WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
27 July 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Honoring PW Corresponding Secretary, Camille Degner

Voluntary Antiphon — Marcel Dupré

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

***Call to Worship** — Psalm 147

Leader: How good it is to sing praises to our God,
People: **who gathers the outcasts, heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.**
Leader: who determines the number of stars and gives all of them their names.
People: **Great is the steadfast love of our Creator God, who greets us each morning and whose understanding is beyond measure.**

***Hymn 722** Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak — *Canonbury*

***Prayer of Confession** **Sometimes, O God, we see no reason to join in prayers of confession, for we believe we are the faithful ones, doing the right things. At other times we despair at our attitudes, our stinging words, our insensitivity to the feelings and needs of others. We live as if the world revolves around us. Forgive our self-absorption and renew our spirit that we may respect one another and learn the art of collaboration. 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

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 Summer Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Colossians 1:15-24 — Pew Bible, NT pages 199-200

Second Scripture Reading Luke 10:38-42 — Pew Bible, NT page 72

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

Sermon Collaboration — Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The text: "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?" Luke 10:40a

Solo What I Did for Love — Marvin Hamlisch

Kiss today goodbye, the sweetness and the sorrow
Wish me well, the same to you, But I can't regret
What I did for love, what I did for love
Look, my eyes are dry, the gift was ours to borrow
It's as if we always knew, And I won't forget what I did for love.
Gone: love is never gone, as we travel on
Love's what we'll remember

***Affirmation of Faith** *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 Giga Carson Cooman

***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, accept the gift of our labor and lives which we dedicate in the name of Jesus Christ. May we be strengthened for the travel narratives before us as we collaborate with grace and humility. Amen.**

***Hymn 324** For All the Faithful Women *Nyland*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** God is My Strong Salvation Gordon Young

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in Glory and Praise on the call of the Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer to Westminster Presbyterian church for her Candidacy Sermon on July 28, 2013
- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Sam Batterman
- **Acolytes**: Connor Hill and Caroline Bryans
- **Greeter:** Brian Richardson
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Music:** Kelly Robertson, Soprano, Linda Andrews, 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: "You are a Blessing to Your Family" (Abraham) *Caregiver: Erin Winn*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.**
  - **Preschool – Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story will be "Praying Like Jesus" (Luke 11:1-13) *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Summer Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents "Global Money and Trade, US Foreign Policy and How Elected Democracies Become Autocracies." This is the second session in a three-week series presented by Dr. Roy Werhle entitled "Geopolitics of the World Today."

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, a New Member Class will be held August 3 and 10.

TODAY WE RECOGNIZE CAMILLE DEGNER who served as Presbyterian Women's Corresponding Secretary from 2013-2024. During her tenure Camille sent 1270 cards to members during times of celebration and challenge. We are grateful for her ministry of caring on behalf of PW.

SUMMER ADULT ED FORUM TODAY Westminster member, Dr. Roy Wehrle will discuss "Global Money and Trade, US Foreign Policy and How Elected Democracies Become Autocracies at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.

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.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES JULY 28, AUGUST 1, 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, 4, and 8! There are now only 3 routes left to fill. 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 3**. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries in August. Thank you to Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz who are placing the Bible verse tags on each backpack. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 3. Last year, we collected 192 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex. We have already received 100 backpacks!

NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held **August 3 and 10 at 9:00 a.m.** in Dr. Kieffer'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, August 17, following a Special Session meeting.

2025 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT will be **Tuesday, August 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall. Westminster will once again collaborate with the Historic Westside Neighborhood Association to host the 2025 National Night Out. Join us for subs from Head West, chips, drinks, and sweets, as we meet with our local public officials. RSVP to the *Historic West Side National Night Out 2025 Facebook page* for food count if you are able, but it is not required. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship and strengthen our neighborhood bond the night of the event.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on **Sunday, August 10** immediately following worship has been called by Session to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Dr. Kieffer and Westminster effective October 1, 2025, the date of her retirement.

DR. KIEFFER'S FINAL SERMON will be **Sunday, August 24**, with a reception following in Parish Hall.

DONATIONS TO WESTMINSTER'S ENDOWMENT in honor of Blythe's ministry continue to be welcome. To date, over $30,000 has been received. An endowment fund in her name will be established to support education at Westminster.

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.

YOUTH MISSION TEAM REUNION will be **Sunday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m.** at the lake home of Susan and Scott Day. All are invited to bring photos and memories to celebrate a week to remember serving Christ.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – On **Sunday, August 17**, the children, and youth of Westminster are invited to bring their backpacks to the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the blessing of backpacks as they begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.

SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING - On Sunday, August 24, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a swim party at the Knox home (2004 Maryknoll Place) as we splash into a new year together. Please bring a towel and a dish to share! Details to follow. Friends are always welcome and encouraged

ANNUAL YOUTH KICK OFF SWIM PARTY On Sunday, August 31, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., incoming Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a swim party at the Batterman Home (1620 Outer Park Dr.) as we kick off a new year together. Please bring a towel and dish to share! Details to follow. Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 7. We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall, the Westminster Choir, and commission the Education Leadership Team.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2024-2025 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service. Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

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

_____

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_____

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

_____

_____

_____

Your Name (optional) _____

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, July 28
9:00 AM Meals on Wheels Delivery (Off site)

Tuesday, July 29
10:45 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 Mission (2nd Floor Classroom)

Wednesday, July 30
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter Mailing (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (Youth Room)

Thursday, July 31
9:00 AM Staff Calendar Meeting (Off site)

Friday, August 1
9:00 AM Meals on Wheels Delivery (Off site)

Saturday, August 2

Sunday, August 3
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