Westminster Presbyterian Church

190 YEARS

Celebrating Faith, Art & Advocacy

Building a Legacy of Faith

190th Founders' Sunday

May 18, 2025

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Greetings From Presbytery of Great Rivers — Rev. Ann Schwartz

Introit The Beauty of This Sacred Place — *1835 Southern Harmony*

The beauty of this sacred place
inspires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace;
from God all richest blessings flow.

The meal, the word, the art, the song,
are but a glimmer of the whole;
with joyful hearts sing all day long,
God's blessings satisfy the soul.

We look into each person's eyes
and see such longing hunger there.
Respond with love to others' cries;
our neighbors' burdens gladly bear.

So many struggle and despair,
we hear their silent voices plead;
our actions show how much we care,
extending help to those in need,

Tune: Prospect
Text: Marilyn Biery

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

***Call to Worship** — Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle

Leader: Lord, you have been our refuge
People: from one generation to another.
Leader: Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the sea were born,
People: from age to age you are God.
Leader: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning,
People: so we shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
Leader: May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us,
People: as we celebrate the journey and praise the Lord.

Psalm 90:1-2, 14, 17

***Processional Hymn 305** Come Sing, O Church, in Joy *Darwall's 148th*

***Prayer of Confession** Rev. Dr. Shelly White Wood

Holy and loving God, who bends down to lift infants, whose understanding is unsearchable, who renews the strength of those who wait, and who brings life out of death, thank you for the wonder and mystery of who you are. Forgive us for not honoring you in the way we live our lives. 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 Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon Rev. Sarah Bishop

Congregational Response Allelluia, Alleluia! Donald Fishel

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to God's name.

Students in grades Pre-K – 5 will go to Sunday school class during the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 146 — Rev. Trajan McGill and Rev. Hannah Zyla

Second Scripture Reading Luke 4:16-20

Sermon Faith, Art, and Advocacy — Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Anthem Oh How Amiable — Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be alway praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

***Affirmation of Faith** — Rev. Mark Merrill

Westminster Presbyterian Church believes it is in the world for ministry. Established in 1835 as an abolitionist congregation, Westminster remains progressive in theology and mission. With positive convictions and broad sympathies, we continue to invest in the Springfield community and beyond.
With each new day, we affirm our common purpose:
to join in the worshipful praise of God;
to teach the children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church;
to be influential participants in society, by being accountable to the Gospel; to show the love and compassion of Jesus Christ toward each other, and toward those who are hurting;
to be a caring community welcoming both friends and strangers; to own our Presbyterian heritage, reformed and always reforming; and to be prayerfully open to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.
Let the door of this church be a way to service. Amen.

Westminster Mission Statement

The Church at Prayer — Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee and Rev. Tasha Blackburn

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

Presentation of our Gifts and Prayer of Dedication — Rev. Mark Merrill

At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders located at the end of each pew.

Offertory — Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain — Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, Joyous tidings
Proclaim to the world, lift up your voice, shout the good news, behold, your Lord comes to you. Isaiah 40

***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.

***Faith, Art & Advocacy Litany**

Pastors: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, hear our prayers of thanksgiving:

People: For the church universal and for this body of Christ as we celebrate 190 years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy.

Pastors: For this historic sanctuary in which we gather for praise and prayer, witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ;

People: **For disciples, young and old, who have been nurtured in their faith within these walls;**

Pastors: For the mission and service that have reached beyond these walls into the community and the world;

People: **For deacons, elders, and pastors who have loved and led us through the years, equipping us for the work of ministry;**

Pastors: For all the saints who have stood among us, whose memory still enlivens our faith and strengthens our resolve

People: **to build upon the legacy of faith laid by the Reverend Albert Hale and his wife, Abiah.**

Pastors: May our ministry today honor our founders' commitment to be a friend to the poor and sorrowing.

People: **May the way we live our lives be a testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Pastors: May we be in the world for ministry, and with sure convictions, may our faith proclaim the love of God to our community. Amen.

***Mission Statement Hymn** *The hymn can be found on the following page.*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response** Forth in Thy Name — Orlando Gibbons

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
in all I think or speak or do.

