WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

20 April 2025

10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Voluntary Entrata Festiva — Flor Peeters

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen indeed!
Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Leader: Let us worship our Risen God.

***Processional Hymn 232** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today — *Easter Hymn*

***Prayer of Confession**

God of joy and sorrow, we confess that we do not always perceive you or the opportunities you place before us. Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and dreams, and crushed with sorrow when they disappoint us, we are slow to recognize you and the joy of resurrection. Open our eyes, that we may see the new life you offer and reflect the beauty of Jesus Christ in the living of our lives. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us — Hymnal, Back Page

***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 Page

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

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name. *(Repeat twice)*

Children in Preschool – Grade 5 go to Sunday school following the children's sermon and will meet their parents in Parish Hall following worship for the Easter Egg Hunt.

First Scripture Reading John 20:1-10 Pew Bible, NT page 114

Second Scripture Reading John 20:11-18 Pew Bible, NT page 115

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Sermon Where Joy and Sorrow Meet Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" John 20:15

Anthem Te Deum Laudaumus Charles Villiers Stanford

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory.

The Church at Prayer

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, page 35

***Hymn 248** Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! *Hymn to Joy*

***The Presentation and Dedication of Our Gifts**

Offertory I Am the Resurrection and the Life — Heinrich Schütz

At this time, worshippers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders on the center aisle pew racks.

***Offertory Response** Doxology — Hymnal, 606

***Affirmation of Faith** — 1 Corinthians 15

**This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved,
if we hold fast: that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures, that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
our Lord and our God. Amen.**

***Anthem** Hallelujah — G. F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom
of our Lord and of His Christ;
and He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

Words: Revelation 11 and 19

***Charge and Benediction**

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation remains standing for the ringing of Tower Bell.*

***Voluntary** Symphony V: Toccata C. M. Widor

(*) Stand, as you are able.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Liturgists:** The Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle and the Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Greeters:** Christian, Liliana, and Nora Kennerly
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Lily Swanson
- **Butterfly Bearer:** Julie McDonough
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Chris Hickman, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Joyce King, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** Dennis Jones and Neal Smith, Trumpets; Tom Little and Gary Shaw, Trombones; The Westminster Choir, and Dale Rogers, organist

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 are Glad Jesus is Alive" (Jesus Dies and Rises) Caregivers: Kara Milward, Maria Lafrenz
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. Youth in Grades 6 – 7 stay in worship for Communion
    - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "Jesus is Alive" (Easter Story) Teachers: Dee Dee Duffy, Taryn Barnett, Kate Bryans
    - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Jesus is Alive" (Luke 24:1-12) Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Maria DeJong
    - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Christ is Risen" (Luke 24:1-12) Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz
- **11:00 a.m. – 12 noon**
    - **Holy Week Art Display and Westminster Labyrinth (Parish Hall) Through** the eyes of renowned artists, we witness the events of Holy Week. Members and friends are welcome to walk the labyrinth.
    - **Easter Egg Hunt for children birth through grade 5 (Parish Hall)**

Easter Music Fund

To the glory of God and in thanks for Dale Rogers, anonymous

In memory of Donna Wolaver by Sandy Bellatti

In honor of Dale Rogers for wrangling the choir and St. Andrew's Sisters
by Bob and Julie Blythe

In loving memory of our nephew James Blythe, whom we miss every day
by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Terry Wells by Julie, Bob, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, whom we miss every day,
by Julie, Bob, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Jennie Davis Moy, dear friend and sister, gone too soon,
by Julie, Bob, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In honor of Nolan Young by Ellen and Rance Carpenter

In memory of Morris D. Cooper, Sr. by Virginia Cooper and family

In loving memory of Arthur C. Cragoe and Tony Leone by Cathy Cragoe

In honor of Louise Cragoe by Cathy Cragoe

Leah Duling

Sending Easter greetings from Patmos Island by Judy and Todd Knox

In honor of our Westminster church family by Meg and Jim Kontio

In remembrance of my parents, Mary and Bill Mc Carty by Marilyn Kushak

Giving thanks for Dale Rogers' leadership by Marilyn Kushak

In memory of our parents and siblings by Mary and Robert Leffler

In memory of my mother, Lois Volk, and my brother, Joe Volk, by Joyce Matthews

In honor of Dale Thomas Rogers and the Westminster Choir by Bill Post

In memory of Wesley C. Harrod by Pat Roller

For the glory of music and in honor of Dale Rogers by Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer

