



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
First Sunday of Advent  
1 December 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Recognition of Rev. Boutelle

Voluntary Contemplation Felix Mendelssohn

Introit  
*O come, O come, Immanuel,  
Come now to earth and with thy people dwell,  
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign,  
O come and show to us the light divine.  
O come, O come, Immanuel,  
As age to age the prophets did foretell;  
Redeemer come to save us one and all,  
Be born again in Bethl'hem's manger stall.*

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

\***Lighting of the First Advent  
Candle and Call to Worship**

One: People of God, come,  
for the light of hope calls us together.  
All: **From our solitude, we are called into community;**  
One: from our brokenness, we are called into wholeness;  
All: **From our fading, we are called into fullness;  
and from our wandering,  
we are called to the path of new life.**  
One: People of God, come,  
for the light of hope calls us together.  
All: **Let us take the hand of God and carry this light together.  
Come, let us worship.**

*(The First Advent Candle is lit.)*

**\*Processional Hymn 104**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*Valet will ich dir geben*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God, you call us into community to wait together for you, but we so often lose sight of hope. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom or lived our lives with the integrity to which you call us. In your mercy, forgive us. Renew us in hope, that night and day we may see you face to face. May our lives grow into branches of righteousness and justice. 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. Amen.

**\*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**

**Congregational Response**

**Come, Savior, quickly come; come,  
Come Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.**

*Children in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 go to Sunday School and Youth in  
Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep following the Response.*

**First Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Pew Bible, OT pages 738

## Second Scripture Reading

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

Pew Bible, NT page 204

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

## Sermon

Night and Day

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith."*

*I Thessalonians 3:10*

## Anthem

God First Made a Fruitful Garden

Alfred V. Fedak

God first made a fruitful garden,  
sowed with life a barren field,  
knew what peace and joy and beauty  
that blest living seed would yield.  
Oh, if only every soul would be such soil.  
That same God prepared another seed with power to sprout  
and grow, Seed of Abraham and Mary, seed from which  
all blessings flow, freely scattered over all this desert globe.

## \*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed (2.1)

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human. 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 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

Sleepers, Awake!

Johann Sebastian Bach

### \*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

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith that we may keep awake, ready to welcome Christ, and turn the offerings of our lives into signs of hope. Amen.

### \*Hymn 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn *Rejoice, Rejoice*

### \*Charge and Benediction

### \*Choral Response

Heaven and Earth Are Ringing

Giovanni Gastoldi

Heaven and earth are ringing; join in the angel's singing.  
Sing noel for Christ is born. Come, sing, for Christ is born.

### \*Voluntary

Come, Savior of the Nations

Johann Sebastian Bach

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Greeter:** Sally Godbey
- **Acolytes:** Taryn Barnett and Kate Bryans
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Doris and Mal Hildebrand
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Mervice Alah Abung, Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Sabrina Holmes, Greg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey, Julie McDonough
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist, Harper and Reese Huston, Maria Lafrenz, Lily Swanson, Advent Singers

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. New Member Class (Pastor's Study)** Those interested in membership are invited to learn more about Westminster and the Presbyterian Church (USA) led by Dr. Kieffer
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, two & three year olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story.** This week's story: "Hannah Loved Her Son Samuel, and Knew He was a Gift from God" (Hannah and Samuel) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Sally Godbey*
- **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: "A Message of Hope" (Jeremiah 33:14-16) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Chelsea Ekstedt*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** Story: "Righteous Branch" (Jeremiah 33:14-16) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower*
  - **Grades 6-7 (Conference Room)** Lesson 26 of Echo titled "Kingdom Treasures" from the Echo curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – noon**
  - **Parish Nurse Ministry (Church Office)** Ellen Carpenter is available for consultation.
  - **Grade 8 Confirmation (Conference Room)** Lessons Seven and Eight: "Corruption, Division" and "Martin Luther Protests." *Teachers: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall)** presents the second session of "Journey to a Holy Place: Pilgrimage in a Globalizing World." This session focuses on the contemporary pilgrim in a globalizing world and the popularity of the pilgrim tourist. There will also be a personal account of Debbie's recent and second pilgrimage on the Camino del Norte in Northern Spain. *Led by Dr. Debra Parker*

**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 us 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, speak to Dr. Kieffer. A New Member Class will be held next Sunday, December 8, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on December 15 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**WELCOME TO THE REVEREND SARAH ANNE BISHOP WHO BEGINS TODAY!** 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. 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.

