



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Reformation Sunday and
Stewardship Dedication
27 October 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Concerto in b-minor Johann Walther

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

***Call to Worship** Psalm 90:1-6

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

People: **Before the mountains were born,
before you delivered the whole world,**

Leader: from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

People: **In you, we dwell and are at home – we dream, we
flourish, we reform, and we are always reforming.**

Leader: You greet us each morning, all the days of our lives.

***Hymn 624** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art *Toulon*

***Prayer of Confession** Merciful God, we lack reverence and humility.
We are uncomfortable when others cry out and
discourage them from seeking you. We have settled for
religious cliques rather than seeing your face. Forgive us,
O God, help us celebrate those who seek you and restore
our vision. 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

Congregational Response

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

Following the response, children in Kindergarten– Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes and youth in Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation Prep.

First Scripture Reading

Job 42:1-6

Pew Bible, OT pages 488

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 10:46-52

Pew Bible, NT page 47

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

Sermon

A Time to See

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The text: I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; Job 42:5

Anthem

Psalm 150

Heinrich Schütz

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing praise on earth, alleluia.
Sing praise in heaven, declare God's power. Sing praise for all God's mighty acts.
Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing alleluia, praise God's worth.
Sing God's achievements, strength supreme. Sing praise for God's transcendence.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing alleluia, praise with joy.
Sing praise with psaltery and harp. Sing praise with trumpets
blasting forth. Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing praise with
charming reed and flute. Sing praise with dancing and with
drums.
Sing praise with strings most delicate.
Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing alleluia, cymbals clash.
Sing alleluia, cymbals ring. Sing all that breathe, alleluia.

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life...
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. 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
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 A Mighty Fortress is our God Fredrich Wilhelm Marpurg

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Litany of Thanksgiving
and Dedication**

*2025 pledges are presented in the baptismal font brass bowl
as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community.*

Leader: Gracious God, as a faithful, hopeful, loving community, let
us give generously and with humility.

People: **Accept our 2025 pledges which we present on this
Stewardship Dedication Sunday.**

Leader: Thank you for Paul's call to seek a more excellent way and
the privilege of belonging to this faith community.

People: **Thank you for the gift of children and for the joy of our
baptismal vows which provide a faithful foundation.**

Leader: Thank you for the richness of our journey together
People: **and for the call to do the work of ministry at Westminster,
a hopeful beacon within our community.**

Leader: Help us remember that our loving church family is made
resilient when we grow in stewardship

People: **and our individual lives are enriched when we reach
beyond ourselves.**

Leader: Holy and loving God, may each offering of gratitude open
the doors of Westminster to become a way to serve those
beyond our faith community

People: **and a way to welcome all your children into the faithful,
hopeful, loving body of Christ. Amen.**

***Hymn 716** God Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Beach Spring*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Forth in Thy Name, O Lord I Go Orlando Gibbons

***Voluntary** A Mighty Fortress is Our God William Faulkes

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Dr. Glen Pittman from his family.
- **Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader:** Aerwyna Eastvold
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and Charlie Graham
- **Greeters:** Mary and Charlie King
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Todd Lafrenz, Jim Parker, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, two & three year olds (**Nursery**) gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "The Ten Commandments Teach Us to Love God and One Another" (Ten Commandments) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
 - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** Story: "Caring for Bartimaeus" (Mark 10:46:52) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Chelsea Ekstedt*
 - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** Story: "Healing Faith" (Mark 10:46:52) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
 - **Grades 6-7 (Conference Room)** Lessons 21 and 22 of Echo titled "Jesus' Followers" and "Hope and Healing" from the Echo curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray, Joseph Fierstos*
- **11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Harvest Fest (Parish Hall) includes:**
 - A DELICIOUS LUNCH** will be provided and treat bags sent home with the children.
 - PUMPKIN CRAFTS AND TREATS, STORY-TELLING AND FACE PAINTING** in the Parish Hall. **A HARVEST MAZE** in the Youth Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us 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, speak to Dr. Kieffer.

TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY - 2025 pledges are presented in the baptismal font brass bowl as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community. As of Thursday, October 24, we have received **137 pledges** for a total of **\$593,990** which is **66%** of our **\$902,870** goal. Please complete the pledge card and place it in the offering plate today. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org. Thank you to the 2025 Stewardship Committee: Jim Dolan, Chair, Marc Anderson, Ellen Carpenter, Dr. Tanya DeSanto, Tara Fritsch, Harold Hale, Jay Kennerly, and Julie Robbs



PW EVENING MARKET All women are invited to PW's evening market in Parish Hall Friday, November 1, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. This gives everyone a chance to shop for local and fairly traded items. We look forward to shopping with: Simply Fair, Wooden It Be Lovely, Fair Trade, and other fair trade retailers with a focus on mission. RSVP is not necessary, but welcomed to know how many hors d'oeuvres to make. Please contact the church office or email Jennie Alt.



ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY will be November 3, Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2023. A bouquet with one white rose for each member whose life we commemorate will be placed in the chancel. The litany, which includes the reading of our loved ones' names, the tolling of our historic bell, and silence will be a part of the worship service.

THE 2024 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 2-3

THE REV. JIHYUN OH, STATED CLERK OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

PRESENTATION:
THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Sunday, November 2
Welcome Reception

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Members are invited to the home of Drs. Todd and Judy Knox for a gathering hosted by the Adult Education Committee. Please RSVP with Jennie Alt for the reception.



Sunday, November 3
Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Rev. Oh will preach.

Education Forum

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Presentation

All Church Lunch

12:30 p.m. We will share a community meal.

Biography: The Rev. Jihyun Oh is the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Jihyun, who was born in South Korea and raised in Kansas, is the first Korean American to serve in the PC(USA)'s highest ecclesial office, only the second woman, and the first woman of color. Rev. Oh earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and German Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master of Science in Finance from Florida International University, and a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on **Wednesday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Dr, 62711). Meg will lead the devotional by Thomas à Kempis' "Dealing with Temptations" (pp. 150-156) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP directly to Meg at 330-472-4135.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on **Monday, November 11 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 3 "Food Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

ADULT ED FORUM on **Sunday, November 10** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall will present part two of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's role in organizing the Confessing Church movement. This class was rescheduled because of the Congregational Meeting on October 20.

DALE ROGERS' ORGAN RECITAL: PLAYING FAVORITES will be presented on **Sunday, November 10 at 4:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. The program is made up of organ pieces that call up autobiographical memories of people and places. Among those pieces are compositions by Chuckerbutty, Scarlatti, Buxtehude, Reger, Rinck, Wright, Ogden, and Vierne. The Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee will host a reception in the West Narthex following the recital.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet **Wednesday, November 13** at 4:30 p.m. at Westminster. Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to join us as we welcome our friends from other faith communities. The 2024-2025 theme is: "Celebrate." Our service project will be creating "birthday boxes" for the food pantry. These are kits that include everything a family needs to throw a birthday party, including decorations and supplies for a cake. Please join us for fun, songs, crafts, music, and a vegetarian meal. Join us as we explore the celebrations within each of our faiths. Please join us for fun, songs, crafts, music, and a vegetarian meal.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST meets on Thursday, November 14 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Gordon Gates, Board of Trustees Chair, will speak on Lincoln Land Community College. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet **Friday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. The *Lei Abouts*, a Springfield ukelele band, will bring a night of music and fun. Feel free to wear a Hawaiian shirt and/or bright colors! donated RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website or by contacting the church office. In October, the program for the PB&J Initiative had 23 participants, collected \$80, and donated 18 jars of peanut butter and/or jelly!!

THE REVEREND SARAH ANNE BISHOP begins December 1 as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. On Sunday, November 20, Westminster elected the Rev. Sarah Anne Bishop to serve as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry.

Rev. Bishop comes to us from First Presbyterian Church in Winter Haven, FL where she served as Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Family Ministries from 2018-2024. Her previous calls were at First Presbyterian Church in South Bend, IN as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Education from 2013-2018 and First Presbyterian Church of Frankfort, KY where she served as Director of Christian Education from 2010-2013. Rev. Bishop received her Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and has a B.A. in Christian Education and Political Science from Muskingum University. We anticipate her ministry among us with great joy. She begins December 1, 2024.



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been called by Session for **Sunday, November 17**. The purpose of the meeting is to concur with the Presbytery of Great Rivers dissolution of Rev. Christian K. Choi's call to serve Westminster Presbyterian Church as Associate Pastor for Parish Life. Rev. Choi has been approved for long-term disability by the Board of Pensions. Additionally, the congregation will be asked to direct the Personnel Committee to outline a process and timeline to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. A reception will follow in Parish Hall to celebrate Rev. Choi's ministry which began December 1, 2018, and to honor the contributions he has made during his tenure. We are grateful for all Rev. Choi has done so well and for the gift of his beautiful family, Sophia, Diana and Zachariah, who are a part of the Westminster Family.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 28

9:30 AM King's Board Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, October 29

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, October 30

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)
3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Group (Conf. Room)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Mission and Community Service
(2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, October 31

2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:30 PM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, November 1

11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
5:00 PM PW Evening Market (Parish Hall)

Saturday, November 2

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Bay Weekend Reception (Off site)

Sunday, November 3

All Saints Sunday

Bay Weekend

Parish Nurse Ministry

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K to Grade 5)
11:15 AM Bay Weekend Adult Ed Forum & Luncheon
(Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut Street Springfield, IL 62704
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

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 Velásquez**
Part-time Custodians