WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
16 February 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Cantilena — Thomas Dunhill

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

***Call to Worship** — Psalm 1

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread.

People: **Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

People: **Their leaves do not wither and in all they do, they prosper.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and be rooted in the God for whom glorious things are spoken. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 81** Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken — *Austrian Hymn*

***Prayer of Confession**

Blessed God, you are our peace and consolation. We seek your strength and sustenance in our poverty and in our wealth, in our hunger and in our fullness, in our weeping and in our laughter. We confess that trusting in you is difficult. Too often we put our trust in ourselves or others. Forgive us. Plant in our hearts the seeds of faith and nourish us with your living water. Hear now also 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 Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *Houston*

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Children and Youth in Pre-K – Grade 7 go to Sunday School and Confirmation following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10 Pew Bible, OT page 719

Second Scripture Reading Luke 6:17-26 Pew Bible, NT page 64

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

Sermon Tall and Resolute — Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream." Jeremiah 17:7-8

Anthem I Believe — Mark A. Miller

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.
Anonymous Jewish prisoner

***Affirmation of Faith** — A Brief Statement of Faith (Part 3)

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

Offertory Madrigal — Louis Vierne

***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** **Holy and loving God, accept these gifts which we give joyously. May the fruit of these gifts bless the lives of those we serve in your kingdom. May we stand tall and live with integrity because our roots are firmly grounded in you. Amen.**

***Hymn 172** Blest Are They — *Blest Are They*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Day by Day — Harold Friedell

***Closing Voluntary** Postlude in D — George Dyson

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader**: Aerwyna Eastvold
- **Acolytes:** Brooke Boutelle and Conner Hill
- **Greeter:** Peter Hancock
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Genny Elkin, Soprano, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Linda Caupert, Kyle Duffy, Chris Hickman, Joyce King
- **Sound and Videography:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller, Bill Deemer
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "We Have Faith in Jesus" (Jesus Teaches and Heals) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Priscilla Kluge*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 and youth in Grades 6 - 7** begin in worship & go to Sunday school and Confirmation Prep following the Congregational Response.
  - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "Jesus Welcomes Children" (Jesus Blesses Children I) *Teachers: Lindsay Boutelle, Juliet Boutelle*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** Story: "God's Blessings" (Luke 6:17-26) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Sophia Choi*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** Story: "Unexpected Blessings" (Luke 6:17-26) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Julie Robbs*
  - **Grades 6-7 (Conference Room)** Lesson 32: "Signs and Wonders" from the Echo curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Grade 8 Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Lesson Twelve, "Presbyterians in America" *Teachers: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Ed Forum: Homosexuality and the Bible (Parish Hall)** The historical perspective and biblical passages misused to influence discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation will be presented. *Led by: Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer*
- **1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. Piano Festival (Church-wide)** Westminster has hosted this festival for many years.
- **5:00 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)** Senior high youth and 8th grade students will enjoy fellowship and dinner prepared and served by Beth and Tad Allen. *Led by: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Mary Ray.*

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. The next New Member Class will meet Sundays, March 2 and 9 with new members received Sunday, March 16. If you are interested, speak to a pastor.

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS: "HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE" on Sundays, February 16 and 23. The historical perspective and biblical passages misused to influence discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation will be presented. The primary source for this presentation is Jack Rogers' book Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality. Led by Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer.

FAIR TRADE - Come check out our chocolate and other Equal Exchange items in the West Narthex following worship **TODAY**! Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson oversee this ministry.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING DONATIONS Thanks to Westminster members who responded to our youth request to fight hunger by placing **$1,588** in the soup pots held by our youth at the Sanctuary doors following last Sunday's worship service. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA) and **this year's collection is the largest to date!**

2024 ANNUAL REPORTS are available on the Visitor's Table.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the library and will study Lesson 5 "Air Quality" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

SING BY HEART CHOIR BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, will continue this joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregiver. The Sing by Heart choir will meet beginning February 19 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall and continue for eight weeks. The final session on Wednesday, April 9 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 11:30 A.M. Members & friends of Westminster will gather at Concordia Thursday, February 20 with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts. We will gather for Holy Communion at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel followed by lunch at 12 noon in the New Harmony Room.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet on **Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library. The book for February is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held **Sundays, March 2 and 9,** 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 March 16 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Theme: The Sanctuary for Lent

5:30 p.m. Simple Dinner in Parish Hall
6:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including:

- Liturgy and music presented by Bridges children and Children's Choir
- Meditation by Rev. Bishop
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

Small votive candles will be given to each worshipper as a tangible reminder for the sanctuary we have in Christ as we journey during this Holy Season.

The Sanctuary for Lent

Meditations from this devotional book, written by Justin LaRose, (an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church, a licensed clinical social worker), will be emailed to members during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday,

Family Lenten Devotional Calendars

Westminster families received a Lenten Devotional Calendar which includes a word and scripture verses for each day of Lent. Families are invited to discuss the meaning of each word, take a picture of its meaning for them, and post on the "Westminster Young Families" Facebook Group, and youth are encouraged to share their photo of the day on Instagram by tagging the "Westminyouth_spi" page.

Lenten Candle Service

During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Lenten Giving

The One Great Hour of Sharing denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

A Lenten Coat Drive will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and be donated to Contact Ministries.

FINE ARTS DISPLAY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23 The Worship, Music and Arts Committee will host a Fine Arts Display at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. This event is in celebration of Westminster's 190th anniversary and will provide an opportunity to highlight the work of Westminster's gifted artists.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, February 17
Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 18
9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
5:30 PM Family Ministry (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, February 19
10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM Depression & Bi-Polar Support (Youth Room)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)

Thursday, February 20
11:30 AM Concordia Worship Service (Off site)
1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, February 21

Saturday, February 22
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, February 23
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel Classrm)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Confirmation Class (Conference Room)
1:00 PM Piano Festival

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415
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

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 Velásquez
Part-time Custodians