WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Bay Sunday
16 November 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Trio — Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: O Living God of past and future,
People: **We praise you for this present moment.**
Leader: Fill us with your joy and
empower us with your Holy Spirit,
People: **that our strength may be renewed.**
Leader: Let us sing a new song of your glory
People: **in a world which longs for your justice and peace.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

***Processional Hymn 301** Let Us Build a House — *Two Oaks*

Unison Prayer of Confession** *As we offer our prayer of confession this week, the liturgist will lift up petitions that end with **"God of grace,"** and the congregation is invited to respond with **"forgive us."

For failing to love others as you have loved us . . .
God of grace, **forgive us.**
For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods . . .
God of grace, **forgive us.**
For plundering the earth and abusing the planet . . .
God of grace, **forgive us.**
For fearing those who are strange to us
and ignoring those in need . . .
God of grace, **forgive us.**

For losing heart and abandoning hope . . .
God of grace, **forgive us.**
For all the ways we turn from you . . .
God of grace, **forgive us.**
We offer our prayers in the name
of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ. **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.

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 Isaiah 65:17-25 — Pew Bible, OT pages 696

Second Scripture Reading Luke 21:5-19 — Pew Bible, NT pages 85

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

Sermon Testify to Love — Rev. Nanette Sawyer

Anthem Thankful — Carole Bayer Sager

Some days, we forget to look around us. Some days, we can't see the joy that surrounds us So caught up inside ourselves we take when we should give. So for today we pray for what we know can be And on this day we hope for what we still can't see. It's up to us to be the change and even though, we can still do more, there's so much to be thankful for. Look beyond ourselves there's so much sorrow. It's way too late to say I'll cry tomorrow. Each of us must find our truth. We're so long overdue. Even with our differences there is a place we're all connected Each of us can find each other's love. And even though this world needs so much more, There's so much to be thankful for.

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

**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 this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 O All Ye Works Praise the Lord — Philip Stopford

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; praise and magnify God forever. O ye angels of the Lord; O ye heavens; O ye water that be above the firmament; O ye sun and moon, ye stars of heaven; O ye showers and dew, O ye winds of God; O ye fire and heat; O ye winter and summer; O ye dews and frosts, ye ice and snow; O ye nights and days, O ye light and darkness; O ye lightnings and clouds bless ye the Lord. Praise and magnify God forever.

***Offertory Response** Doxology — Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host

***Prayer of Dedication** **Loving God, before we give to you, you have given to us. All we offer we have received from you. We thank you for your goodness, and we praise you for your bountiful works, through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

***Hymn 366** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling — *Hyfrydoll*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Forth in Thy Name — Orlando Gibbons

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,:
In all I think or speak or do. Amen.

***Voluntary** Darwall's 148th — Percy Whitlock

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgists**: Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall, Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Liam Kiszely
- **Acolytes**: Brooke Boutelle and Rose DeJong
- **Greeters:** Lisa and Macklin Metzger
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Linda Caupert, Kyle Duffy, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

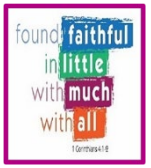
EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "God Takes Care of You and Your Family." (Noah) *Caregiver: 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 - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "Jesus Wants to Spend Time with You" (Mary and Martha) *Teachers: Sara Eldridge, Abigail Eldridge*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Work Together" (2 Thess 3:6-13) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Together We Can" (2 Thess 3:6-13) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz, Julie Robbs*
  - **Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 6-7 will study Session 6: "God's Laws." *Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Confirmation (Parish Hall)** Students in Grade 8 will attend Bay Weekend Adult Ed Forum presentation
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Bay Weekend Presentation (Parish Hall) "Soul Force: A Love to Counter Evil"** Join Rev. Sawyer as the group considers the persistence and power of God's love, God's truth, and how we can be rooted and grounded in that love. As Christians we have been given the difficult commandment by Jesus to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44). This love is an embodied, experiential love given to us by the grace of God. This love requires us to protect the most vulnerable and to live with dignity and self-respect ourselves. We will explore how we can claim and utilize our personal power without turning ourselves into enemies, especially in difficult and dangerous times.
- **12:30 p.m. All Church Lunch** follows Rev. Sawyer's presentation in Parish Hall.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is on our website at 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 to Dr. Marshall or Rev. Bishop.



2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE Pledges for 2026 were dedicated during our worship service on October 26 in the baptismal font brass bowl as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community. As of Friday, November 6, we have now reached 93% of our $871,000 goal and need only $58,786 to be at 100%. Our total pledged from 184 families is $812,214. 2026 pledges are still accepted. Please complete the pledge card and place it in the offering plate today. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.

CONTACT MINISTRIES ADOPT A FAMILY This Christmas season, Westminster will again sponsor the nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, providing Christmas gifts as they work their way toward independence. Each family has multiple Wishlist items on SignUpGenius from which to select gifts. The signup links is now available at wpcspi.org. Gifts can be dropped off to Jennie's office, ordered for direct delivery to Westminster (make sure to notify Jennie Alt to expect a package!), or Jennie can shop for you with donations. **All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 7.**

FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD'S ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER will be **Tuesday, November 18**, 7:15 – 8:30 a.m. in Parish Hall. This event is free and attendees are invited to invest in their future work.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, November 18 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Library and will study Lesson 3, from Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) Friday, November 21 Meet at 5:30 p.m. for potluck and 6:15 p.m. for the program. The St. Andrews' Sisters will perform a musical program with Dale Rogers accompanying them. RSVP to the church office or on our website is welcomed but not required.

BREADLINE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 For decades, each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, churches in Springfield sold bread donated by a local grocery store to raise money for St. John's Breadline, which serves hot food 365 days a year to Springfield's underserved. The program stopped selling bread during Covid, however, this year a sponsor is providing bread to be given to donors. The congregation is encouraged to donate on Sunday, November 23 for St. John's Breadline, in the offering plate, or in the West Narthex, and receive a loaf of bread!

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. WITH PIPES AND DRUMS Westminster will continue the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday on November 23 with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music. The Little Entry is the opening procession of the service. Along with the pipers and drummers, the pastors and youth will enter with the Bible to underscore the importance of the Word of God in Reformed liturgy, and the cross to highlight its centrality in our faith. In Westminster's observance, elements include the bagpipes, the flag of Scotland, singing from the Scottish Psalter, and the clergy tartan paraments presented to Westminster in 1985 in loving memory of Scott Hoff.

ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 30 The church will be decorated on November 24. Service times on December 24 include the Children's Service at 5:00 p.m., traditional Christmas Eve Dinner hosted by the Board of Deacons at 5:30 p.m., and Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00 p.m.

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. Church Mice concludes for 2025 on November 22 and will resume on January 10, 2026.

PW CHRISTMAS TEA On **December 5, from 12:00-2:00 p.m.,** join Westminster women at the Christmas Tea held in Parish Hall. Celebrate the festive season with a delicious lunch and Christmas music by the St. Andrew's Sisters. RSVP in the Church Office or sign up in the West Narthex.

2025 BAY WEEKEND

November 15-16, 2025

Welcomes

The Reverend Nanette Sawyer

Associate Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

and author of

Hospitality - The Sacred Art: Discovering the Hidden Spiritual Power of Invitation and Welcome

The Rev. 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. Nanette Sawyer began serving at Fourth Church in December 2015 as Minister for Congregational Life. In December 2017 she was called by the congregation to fill the role of Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry. She is the author of Hospitality, The Sacred Art. Prior to her call at Fourth, she served at St. James Presbyterian Church and Grace Commons, both in Chicago. She was founding pastor of Wicker Park Grace, which grew out of her 2002 call by the Presbytery of Chicago to begin an experiment in new ways of doing church. That effort began with spirituality discussions and book groups in coffee shops and teahouses and eventually grew into a "church without walls" in 2005 with seed money from the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Nanette holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, feminist studies, and creative writing from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. She received her Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School with a focus on comparative world religions followed by a Masters of Divinity at McCormick Theological Seminary. A past Moderator of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group of the Presbytery of Chicago, she continues to coordinate the Presbytery's interfaith dialogue with the Jewish Federation of Chicago and the interfaith dialogue with the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC).

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, November 17

Tuesday, November 18

7:30 AM Faith Coalition Breakfast (Parish Hall)
9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
6:00 PM Food Not Bombs Meal Prep (Kitchen)
6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting (Off site)
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, November 19

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)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Session (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

Thursday, November 20

10:30 AM WCP Friendship Feast (Parish Hall)
12:00 PM Library Guild day session (Children's Library)
2:30 PM Early Stage Memory Loss (2nd Floor Clsrm)
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Clsrm)
6:00 PM Library Guild evening session (Children's Library)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, November 21

5:30 PM DMA Potluck
6:15 PM DMA Program

Saturday, November 22

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

Sunday, November 23

St. Andrew's Sunday
Breadline Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K- Grade 5 (3rd Floor Chapel)
11:00 AM Christmas Trees Go Up
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
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. 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