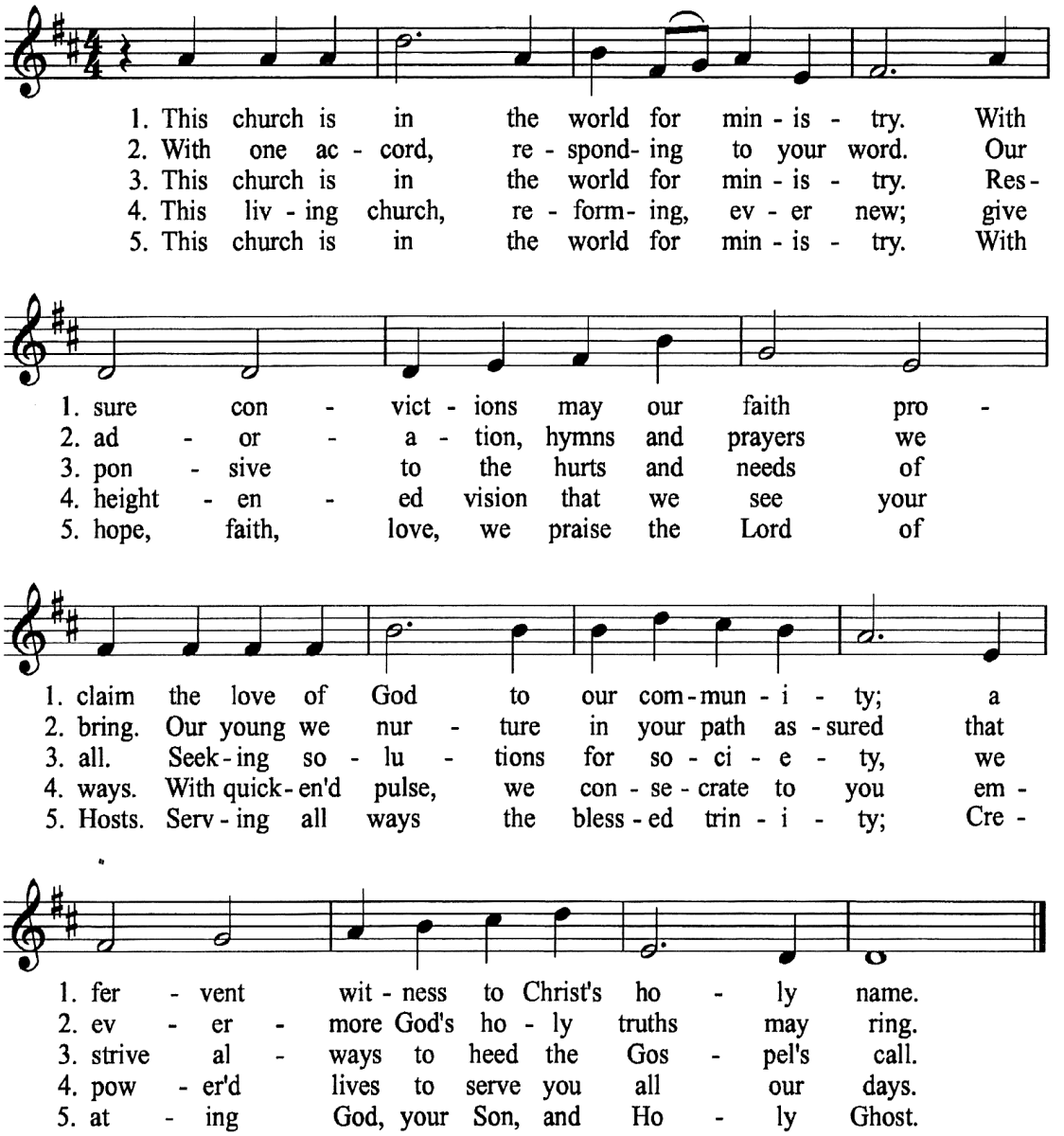
***Voluntary** Heroic March in D — Georg Philipp Telemann

