WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Lent
New Member Recognition
16 March 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Sonata III: Andante Religioso — Felix Mendelssohn

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall I fear?
People: God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days of celebration.
Leader: The one thing we ask of the Lord,
People: To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life and to behold the beauty of the Lord.
Leader: Come, let us worship God together.

***Lenten Candle Service** As we extinguish the second Lenten candle and continue our journey toward Holy Week, we remember with grateful hearts Christ's journey to the cross as the pioneer of our faith. We seek that same strength on the paths of the journeys we travel. Let us pray:

Holy and loving Christ, thank you for refusing to give up on us and on the world. You gave up your very life for our sake, pouring yourself out completely so that even the cross could be transformed into a means of life and grace. Sustain and empower us to run our race of faith with the same spirit and resilience that we may be part of the great cloud of witnesses. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 341** O God, Show Mercy to Us — *Thaxted*

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, source of all life, we offer the truth of our lives to you: the fears that stifle us, the prejudice that blinds us, the ignorance that hobbles us, and the doubts that limit us each day of our life's journey. God of mercy, strengthen us for the crosses we are called to carry. Give us courage in unlikely places, insight to witness your perspective of the world, love to embrace the neglected, faith to trust that you are Emmanuel with us. Forgive us and reconcile us to be intimately close to you. 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 — 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 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me

Children and youth in Pre-K through Grade 7 go to Sunday School class and confirmation prep following the Response.

First Scripture Reading Genesis 15:1-7, 17-18 — Pew Bible, OT pages 12

Second Scripture Reading Luke 13:31-35 — Pew Bible, NT pages 77

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

Sermon Securest Place — Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Text: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" Luke 13:34

Anthem Thou Knowest, Lord — Henry Purcell

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy. O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

Recognition of New Members

***Prayer of Welcome**

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn** We All Are One in Mission *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

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

Jerusalem — Felix Mendelssohn

Jerusalem! Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets,
Thou that killest them which are sent unto thee.
How often would I have gathered unto me thy children,
and ye would not.

***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**

God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us-not only our offerings, but our very selves - to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere at the one table you have set; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 401**

Here in This Place — *Gather Us In*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

Amen — William Smith

***Voluntary**

Sonata III — Felix Mendelssohn

Incorporating the chorale: *Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

Sermon Image

Front Altar mosaic of the Chapel Dominus Flevit (The Lord Wept), Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel

SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
- **Call to Worship and Lenten Candle Service:** Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross and grandson Logan Bridges
- **Chancel Flowers** are given in loving memory of John Kirk by his family
- **Greeters:** Pat and Steve Jacobs
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Ushers:** Julie Barton (Head Usher) Gregg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey, Christian Kennerly, Claudia Nash, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Adam Miller, Tenor, and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Safety Team:** Todd Knox
- **Videography and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller, Bill Deemer

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:00 a.m. Session Coordinating Committee (Pastor's Study)**
- **9:30 a.m. Special Session Meeting (Library) to receive new members.**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "Noah" *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Lynn McMenamin*
- **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 Taught and Healed People" (Jesus Teaches and Heals I) *Teachers: Dee Dee Duffy, Katie Black*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Safe in God's Love" (Luke 13:31-35) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Julie Robbs*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Jesus Laments" (Luke 13:31-35) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** This week's lesson: Session 35 "Paul" *Teachers: Mary Ray*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Fair Trade Sale** – Shop for Equal Exchange items following worship. Becky Martin and Jenne Van Gieson oversee this ministry.

- **Adult Ed Forum: Social and Medical History of Reproductive Health Care (Parish Hall)** A history of medical procedures and social perspectives on reproductive health will be presented by Dr. Peter Kieffer.
- **Youth Mission Trip Meeting for Adult Participants (Second Floor Classroom)**

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 at the end of each pew. New members will be recognized today, following a Special Session meeting. If you are interested in joining the next new member class, speak to a pastor.

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. **This morning, new member Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross and her grandson Logan Bridges will lead us.** Dorothy joined Westminster in March 2024 and is the Facilities and Sustainability Director for the Abrahm Lincoln Museum.

