WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday After Pentecost
29 June 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment	Steadfast Neighbor Presentation Recognition of Gary Warnick	Dr. Todd Knox
Voluntary	Rondo for the Flutes	Johann Rinck
***Ringing of the Bell**	*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*	

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We call to mind your deeds, O Lord.
People: Your way, O God, is holy.
Leader: We remember the wonders of creation,
People: how you brought order out of chaos.
Leader: We recall your leading us to freedom,
People: how you call each of us by name.
Leader: Let us praise God when morning gilds the skies.

***Processional Hymn 667**	When Morning Gilds the Skies	*Laudes Domini*

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God, thank you for your steadfast love in each of our lives and for your call for us to be steadfast to one another. You set us free to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. Forgive us when we misuse the freedom we have received in Christ or misunderstand it to mean we can say or do whatever we want without regard for others. 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

Congregational Response Listen, Listen, God is Calling — Neno Lake Mungu

Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 will go to their Summer Sunday School class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 — Pew Bible, OT page 332-333

Second Scripture Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-25 — Pew Bible, NT page 190-191

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

Sermon The Paradox of Freedom — Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "For freedom Christ has set us free." Galatians 5:1a

Solo Joy is Like the Rain — Sister Mariam Therese Winter

I saw raindrops on my window, Joy is like the rain.
Laughter run across my pain slips away and comes again,
Joy is like the rain.

I saw clouds upon the mountain, Joy is like a cloud.
Sometimes silver, sometimes gray, always not far away.
Joy is like the rain.

I saw Christ in wind and thunder, Joy is tried by storm.
Christ asleep with my boat whipped by wind, yet still afloat,
Joy is tried by storm.

I saw raindrops on the river, Joy is like the rain.
Bit by bit the river grows 'til all at once it overflows.
Joy is like the rain.

Sam Berkowitz, soprano

***Affirmation of Faith** — from the *Confession of Belhar*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind…

We believe that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

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 — Alleluia — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

***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, triune, how grateful we are for the call to walk in the Spirit of Christ, happy and free. We present our offerings and commit ourselves to follow Christ, love our neighbors, and share the fruits of the Spirit, giving you thanks and praise, until you come to carry us home. Amen.

***Hymn 726** — Will You Come and Follow Me — *Kelvingrove*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** — **Postlude** — W.S. Lloyd Webber

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** William Affrunti
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and Connor Hill
- **Greeter**: Julie Robbs
- **Music:** Sam Berkowitz, Soprano; Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Christian Kennerly, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

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: "Give Thanks to God for your Food" (Jesus Feeds a Crowd) *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. All students will meet in Third Floor Chapel.**
  - **Preschool – Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Growing for God" (Galatians 5:1, 13-25) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Adam and Chelsea Ekstedt*
- **11:15 a.m. Steadfast Neighbor Service Week Reception (Parish Hall)** A PowerPoint presentation of the service week will be presented as members and friends visit and enjoy cookies.

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.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK RECEPTION TODAY Westminster completed its sixth year of fulfilling the congregation's commitment to invest $450,000 in our neighborhood over the course of the decade. Sixty-five ministry partners, staff and one neighbor worked on **31 total service week projects** serving 18 of our neighbors' homes, youth room, and creating 13 flowerpots for neighbors' front porches under the direction of Coordinator Todd Knox and team captains Tim Kluge, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Dale Rogers, Pete Van Gieson, and Gary Warnick. Due to the extreme heat this week, teams worked half days. Lunches were prepared by Pat Hymans' Hospitality Team. Neighbors were our guests at lunch on Friday, June 27.

GARY WARNICK CELEBRATES FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY - Gary joined the Westminster staff in June 2010. He came to us with 25 years of experience in City Operations at Archer, Daniels Midland, Inc. Gary has a B.A. degree in agriculture from Illinois State University. We recognize Gary with deep gratitude for his instrumental role in the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week as we completed our sixth year. As Westminster's Building and Property Manager, Gary not only takes superb care of our facilities, but he is also instrumental in building our community and enriching our life together.

2025 YOUTH MISSION TEAM TO BE COMMISSIONED Sunday, July 6 during worship for their Mission Trip to Asheville NC July 12-19. The team of twelve youth and eleven adults will help with Hurricane Helene clean-up, serve meals to those displaced post-Helene, tend community gardens, and organize supplies for the homeless. The team will lead worship and report on Sunday, July 20.

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER TO MEET THE CO-PASTOR CANDIDATE Friday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall to meet the candidate and their family. If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP to Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) by Thursday, July 10.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JULY 13 TO ELECT THE CO-PASTOR With much joy and enthusiasm, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, July 13, following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship for the purpose of electing the Co-Pastor who will officially begin Tuesday, September 2 and become Pastor/Head of Staff on October 1, 2025. As a part of Presbyterian Polity and to maintain confidentiality for the candidate, professional and personal information will not be shared until the weekend we extend the call. Thank you for the good work of the PNC.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet Friday, July 18 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Debra Kunkel, Wildlife Educator and owner, of Central Illinois Wildlife will speak on we can "Live Peacefully with our Local Wildlife." RSVP by calling the church

SUMMER ADULT ED FORUM presents "Global Money and Trade, US Foreign Policy and How Elected Democracies become Autocracies" on Sunday, July 27 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. This is the second session in a three-week series entitled "Geopolitics of the World Today."

THE APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, July 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss The Growing Season by Sarah Frey. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES – JULY 28 - AUGUST 1 AND AUGUST 4 -8

Each summer, Westminster partners with Senior Services of Central IL to deliver food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program. This year's dates are July 28 – Aug 1 and Aug 4 – 8! You can sign up for one day, all ten days, or the number of days you are available to help. This service of kindness is best done in pairs and the expected time commitment is about an hour-and-a-half, starting between 9:00 & 9:30 a.m. For more information and to sign up, use the QR code here.

CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION through Sunday, August 10. Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries through a backpack collection. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries in August. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 11. Last year, we collected 192 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.

Let's Celebrate Dr. Kieffer's Ministry!

Friday, August 22, 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
212 North Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois

Dinner, Drinks, Toasts, Dancing

$35 per person

Make checks payable to Westminster with Retirement Party in the memo line

RSVP to Jennie Alt by August 1, 2025

Gifts to the Westminster Endowment in honor of Blythe's ministry are welcome.

NOMINATIONS WELCOME

THE 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2028)
ELDER (CLASS OF 2028)
NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2026)
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2028)

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Dr. Michael Nenaber, at m.nenaber@comcast.net or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete it by August 10, 2025. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

2025 Nominating Committee members: *Dr. Michael Nenaber (Chair), Sam Batterman, Mal Hildebrand, Brad Steller, Carolyn Swanson, Julie Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman*

Name of Nominee_____

Recommended for (check choice)

____**Deacon** ____**Elder** ____**Nominating** ____**Strategic Planning**

1. Qualities that would make this person a good church officer

_____
_____
_____

2. Past experience/current interests and activities in the church

_____
_____
_____

3. Helpful information: special skills, training, employment, community involvement, etc.

_____
_____
_____

Your Name (optional) _____

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, June 30

Tuesday, July 1

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

Wednesday, July 2

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter Mailing (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Youth Room)
6:30 PM D&D Group (Library)

Thursday, July 3

Friday, July 4

Church Office is Closed

Saturday, July 5

Sunday, July 6

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School PreK-5 (Third Floor Chapel)

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465
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

Rebecca Nika, 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