WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Springfield, Illinois

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

The Joy of Being Found

Sunday, September 7, 2025

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Membership and Nametags — Brownie Anderson

Voluntary Allegretto Grazioso — Frank Bridge

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: **O God,** when we are close to you,
People: **You see us and know us.**
Leader: When we stray far away
People: **You see us and know us.**
Leader: When we are lost you seek us out
People: **You see us and know us**
All: **Let us worship the God who rejoices in finding us and carrying us home.**

***Processional Hymn 187** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us — *Bradbury*

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we shouldn't have done. Oh Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us. Restore us, just as Jesus promised. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Hear now our silent prayer 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 — Hymnal, Back Cover

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 Educational Leadership Commissioning

Congregational Response God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends
God's love is strong and it never ends.

Students in grades Pre-K – 5 will go to Sunday school class during the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 139:7-18 — Pew Bible, OT pages 577-578

Second Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-10 — Pew Bible, NT pages 78

Sermon The Joy of Being Found — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Luke 15:6

Anthem Jubilate Deo — Charles Villiers Stanford

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord is God: it is God that hath not made us, and not we ourselves: we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. O go your way into the gates with thanksgiving and into God's courts with praise; be thankful and speak good of God's name. For the Lord is gracious with mercy everlasting, and God's truth endureth from generation to generation. 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.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

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

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of our Gifts

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

Offertory God Gave Us Music — Dale Wood

All praise to God for song God gives! For music and a hope that lives! Rejoice, rejoice! God's sacred word is so profound, we sing, and let the truth resound. God gave us music, gave us voice: sing alleluia and rejoice! We lift in faith secure and strong, the sacred word through sacred song.
The word gives both the life and light, and guides us through the life and light, and guides us through the shades of night, so let the music sound God's praise as hymns bring gladness to our days.

In song let God be glorified, for God is able to provide the music for the singer's art as song God places in the heart
All praise to God, whose sacred word has brought good news to all who heard. We worship God and sing with joy, and instruments of praise employ the sacred word through sacred song.

***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.

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

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response** Day by Day — Harold Friedell

***Voluntary** Maestoso — Nigel Ogden

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in celebration of Dr. Anne Marshall's first Sunday as the 19th Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church by the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Juliana Eastvold
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Brooke Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Sarah and Bob Zerfas
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher). Christian Kennerly, Todd Lafrenz, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. Confirmation Family Orientation (Second Floor Classroom)** parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting to review the 2025-2026 schedule and expectations for Confirmation.
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "God is With You When You're Scared" (Daniel) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Linda Caupert*
  - **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 and youth in Grades 6 - 7** begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
    - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "God Answered Daniel's Prayer (Daniel) *Teachers: Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt*
    - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Loving and Following" (Luke 14:25-33) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Sara Eldridge*
    - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Counting the Cost" (Luke 14:25-33) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. Homecoming Sunday Brunch (Parish Hall)** 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.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONING

We are grateful for the following members who have agreed to serve as ministry partners on the education leadership team for 2025-2026.

NURSERY AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN (BIRTH – AGE 2)

Young children are provided a safe and fun space where they learn the church is a place of safety and love by caring youth and adults. experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful, memorable ways. **Nursery Coordinators:** Kara Milward, Erin Winn, **Nursery worker:** Maria Lafrenz **Nursery Guild:** Linda Caupert, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara Eldridge, Priscilla Kluge, Judy Knox, Meg Kontio, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Leigh Milward, and Julie Sundquist.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN (AGE 3 – AGE 4)

Curriculum: *Frolic Sunday School* is a play-based curriculum that helps young children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful, memorable ways. **Ministry Partners:** Cara and Taryn Barnett, Kate Bryans, Lindsay Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Maria and Rose DeJong, Dee Dee Duffy, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward, Katrina Opperman

SUNDAY SCHOOL (KINDERGARTEN- GRADE 5)

Curriculum: Feasting on the Word - This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and invites learners into the rhythm of the church year. Kindergarten through Grade 2 meet in the Third Floor Chapel. Grades 3-5 meet in the Tower Classroom. **Ministry Partners:** Cathy Brower, Lindsay Boutelle, Sophia Choi, Juliana Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Katrina Opperman, Linda Purves, and Julie Robbs

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5) Join us as we bridge relationships and grow in our faith around the theme: **Faith, Art, and Advocacy Teachers:** Meleah Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, and Pat Roller

CONFIRMATION PREP (GRADES 6-7)

