



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Good Shepherd Sunday
11 May 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Vacation Bible School

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz

Voluntary

Sheep May Safely Graze

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

A Brief Statement of Faith

Leader:

In life and in death we belong to God.

People:

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
God is faithful.**

Leader:

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

People:

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that
nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

Leader:

Let us worship in gratitude and joy.

*Hymn 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Royal Oak

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Creator of the heavens and Maker of each small creature, what a wondrous universe you have spread before us. Each day overflows with opportunities to grow within relationships. We confess we have strayed from your paths of right relationship and peace, and have dishonored you, ourselves, and your creation. Forgive us, we pray, as we learn to forgive others, and guide our feet into the way of peace. 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.

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

**Third Grade
Bible Presentation**

Anthem I've Got the Joy Westminster Children's Choir
Shout to the North and the South
Tell the World About God's Love
Miracle
I know a miracle, I'll share with you. My mom's a miracle, it's true, it's true. Our moms are beautiful and show us love, like all God's miracles sent from above.

Congregational Response Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Donald Fishel
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name. (Repeat twice)
Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class following the Congregational Response. Grades 6-7 remain in worship.

Scripture Reading Psalm 23 Pew Bible, OT page 501

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

Meditation Jolly, Lovely, Always on Time Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The text: God makes me lie down in green pastures; and leads me beside still waters¹. Psalm 23:2-3a

Anthem **The Lamb** Elaine Hagenberg
Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed. By the stream and o'er the mead:
Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing wooly bright:
Gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee! He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb. He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child; I a child and thou a lamb.
We are called by his name. Little Lamb, God bless thee.
William Blake

**The Presentation
and Dedication of our Gifts**

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

Offertory **Appalachian Psalm** Tom Lough
based on Psalm 23

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and
praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with
choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and
place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...
Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Communion Music

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd 17th Cent. French

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

***Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, Divine Shepherd, you call us to an abundant feast at the table of your word; open our hearts to feed on your goodness, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might dwell evermore deeply in you. You anoint us with the oil of gladness. Accept the offering of our lives for the good of the world as our cups overflow with joy and gratitude. Amen.

***Hymn 44** Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Austin

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response** Day by Day Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

***Voluntary** Postlude Thomas Tertius Noble

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in celebration of the graduation of The Rev. Frank Gready and Mary Caroline Mitchell from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary 55 years ago on May 12, 1970, and their reconnection after many years at Westminster.
- **West Narthex Flowers** are given in honor of Nancy Canady's birthday and Mother's Day from her daughters Cathy Allen and Amy Canady.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Braden Barton
- **Acolytes:** Brooke Boutelle and Conner Hill
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Juliet Boutelle and Liam Kiszely
- **Greeters:** Cathy and Emily Brower
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Rustic Whole Wheat Bread and was lovingly baked by Mary Jo Jenkins.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Krista Steller
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Judy Knox, Team Leader, John Cross, Joe Fierstos, Gregg Humphrey, Todd Knox, Julie McDonough, Pat McNutt, Pat Moore, Marilyn Rigney, Julie Robbs, Greg Swanson, Jeanne Van Gieson
- **Home Communion Teams:** Bud and Melanie Green, Judy and Todd Knox,
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Children's Choir; The St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Coleman Moore, Melanie Green, Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Camille Massey, Jim Rigney
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Guild (Parish Hall)** meet to set teaching schedules. Led by Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story.** This week's story: "God Helps You Be Brave" (David and Goliath) Caregivers: Erin Winn, 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.**
 - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "Jesus Is Always With Us" (Go and Tell It I) Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Rose DeJong
 - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Tabitha Helped" (Acts 9:36-43) Teacher: Cathy Brower
 - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Faithful Tabitha" (Acts 9:36-43) Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz
- **11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall) Faith, Art, Advocacy Part III: Abolitionism** Dale Rogers shares information on the rich history of Mercy, James, and Clinton L. Conkling.

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. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION today 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: **Roscoe Thomas Ekstedt, Becca Mae Hill, Rosalind Lucille Huff, Emmett Michael O'Reilly, and Evangeline Anne (Eva) Volle.**

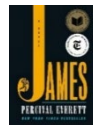
ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS: Faith, Art, Advocacy Part III: Abolitionism today. As Westminster celebrates 190 years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy, the Adult Education Forum presents the nineteenth century abolition movement. Dale Rogers will shed light on the rich history of Mercy, James, and Clinton L. Conkling. This forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.

