WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Baccalaureate Sunday
1 June 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Honoring the Retirement of WCP Director and Teacher, Emily Rowley (2014-2025)

Introit Let it Be — John Lennon

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be
And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

And when the broken-hearted people living in the world agree
There will be an answer, let it be
For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see There will be an answer, let it be

And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me
Shinin' until tomorrow, let it be
I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come to this place of prayer,
People: for here we can bring our hopes and dreams.
our hidden fears and the doubts
Leader: We come to this place of grace,
People: for here we learn compassion and joy,
and discover how deeply we are loved.
Leader: We come with these people called the church,
People: to be blessed by the variety of gifts,
to live as one for our God of Grace and God of Glory.

***Processional Hymn 307** God of Grace and God of Glory — *Cwm Rhondda*

***Prayer of Confession**

O God of glory, sovereign of all nations, the risen and ascended Christ calls us to carry your message of life to all people. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Loving God, who opens our prison doors and releases us from our faults, forgive us for the times we stay when we should go and for the times we go when we should stay. 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
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 Education and Compass Leadership Recognition

Congregational Response Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks — Donald Fishel

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Acts 16:16-34 — Pew Bible, NT pages 136

Second Scripture Reading John 17:20-26 — Pew Bible, NT pages 111-112

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

Sermon Should I Stay or Should I Go Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened…" Acts 16 26b

Anthem Shower the People You Love James Taylor

You can play the game You can act out the part
Though you know It wasn't written for you
Tell me how can you stand there With your broken heart
Ashamed to be playin' a fool?

One thing can lead to another It doesn't take any sacrifice
Oh, Father and Mother And sister and brother
If it feels nice Don't think twice Just shower the people you love with love. Show them the way that you feel.
Things are gonna work out fine If you only will Do as I say

You can run but you cannot hide This is widely known
Now what you plan to do with your foolish pride
When you're all by yourself alone
Once you tell somebody the way that you feel
You can feel it beginning to ease, I think it's true what they say
About the squeaky wheel Always getting the grease.

Recognition of High School Graduates

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 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation Dale Wood

The text for the anthem is 394 in Glory to God

***Offertory Response** Doxology

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** **Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of Christ, and his power at work in our lives. Bless these gifts and our lives that we may be your witnesses to the world and serve you. Amen.**

***Hymn 295** Go to the World! *Sine Nomine*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response** Forth in Thy Name Orlando Gibbons

***Voluntary** God of Grace

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Sam Batterman
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Connor Hill
- **Greeters**: Katie, Lucy, and Biz Black
- **Music:** Baker Symes, Guitar, The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Ushers: Greg Boutelle (Head Usher),** Christian Kennerly, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Safety Team:** Brad Steller
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Matthew Hibbert from GHS attending Southern IL University in Edwardsville.

Liliana Kennerly from SHG attending Southern IL University in Edwardsville.

Sydney Lettes from Pace Academy in Atlanta, GA, attending Vanderbilt University. She is the granddaughter of Dr. Alan and Marty Stutz.

Julia Musgrave from RHS attending University of Iowa.

Wyatt Myers from Bay School of San Francisco attending Pratt Institute in NY. Wyatt is the grandson of Linda Folse.

Larson Nester from GHS attending Southern Utah University.

Alina Vogler from GHS attending the University of Tampa in Tampa, FL.

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Braden Barton – A.A. from Lincoln Land Community College. He will attend University of IL Springfield to pursue a bachelor's in computer science.

Aerwyna Eastvold – A.A. from Lincoln Land Community College. She will attend Southern IL University in Edwardsville to pursue a bachelor's in music education.

COLLEGE DEGREES

Grace Batterman - B.S. in Exercise, Performance and Health Optimization from Auburn University in Auburn, AL. Grace graduated Magna Cum Laude and plans to pursue her master's physical therapy.

Carter Formea - B.A. in Accounting from the University of Illinois, Springfield in December. Carter is pursuing schools for his master's in accounting.

Kristina Hemberger - B.S. in Health and Science with an emphasis in leadership policy from the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. Kristina will marry Hayden Moellers on August 2, 2025 in Edgerton, KS.

Jaiana Ireland - B.S. in Biology from Illinois State University in Normal, IL in December and plans to obtain a master's degree in science.

Ella Kurmann – B.S. in Interior Design and Construction Management from Illinois State University.

Benjamin Parker - B.A. in History from American University in Washington, D.C. and plans to attend graduate school in education.

Avery Pound - B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and a Minor in Applied Economics from Cornell University. Avery graduated Magna Cum Laude and will attend Purdue University to pursue his masters in Agricultural Economics.

Adrian Reed – B.A. in Business Management and Cyber Security from the Southern IL University in Edwardsville. Adrian is the grandson of Nancy Reed.

Audrey Stutz – B.A. in Psychology and a Minor in Creative Writing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Audrey is the granddaughter of Dr. Alan and Marty Stutz.

GRADUATE DEGREES

Claire Bess – Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy and Management from the University of Pittsburgh. She will do further study at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health – Population Health Institute.

Abby Fierstos – J.D. law degree from St. Louis University. Abby is preparing for the Illinois Bar.

Laura O'Reilly – Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Adler University. She will continue to work in private practice and aspires to work at a university to teach future social workers or psychologists.

Cristian Reed – M.A. of Science in Chemistry from Southern IL University in Edwardsville. Cristian is the grandson of Nancy Reed.

EDUCATION AND COMPASS LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

In honor of our Education and Compass Leadership, we will purchase three pairs of goats from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Goats provide much needed nutritional food from yogurt, milk, butter and cheese for those who need it most. We are grateful for these individuals and their compassionate nurturing of the faith of our children, youth, adults, and Graham Elementary School students.

Nursery Guild: Linda Caupert, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Sally Godbey, Priscilla Kluge, Dr. Judy Knox, Meg Kontio, Maria Lafrenz, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Leigh and Kara Milward, Christy Pound, Sue Scaife, Julie Sundquist, Erin Winn

Sunday School Teachers: Taryn Barnett, Dr. Aaron and Mrs. Meleah Berkowitz, Kate Bryans, Lindsay Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Maria and Rose DeJong, Dee Dee Duffy, Juliana Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward, Kristina Opperman, Laura and Eric O'Reilly, Julie Robbs, Erin Winn

Bridges Midweek Fellowship: Meleah Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Pat Roller

Children of Abraham: Dr. Aaron and Mrs. Meleah Berkowitz, Rev. Bishop, Dr. Kieffer, Mary Ray, Dale Rogers, Sophia Choi, Georgina Hudspeth, Pat McNutt, Susan Shaw

Confirmation Prep (Grades 6-7): Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, Mary Ray

Confirmation (Grade 8): Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Mary Ray

Youth Group Leadership Team: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray

Adult Education: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Dr. Vena Long, Rev. Jihyun Oh, Dr. Deborah Parker, Rev. Godfrey Musengwa, Dr. Peter Kieffer, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Roland Folse, Dale Rogers, Dr. Roy Wehrle

COMPASS for Kids: Emily Brower, Linda Cox, Juliana Eastvold, Kris Gates

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.** The entire **Youth Mission Team** will gather in the Second Floor Classroom for a meeting before this summer's mission trip.
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "We Worship in God's House, Too" (Young Jesus in the Temple) *Caregiver: Kara Milward*
- **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)** lesson: "I Can Help My Family" (Baby Moses II) *Teacher: Sara Eldridge*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's lesson: "Paul and Silas" (Acts 16:16-34) *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** This week's lesson: "In Life and Death We Belong to God…" (A Brief Statement of Faith Session 02) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m.**
  - **Baccalaureate Reception (Parish Hall)** Hosted by Congregational Fellowship Com.
  - **Parish Nurse (Church Office)** Marilyn Rigney consultations and check blood pressures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, plan to attend the **New Member Class** on **June 8 and 15 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Pastor's Study.

WELCOME TO BAKER SYMES, professional musician and friend of Drs. Kieffer.

THANK YOU, EMILY ROWLEY, who has served the Westminster Cooperative Preschool as Director/Teacher since 2014 with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, June 4** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Wheat (11 Pickering Lane, 62712). Vonnie Hinesley will lead the devotional *Evangelism* by Watchman Nee (Pages 323-329) from the book, Devotional Classics. Please RSVP to Pat at (217)836-6091.

VBS COMPASSION CAMP: The week of June 9-13 from 9:15 a.m. to 12 noon, children ages 4 - Grade 5 will enjoy Bible stories, crafts, games, music, and snacks. All VBS

YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISERS THE CAR WASH / BAKE SALE will be **Sunday, June 15 – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Members are invited to support the Youth Mission Team for their final fundraisers.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet Friday, **June 20 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Charli Swain, educational programmer and horticulturist with the Washington Park Botanical Gardens, will speak on how it operates all around the year.

SUMMER ADULT ED FORUM is **Sunday, June 22,** 11;15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Dr. Roy Wehrle will present "China, the U.S., and World Trade Today." Join Roy in a discussion on the likely outcomes of the US/China Trade War and rivalry, and probable impacts on the world economy and nations.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK JUNE 23-27 - Sign-up at wpcspi.org. and let us know which days you can serve. Questions: Contact Todd Knox at hardknox1@mac.com.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, June 2
Garden Club of Springfield (Off site)

Tuesday, June 3
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PMPNC Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, June4
3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Youth Room)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)
7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle (Off Site)

Thursday, June 5

Friday, June 6

Saturday, June 7

Sunday, June 8
Holy Communion
9:00 AM New Member Class (Pastor's Study)
9:15 AM VBS Ministry Partner Meeting (Parish Hall)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)

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

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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