NEW MEMBERS were received this morning at a Special Session meeting. We welcome:

> ***Linda Cox*** *joins us by Letter of Transfer from Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale, Illinois. Her sponsors are Peter Hancock and Cress Maddox.*
>
> ***Josh Pinke*** *joins us by Reaffirmation of Faith. His sponsor is Maggie Day Pinke.*
>
> ***Barbara and Pete Sherman*** *join us by Letter of Transfer from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Springfield Illinois. Their sponsors are Christy and Karl Pound.*

THE ADULT ED FORUM presents Social and Medical History of Reproductive Health Care today at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. The history of medical procedures and social perspectives on reproductive health will be presented by Dr. Peter Kieffer.

SING BY HEART CHOIR SPRING SESSION The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, continues this joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregivers on Wednesday mornings. The final session on Wednesday, April 9 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CONCERTS Join the Springfield Choral Society in celebrating Women's History Month with this festival celebrating the music and stories of women: Songs for the Unsung. The group is partnering with the Sangamon County Historical Society, Dana-Thomas House Foundation and DNR State Historic Sites, and the UIS Music Program to present this unique and locally-rooted event! Programs include: **Songs for the Unsung: Springfield Heroines** on Friday March 21, 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, **Songs for the Unsung: Susan Lawrence Dana and the Fight for Women's Rights (Musical Tours of the Dana-Thomas House)** on Saturday, March 22, and **Songs for the Unsung: Festival Concert** Saturday, March 22nd, 7:30pm, First Presbyterian Church. Purchase tickets and learn more at www.springfieldchoralsociety.org

FINE ARTS DISPLAY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23 - The Worship, Music and Arts Committee will host a Fine Arts Display at 11:15 a.m. next Sunday 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. If you would like to participate, contact Dale Rogers.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet on Tuesday , March 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library. The book for March is The Red Tent, a novel by Anita Diamant. Group discussion is led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and new members are encouraged to attend.

THE ADULT ED FORUM presents **History of The SIU School of Medicine** on Sunday, March 30. The history of the SIU School of Medicine will be presented by a founding faculty member, Dr. Roland Folse.

TRIVIA NIGHT SUNDAY, MARCH 30 Each year, members support our youth mission trip during a fun evening of trivia. Once again, we welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions. **Tickets are $20.00** and can be purchased on our website or Sunday mornings in the West Narthex beginning today. **Sponsorship is $100** - You or your business can sponsor a round and will be featured on the screen between rounds. Contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org).

190TH ANNIVERSARY PERE MARQUETTE RETREAT – Join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers May 1-3 in an exploration of our founding abolitionists and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parrish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminster's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy. The cost of the two-day retreat is $275 per person (double) and $300 per person (single). This includes two nights of lodging and four meals. Registration forms are in the West Narthex. Reservations for the retreat are due by March 31.

THE SEASON OF LENT

LENTEN GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

The Easter Music Fund provides funds for the Millikin Brass Quartet on Easter Day as well as for other musical offerings throughout the season.

The Easter Decorations Fund provides for the palms and lilies for Holy Week and Easter. The suggested donation is $25. For both Easter music and Easter decoration giving opportunities, a list of donors and those for whom they are remembering will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Make a donation to WPC with the appropriate designation. The deadline for the bulletin wording is Palm Sunday, April 13.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AND VOTIVE CANDLES

Meditations from The Sanctuary for Lent devotional book, written by Justin LaRose, (an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church, a licensed clinical social worker), are emailed daily to members during Lent.

Votive Candles were distributed on Ash Wednesday as a tangible reminder of the sanctuary we have in Christ and can be found in the West Narthex.

A Lenten Devotional Calendar was mailed to Westminster families received which includes a word and scripture 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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 17

11:00 AM John Kirk Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
12:00 PM Memorial Reception (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, March 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
4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, March 19

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM Depression & Bi-Polar Support (Youth Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)
7:00 PM Great Decisions in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, March 20

1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Class)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 21

5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 22

9:00 AM Worship, Music, and Arts (Parish Hall)
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, March 23

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Tower Classroom)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Fine Arts Display (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Confirmation Class (Conference Room)

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WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Reverend 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