WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Baptism and
Sacrament of Communion
10 August 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Recognition of Confirmand Charles Davis Graham

Voluntary Andante con moto — Edward Elgar

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

***Call to Worship** — Hebrews 11:1

Leader: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
People: the conviction of things not seen.
Leader: Happy are those who trust in the Lord,
People: whose hope is in God's steadfast love.
Leader: Let us worship the Holy One in our midst.

***Processional Hymn 1** Holy, Holy, Holy — *Nicaea*

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you call us to do good, seek justice, and care for those in need, yet how often we place our own comforts above compassion for others. You call us to hope in what we do not see, to wait and to watch for you, but we lose sight and become self-absorbed. Forgive us. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts, and keep us alert to the wonders you work in the world every day. 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

Sacrament of Baptism *Waterlife*

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
When you hear the wonder of the Word,
I'll be there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

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

Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-10 Pew Bible, NT pages 225
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation Beautiful Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Solo What a Wonderful World George Weiss and Bob Thiele

I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them bloom, for me and you, and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world." I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, dark, sacred night, and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world." The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky, are also on the faces of people going by. I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?" They're really saying, "I love you." I hear babies cry, I watch them grow. They'll learn much more than I'll ever know, and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."

The Presentation and Dedication of Our Gifts

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

Offertory

Lovely — Ralph Vaughan Williams

***Offertory Response**

Doxology — Hymnal, 606

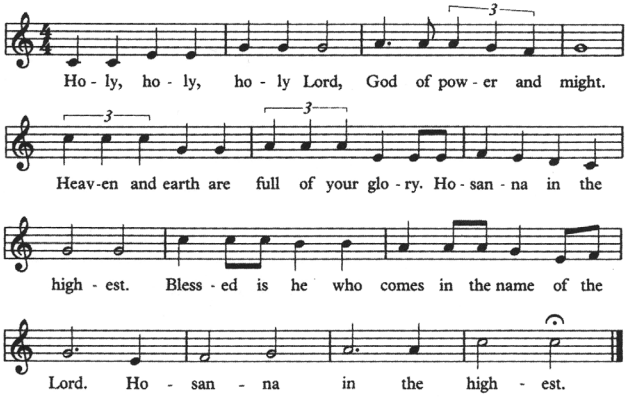
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:



Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty…Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine…Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer *Hymnal, page 35*

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements *The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*

Music at the Communion How Beautiful Twila Paris

How beautiful, the hands that served
The wine and the bread, and the sons of the Earth
How beautiful, the feet that walked
The long, dusty roads and the hill to the cross
Refrain: How beautiful, How beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ
How beautiful, the heart that bled
That took all my sin and bore it instead
How beautiful, the tender eyes That choose to forgive, and never despise And as He lay down His life
We offer this sacrifice That we will live just as He died
Willing to pay the price How beautiful, the radiant bride
Who waits for her groom with His light in her eyes
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live. Refrain:
How beautiful, the faith that bring
The sound of good news and the love of the King
How beautiful, the hands that serve
The wine and the bread, and the sons of the Earth Refrain:

***Prayer after Communion** **Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may depart filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those we meet along the way and with whom we share life. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Hymn 14** For the Beauty of the Earth *DIX*

***Charge and Benediction**

Congregational Meeting

***Voluntary** Choral Song Samuel Sebastian Wesley

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in loving memory of Heather Huitt and in honor of her birthday from Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** Maria Lafrenz and Juliet Boutelle
- **Acolytes:** Brooke Boutelle and Lily Swanson
- **Worship Leader:** Juliana Eastvold
- **Greeters:** Georgina Hudspeth and Kathy Moore
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Home-Style White Bread prepared by Steve Scaife
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Scott Day, Team Leader, Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Tara Fritsch, Rachael Hickman, Vonnie Hinesley, David Jenkins, Judy Knox, Vena Long, Julie Robbs, Lyle VanDeventer, Brinton Wilkey, Sarah Zerfas
- **Communion Prep:** Bill Deemer, Elisabeth Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, Krista Steller
- **Home Communion Delivery:** Valerie Leonatti, Marilyn Rigney, the Berkowitz family
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Kathy Kenyon, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Todd Knox
- **Music:** Mary Ray and Eleanor VanDeverter, sopranos; Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. New Members Class (Pastor's Study)** Those interested in joining Westminster are invited to learn more about the PC(USA). Led by Dr. Keiffer
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "Families Protect Each Other" (Baby Moses) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Leigh Milward*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 begin in worship** & go to Sunday school (Third Floor Chapel) following the Congregational Response. This week's story: "Be Prepared" (Luke 12:32-40) *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)**
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Summer Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents "Paths to the Future." This is the final session in a three-week series presented by Dr. Roy Werhle entitled "Geopolitics of the World Today."
- **11:30 a.m. College Age Brunch (West Narthex)** Those attending will meet in the Narthex and walk to Boone's together for brunch.
- **5:00 p.m. Youth Mission Trip Reunion (Susan and Scott Day's Home)** participants of the 2025 Mission Trip will gather for a lakeside potluck and play day.

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.

WE RECOGNIZE CHARLES DAVIS GRAHAM this morning. Charlie is a member of the 2025 Class of Confirmands and completed all the requirements for membership at Westminster.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is celebrated today as Michella and Ben Arnold present their son Benjamin Louis Arnold. *The assisting elder is Camille Proud, Louie's sponsor is Sophia Choi and representing our children are Diana and Zach Choi.*

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING today 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.

ALL COLLEGE-AGE YOUTH are invited to brunch today at 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Bishop and Mary Ray. Plan to meet Sarah and Mary in the West Narthex following the congregational meeting and catch up with friends over brunch.

YOUTH MISSION TEAM REUNION is **at 5:00 p.m. today** at the Lake Home of Susan and Scott Day (47 Fairlawn Ln.). All are invited to bring photos and memories to celebrate a week to remember serving Christ. Youth bring a salad, side dish or chips. Adults bring dessert and drinks.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA Members and friends of Westminster will gather **Thursday, August 14, at 11:30 a.m.** with the pastors and the director of music and the arts, for communion followed by lunch.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet **Friday, August 15 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Dr. Scott Day will speak about "The Art of Bonsai." RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church.

THE CELEBRATION OF DR. KIEFFER'S MINISTRY at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum on Friday, August 22 has reached the capacity of 200. No more reservations are available.

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 $40,000 has been received. An endowment fund will be established to support education at Westminster. Doners will be listed in the August 24 bulletin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND NURSERY GUILD ORIENTATION will meet **Sunday, August 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.** in Parish Hall for orientation and mandatory reporter training.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION (Junior and Senior High) will be **Sunday, August 24, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom.

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!

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. The year's theme is **The Joy of Being Found** based on Luke 15:1-10. We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall in our pulpit, 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 FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2025 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

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

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 elected 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*

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, August 11

Tuesday, August 12

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Nominating Committee (Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, August 13

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (Youth Room)
4:30 PM Stewardship Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, August 14

11:30 AM Concordia Communion Service and Luncheon (Off site)

Friday, August 15

5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, August 16

Sunday, August 17

New Members Received
Blessing of the Backpacks

9:00 AM Sunday School Teacher & Ministry Partner Orientation (Parish Hall)
9:15 AM New Members Session Meeting (Library)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)
11:15 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO WESTMINSTER MINISTRIES ARE WELCOME TO SCAN HERE.

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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

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz
Education Coordinator

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah Berkowitz
Director for Children's Ministry, Westminster Cooperative Preschool and Music Assistant

Keri Tate, Becky Nika
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

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