WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Baptism and New Member Recognition
17 August 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Blessing of the Backpacks

Voluntary Marche-Sortie — Théodore Dubois

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God calls us when we are young, and God continues to call us throughout the days and seasons of our lives.

People: **God calls us when we are in dry deserts, and when we are beside springs of water, when we feel strong and safe, and when we feel afraid and abandoned.**

Leader: God calls each of us and gently unfolds our lives into wholeness, setting us free from whatever keeps us bound.

People: **Let us come, then, all creatures of our God and King and offer worship with grateful hearts.**

***Processional Hymn 15** All Creatures of Our God and King — *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*
stanzas 1-4

***Prayer of Confession**

Healing God, when we shoulder burdens not ours to carry; when we let ourselves become overwhelmed with things around us, and overlook those we love—

Lay your hands upon us and unfold us with your grace.

Wise God, when we make unwise choices, or ones that we know are unfaithful to you; when we allow our doubts to shut us down rather than open us up to new possibilities—

Lay your hands upon us and unfold us with your grace.

Forgiving God, when we clench our fists and our hearts with hurt and anger; when we cannot reach beyond ourselves—

Lay your hands upon us and unfold us with your grace. 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.

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.

Following the response students in Kindergarten– Grade 5 will go to Sunday School.

First Scripture Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10 Pew Bible, OT pages 698

Second Scripture Reading Luke 13:10-17 Pew Bible, NT pages 76

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

Sermon Compassion Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: "When Jesus laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God." Luke 13:13

Solo You Were Always on My Mind Willie Nelson

Maybe I didn't love you quite as often as I could have
Maybe I didn't treat you quite as good as I should have
[Chorus] You were always on my mind (repeat)
And maybe I didn't hold you all those lonely, lonely times
And I guess I never told you I'm so happy that you're mine
Little things I should have said and done I just never took the time
Tell me, tell me that your sweet love hasn't died
And give me, give me one more chance to keep you satisfied.

Recognition of New Members and Sacrament of Baptism

***Prayer of Welcome**

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn** We All Are One in Mission *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

**We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

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 Andante con moto C. S. Lang

***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**

Loving God, we rejoice that our lives are already consecrated by you. Inspired by the knowledge of your compassion, giving thanks for the gifts you offer us each day, we pray that these offerings and our lives may further your kingdom on earth. Amen.

***Hymn 611** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee *Hymn to Joy*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Come, Labor On Claudia McCain

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Liam Kiszely
- **Acolytes**: Kate and Caroline Bryans
- **Greeter:** Becky Martin
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Kyle Duffy, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Claudia Nash, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Brad Steller
- **Music:** Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Soprano; Linda Andrews, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery Guild Orientation** meet in Parish Hall for fall orientation and mandatory reporter training.
- **9:15 a.m. – Special Session Meeting (Library)** to receive new members.
- **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 One of God's People" (Moses and Exodus) *Caregiver: Kara Milward*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in preschool – Grade 5 begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response (Third Floor Chapel)** The story will be "Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2) *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz,*
- **11:15 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)**

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. Those interested in joining Westminster are welcome to speak to one of our pastors.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – At the Ministry Moment today, 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated today as Morgan and Scott Durko present their son Davis Scott Durko. Davis' older sister is Madison Durko and Shannon and Eric Wise present their daughter Charlotte Kathleen Wise. Representing the children of the congregation are Sam, Junie, and Ben Berkowitz and serving as assisting elder is Dr. Diane Rutledge. Davis and Charlotte's grandfather is Todd Wise.

THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS were received at a Special Session meeting this morning and will be recognized in worship.

Maude Essel and John Olive Addo-Yobo by Reaffirmation of Faith – Maude is a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hospital and a graduate of a Nursing and Midwifery College in Ghana. John holds a degree in Business Administration and Marketing Management from Central University College in Ghana and has a working background in marketing, sales, banking, finance, and logistics. He is currently working at Bunn. Maude and John have two sons, Francis and Madyson. They come to us from the Church of Christ. Their son Madyson will receive the Sacrament of Baptism today and begins at Jefferson Middle School tomorrow. *Maude's sponsor is Mervice Alah-Abung and John's sponsor is George Botanga.*

Francis Gyebi by Profession of Faith and the Sacrament of Baptism – Francis is the son of Maude and John and senior brother of Madyson. He received his high school diploma in Ghana and will begin his college journey at the Lincoln Land Community College with plans to study engineering. *Francis' Sponsor is Braden Barton.*

Liam Kiszely by Profession of Faith and the Sacrament of Baptism – Liam is an honor student at New Berlin High School and has attended the last three mission trips at Westminster. He presented the sermon on Youth Sunday this spring and is a leader among his peers in youth group. *Liam's sponsor is his father, Tad Allen.*

Willow Cordelia Stallings by Reaffirmation of Faith – Willow moved to Springfield this summer to begin work at the Attorney General's Office after graduating from Washington University Law School. She grew up in Columbia, South Carolina where she attended a Presbyterian Church. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. *Willow's sponsor is Rachael Hickman.*

FAIR TRADE SALE TODAY IN WEST NARTHEX – Come check out our chocolate and other Equal Exchange items following worship! Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson oversee this ministry.

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

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 $43,000 has been received. The Blythe and Peter Kieffer Education Endowment will be presented to Session this week for their approval.

YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION (Junior and Senior High) will be next **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! Details to follow. Friends are always welcome and encouraged

THE APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, August 26 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Ancient Christianity by Paula Frederickson. The group is led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and new members are always welcome!

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.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 4. Choir from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 7 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. where we look at music for the months ahead as well as Christmas. A choir pot luck dinner at the Kontio's will follow the retreat,

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!

WESTMINSTER NAMETAGS The Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Judy Knox, is encouraging members to wear their nametags as we welcome Dr. Marshall. If you have misplaced your nametag or just want a new one, there will be a sign up on Homecoming Sunday and each Sunday during the month of September. In addition to the clip, members will receive a magnetic back for attaching nametags with more ease. Thank you for helping Anne get to know us better by identifying a name with a face.

TENTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR - Members are welcome to visit the Health Fair in Parish Hall on Sunday, September 14 following Sunday's service. Health professionals will have interactive stations with information on health topics. Participants include Memorial Health physicians, Springfield Mass Transit District, Illinois Assistive Technology Program, Smith Alzheimer Center from SIU, Senior Services of Central IL, Sangamon County Department of Public Health, Reiki Works, Age Linc, Advanced Health Care, Prairie Dental Group, and Power of Attorney assistance. We are grateful to Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter, who is coordinating the fair and to the many other health professionals from our congregation and elsewhere for contributing their time and expertise.

Health & Wellness

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

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, August 18

Tuesday, August 19

12:00 PM WCP Luncheon for WPC Staff (Parish Hall)
1:00 PM Worship Planning (Off-Site)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Children of Abraham Leadership (Pastor's Study
6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, August 20

9:00 AM Worship Planning (Off-site)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (Youth Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

Thursday, August 21

9:00 AM Worship Planning (Off-site)
12:00 PM Library Guild AM (Children's Library)
6:00 PM Library Guild PM (Children's Library)
7:00 PM Summer Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, August 22

6:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Retirement Celebration (Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum)

Saturday, August 23

Sunday, August 24

Dr. Kieffer's Final Sermon

9:00 AM Youth Ministry Partner Orientation (2nd Floor Classroom)
9:15 AM Summer Choir (Music Room)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom
11:15 AM Reception for Dr. Kieffer (Parish Hall)
4:00 PM Young Families' Swim Party (Off site)

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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