WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
21 September 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment 2026 Stewardship Campaign - Found Faithful Julie Robbs

Voluntary Concerto in F: Allegro G. F. Handel

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God lavishly pours out grace and mercy.
People: Let us pour out our thanksgiving.
Leader: God continually fills our hearts with love
People: Let us fill our mouths with praise.
All: Let us worship God together!

***Hymn 694** Great God of Every Blessing *Aurelia*

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

***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 God Welcomes All

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

Following the response, children in Kindergarten – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes and youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 — Pew Bible, NT page 168

Second Scripture Reading John 12:1-8 — Pew Bible, NT pages 106

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

Sermon Found Faithful — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem Just As I Am — Richard DeLong

The text for the anthem is found at 442 in the hymnal.

***Affirmation of Faith** — The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his 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.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of the Lord 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 the Lord 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

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 — Sonata in C — Domenico Scarlatti

***Offertory Response** — Doxology — Hymnal pg. 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** **Holy God, thank you for the courage within your children who have been found faithful through the ages. We are grateful for the choices they made and the risks they took on behalf of others. May our lives be made of the same substance and may these offerings grow in your kingdom with love. Amen.**

***Hymn 716** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Beach Spring*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response The Lord Bless 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** Trumpet Tune Andrew Carter

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

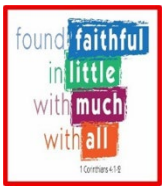
- **Chancel Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Pat and Al Hymans
- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Liam Kiszely
- **Acolytes**: Harper and Reese Huston
- **Greeter:** Mike and Julie Sundquist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Joyce King, Claudia Nash, Christian Kennerly, Cathy Yokley, Bill Schlosser, Randy Wiseman, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Stewardship Mailing (Parish Hall)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "We Worship in God's House, Too" (Young Jesus in the Temple) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Maria DeJong*
- **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 - Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Serving God" (Luke 16:1-13) *Teacher: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Sophia Choi*
    - **Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 6-7 will study Session 1: "Creation". *Teachers: Meridith Bryans and Cara Barnett*
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)** Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea are sold to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers. Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson organize this ministry.
- **11:15 a.m. Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 8 will study Session 1: "Christian History". *Teachers: Rev. Bishop and Dr. Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** Dr. Todd Knox begins the Adult Ed Forum series for 2025-2026 with discussion on "Cruising the Aegean Sea with Paul and John".

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.



FOUND FAITHFUL IS THE 2026 STEWARDSHIP THEME based on I Corinthians 4:1-2. God's great love and gracious abundance are mysterious and unfathomable, but God's guidance to us is clear. God has called us and equipped us to be faithful in our unique roles in life. Jesus desires trustworthy servants ready to do what needs to be done. Serving on the 2026 Stewardship Campaign Committee: Julie Robbs, Chair, Linda Andrews, Adam Ekstedt, Joe Fierstos, Claudia Nash, Linda Purves, Jeanne Van Gieson, and Sarah Zerfas.

The campaign is being introduced today by Julie Robbs, Chair and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 26. The Stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 22 following the Session's approval of the 2026 budget.

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.

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.

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.

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION begins **today.** 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. Grade 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.

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!

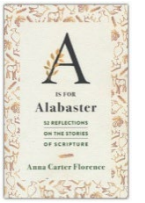
JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP This new fellowship group for students in grades 6-8 will meet monthly for dinner, fellowship and Bible study starting on **Wednesday, September 24 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room on the lower level.

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. PW handbooks will be distributed at the Supper. Please RSVP by Monday, September 22 to Jennie Alt.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) meets on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor Classroom. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Dale Rogers leads Church Mice.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters are encouraged to knit cold weather items (warm hats, mittens, and scarves) for our fall and winter donations.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will **not** meet on Thursday, September 25 but will resume on **Thursday, October 2** from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer are continuing the Thursday Night Bible Study tradition (led by Dr. Kieffer since September 2014). 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.



MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION ON 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 to express our congratulations and appreciation.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet on **Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Jeanne Van Gieson (3928 Rocky Falls Rd, 62711). Marilyn Rigney will lead the discussion of Chapter 2 in Becoming Spiritually Intelligent: Nine Paths toward Your Most Loving Self by Paul M. Burns. RSVP directly to Jeanne at 217-341-9255.

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 or support Westminster Walkers online using the QR code.

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
Miriam Carter, Diane Dietz, Lily Swanson, Eleanor VanDeventer
Accompanied by Linda Andrews

Elizabeth Circle members will provide three main dish salads and desserts

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

Please bring items for the Welcome Home Baskets to benefit Heartland HOUSED

Sign up on Sunday in the West Narthex or RSVP to Jennie Alt jalt@wpcspi.org.

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

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 22

9:30 AM Kings Daughters Board (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, September 23

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 Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, September 24

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)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:00 PM Helping Hands Hot Meal Delivered
5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)
6:00 PM Women's Salad Supper (Parish Hall)

Thursday, September 25

WCP Conferences – No School

2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Presbyterian Home
5:45 PM Strategic Planning (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 26

WCP Conferences – No School

Saturday, September 27

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, September 28

Milestone Members Recognition

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:00 AM Reception in West Narthex
11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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