In memory of our Mothers: Frances Van Gieson Carman and Vivian Bright Shire
by Jeanne and Peter Van Gieson

Easter Decoration Fund

In memory of Robert Bellatti by Sandy Bellatti

In loving memory of Fred and Betty Blythe by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Ken and Lois Davis and Kathy Stittsworth by Julie and Bob Blythe

In loving memory of Aunt Viola by Julie Blythe

In memory of Scott Hoff by Linda and Michael Brady
In memory of our grandparents by Meridith and James Bryans
In honor of Riley Young by Ellen and Rance Carpenter
In memory of Chris Caupert from Linda and Ed Caupert
In memory of Cathryn Gordon Huff by Virginia Cooper and family
In memory of Ilona DeSanto and in memory of James Batterman
by Tanya DeSanto and Craig Batterman
In loving memory of Bill Donels by his family
For the ones we loved! The Duffys
In loving memory of our mothers by Doris and Mal Hildebrand
Sharon and Larry Reynolds
In memory of my parents, Herbert and Jane Stebbins by Pat Roller
With gratitude for my sister and brother and their families by Diane Rutledge
Bruce Strom
In memory of our parents by Julie and Mike Sundquist
In loving memory of Heather Huitt, Roy, Marilyn, and Dave Tungett,
and Dan VanDeventer from the Manning, Tungett, and VanDeventer families

Easter Music and Decoration Funds

M. Brownell Anderson
Katrina Archer
In memory of Berle and Jeanette Beatty and Elizabeth Harrison by Carolyn and Keith Beatty
In memory of David G. Coontz and David Matthew Coontz by Deb and Drew Coontz
In loving memory of my parents, The Rev. Dr. William M. and Ruth E. Cross by John Cross
In honor of loved ones by Sue Cull
Bill Deemer
In loving memory of my parents, Margaret Kosick and Lee Shipley, Sr. by the Eldridge family
In loving memory of Carolyn Dungan by Kathy and Randy Germeraad
In loving memory of Gerry Hale by Harold Hale and the Pound family
In memory of Wally Henderson by his wife Brynn Henderson
Scott Hoff, always in my heart and dearly missed by his mother, Elaine Hoff
Georgina Hudspeth
Pat and Al Hymans

In memory of Bill, his mother, and my parents, The Rev. Mr. Fred and Chlora Volzke
by Marci Irvine

In memory of Frank and Sara Jenkins, and Al, Mary, and James Mattern
by Mary Jo and David Jenkins

Kathy Kenyon

In honor of Westminster Presbyterian Church by Blythe, Peter, and Paul Kieffer

Mary and Charlie King

In memory of our parents by Priscilla and Tim Kluge

Eleanor and Richard Leary

In memory of Robert and Jan Massey and Earl Tucker by Camille and Tom Massey

In loving memory of John McNutt by Pat McNutt

In memory of William L. Meriwether, Lyman and Glenna Meriwether, Nellie and Charley Bale,
and Mary Alice and George Bale by Kathryn Meriwether

In memory of Ralph and Georgia Norton and Megan N. Salisbury by Maribeth Norton

In loving memory of loved ones by Jeanne Pittman and family

In memory of family members by Marilyn and Jim Rigney

In loving memory of our beloved family by Julie and Randy Robbs and family

In loving memory of Rosella and Harold Rogers by Dale Rogers

In memory of loved ones by Betsy Ruklick

Susan and Michael Shaw

In honor of our parents by Krista and Brad Steller

In loving memory of our family members by Judy and Harvey Stephens

Barbara Stewart

In memory of Lionel S. Stirrett by Becky Stirrett, Cindy and Todd Drake, Ashley, Lindsay,
and Jack Drake, Doug and Laura Stirrett, and Ainsley and Connor Stirrett

In memory of our parents by Martha and Alan Stutz

In remembrance of our grandparents by Megan, Greg, and Lily Swanson

Carolyn and Brad Swanson

In memory of JoAnn Wehrle and Walter and Luanna Hinesley
by Vonnie Hinesley and Roy Wehrle

Cheryl and Dr. Neville White

Charles Wilkin

In memory of loved ones by Sharon Zook

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! We hope your faith is enriched as we worship together on this Easter Sunday. Please help yourself to a welcome brochure located in the pew pockets and check out our website at **www.wpcspi.org.** During the Offertory, we invite you to complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in exploring membership at Westminster, please indicate when you sign the folder or speak to a pastor.

LENTEN COAT DRIVE – Thank you to all who donated to our Lenten Coat Drive. We received **76 coats** which lined the center aisle on Palm Sunday. They were given to Contact Ministries.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING Thank you to all who contributed to our denomination offering which was dedicated Palm Sunday. We received **$111.18** from our children and **$2,575** from the congregation for a total of **$2,686.18**.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Beverages will be provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, April 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss This is How it Always Is by Laurie Frankel. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

DINNER CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMANDS will be held this Wednesday, April 23 at 7:15 p.m. in Parish Hall, following the 6:15 p.m. presentation to Session. Thank you to the Membership Committee for providing the celebratory meal.

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY will gather this Thursday, April 24, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. in Parish Hall as we will host a baby shower for Bible Study members Michella and Ben Arnold.

SPRINGFIELD EARTH AWARENESS FAIR IS Saturday, April 26, 11:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. The Earth Care Team will host a table again this year at the Union Square Park (500 E. Madison St.) by Union Station. This year's theme is "Green Gardening." Westminster has been recertified for the tenth year by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an Earth Care Congregation. The Earth Care Team consists of Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair, Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Dr. Todd Lafrenz, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller

YOUTH SUNDAY is April 27. Come out to support our youth who will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year's theme is Joy in Christ Amid Questions based on John 20:19-31. Senior Liliana Kennerly and Junior Liam Kiszely will present reflections on the text. Junior and Senior High youth will serve as liturgists and present special music.

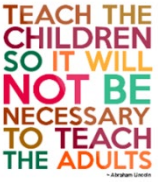
ADULT ED FORUM Presents: Faith, Art, Advocacy Part III: Abolitionism
Sundays, April 27, May 11. As Westminster celebrates 190 years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy, the Adult Education Forum will present the nineteenth century abolition movement. On April 27, Dr. Peter Kieffer will highlight the giants in the movement including Elijah Parish Lovejoy who was martyred in the year 1837 in Alton, IL. On May 11, Dale Rogers will shed light on the rich history of Mercy, James, and Clinton L. Conkling. This forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall following worship.

WESTMINSTER 190TH ANNIVERSARY RETREAT will be May 1-3 at Pere Marquette Conference Center. This retreat will trace the journeys of our founding abolitionists to Alton (13 of whom signed the Lovejoy Anti-Slavery Petition) and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminster's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COLLECTING LAYETTE ITEMS during May. Place items in the box located in the West Narthex near the elevator. Items for infants under 12 months will be donated to Kumler Outreach Ministries. If you shop online, items may be shipped directly to the church.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, MAY 4 The Class of 2025 will be recognized and commissioned during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth: **Charlotte Claire Affrunti, Taryn Marie Barnett, Katherine Jane Bryans, and Charles Davis Graham.** Each youth will receive a Common English Bible which is a gift from Westminster. The Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons will host a reception honoring the Confirmands following worship. *Thank you to those who served as mentors to our confirmands: Susan Day, Krista Steller, Cathy Brower, and Cress Maddox.*

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY on Sunday, May 4 at Ace Sign Co. located at 2540 S. 1st St., Springfield, IL. Doors open at noon and brunch is served at 1:00 PM. This is a Back in the Day Brunch Fundraiser, a retro-themed gathering that brings together our residents, families, and friends to honor our rich legacy and bright future. Poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and bow ties are encouraged. To purchase tickets electronically, visit iphcommunities.com/brunch or purchase tickets at the IPH front desk. Tickets are $45.



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet on Wednesday, May 7, 4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, (1612 E. Capital Ave). for our last gathering in the 2024-2025 program year. We will participate in a service project honoring our theme "Celebration." This interfaith fellowship for children and youth was initiated in the Fall of 2016 and meets quarterly to promote friendship and share in service.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION will be Sunday, May 11 during worship. Each third grader will receive a NRSV Spark Bible with an engraved name plate on the cover. It is our hope and prayer that these scriptures become a guiding light for our children on their faith journey. Third graders receiving Bibles include: **Roscoe Thomas Ekstedt, Becca Hill, Rosalind Lucille Huff, Charlotte Anne Moore, Emmett O'Reilly, and Evangeline Anne (Eva) Volle.** The Children's Choir will sing.

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO A GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 17 AT 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

HOSTED BY SUE CULL (111 LINDEN LANE, 62712)

RSVP at wpcspi.org or with jalt@wpcspi.org

FOUNDERS' SUNDAY IS MAY 18! Join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a dinner reception in Parish Hall as we celebrate our 190th Anniversary. Westminster's Timeline created by Susan Day, is being extended through 2025 to highlight events in the last 15 years and will be presented Founders' Sunday.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

190 YEARS

Celebrating Faith, Art & Advocacy

Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. **Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 14 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 18 and in the June Reporter.** Endowment Committee: Jeff Wilday, Chair, Jim Bryans, Randy Germeraad, Christy Pound, Dale Smith, Lucy Stafford. Advisory: Dr. Diane Rutledge and Todd Wise. We look forward to welcoming former pastors in our celebration: **Dr. Lonnie Lee, Dr. Shelly White Wood, Rev. Mark Merrill, Rev. Tasha Blackburn, Rev. Hannah Dreitcer Zyla, and Rev. Trajan Iliff McGill.**

On **BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 1,** we recognize graduating high school seniors during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship. All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 1 bulletin and the June newsletter. Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information by Friday, May 23.

CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY
ALL-CHURCH COOKOUT SATURDAY, MAY 31

The Eleventh Annual All-Church Cookout will be Saturday, May 31, 4:00 p.m. at the Kieffer Home.

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED! Mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive evening hosted by the Membership Committee. Please RSVP online or by calling Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415 and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

NEW MEMBERS AND MILESTONE MEMBERS will also be recognized at the gathering and will be our guests. The evening will include a sing-along and boat rides.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK: JUNE 23-27 Mark your calendars for this year's neighborhood outreach, taking place from **June 23-27**. We invite members and friends to join us for one or more days during the fourth week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood.

Local homeowners have been invited to participate in our annual service week and/or apply for a matching grant up to $1,500 toward simple property improvements, especially addressing certain needs such as safety, security, and energy efficiency upgrades. This year we have received 19 applications for the service week and 26 applications for matching grants. These applications will be reviewed by the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach Team before participating in site visits the week of May 12. Serving on this team are; Dr. Todd Knox, Chair, Tim Kluge, Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Dr. Diane Rutledge, and Pete Van Gieson.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 21

5:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Retirement Committee (Library)

Tuesday, April 22

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM Children of Abraham (Grace United Meth)
4:30 PM Support and Endowment Meeting (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Conference Room)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters Rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, April 23

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Youth Room)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:00 PM Helping Hands Hot Meal Delivered
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM Great Decisions in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)
7:15 PM Confirmation Dinner (Parish Hall)

Thursday, April 24

4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Pres Home (Off site)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study/Arnold Baby Shower (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

Friday, April 25

5:30 PM Cripe/ Tungett Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 26

11:00 AM Earth Care Fair (Off site)
3:30 PM Cripe/Tungett Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 27

11:00 AM Worship Service – Youth Sunday (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel/Tower Room)
11:15 AM Adult Education Forum (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (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