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

Mission Statement Hymn

A Metrical Paraphrase by
Dale Thomas Rogers, 1994

Walter Greatorex, 1919



SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in memory of Marilyn & Leroy Tungett and in honor of her birthday by their children, Linda, Eleanor & Michael.
- **Sunday Liturgists:** Rev. Sarah Bishop, Rev. Tasha Blackburn, Rev. Gerald Boutelle, Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee, Rev. Trajan McGill, Rev. Mark Merrill, Rev. Dr. Shelly White Wood, Rev. Hannah Zyla
- **Acolytes:** Taryn Barnett and Kate Bryans
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** Sam Batterman and James Maeda
- **Greeters:** Sue Cull and Carol Bloemer
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Linda Caupert, Kyle Duffy, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Randi Wiseman, Erin Winn
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, The Advent Singers, Dennis Jones, Trumpeter, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 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: "God is With You When You're Scared" (Daniel) Caregivers: Kara Milward, Lynn McMenamin
- **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: "Share God's Love Everywhere" (Go and Tell II) Teachers: Leigh Milward and Rose DeJong
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Peter's Vision" (Acts 11:1-18) Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz, Cathy Brower
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** This week's story: "A Gift for All" (Acts 11:1-18) Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz, Adam Ekstedt
- **11:15 a.m. Founders' Day Dinner Reception (Parish Hall) includes:**
  - **A welcome from the Rev. Albert and Abiah Hale,** portrayed by Andy and Debbie Van de Voort.
  - **Westminster's Timeline** through 2025 will be displayed. Thank you to Susan Day for her creative work.
  - **Menu:** Mixed Green Salad, Chicken Divan, gluten-free vegetarian pasta option, assorted desserts. Prepared by Hospitality Coordinator Pat Hymans and her team.

ALBERT HALE CIRCLE

The **ALBERT HALE CIRCLE** is listed below and includes pledges, gifts, pre-campaign gifts and planned gifts. Reverend Hale, pastor from 1839-1866, laid the cornerstone for the legacy of faith and sure foundation we are building together in the Westminster Support and Endowment Fund.

Cornerstone
($250,000 and above)
Fern Garrett Estate*
Betty & Henry Dale Smith, Sr.
Henry Dale Smith, Jr.

Foundation
($150,000 to $249,999)
Kathy & Randy Germeraad
Dorothy Kessler Estate
Robyn E. Newtson Estate
Lynne O'Shea †
Mary & William
Schnirring Estate

Tower
($100,000 to $149,999)
Harry Bergmann*
Memory of Ruth Bergmann
Garvey Estate*
Alice Stuart Payne Estate*

Keystone
($50,000 to $99,999)
Paul Bowman Estate*
Linda Chronister Folse
Memory of Elder
Grady Chronister
Linda & Grady Chronister
Louise Cragoe †
Sue & Roland Cull
Linda Culver Memorial*
Carolyn & Dan Dungan
Blythe & Peter Kieffer
Judy & Todd Knox
Barbara & Lonnie H. Lee †
Preckwinkle Families
Jean & William Sherrick
Jean & William Sherrick*
Nancy & Bill Simpson
Marty Sumner

Pillar
($25,000 to $49,999)
Silvey & James Barge
Frances Batcheldor Estate*
Bennett Estate*
Mina & Harry Bentsen
Betty & Bill Denham Estate
Velda & George Finney*
Kathy & Randy Germeraad*
Gerry & Harold Hale
Alice Lambert Estate*
Ruth Langdon Estate*
Emma Mae Large Estate*
Ann & Bill Lienemann
Trudy M. & Douglas C. Nelson
Karen & Andrew Sherrick
Hannah Morrow Siebert Estate*
Marty & Alan Stutz
Barbara Sutton Estate*
Eleanor Wahlbrink*
Martha & Jeff Wilday
Martha & Jeff Wilday †
Lisa & Todd Wise
Elvin & Sharon Zook

Samaritan
($15,000 to $24,999)
Jane & Steve Arbuthnot
Honor of Julia & Steven
Arbuthnot's marriage
Kathie & Michael Nenaber
William Schultz
Memory of Kyle G. Schultz
Rebecca & Lionel Stirrett
Dorothea Thrasher Estate