Curriculum: We will study the Old Testament utilizing "Fathom: A Deep Dive Into the Story of God" curriculum. **Teachers:** Tara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, Marc DeJong, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray

CONFIRMATION (GRADES 8)

The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs. **Teachers**: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall, and Mary Ray

JUNIOR HIGH (GRADES 6-8)

Curriculum: High School youth gather monthly for fellowship/games and dinner followed by Bible Study. **Mentors**: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, and Mary Ray

SENIOR HIGH (GRADES 9-12)

Curriculum: High School youth gather twice monthly for fellowship/games and dinner followed by Bible Study. **Mentors:** Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Jack Sherrick, Mary Ray

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM (KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 12)

This inter-faith fellowship meets quarterly to build understanding and friendships Theme: "Celebrate" **Team:** Rev. Bishop, Dale Rogers, Mary Ray, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Adam Ekstedt, Georgina Hudspeth

LIBRARY GUILD

The Rev. Dr. Edward Ziegler Library and Elaine Ryder Children's Library provide a variety of resources. **Guild members:** Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Peura, Kate Wilson

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

A list of the 2025-2026 schedule can be found at the Adult Ed table in Parish Hall. **Teachers:** Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Kristianna Eastvold, Dr. George Godfrey, Carole Kennerly, Dr. Todd Knox, Dr. Richard Leary, Dr. Vena Long, Jim Parker, Dr. Brian Richardson, Dale Rogers, Dr. Josh Sabo, Jack Sherrick, Dr. Roy Wehrle

Family Ministry Committee: Tara Fritch, Chair, Sam Batterman, Meridith Bryans, Jim Bryans, Kyle Duffy, Joe Fierstos, Brad Steller, Staff: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Mary Ray, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz

Adult Education Committee: Dr. Vena Long, Chair, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Judy Knox, Jay Kennerly, Staff: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

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 membership, please speak to a pastor.

2025-2026 WELCOME BROCHURES are in the pew pockets this morning. 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 gallery and contains a welcome from Dr. Kieffer and Dr. Marshall. Look for the updated brochures on Homecoming Sunday in the pew pockets or at the Welcome Table.

DONATIONS TO WESTMINSTER'S ENDOWMENT in honor of Dr. Kieffer's ministry continue to be welcome. To date, over $69,945 has been received from 100 donors to the Blythe and Peter Kieffer Education Endowment. This endowment fund was established to support education at Westminster.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING *Pursue what makes peace.* Each September and October WPC receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice. Our gifts are helping our neighbors in need – those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe. 25% of the offering stays with Westminster.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday today. 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

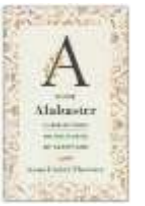
Sunday during the month of September. In addition to the clip, members will receive a magnetic back for attaching nametags with more ease. Thank you for helping Anne get to know us better by identifying a name with a face.

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.

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, AlignLife of Springfield Clinic will speak about a full-body, holistic approach to good health. AlignLife chiropractors look at the entire body and how the nervous system has been compromised. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church office. All ages of friends and church goers are welcome to join us.



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. Rogers leads Church Mice.

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.

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. Call 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. Call Westminster member Jess Weitzel at 217-891-1338 with questions about ordering.

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. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890).

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION begins **Sunday, September 21** 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 – 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. New members are always welcome!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP meets Wednesday, **September 24 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room for fellowship, games, dinner, and a Bible study.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 We will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955 during worship. We are grateful for all the ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship.

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

MUSICAL PRESENTATION:
"GOD WHO SEES"
BY
TESTAMENT TREBLES

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad.

Sign up on 9/7 Homecoming Sunday and 9/14 in the West Narthex
or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 8

9:00 AM Garden Club (Off site)
5:00 PM Symphony Guild (2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, September 9

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2rd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, September 10

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
4:45 PM Fiscal committee (Pastor's Study)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, September 11

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
2:30 PM Early Stage Memory Loss (2nd Floor Classrm)
4:00 PM Pastor at IL Presb Home
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Classrm)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 12

1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch (Kitchen)
5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, September 13

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Family Matters Zoo Trip
4:00 PM Stafford/Lee Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, September 14

Holy Communion

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K to Grade 5 (Third Floor Classroom)
11:00 AM Biennial Health Fair (Parish Hall)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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 Dr. Anne Marshall
Co-Pastor

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, Francis Gyebi, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians