SHOTS TODAY are being offered by Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter in the Church Office starting at 9:15 a.m. and following worship.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: The Church and the Custody Battle of Public Education will be presented **today and October 6 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.** We will review the history of education in the United States, the role the “church” has played, and consider today’s situation, and project into the future. Thomas Jefferson wrote “An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a people.” However, who should be educated, who should do the educating, and how should it be financed is an ongoing battle. The Constitution says in the 10th Amendment “that any powers not given to the federal government or prohibited to the states are reserved for the states or the people.” Since education is not mentioned in the Constitution, does this leave it solely in the purview of the state or local government? Presented by Dr. Vena M. Long, 4th generation teacher on both sides of the family.

SING BY HEART CHOIR BEGINS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2



The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer’s Center at SIU Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, is launching a new program to create a supportive and joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregiver, promoting social connection, creative expression, and overall well-being. The **SING BY HEART** choir will meet on Wednesdays beginning October 2 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall and continue for eight weeks. The final session on Wednesday, November 20 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public. This collaboration is funded by the Westminster Mission and Worship, Music and Arts Funds.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR will begin rehearsals this **Wednesday, October 2 at 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.** in the Music Room. Katie Moore is the director of Children’s Music. The group includes singers from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and welcomes all young singers to join in the fun.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will resume on **Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Linda Purves (6 N. Cotton Hill Lane, 62712). Linda will lead the devotional by Henri Nouwen entitled, "Bringing Solitude into Our Lives" (pp. 80-86) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP directly to Linda Purves at (409-651-4701).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON is on **Friday, October 4 at 12 noon** in Parish Hall. Dr. Aaron Berkowitz will present “Portuguese Presbyterian Churches in the 19th Century”. Jeanne VanGieson is the Kitchen Chair and Pat Hymans is the Chair of the Day. Please RSVP on the website or with Jennie Alt by Wednesday, October 2.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) meets on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Classroom. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Rogers leads Church Mice.

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN INTRODUCED LAST SUNDAY

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving is the 2025 Stewardship theme based on I Corinthians 13:13. 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.



Serving on the 2025 Stewardship Committee: Marc Anderson, Ellen Carpenter, Dr. Tanya DeSanto, Tara Fritsch, Harold Hale, Jay Kennerly, Julie Robbs, and Jim Dolan, Chair. Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 27. The Stewardship letters were mailed the week of September 23 following the Session’s approval of the 2025 budget.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS FAITH-BASED OPPORTUNITY Those interested in participating are invited to attend an Informational Meeting on **Sunday, October 6** at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. No previous experience necessary. Dr. Aaron Berkowitz has offered to lead this faith-based Dungeons and Dragons inter-generational group.

ANNUAL CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK Join the Springfield community on **World Communion Sunday, October 6** for the annual CROP Hunger Walk at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh). Check-in starts at 1:00 p.m. and the 2-mile Walk begins at 1:30 p.m. Krista Steller is the event coordinator, with Becky Martin organizing the Westminster walkers. We hope you will consider joining our children and youth who will walk or sponsor them. The Betty Smith Mission Fund is providing a matching grant. Let us join and give generously. Find additional details in West Narthex following today's service.



ELIZABETH CIRCLE will resume on **Monday, October 7, 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Sue Baker will lead the devotional from “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation”, Lesson 2, titled “Land Justice.”

LYDIA CIRCLE will resume on **Tuesday, October 15 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Library. Sharon Zook will lead the devotional from “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation”, Lesson 2, titled “Land Justice.”

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM MEETS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. at Islamic Society of Greater Springfield Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to quarterly gatherings hosted by four faith communities: Grace United Methodist Church, The Islamic Society of Greater Springfield, Springfield Board of Jewish Education, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Children from all faith communities are invited as we build friendships, learn about one another, and share a vegetarian meal. Youth in Grade 6 – 12 are invited to partake in their own gatherings during the same timeframe and to join in the fellowship of the meal. The 2024-2025 theme is “Celebrate!” We will explore the celebrations within our faith traditions.

**TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS**
-William Stead

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held **Sunday, October 20** following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. The purpose of the meeting is twofold. We will elect Church Officers presented by the Nominating Committee. We will then elect the candidate nominated by the APNC to serve as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. She will preach the sermon and following an affirmative vote by the congregation, will begin Sunday, December 1, 2024. As a part of the Presbyterian Polity and to maintain confidentiality for the candidate, professional and personal information will not be shared until Sunday, October 20.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING 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. Our gifts are helping our neighbors in need – those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe. 25% of the offering stays with Westminster.

2024 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 2-3 Join Westminster members in a weekend of education as we meet The Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to a reception on Saturday, November 2 Welcome Reception hosted by the Adult Education Committee. Rev. Oh will preach at the Sunday service and provide a program titled “The Church as the Body of Christ” following worship in Parish Hall. The weekend will conclude with an All Church Lunch 12:30 p.m. where we will share a community meal.

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 30

- 8:00 AM KDO Leadership Training (Parish Hall)
- 5:00 PM WCP Macaroni Fest Fundraiser (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, October 1

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM KDO Willing Circle (Youth Room)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:30 PM Compass Prepares Take-Home Meals (Kitchen)

Wednesday, October 2

- 10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir (Parish Hall)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 12:30 PM Reporter Mailing (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:30 PM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support (Conf Rm)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Third Floor Tower Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom))
- 5:30 PM Property/Mission Joint Meeting (2nd Floor)
- 6:00 PM Mission and Community Service (2nd Floor)
- 7:00 PM Ruth and Naomi Circle (Off site)

Thursday, October 3

- 2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, October 4

- 11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
- 12:00 PM PW Luncheon (Parish Hall)

Saturday, October 5

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

Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday

- 9:15 AM Flu shots (Church Office)
- 9:30 AM Dungeons & Dragons Info Meeting (Library)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School K – Grade 5 (Third Floor)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 1:00 PM CROP Hunger Walk (Off site)

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, Kara Milward
Nursery Co-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