Advocate
($10,000 to $14,999)
Frances & Edwin Bay*
Carolyn & Keith Beatty*
Mark Beatty*
Dorothy D. &
William Black Trust*
Leah & Martin Duling
Chris & Butch Elzea
Sharon & Matthew Gilmour
Helen Hansen Estate*
Judy and Dale Huston
Irwin & Becker Estate*
Evelyn Jensen Estate
Priscilla & Tim Kluge
Margot Kramer
Carol & Walter Lohman*
LaVerne Marlowe Estate*
Bev & Jim Orr †
Honor of our Family
Dorothy Park Estate*
Holly Howe Parker*
Jeanne & Glen Pittman
Cathy Schwartz & John Shafer
Dorothy Temple*
Don Thompson Estate*
Marjorie VanNattan Estate*
Westminster Cooperative
Preschool

Counselor
($5,000 to $9,999)
Anonymous
Anonymous
George Adams Estate*
Katrina Archer
Jan & Cliff Baxter
Carolyn & Keith Beatty
Sandy Bellatti
Carolyn Berning
Don Blackburn Estate*
Meridith & James Bryans
Honor of Kate Bryans
Eleanor Copper Foundation*
William Deemer, Jr.
Linda N. Dillard
Sue & Bill Donels
Hazen & Roland Folse
James S. Francis Estate*
Barbara Greening
Memory of
Dr. Gershom K. Greening
Ann & Keith Hamilton
Joseph A. Harrison
Christie, Robyn & Will Hovey
Paul Denham Kieffer
Honor of his mom's ministry

Louise Kuehn Estate*
Eleanor & Richard Leary
Barbara & Lonnie H. Lee
Judith & Tom Lewis
Ann & Bill Lienemann*
Mary Caroline & David Mitchell
Robyn Newtson
Sally & Stan Papp
Memory of
Dr. & Mrs. W. J. Trainor
Judy & Fred Prillaman
Patricia Albrecht Purdy Estate*
Mary Ray
Memory of Doris Ray
Julie & Randy Robbs
Ruth Robert-Roland*
Diane Rutledge
Elaine Ryder Estate*
Sue & Steve Scaife
Schemmerhorn Estate*
Linda & Bill Schlosser
Linda Shaefer
Susan R. Shea
Mary Anne & James Singleton
Judy & Harvey Stephens
Julie & Michael Sundquist
Carolyn & Brad Swanson
Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer
Jeanne & Peter VanGieson
Sue & Jesse Werner
Cheryl & Neville White
Jean Williamson Estate*
Sarah & Bob Zerfas

Companion
($2,500 to $4,999)
Anonymous
Anonymous
Catherine Brower
JoAnn & Doug Brown*
Ellen & Rance Carpenter
Ann W. Collins
Deborah & David Coontz
Memory of
David M. Coontz
Carol & Dick Cordier
Memory of John S. &
Theda Muirhead and
George & Dorothy Cordier
Lois Davis Memorial*
Judy & Dan Dees
Gale & Jack Fixmer
Elsie & Robert Fox
Ione Hermann Estate*
Renee Housel Estate
Nancy & Keith Huston
Marci & Bill Irvine
Mary & Charles King
Mary & Bob Leffler
McGaugh Estate*
Patricia McKenzie
Mary Ann Nation
Memory of James Nation
Richard Newtson Estate*
Stan & Barbara Papp
Memory of
Sally Trainor Papp
Sharon Reynolds
Judy Ridinger
Ruth Robert Roland Estate
Leona Sangster Estate*
Nancy & Lon Scott
Krista & Brad Steller
Robert A. Stuart
John Thompson Estate*
Alan J. Wallace

Friend
(up to $2,499)
Anonymous
Anonymous
Barry F. Denham
Norma Adams-Johnson
Beth and Tad Allen
Linda Andrews & Claudia Nash
Marc Anderson
Charlotte Bailey
Jane R. Barry
Neil Bassett
Ella Grace & Robert
Bengel Estate*
Lynnette Berdoll
Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz
Meggan & Brady Bird
George Botanga
Carol & Stanley Brosam
Catherine D. Brown
Honor of Anne Beckner
and Robert Sterling
Jo Ann L. Brown Estate
Nancy & Richard Canady
Linda & Ed Caupert
Alexander Moore Chipman
Sophia and Christian Choi
Stephanie Churchill
Ada & Stephen Cobourn
Memory of Loved Ones
Marilyn Cohen
Robert Copper Estate*
Robert Cordier
Linda Cox
Catherine Cragoe
John Cross
Betty Dawkins
Margery Dodds
Virginia & Jim Dolan
Hannah M. Dreitcer
Tempa Dunn
Betsy Dye
Chelsea & Adam Ekstedt
Helen Evenson
Joseph Fierstos
Donna & Francis Foster
Carmel Fratianni
& Michael Schneider
Deanna & Donald Funk
Honor of Dale T. Rogers
Melanie & Bud Green
Anne & David Haaker
Roberta & Richard Hendee
Mal Hildebrand
Pat Hildebrand-Culler
Tamika & Jacob Hill
Sandy Hill
Sandy & Jon Hockenyos
Katharine M. Hughes
Thomas H. Janeway
Kathy & Jeff Johnson
Minnie Lee Jones Estate*
J. M. Keller
Kathleen H. Kenyon
Beth & Jim Kincaid
Clyde Knock*
Karen Kraft
Memory of Amolee McIntyre
Marilyn Kushak
F. Wells Langbehn
Valerie & Dave Leonatti
Vena Long
Memory of
Donald Ray Long
Naomi & Robert Lynn
Katie & Carl Matteson

Joyce Matthews
Teresa & Terry McElwee
Sarah & Trajan Iliff McGill
Jack McKee Estate*
June McKee Estate*
Kathy & Bill Meriwether
Lisa Metzger
Memory of
Mary & Edmond Metzger
Leigh & Kevin Milward
Carolyn & R. L. Moore
Kathy & Tim Moore
Memory of the Koessel
& the Moore Families
Stephanie S. Moore
Bev & Ken Morey
Madelyn Morris Bogue
Memory of Richard Morris
Joyce Newcomb Family
Kathy Culver Nickell
Tom Owen
Mary & Harold Perkins
Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer
Michelle Power
Claire & Richard Priller
E.L. Pruitt Co.
Linda & Mark Ranck
Marilyn & James Rigney
Kelly Robertson
Mary Gail & Steve Romack
Memory of
Helen & Clyde Knock
Kim Leistner Root
Memory of Dorothy Irvine
Debra (Pollock) Rudis
Memory of Laura Pollock
Betsy Ruklick
Susan & Grant Russel
Memory of Betty &
Joseph Dawkins
Jo Ann & Eric Schmidt
Rosemary Schussle*
Rebecca Sherrick
Honor of Dr. & Mrs. William
Sherrick's 60th Anniversary
Donna Solomon
Suzann & Thomas Spada
Kim & Mark Stegeman
Honor of Phyllis &
Bob McCormick
Barbara Stewart
Paula Stewart
Strawbridge Estate*
Bruce Strom
M. Jill Sullivan
Debbie & Skip Turnbull
Sharon Turner
Elizabeth E. Unglaub
Memory of Margot Kramer
Mary Waddell Estate*
Anne & Frank
Waldburger Estate
James Wilday
Charles Wilkin
Memory of Rebecca Wilkin
Kate Wilson
Amy & Sam Xanders
Cathy Yokley
Marlene Zimmerman

