WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday of Lent
23 March 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Arioso — Johann Sebastian Bach

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

***Call to Worship** Isaiah 55

Leader: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy, and eat!

People: **Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.**

Leader: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

People: **Seek God while God may be found,
call upon God while God is near;**

Leader: Return to the God with whom there is mercy,
grace, and compassion;

People: **the God in whom we trust to guide us. Amen.**

Lenten Candle Service

As we extinguish the third Lenten candle and continue our journey toward Holy Week, we give thanks for your steadfast and loving presence which fills our cup and quenches our thirst when we are dry. May we never forget, what Isaiah affirms, that all who thirst are invited to come to the waters.

Let us pray:

Holy and loving God, in you we live and move and have our being. Everything we have comes from you, every breath, every moment, every relationship, every provision. On the paths of the journeys we travel, in want and in plenty, may we find strength in your steadfast love and gracious presence in our lives. Amen.

***Hymn 74** When God Restored our Common Life *Resignation*

***Prayer of Confession**

Powerful, gentle God, you can take desert waste and make it grow into fruitful land. Hear our prayer today, as we bring our lives before you. We come as people who dwell on the past. We want to face your new day with life and hope in our hearts, but many times the events of our own lives weigh us down. Free us, God, so that we might walk your new pathways, alive with grace, through Jesus Christ. 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.
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace. Amen.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon *Students in grades Pre-K – 7 will go to Sunday school and Confirmation Prep during the Congregational Response.*

Congregational Response Spirit of the Living God *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.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:1-9 Pew Bible, OT page 685-686

Second Scripture Reading Psalm 63:1-8 Pew Bible, OT page 527

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

Sermon Want and Plenty Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;" Psalm 63:1a

Anthem As the Deer Pants for the Water Martin Nystrom

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength and shield, so you alone
May my spirit yield. Paraphrase of Psalm 42:1

***Affirmation of Faith**

**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 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 the Lord is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People
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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me — Traditional Spiritual

I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along this pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, won't you walk with me.
When the shades of life are falling,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

***Offertory Response**

Doxology — Hymnal, 606

***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 steadfast love and
be nourished for the journey before them;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Hymn 696**

O God, You Are My God Alone — *Gratus*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary**

Baroques — Seth Bingham

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Call to Worship and Lenten Candle Service:** Linda Cox
- **Greeters:** Nancy and Rich Canady
- **Acolytes:** Cara Bryans and Lily Swanson
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Melanie Humphrey, Christian Kennerly, Brad Steller, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Erin Winn, Cathy Yokley
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Lyle VanDeventer, Clarinet, and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Videography and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller, Bill Deemer

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "Abraham and Sarah" *Caregivers: Kara Milward*
- **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 Teaches and Heals Us" (Jesus Teaches and Heals II) *Teachers: Adam Ekstedt, Maria DeJong*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Growing with God" (Luke 13:1-9) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Sophia Choi*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "The Parable of the Fig Tree" (Luke 13:1-9) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** This week's lesson: Session 36 "New Creation" *Teachers: Meridith Bryans and Cara Barnett*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Grade 8 Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Lesson Sixteen, "Sacraments" *Teacher: Rev. Sarah Bishop*
  - **Fine Arts Display - 190 YEARS Celebrating Faith, Art, and Advocacy** Fine Arts Exhibit of works by Westminster members is today in Parish Hall. Artworks by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Scott Day, Juliana Eastvold, Dr. Roland Folse, Bob Fox, Randy Germeraad, the late William T. Kieffer, Jr., Priscilla Kluge, Dr. Richard Leary, Bob Leffler, Pat McNutt, Maggie Pinke, Josh Pinke, Camille Proud, Dale Rogers, and Sue Scaife are included in the display. Pat Hymans has made trays of cookies for this special anniversary event.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
190 YEARS
Celebrating Faith, Art & Advocacy

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. If you are interested in joining the next new member class, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Bishop.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service begins with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. A candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. **This morning, new member Linda Cox will lead us.** Linda joined Westminster last Sunday and taught fourth grade for 33 years in Carbondale, IL before moving back to Springfield with her late husband Kevin and serving 7 years as initial advisor and credentials analyst for the Teachers Education Program at UIS

ANNIVERSARY LOGO Thank you to Maggie Pinke who created the logo for Westminster's 190th Anniversary Celebration. Two signs were installed near our Walnut Street Entrance and on Edwards Street this past Friday as we prepare for Founders' Sunday on May 18.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet this 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. The 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** Sunday, March 30. The history of the SIU School of Medicine will be presented by a founding faculty, Dr. Roland Folse.

TRIVIA NIGHT SUNDAY, MARCH 30. Gather your friends and join us for a fun, competitive evening supporting our mission-minded youth. **DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.** Dinner is available for $5.00 and prepared by Pat Hymans and her kitchen team. Participants are also welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. **QUESTIONS BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M.** 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 from a youth on Sunday mornings. **ROUND SPONSORSHIP IS $100** - You or your business can sponsor a round and will be featured on the screen between rounds. This does not include the cost of individual tickets. Contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org).

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Carpenter (2529 Wydown Ave, 62704). Christy Pound will lead the devotional by Catherine of Genoa entitled "Waiting upon God." (pp. 180-185) from the book, Devotional Classics.

PW LUNCHEON Friday, April 4 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. This is a mission project day, so Midwest Mission will guide us in making personal dignity kits. Carolyn Beatty is the Chair of the Day and Ann Collins is the Kitchen Chair.

THE ADULT ED FORUM presents **American Revolution** on Sundays, April 6 and 13. On the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War, we will explore how Presbyterian Polity influenced American Democracy. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION will be Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). Hosted by the Support and Endowment Committee, the purpose of the gathering is to thank those who have remembered Westminster in their will and to invite others to consider this opportunity. All are welcome. Please RSVP with Jennie Alt by Monday, April 7 at noon.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children's Choir will sing *Hosanna, Heysanna, Wave Your Palms*, and the Westminster Choir will sing *O Divine Redeemer* of Gounod.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY
April 13-20 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster's Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall during Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 17
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord, What Wondrous Love is This*, and *Lamb of God*. The service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the *Adagio for Strings* of Samuel Barber and the seven last words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, *The Coronation Te Deum* of Stanford and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.

THE EASTER MUSIC FUND and DECORATION FUND donations provide for special music and lilies. For both of these giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter bulletin. Donations with wording requested by Palm Sunday, April 13.

LENTEN COAT DRIVE – We are collecting new or lightly used coats in the West Narthex which will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and then be donated to Contact Ministries. Thank you for the 16 coats donated already.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 24

9:30 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting (Third Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Retirement Committee (Library)

Tuesday, March 25

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS
4:30 PM Support and Endowment (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Conference Room)
6:00 PM Apostles Read (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (off site)

Wednesday, March 26

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Group (Youth Rm)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
4:00 PM Property Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:00 PM Deliver meal to Helping Hands
5:00 PM Membership Committee (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, March 27

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Class)
7:30 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 28

Saturday, March 29

11:00 AM Church Mice

Sunday, March 30

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
5:00 PM Youth Mission Trip Trivia Night (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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