PENTECOST OFFERING - The denominational offering unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith. **Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminster and our portion will support the 2025 Youth Mission Trip.**



PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY PW and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services provides blankets, tents, and food in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home; wells for families in drought prone areas and gardens; literacy training and microcredit for women. Make checks payable to WPC (memo: Blankets+) or donate online.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, May 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss James by Percival Everett. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



CONCORDIA COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCH will be Thursday, May 22 with Dr. Kieffer, Rev. Bishop and Dale Rogers. Communion is at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 noon.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
190 YEARS
Celebrating Faith, Art & Advocacy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FOUNDERS' WEEKEND GARDEN PARTY, SATURDAY, MAY 17

The women of Westminster are Invited to a Garden Party on Saturday, May 17, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the home of Sue Cull (111 Linden Lane, 62712). Members of Elizabeth Circle are our hosts as we gather on the weekend of our 190th Founders' Day Celebration. RSVP at wpcspi.org or with jalt@wpcspi.org.

WORSHIP AND DINNER RECEPTION, FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 18!

We hope you will join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. as we Celebrate 190 Years of Faith, Art, & Advocacy. Six former pastors: **Senior Minister Dr. Lonnie H. Lee (1995-2012)**, and **Associate Pastors Dr. Shelly White Wood (2001-2006)**, **Rev. Mark Merrill (2002-2010)**, **Rev. Tasha Blackburn (2007-2012)**, **Rev. Hannah Dreitzer Zyla (2014-2017)**, and **Rev. Trajan Iloff McGill (2015-2021)** will join our current pastoral staff in leading a festive worship service with trumpet and special music presented by the Westminster Choir and Advent Singers. The opening anthem is based on the tune *Prospect -Southern Harmony* composed our founding year 1835.

Following worship, a dinner reception will be held in Parish Hall with a welcome from Rev. Albert and Abiah Hale and the opportunity to view Westminster's new extended timeline through 2025. **Please RSVP for the dinner reception online at wpcspi.org or by calling Jennie Alt (217-522-4415).**

This year, as Dr. Kieffer nears the end of her tenure, we welcome gifts to the Endowment in honor of her ministry. 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.

ALL-CHURCH COOKOUT SATURDAY, MAY 31

The Eleventh Annual All-Church Cookout will be on Saturday, May 31, 4:00 p.m. at the Kieffer Home. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive gathering hosted by the Membership Committee. will be recognized at the gathering and will be our guests. The evening will include special music by Baker Symes, dancing, and boat rides from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. We will introduce **NEW MEMBERS AND MILESTONE MEMBERS** and join in a sing-a-long before the meal is served at 6:15 p.m.. Please RSVP on the home page of Westminster's website or by calling Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415 and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.



VBS: COMPASSION CAMP: WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS meets Monday – Friday, **June 9-13** from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will explore timeless Bible stories, create beautiful crafts, play fun games, and enjoy delicious snacks. Registration for children and ministry partners signups are open on the homepage of Westminster's website.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK - JUNE 23-27 Mark your calendars and sign up on the homepage of our website wpcspi.org for this year's neighborhood outreach. We invite you to join us for one or more days during the fourth week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood.



THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, May 12

- 1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM SNE Applicant Site Visits
- 5:00 PM Faith Coalition Annual Board Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Retirement Committee (Library)

Tuesday, May 13

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM SNE Applicant Site Visits
- 3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
- 4:30 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Library)
- 6:00 PM WCP New Family Welcome Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM SHS Spring Choir Concert (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters rehearsal (Offsite)

Wednesday, May 14

- 9:00 AM Berkowitz Food Prep (Kitchen)
- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM SNE Applicant Site Visits
- 3:30 PM Depression & Bi-Polar Support (Youth Room)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 4:30 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 5:15 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
- 6:00 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, May 15

- 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, May 16

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

Saturday, May 17

- 10:00 AM Women's Garden Party (Off Site)

Sunday, May 18

Founders' Sunday

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Third Floor Classroom)
- 11:15 AM Founders' Sunday Lunch Reception (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Phone (217) 522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

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