WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
28 September 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Stewardship Campaign 2026 - *Found Faithful* Linda Purves

Voluntary Cantilene Malcolm Archer

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

***Call to Worship** *Adapted from Psalm 146*

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in God,
maker of heaven and earth —
People: for God keeps faith forever!
Leader: God executes justice for the oppressed
and gives food for the hungry.
People: God sets the prisoners free
and opens the eyes of the blind.
Leader: God lifts up those who are bowed down.
People: God watches over the strangers
and upholds the orphan and the widow.
Leader: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help —
People: for God keeps faith forever!

***Hymn 100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout *Cantide of the Turning*

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you with our whole heart. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

***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 — South African Song

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 Psalm 146 — Pew Bible, OT pages 581-582

Second Scripture Reading Luke 16:19-31 — Pew Bible, NT pages 79-80

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

Sermon There's No Day Like Today — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem Lord, at All Times — Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, at all times, I will bless thee, and then in songs of praise address thee, yea, my soul shall boast in thee. Let the humble gladly hear me, let the godly gather near me and exalt thy name with me.

When the poor man wept and craved, when in trouble he was saved, when he cried, he was heard. Come all ye children, bow in duty; radiant everlasting beauty crowneth them that fear the Lord. Taste and see, the Lord is gracious, bounteous as the heavens are spacious. Taste and see the Lord is good.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Excerpt from the Confession of 1967 (Inclusive language)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

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 and Prayer of Dedication

At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.

Offertory Pavane Craig Penfield

***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.

Recognition of Milestone Members

***Hymn 687** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past — *St. Anne*

***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** Toccata in Seven — Sir John Rutter

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Abigail Eldridge
- **Acolytes**: Cara Bryans and Rose DeJong
- **Greeter:** Brinton and Susan Wilkey
- **Ushers:** Joyce King (Head Usher), Dorothy Gross, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Brad Steller, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley,
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organ
- **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 Pleased With You, Too" (Jesus is Baptized) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Judy Knox*
- **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 Gives Us Another Chance" (Jonah) *Teachers: Julie and Mike Sundquist*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Helping Others" (Luke 16:19-31) *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Growing in Compassion" (Luke 16:19-31) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower*
  - **Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 6-7 will study Session 2: "Fall". *Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – noon Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 8 will study Session 2: "People of the Way". *Teachers: Rev. Bishop and Mary Ray*
- **11:15 a.m. – noon Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** Dr. Todd Knox continues the Adult Ed Forum series for 2025-2026 with the second session of 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.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION Today we 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.

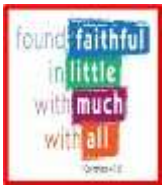
Fifty-Year Member: Eric Schmidt

Fifty-Five-Year Members: Nancy Canady, Rich Canady, Ed Caupert, Linda Caupert, Sue Cull, James Hajek, Judy Huston, Tom Janeway, Don Myers, Louise Myers, Jeanne Pittman, Fred Prillaman, Judy Prillaman, Mary Ray, Dr. Will Wright

Sixty-Year Members: John Blythe, Gregory Case, Sheila Jones, Vivian Keithley, Ruth Schmidt., Becky Stirrett, Bob Wire

Sixty-Five Year Members: Mary Alice Davis, John Thompson

Seventy-Year Member: Dee Tozer



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. Linda presented today's Ministry Moment. The campaign was introduced last week by Julie Robbs, Chair and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 26. The Stewardship letter was mailed on 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 this Sunday in the West Narthex. 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.

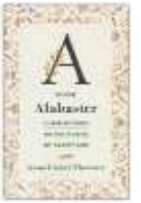
PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING *Pursue what makes peace.* Each September and October, WPC receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice. Our gifts are helping our neighbors in need – those who live next door,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

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.

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.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will meet 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. 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.



ADULT ED FORUM The Adult Ed Forum welcomes Jim Parker on **Sunday, October 5.** His presentation will follow the service at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall and discusses the book titled "When Jesus became God" by Richard Rubenstein. Learn about the history of the controversy around Arianism in the early church.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 5 Bridges Children (Grades 3-5) will process during the 10:00 a.m. voluntary Siyahamba, "a Zulu Melody," with the breads of the world as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and lead the Call to Worship. The Communion table will be adorned with African textiles, a gift of the late Andrea Butler.

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.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on Wednesday, October 8, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield (3000 Stanton Street). This year's theme is "Strength in Diversity." Mark your calendar for the quarterly Wednesday Gatherings: November 12 at Westminster, February 4 at Grace United Methodist, and May 6 at Springfield Art Association.

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION FOR THE REV. DR. ANNE C.S. MARSHALL On **Sunday, October 12, at 4:00 p.m.** the Presbytery of Great Rivers will install the Reverend Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall as Westminster's 19th Pastor and Head of Staff. The Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers will provide music leadership for the service. The congregation is invited to the service as well as a reception hosted by Hospitality Coordinator Pat Hymans and her team.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH OFFICERS On **Sunday, October 12**, the congregation meeting will begin immediately following worship. The following church officers will be elected.

Elders Class of 2028: Sandy Bellatti, George Botanga, Nathaniel Brower, Deborah Coontz, Cress Maddox, Sr., Lucy Stafford, Brad Swanson, Jess Weitzel, **Youth Elder:** Sam Batterman was elected in 2025 and will continue to serve.

Board of Deacons Class of 2028: John Abbo-Yobo, Maude Essel Addo-Yobo, Andrew Affrunti, Chelsea Ekstedt, Cameron Hudgins, Joyce Matthews, Lisa Metzger, Pete Sherman, **Youth Deacon:** Macklin Metzger

Strategic Planning Committee Class of 2028: Bud Green, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross

2026 Nominating Committee: Brad Steller, Julie Sundquist, Carolyn Swanson, Peter Van Gieson

CHURCH OFFICER ORIENTATION for newly elected elders and deacons will be **Sunday, October 19, at 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Lunch will be Spuds in support of our Youth Fundraiser.

REFORMATION AND HARVEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 Westminster will continue the tradition started in 2021 when Reformation Sunday fell on Halloween. We will celebrate the Harvest Festival in the morning. Members are invited to **wear costumes to worship** and join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service (11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.) for a festive gathering.

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

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 29

Tuesday, September 30

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

Wednesday, October 1

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:00 AM Sing By Heart Dementia Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter Mailing (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:15 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
5:30 PM Mission & Community Service (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)
7:00 PM Ruth and Naomi Circle (Off site)

Thursday, October 2

4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Conference Room)
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Clsrm)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, October 3

11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Food Not Bombs Meal Prep (Kitchen)

Saturday, October 4

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Food Not Bombs Meal Prep (Kitchen)

Sunday, October 5

World Communion 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 Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
1:00 PM CROP Hunger Walk (Off site)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Springfield, Illinois 62704
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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