WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
14 September 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment CROP Hunger Walk — Krista Steller

Voluntary Meditation — Edvard Grieg

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

***Call to Worship** — Hebrews 11:1

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"
People: We come to this place, to this time,
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.
Leader: Let us worship the God who leads us.
People: Let us worship the God who loves us!

***Processional Hymn 720** Jesus Calls Us — *Galilee*

***Prayer of Confession**

Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our comfort that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Release us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And now hear us as we offer our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us — Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: This is the Good News - we are God's new creation.
People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.
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

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends
God's love is strong and it never ends. (sung 3 times)

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

Scripture Reading Luke 14:25-35 Pew Bible, NT pages 78
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation The Cost of Discipleship Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall

Anthem Fairest Lord Jesus Hal Hopson
The text for the anthem is found at 630 in the hymnal.

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 Grace Georg Philipp Telemann

***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 lift our voices with choirs of angels 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 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us peace.

***Prayer after Communion** **God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

***Processional Hymn 741** Guide My Feet *Whalum*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response The Lord Bless You and Keep You Anonymous
The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you,
may God's love ever always surround you,
protect you and guide you in all that you do;
our prayer for you. Amen.

***Voluntary** Postludio Festivo Sigfried Karg-Elert

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Henry Dale Smith
08/09/1951 – 09/08/2025
United with Westminster 04/11/1965

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Matthew A. Gilmore
07/31/1933 – 09/05/2025
United with Westminster 10/06/1963

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in memory of Gerry Hale by her loving family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** Juliana Eastvold and Juliet Boutelle
- **Acolytes:** Sam Berkowitz and Lily Swanson
- **Worship Leader:** Louisa Eldridge
- **Greeters:** Julie and Jim McDonough and Jeanne Pittman
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Honey Wheat with Cinnamon prepared by Mary Leffler
- **Elders Serving Communion**: Judy Knox, Team Leader, Brownie Anderson, John Cross, Joe Fierstos, Rachael Hickman, Julie McDonough, Pat McNutt, Pat Moore, Todd Knox, Marilyn Rigney, Greg Swanson, Jeanne Van Gieson
- **Communion Prep:** Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, Krista Steller
- **Home Communion Delivery:** Aaron Berkowitz, Judy Knox, Val Leonatti & Mary Ray, Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer,
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher). Linda Caupert, Christian Kennerly, Todd Lafrenz, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, 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 is With You When You're Scared" (Daniel) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Lynn McMenamin*
- **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 Protects Us (Daniel) *Teachers: Dee Dee Duffy, Leigh Milward*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Lost and Found" (Luke 15:1-10) *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Lost and Found" (Luke 15:1-10) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. Biennial Health Fair** Members are encouraged to visit the Health Fair in Parish Hall **today** following worship service. Ellen Carpenter has coordinated a wide range of topics offered by health professionals.
- **5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** (Parish Hall) Youth and mentors will gather for fellowship, games, and dinner followed by Bible Study.

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.

ELEVENTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR - Members are welcome to visit the Health Fair in Parish Hall **today** following worship service. Health professionals will share 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 has coordinated 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.

DONATIONS TO WESTMINSTER'S ENDOWMENT in honor of Dr. Kieffer's ministry continue to be welcome. To date, $69,495 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.

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.

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.

CROP HUNGER WALK is Sunday, October 5. Walkers meet at 1:00 at Third Presbyterian Church. Donations may be made to Westminster with CROP Walk in the memo line.

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 9/14 in the West Narthex
or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

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

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 15
8:00 AM WCP Macaroni Fest Prep (Kitchen)
5:00 PM WCP Macaroni Fest Fundraiser

Tuesday, September 16
9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting
7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, September 17
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)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM D&D Group (Library)

Thursday, September 18
1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Presbyterian Home
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 19
4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, September 20
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Bruner/Snyder Wedding

Sunday, September 21
9:00 AM Stewardship Mailing (Parish Hall)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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