**THANK YOU TO THE REVEREND GERALD BOUTELLE** who has served as liturgist since May of 2024 when Rev. Choi began his disability. Jerry has also preached, taught, provided pastoral care and been a partner in the Prayer Ministry.

**CHRISMON BOOKLETS** outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree located in the Chancel and can be found in the pew pockets.

**PASTORS BEGIN TWELFTH YEAR OF PRAYER MINISTRY** Throughout the year, each member of our congregation is remembered in prayer by the pastors in the Chancel. A letter is mailed three weeks prior to the week to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

**2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN "FAITHFUL, HOPEFUL, LOVING"** Westminster continues to accept 2025 stewardship pledges. As of Tuesday, November 26 we have **202 pledges** toward our 2025 annual budget totaling **\$817,125** which is 91% of our \$902,870 goal. Pledges are welcome and can be placed in the offering plate, mailed, or made online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

**CONTACT MINISTRIES ADOPT A FAMILY** We are providing Christmas gifts for nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. The signups are available on our website and in the west narthex today. Gifts can be dropped off under the smaller Christmas tree in the elevator lobby or ordered for direct delivery to Westminster (make sure to notify Jennie Alt to expect a package!). **There are still 31 wishes to be filled.** All gifts need to be at the church by Wednesday, December 11.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will knit at church on December 3, 10, and 17 and at home December 24, 31 and January 7. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets on Wednesday, December 4 7:00 p.m. at the home of Blythe Denham Kieffer (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). Debbie Parker will lead the devotional by G.K. Chesterton "A Magical Universe" (pp. 333-338). RSVP to Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE HOSTS CHRISTMAS TEA** Friday, December 6, noon to 2:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. All women of Westminster and their guests are invited to enjoy an afternoon of tea sandwiches, salads, and desserts with a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters, accompanied by Dale Rogers.



## ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 1

#### ADVENT WREATH

We begin the Season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing, on Sunday, December 1 with the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Thank you to the new members who will lead us in this Westminster tradition. An Advent Introit will be presented each Sunday by Harper and Reese Huston, Maria Lafrenz, and Lily Swanson.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 8

#### CHILDREN'S CHOIR sings during 10:00 a.m. service

The 10:00 a.m. service will include special music by the Children's Choir (Grades K-5) under the direction of Katie Moore, Director for Children's Music.

#### ADVENT CELEBRATION at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall

A reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, the creating of ornaments, and the decorating of Christmas cookies. Children who were not in Sunday School on November 24 or December 1 will have the opportunity to create an advent wreath for home.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 15

Westminster's chancel and West Narthex will be filled with red poinsettias. Following the service the Board of Deacons will deliver the poinsettias to members who have lost loved ones since Easter and to shut ins. Special music will be "Comfort Ye My People" from Handel's "Messiah."

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 22

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL PROCESSION during 10:00 a.m. service

The Sunday School children will recreate the Nativity in the Second Floor Classroom, process in their costumes during the closing hymn "Joy to the World," and join the pastors in the Chancel for the Charge and Benediction.

#### CHRISTMAS VESPERS at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

On Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Westminster's Christmas Vespers program will include choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist.

### CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS

Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias. You may send a check or go online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org) to donate. Donations of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund are also accepted at this time. Please submit your donations with your desired wording and dedications by Monday, December 9. Thank you for your generosity!

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, December 2

9:00 AM Garden Club (Parish Hall)

### Tuesday, December 3

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

12:00 PM Staff Luncheon (Off site)

12:00 PMKDO Willing Circle (Youth Room)

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

3:00 PM Compass for Kids

7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters Rehearsal (Off site)

### Wednesday, December 4

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

1:00 PM Sunnyside Meeting (Parish Hall)

4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)

4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group  
(Conference Room)

5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

5:30 PM Mission & Community Service  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle (Off site)

### Thursday, December 5

2:30 PM Memory Loss (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)

7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, December 6

12:00 PM Women's Christmas Tea (Parish Hall)r

### Saturday, December 7

### Sunday, December 8

#### **Holy Communion**

9:00 AM New Members Class (Pastor's Study)

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)

11:15 AM Advent Celebration (Parish Hall)

11:15 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)

12:00 PM Youth Christmas Shopping (Off site)

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 Sarah A. Bishop**  
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

**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

**Kara Milward, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

**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 Valesquez**  
Part-time Custodians