WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
6 July 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Youth Mission Trip Team Commissioning

Voluntary Rhythmic Trumpet — Seth Bingham

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing to the Lord, all you faithful,
People: give thanks to God's holy name.
Leader: God turned our mourning into dancing!
People: Our souls cannot be silent,
Leader: they tell of God's faithfulness.
People: Our hearts sing without ceasing.
Leader: Let us lift our voices with joy and gratitude and worship God.

***Hymn 805** Come Sing to God — *Ellacombe*

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we come to the river's edge because we need your healing touch. Our journeys are long and take unexpected turns. We come to your water's edge seeking justice and wholeness. Loving God, forgive us for holding silence too long and empower us to find our own voices and advocate for those long silenced. 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.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

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 Summer Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 30 — Pew Bible, OT page 505

Second Scripture Reading 2 Kings 5:1-14 — Pew Bible, OT page 336

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

Sermon Privilege of Being Heard — Rev. Sarah Bishop

Text: "But his servants approached him and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it?'"

Solo Gymnopédie No. 1 — Erik Satie

***Affirmation of Faith** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and
neighbor, and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives. Amen.**

The Church at Prayer

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

Prayers of the People
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 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory 19th Century American

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** **Holy God, in your love, you have given us the strength to stand up and continue on our journey. In your wisdom, you have given us each an identity and a voice. Help us to use the gifts you have given us with mercy, love, and wisdom, so that we can continue to listen, to speak and to honor you with our lives. Amen.**

***Hymn 338** O Beautiful for Spacious Skies *Materna*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Liberty Bell March John Philips Sousa

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader**: James Maeda
- **Acolytes**: Taryn Barnett and Brooke Boutelle
- **Greeter:** Arlene and Mike Cooney
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Julie McDonough, Kathy Kenyon, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, Saxophone and Bass, Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox, Bill Deemer, and 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: "Jesus is your Good Shepherd" (Jesus, the Good Shepherd) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Linda Caupert*
- **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: "We can ask God for what we need" (Manna in the Desert I) *Teachers: Sara Eldridge, Abigail Eldridge*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Following Jesus" (Luke 10:1-11, 16-20) *Teachers: Cathy Brower, Emily Brower*

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.

2025 YOUTH MISSION TEAM TO BE COMMISSIONED TODAY during worship for their Mission Trip to Asheville NC July 12-19. The team of twelve youth and ten 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 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 how we can "Live Peacefully with our Local Wildlife." RSVP by calling the church.

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.

SUMMER ADULT ED FORUM Westminster member, Roy Wehrle will discuss "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 final session will be held August 10.

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 10. Last year, we collected 192 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex. We have already received 12 backpacks!

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY - Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry on the grounds of Graham Elementary. Westminster members fill the pantry every day. You are welcome to fill the Pantry with food from Westminster's storage near the elevator in the lower level. There are many dates available in July. Please sign up using the QR code.

LIBRARY GUILD WISH LIST The Library Guild has created two Amazon Wish-Lists for our church libraries that will allow anyone to donate books and other items to either the Ziegler Adult Library or the Children's Library. There are signs on the tables in both libraries that have QR codes leading to the wish-lists, and we encourage you to visit the libraries and check them out! You can also find the Wish Lists below:

Adult Library: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/4DSN79E3C8CL

Children's Library: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/13BXBTRXVV1US

If you are interested in volunteering with the Library Guild to help reorganize, catalog, and process new books, contact Dr. Aaron Berkowitz (berkowitz@wpcspi.org).

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

Payments may be made on the church website Ways to Give page.

Select "Special Meals" fund.

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

_____

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_____

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

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

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Your Name (optional) _____

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, July 7
5:00 PM Garden Club (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, July 8
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 Mission (2nd Floor Classroom)

Wednesday, July 9
10:00 AM PEO FU Food Preparation (Kitchen
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (Youth Room)
Adult Education Committee (TBD)

Thursday, July 10
10:30 AM PEO FU Luncheon (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM Summer Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, July 11
10:00 AM Memorial Service for Louise Cragoe (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Memorial Reception (West Narthex)
1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep (Kitchen)
5:30 PM Congregational Dinner with Candidate (Parish Hall)

Saturday, July 12
8:00 AM Youth Mission Trip to Asheville NC
12:30 PM Memorial Service for Ruth Robert Roland (Off site)

Sunday, July 13
Holy Communion
10:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre K-5)

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 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

Keri Tate, Rebecca Nika
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, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians