WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
19 October 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Stewardship Campaign 2026 *Found Faithful* Julie Robbs

Voluntary Lotus Billy Strayhorn

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We have gathered in God's holy presence,
the One who etches grace on our hearts.

People: **This is the place where God**
will transform us into disciples.

Leader: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

People: **This is the place where God**
will write compassion on our souls.

Leader: We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember God's persistence in saving us.

People: **This is the place where God**
will breathe the Word into our lives.

***Processional Hymn 372** O for a World *Azmon*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. 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 to 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. Amen.

***Silent Confession** *During this silence, worshipers are asked to offer individual 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 God Welcomes All — South African Song

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

Following the response, children in Pre Kindergarten - Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes. Our youth are helping in the kitchen with the Spud Bake.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading Genesis 32:22-31 — Pew Bible, OT pages 30

Second Scripture Reading Luke 18:1-8 — Pew Bible, NT pages 81
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon God's Nudge — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem Love is the Spirit of This Church — Thomas Matthews

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is the law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

***Affirmation of Faith** — Excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

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

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 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring — Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of our desiring, Holy wisdom, love most bright.
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned with the fire of
life impassioned. Striving still to Truth unknown,
Soaring, dying 'round Thy throne.

***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**

God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

***Hymn 757** Today We All Are Called to be Disciples — *Kingsfold*

***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** Allegro — Leon Boellmann

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth (Elsie) Unglaub
03/23/1926 – 10/05/2025
United with Westminster 02/04/1962

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Ben Bassett
- **Acolytes**: Lily Hill and Connor Hill
- **Greeters:** Barb and Pete Sherman
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Maria Lafrenz, Debra Parker, Brad Steller, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **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: "We have Faith in Jesus, Too." (Jesus Teaches and Heals) *Caregivers: Kara Milward, 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: "Baptism is for Everyone!" (Jesus is Baptized) *Teachers: Dee Dee Duffy, Leigh Milward*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "The Persistent Widow" (Luke 18:1-8) *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Don't Give Up" (Luke 18:1-8) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. Spud Bake Pick up (West Narthex**) Members are invited to buy a Spud for $5.00 and help our youth share God's love! Minimum donation $5.00 per potato.
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)** Purchase Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea and more following the worship service in the West Narthex.
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)**) Join Dr. Aaron Berkowitz as he leads the second session of "The Scopes Trial 100 Years Later."
  - **Church Officer Orientation (Second Floor Classroom**) for newly elected elders and deacons 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Spuds will be served for lunch. Led by Dr. Marshall.

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION

Claudia Nash's Stewardship Reflection appeared in this week's Friday email. She is a member of Westminster's 2026 Stewardship Committee.

Throughout my life, I had never been an active church member, because I didn't have a sense of belonging- or found a church where I fit in. At Westminster, that has all changed for me. I have felt the warmth here, as you welcome all newcomers with interest, and invite them to join your mission and become your friend.

The empathy and desire to help others, as demonstrated by the members of this church, are qualities that resonate deeply within me. Although I have only been a member of Westminster for slightly more than a year, I have found many ways in which I can serve others. As part of the Steadfast Neighborhood team, I assisted with repairs and improvements to homes in the area; I helped stock the Little Pantry, prepared bagged lunches for Helping Hands, and helped Pat Hymans with preparing meals for church events. I have also had the joy of tutoring the Nicaraguan families, and the honor of serving as a Deacon for nearly a year.

Through all these activities, not only have I grown personally by forming strong connections with others, but I have also been a service outside of these walls, hopefully making a positive difference in the lives of many in this community. At Westminster, I have finally found a family of caring, inclusive people who are truly dedicated to being good stewards. Please join me in continuing this mission with your pledges and actions in the coming year, so that we may serve others in these ways, and in many more yet to be discovered!

As of Thursday, October 16, we have received **112 pledges** for a total of **$531,784** which is **61%** of our **$871,000 goal.** Please complete the pledge card and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate by Stewardship Dedication Sunday, October 26, 2025. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us 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 Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS: "THE SCOPES TRIAL 100 YEARS LATER." Join Dr. Aaron Berkowitz today following the worship service in Parish Hall. On the 100th anniversary of the Scopes Trial, we will reflect on its meaning and its lasting impact on the church as well as science.

THE ANNUAL SPUD BAKE TODAY Youth gather in the kitchen from 9:00 a.m. to Noon to prepare baked Russet and sweet potatoes to raise funds for the Contact Ministries Christmas Gift Distribution. Members are invited to buy a Spud for $5.00 and help our youth share God's love! **Minimum donation $5.00 per potato**.

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

FAIR TRADE MINISTRY TODAY Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, and olive oil are sold today in the West Narthex to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. Jeanne Van Gieson and Becky Martin coordinate this ministry.

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.

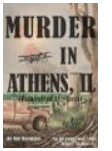
ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, October 20 (note this session is on 3rd Monday) at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 2, Mary of "a Certain Village" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, October 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Library and will study Lesson 2, Mary "of a Certain Village" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will resume on **October 23** from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer are using "A is for Alabaster," for the class. The session's lesson will be "E is for Esther, F is for Fish."

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.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, October 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Murder in Athens, IL by Ray Roentgen (the pen name of Marty and Alan Stutz' son). The author will be joining us remotely for this event. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



2025 BAY WEEKEND ON NOVEMBER 15-16 Welcomes Rev. Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago and author of "Hospitality -The Sacred Art." There will be a welcome reception on Saturday. Rev. Sawyer will preach on Sunday and lead the Education Forum following worship in Parish Hall. Lunch will be served.

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.

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

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 20
1:30 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, October 21
9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, October 22
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)
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 Deliver hot meal to Helping Hands
5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

Thursday, October 23
2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom))
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Clsrm)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, October 24
5:00 PM Reporter Deadline

Saturday, October 25
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, October 26
Stewardship Dedication
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)
11:15 AM Harvest Fest and Lunch (Parish Hall)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 http://www.wpcspi.org

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Anne Marshall
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, Francis Gyebi, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians