WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

31 August 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Compass for Kids — Michael Natty

Voluntary Fanfare for the Common Man — Aaron Copeland

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God calls us to service,
People: **rather than honor.**
Leader: God calls us to love the unknown,
People: **rather than the familiar.**
Leader: We come to this time of worship,
People: **trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,**
Leader: who is the same yesterday, today and forever.
Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn 14** For the Beauty of the Earth — *Dix*

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, all that we have is a gift from you, yet we do not live lives of gratitude. We ignore strangers and turn away from those in need. We seek honor for ourselves and allow pride to take root in us. Forgive our foolish ways, O Lord, and restore us to you, that we may walk in the way of love. 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 Summer Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Jeremiah 2:4-13 — Pew Bible, OT pages 699

Second Scripture Reading Hebrews 13:5-8; 15-16 — Pew Bible, NT pages 227-228

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

Sermon Knowing God's Faithfulness — Rev. Sarah Bishop

Text: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7

Anthem Put a Little Love in Your Heart — Jimmy Holiday

Think of your fellow friends, give them a helping hand.
Put a little love in your heart. You'll see it's getting late,
Oh please don't hesitate. Put a little love in your heart.
And the world will be a better place for you, and me,
You just wait and see. Put a little love in your heart.

***Affirmation of Faith** Isaiah 40

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
God does not faint or grow weary;
God's understanding is unsearchable.
God gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run
and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. 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 Things That Never Die Victor C. Johnson

The pure, the bright, the beautiful that stirred our hearts in youth,
the impulses to wordless prayer, the streams of love and truth, the
longing after something lost, the spirit's yearning cry, the striving
after better hopes; these things can never die.
The timid hand stretched forth to aid a brother in his need;
a kindly word to grief's dark hour that proves a friend in deed:
The plea for mercy softly breathed, when justice threatens high,
the sorrow of a contrite heart; these things can never die.
Let nothing pass, for every hand must find some work to do,
Lose not a chance to waken love, be firm and just and true.
So shall a light that cannot fade beam on thee from on high
and angel voices say to thee: "These things shall never die."
attributed to Charles Dickens

***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** **God of grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us, we give thanks for your hope in us, we rejoice in the knowledge of your unending grace. In the light of your mercy, and confident in your love, we dedicate these offerings, and ourselves to you, Faithful God. Amen.**

***Hymn 719** Come, Labor On *Ora Labora*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Hymn of Thanksgiving Colin Mawby

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader**: Ben Bassett
- **Acolytes**: Brooke Boutelle and Lucy Bassett
- **Greeter:** Bernie Wiseman
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Kyle Duffy, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Claudia Nash, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** The St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer and Krista Steller

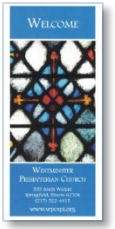
EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "God Helps You Be Brave" (David and Goliath) *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 "An Invitation" (Luke 14:7-14) *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*,
- **5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Youth Kick Off Swim Party (1620 Outer Park Rd)** incoming Junior and Senior High youth are invited to a swim party at the Batterman Home as we kick off a new year.

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 with a pastor.

DONATIONS TO WESTMINSTER'S ENDOWMENT in honor of Blythe's ministry continue to be welcome. To date, over $66,375 has been received from 95 donors. This endowment fund was established to support education at Westminster.



2025-2026 WELCOME BROCHURES will be placed in the pew pockets next week for Homecoming Sunday. The Welcome Brochure includes inserts offering introductory information about the history and architecture of WPC and outlining the church's ministries and activities in Children and Youth, Adult Education, Worship and Music, Mission and Community Service and Congregational Life. It features photos of the Life of Christ stained-glass window located above the choir loft and contains a welcome from Dr. Kieffer and Dr. Marshall. Look for the updated brochures on Homecoming Sunday, September 7 in the pew pockets and at the Welcome Table.

COMPASS FOR KIDS WELCOMES MINISTRY PARTNERS Westminster welcomes Michael Natty as the new Compass for Kids Site Director. The program begins Tuesday, September 2 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after-school program for the Graham Elementary School site. Michael previously worked with Camp Compass over the Summer months. Michael will be in the West Narthex following the service to discuss the program with members.

