# WESTMINSTER
## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Reformation Sunday and
Stewardship Dedication
26 October 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Voluntary** A Mighty Fortress is Our God — Johann Nicolaus Hanff

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, not because you've got it all figured out,
but because God's mercy meets us here.
**People:** **God, be merciful and make us new!**
Leader: Come, not because your prayers are perfect, but because God delights to hear your voice.
**People:** **God, be merciful and make us new!**
Leader: Come, not because your faith is flawless, but because God's grace is overflowing.
People: **God, be merciful and make us new!**

***Processional Hymn 624** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art — *Toulon*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have trusted in ourselves and thought too highly of our own understanding. We have looked at others with judgment in our hearts and believed that our ways were the right ways. We have measured faith by what can be seen and counted—our giving, our service, our knowledge—and forgotten that your grace is beyond measure.

Forgive us, Lord and help us to trust in your mercy. 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 and youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 86:1-13 — Pew Bible, OT pages 544

**Second Scripture Reading** Luke 18:9-14 — Pew Bible, NT page 81
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** The Prayer God Always Answers
Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

**Anthem** Sing to God, Our Great Protection — W. A. Mozart

Sing to God, our great protection, sing with joy to Jacob's king.
Sing a psalm and sound the timbrel, bring to harp and psaltery.
Sound the trumpet in the new moon, in the season of our feast.
Psalm 81

***Affirmation of Faith** — The Apostles' 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 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** Cantate Domino! — W. A. Mozart

Cantate Domino! Sing to the Lord! Sing alleluia to the Lord.

***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

***Litany of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

*2026 pledges are presented in the baptismal font brass bowl as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community.*

Leader: Generous and merciful God, we bring the fruits of our stewardship season before you, not as proof of our worth, but as signs of our gratitude.

**People:** **All that we have is yours, O God. All that we give is our response to your mercy.**

Leader: For the prayers spoken and unspoken, for the commitments made in faith, for the acts of generosity seen and unseen, we give you thanks.

**People:** **You have given us grace beyond deserving, and we respond with humble hearts.**

**Leader:** Bless these pledges, these gifts, these hopes for your church's work. Use them not to magnify us, but to magnify your mercy in the world.

**People:** **Take what we offer, Lord, and make it more than we can imagine.**

Leader: When we are tempted to boast of what we've done, remind us that we live by grace alone.

**People:** **When we are tempted to doubt that our gifts matter, remind us that your mercy multiplies even the smallest seed.**

**All:** **As we dedicate these gifts, we dedicate ourselves anew, not to the work of our own making, but to the surprising work of your kingdom.**

***Hymn 435** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy — *In Babilone*

***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** A Mighty Fortress is Our God — Johann Pachelbel

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Dr. Glen Pittman from his family.
- **Flowers in the West Narthex** are given in celebration of Dr. Roland Folse's birthday from his loving wife Linda.
- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: William Affrunti
- **Acolytes**: Diana Choi and Madesyn Addo-Yobo
- **Greeters:** Suzanne and Carolyn Dennis
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Maria Lafrenz, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano, Lyle VanDeventer, Bass, 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: "Give Thanks to God for your Food." (Jesus Feeds a Crowd) *Caregivers: Kara Milward*
- **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 - Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" (Luke 18:9-14) *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
  - **Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 6-7 will study Session 4: "Scattered." *Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos*
- **11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Harvest Fest (Parish Hall) Fun for all ages:**

  A DELICIOUS LUNCH will be provided and treat bags sent home with the children. PUMPKIN CRAFTS AND TREATS, STORY-TELLING AND FACE PAINTING in the Parish Hall. HARVEST GAMES in the Youth Room.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

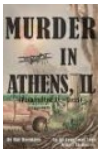
**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about us is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

**TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY -** 2026 pledges are presented in the baptismal font brass bowl as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community. As of Thursday, October 23, we have received **133 pledges** for a total of **$572,979** which is **66%** of our **$871,000** goal. Please complete the pledge card and place it in the offering plate today. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org. Thank you to the 2026 Stewardship Committee: Julie Robbs, Chair, Linda Andrews, Adam Ekstedt, Joe Fierstos, Claudia Nash, Linda Purves, Jeanne Van Gieson, and Sarah Zerfas.

**REFORMATION AND HARVEST TODAY IN PARISH HALL** Westminster will continue the tradition started in 2021 when Reformation Sunday fell on Halloween. 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. Highlights and activities include: **A Delicious Lunch** provided in Parish Hall and treat bags sent home with the children, **Fall Crafts and Treats, Storytelling and Face Painting** in the Parish Hall, and **Harvest Games** in the Youth Room.

This celebration provides an opportunity to highlight the origins of Hallows' Eve in our faith tradition. Don't miss this time of creative and meaningful worship.

**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 is a sign up 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.




**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.

**THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** will meet on **October 30 from 4:30 to 6:30 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 "G is for Goliath, H is for Habakkuk." Note the adjusted time for this week.

**ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE NEXT SUNDAY** On Sunday, November 2, Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2024. A bouquet with one white rose for each member whose life we commemorate will be placed in the Chancel. The litany, which includes the reading of our loved ones' names, the tolling of our historic bell, and silence, will be a part of the worship service.

**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.

## THE 2025 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 15-16

**The Rev. Nanette Sawyer**
**Associate Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church**
**and author of**
**Hospitality—The Sacred Art: Discovering the Hidden Spiritual Power of Invitation and Welcome**

**Saturday, November 15**

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| **Welcome Reception** | **5:30 – 8:00 p.m.** Members are invited to the home of Drs. Todd and Judy Knox for a gathering hosted by the Adult Education Committee. |

**Sunday, November 16**

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| **Worship Service** | **10:00 a.m.** Rev. Sawyer will preach. |
| **Education Forum** | **11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Presentation |
| **All Church Lunch** | **12:30 p.m.** We will share a community meal. |

**Biography: Nanette Sawyer is an Associate Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, with responsibility for relational small group ministries, interfaith relations and racial equity concerns. She is the author of Hospitality, The Sacred Art, received her Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School with a focus on comparative world religions. She received her Master of Divinity at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and is ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).**

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

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

**Monday, October 27**

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

**Tuesday, October 28**

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
4:30 PM Support and Endowment (Conference Room)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

**Wednesday, October 29**

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 AM 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)
6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)

**Thursday, October 30**

4:30 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:30 PM Choir Combined Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

**Friday, October 31**

**Saturday, November 1**

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

**Sunday, November 2**

**All Saints Day**
**Parish Nurse Ministries**

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room
11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall

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### 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