Testamentary
(Amount Unknown)
Anonymous †
Janie & Clay Bahlow †
David Becker †
Sandy Bellatti †
Marilyn Cohen †
Ann W. Collins †
Virginia & Jim Dolan †
Sue Donels †
Carolyn & Daniel Dungan †
Donna Garman †
Kathy & Randy Germeraad †
Sharon & Matt Gilmour †
Anne & David Haaker †
Elaine Hoff †
Christie & Robyn Hovey †
Judy & Dale Huston †
Thomas H. Janeway †
Vivian Keithley †
Blythe & Peter Kieffer †
Rebecca Martin †
Kathy Culver Nickell †
Tom Owen †
Jeanne Pittman †
Richard Priller †
Mary Ray †
Sharon Reynolds †
Pat Roller †
Diane Rutledge †
Timothy Schweizer †
Susan R. Shea †
Nancy Simpson †
Kay & Gerald Smith †
Marty & Alan Stutz †
Julie & Mike Sundquist †
William Wright †

New since last published
Donation in Honor of
Dr. Kieffer's Ministry
* Pre-campaign gift
† Planned gift

Westminster Support and Endowment Fund: Building a Legacy of Faith

In May of 2015, on the 180th Founders' Sunday, Westminster dedicated the Building a Legacy of Faith Twenty-Year Anniversary Endowment Campaign and established the ALBERT HALE CIRCLE. During the five-year campaign the market value of Westminster's Support and Endowment Fund grew from **$1.9 to $8.1 million.** As of March 31, 2025, the market value of the Support and Endowment Fund was **$8,939,504.** *This does not include planned gifts.*

Support and Endowment brochures can be found in the pew pockets. We continue to welcome donations and testamentary gifts to the Westminster Support and Endowment Plan.

Support and Endowment Committee: *Chair, Jeff Wilday, Joe Fierstos, Randy Germeraad, Christy Pound, Dr. Diane Rutledge, Dale Smith; Advisory Members: Jim Bryans, Lucy Preckwinkle Stafford, Treasurer, Todd Wise*

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.

FOUNDERS' SUNDAY CELEBRATING 190 YEARS OF FAITH, ART & ADVOCACY welcomes 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 Dreitcer Zyla (2014-2017), and Rev. Trajan Iliff McGill (2015-2021) who join our current pastoral staff in a festive worship service with trumpet and special music presented by the Westminster Choir and Advent Singers. We also welcome Rev. Ann Schwartz who will bring greetings on behalf of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

THE OPENING ANTHEM *The Beauty of This Sacred Place* is based on the tune *Prospect* from the singing schoolbook of hymns Southern Harmony, printed in 1835. In the early years of Second Presbyterian, singing, reading music, and sacred music was taught in gatherings called singing schools. The first choir director was John Francis Rague, architect of the Old State Capitol.

A DINNER RECEPTION following worship will be held in Parish Hall and include a welcome from Rev. Albert and Abiah Hale, the opportunity to view Westminster's timeline through 2025, and a delicious dinner.

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. During May, make checks payable to Westminster (memo: Blankets+) or donate online.

MEMORIAL GARDEN - Twenty-five years ago, this Spring, Session approved the Memorial Garden Policies and began plans for construction. Each Memorial Sunday, Westminster's Memorial Garden is highlighted. Recent additions include a south wall in 2018, a brick trim to complement the southside landscape designed by the late Bill Donels, who also designed our Memorial Garden landscape plan. In 2016, the Memorial Garden Committee added a webpage to the Westminster Presbyterian Church website with pertinent information about those inurned in the garden.

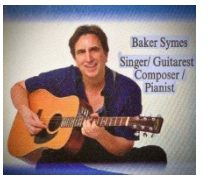
The cost of an individual inurnment in the South wall is $1,000 for a member or their immediate family and $2,000 for friends of Westminster. Persons desiring to reserve space may complete an application form located in the West Narthex and on our website. Memorial Garden Committee: Chair *David Mitchell, Dr. Scott Day, Sue Donels, Marci Irvine, Jim McDonough, Jeanne Pittman.*

MILITARY PLAQUE A slide show of the Military Plaque is posted on our website. We are grateful for the sacrifices and years of service to our country by each person listed. *If you or a family member have served in the military and are not included, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org with name, rank, branch and years of service.*

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.

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

The Eleventh Annual All-Church Cookout to welcome new members and to recognize milestone members 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 using the QR code, on the church homepage or by calling Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415 and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

The evening will include special music by Baker Symes, dancing, and boat rides from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. New members and Milestone Members will be recognized at the gathering and will be our guests. The evening will include a sing-along prior to serving the "food, glorious food."