ANNUAL YOUTH KICK OFF SWIM PARTY This afternoon 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! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

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.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE resumes on **Wednesday, September 3,** 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christy Pound (100 Pinehurst Dr., 62704). Dr. Judy Knox will lead a discussion on Chapter 1 of the book *Becoming Spiritually Intelligent* by Paul M. Burns. Call Christy Pound at (217-971-3082).

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 6 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. where we look at music for the months ahead as well as Christmas. A choir potluck dinner will follow the retreat at the Kontio's home.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING - Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on **Homecoming Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Second-Floor classroom with Rev. Sarah Bishop. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another and the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2025-2026 schedule and expectations.

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 and 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!

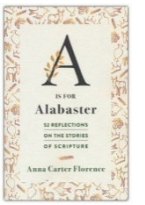
WESTMINSTER NAMETAGS The Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Judy Knox, is encouraging members to wear their nametags as we welcome Dr. Marshall. If you have misplaced your nametag or just want a new one, there will be a sign up on Homecoming Sunday and each Sunday during the month of September. In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

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning **September 10, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission projects and interfaith gatherings. This year's theme is "Voices of Hope."

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Kindergarten - Grade 5) will begin Wednesday, **September 10** led by Meleah Berkowitz and Dale Rogers, and meet weekly from **5:00 until 5:45 p.m**. This is a choir combining the full range of singers from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and welcomes all young singers to join in the fun.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes **Thursday, September 11 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Dr. Bryne Willey, of AlignLife of Springfield will speak about their full-body, holistic approach to good health. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church office. All ages of friends and church attendees are welcome to join.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer have graciously offered to continue the Thursday Night Bible Study tradition (led by Dr. Kieffer since September 2014) beginning **Thursday, September 11,** 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. The source for the class will be "*A is for Alabaster*," a book of fifty-two reflections on the stories of Scripture by renowned Presbyterian Minister and Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence. Books will be available on Homecoming Sunday and in the Church Office. New members are welcome!



CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet on Saturday mornings beginning **Saturday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m.** Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Dale Rogers leads Church Mice.

TENTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR - Members are encouraged 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.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet on **Sunday, September 14 at 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall for fellowship, games and then dinner and a Bible study.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE resumes on **Monday, September 15 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The circle will study Lesson 1 "Mary Magdelene, the Tower" from the PW Horizons Bible Study *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter. RSVP to Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032).

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL MACARONI FEST FUNDRAISER Join the Preschool families in their annual fundraiser, **Monday, September 15 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall or to-go meals are available. Visit https://givebutter.com/WCPMacaroniFest2025 to purchase tickets or to just donate.

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on **Tuesday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m.** in the library and will study Lesson 1 "Mary Magdelene, the Tower" from the PW Horizons Bible Study *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter. RSVP to Nancy Canady (217-899-9890).

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION begins **Sunday, September 21** Youth in grades Six and Seven meet from **10:15 – 11: 00 a.m.** during worship in the Conference Room and will study the Old Testament during these preparatory years and utilize *"Fathom: A Deep Dive into the Story of God"* curriculum. Grades Eight meets Sunday mornings from **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon** in the Conference Room following worship. The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: CRUSING THE AEGEAN SEA WITH PAUL AND JOHN Adult Ed Forum begins **Sunday, September 21 and 28** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall Join Dr. Todd Knox who will lead reflections on the lives and ministry of Paul and John in Istanbul, Pergamon, Ephesus, Patmos and Athens discovered on an Aegean Sea cruise last spring.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, **September 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green. This group is led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz. New members are always welcome!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP This new fellowship group will meet monthly for dinner, fellowship and Bible study starting on Wednesday, **September 24 from 5:30- 7:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room on the lower level.

WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER will be held Wednesday, September 24 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Musical presentation will be by Testament Trebles. Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 1
Church Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 2
9:00 AM WCP 2 and 4 day class begins (Preschool)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
12:00 PM KDO Willing Circle (Parish Hall)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids

Wednesday, September 3
9:00 AM WCP 3 day class begins (Preschool)
10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter Mailing (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:15 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
5:30 PM Mission & Com. Service (2nd Floor Classrm)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

Thursday, September 4
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Presbyterian Home
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, September 5

Saturday, September 6
1:30 PM Choir Retreat (Indian Point Pres)
7:00 PM Choir Potluck at Kontio's (off site)

Sunday, September 7
Homecoming Sunday
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)
11:15 AM Brunch and Ministry Display (Parish Hall)

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO WESTMINSTER MINISTRIES 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

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