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 1 - Graduating high school seniors are honored 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 24.

EDUCATION AND COMPASS LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION will be Sunday, June 1 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. In their honor, we will purchase three pairs of goats from the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue. Goats enhance food security through milk, cheese, butter and yogurt. These valuable food offer nutrition to those who need it most. We are grateful for our Ministry Partner's work nurturing the faith of our children, youth, adults, and Graham Elementary School students.

2025 YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEETING will meet Sunday, June 1 at 9:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for an update in preparation for our journey to Asheville, the week of July 12-19. To date, we have thirteen youth and twelve adult leaders who will serve on the team led by Rev. Sarah Bishop. Please contact Rev. Sarah to confirm all paperwork and payments have been completed.
The team will join Asheville Youth Mission in their theme, Re(New)ed Creation by serving in a homeless vet's shelter, cleaning up from Hurricane Helene, and other services. The team will stay at First Presbyterian Church of Asheville. On the trip to Ashville, they will worship with First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN and enjoy the Nashville area. **The final fundraising event is Sunday, June 15 with a car wash and bake sale.**

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. Our leadership includes: Rev. Bishop and youth - Bible Stories, Meleah Berkowitz - crafts, Pat Hymans - snacks, Katie Moore - music, and Isaac Alt - outdoor games.

NEW MEMBER CLASS - Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, June 8 and 15 at 9:00 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. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be recognized on Sunday, June 22, following a Special Session meeting.

SIXTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK

Westminster is in its sixth year of fulfilling the congregation's commitment to invest $450,000 in our neighborhood over the course of the decade. We have received 34 matching grants and 21 service week project applications. Site visits were completed May 12, 13, and 14.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR TEAM MEETING will be Tuesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK JUNE 23-27 - We invite you to join us for one or more days during the fourth week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood. If you are interested, contact Todd Knox at hardknox1@mac.com. You may sign-up at wpcspi.org. and let us know which days you are able to serve.

MATCHING GRANTS Neighbors who complete their projects by November 28, 2025 will be reimbursed 50% of the cost up to $1,500.

LITTLE PANTRY - Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry daily, on the grounds of Graham Elementary. We have many dates available in June. If you are interested in helping, sign up on the homepage of our website.

UPDATE FROM THE PNC Following an extensive review of nearly 70 Personal Discernment Profiles and after conducting Zoom interviews with seven applicants, the committee narrowed the selection to three potential candidates who will visit Westminster in the coming weeks.

Continue to keep the members of the PNC in your prayers. Brownie Anderson, George Botanga, Dr. Scott Day, Dr. Todd Knox, Christy Pound, Lucy Stafford, Greg Swanson, and Jess Weitzel.

DR. KIEFFER'S RETIREMENT A Celebratory Dinner will be held Friday, August 22, 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and include dinner, drinks, toasts, and dancing. Dr. Kieffer's final sermon will be Sunday, August 24 with a festive reception following worship in Parish Hall.

As Dr. Kieffer nears the end of her tenure, members are invited to make a gift to the Endowment in honor of her ministry. **As of Founders' Sunday, 26 members have donated $28,325. Their names are highlighted in blue in the ALBERT HALE CIRCLE.** Donations continue to be welcome!

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE
TO THE MINISTRIES
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ARE WELCOME TO SCAN HERE.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, May 19

Tuesday, May 20

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
12:00 PM Refugee Sub-committee (Library)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2rd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Retirement Committee
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Library)
7:00 PM SHS Senior Recital (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, May 21

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support (Youth Room)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

Thursday, May 22

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study Potluck (Off site)
6:00 PM Preschool Celebration of Stars (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, May 23

11:00 AM Memorial for Mary Perkins (Sanctuary)

Saturday, May 24

Sunday, May 25

10:00 AM Memorial Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre-K to Grade 5 (Third Floor Classroom)
12:00 PM Choir Brunch (Off site)

Monday, May 26

Church Office Closed in honor of Memorial Day

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