WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow — Spiritual

Introit

O come, O come, Immanuel,
Come now to earth and with thy people dwell,
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign,
O come and show to us the light divine.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
As age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer come to save us one and all,
Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.

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

*** Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle and Call to Worship**

Leader: In the winter, we long for sunlight.
People: We light candles to testify, that the earth will turn and the light will come again.
Leader: In our lives, we long for Christ.
People: We light candles to testify, that the day will come when Christ will come again.
(The Fourth Advent Candle is lit.)

***Processional Hymn 110** Love Has Come — *Bring a Torch*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we regret that the world we welcome you into still has so little love in it.
We grieve that hate is so strong. Come and fill our hearts with your love, until it spills out into the world. 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 **Come Savior, Quickly Come** (Sung three times)

Come Savior, quickly come.
Come Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come Savior, quickly come.

Children in Pre Kindergarten - Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes. Youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep following the congregational response.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:10-16 — Pew Bible, OT page 636

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-23 — Pew Bible, NT page 1

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

Sermon Dreaming Up Love — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem Sussex Carol English Traditional arranged by Elaine Hagenberghe
Text for the anthem is 112 in the hymnal

***Affirmation of Faith** Excerpt from *The Heidelberg Catechism of 1562*

What is your only comfort in life and in death?
That I am not my own, but belong
body and soul, in life and in death
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 Pastorale on 'Gesu Bambino' Pietro Yon

***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**

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Sovereign and our God. Amen

***Hymn 134** Joy to the World *Antioch*

Sunday School children process and conclude on the Chancel

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

***Voluntary** Joy to the World Phil Lehenbauer

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

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

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Maggie, Josh, Arthur, and Robin Pinke
- **Acolytes**: Brooke Boutelle and Lily Swanson
- **Greeter:** Willow Stallings
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Todd Lafrenz, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Advent Singers: Harper and Reese Huston, Maria Lafrenz, and Lily Swanson, The Westminster Choir, and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller
- **Liturgy** written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

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. *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Sara Eldridge, Abigail Eldridge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Birth – Grade 5 and youth in Grades 6 - 7** The Sunday School children will experience the Christmas Story and Nativity in the Second Floor Classroom and then process in their costumes during the closing hymn Joy to the World and join the pastors in the Chancel for the Charge and Benediction.
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)**. Children participating in the Christmas Pageant on December 24 are invited to a rehearsal.
  - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** Join members in Parish Hall following the service as Kristianna Eastvold reflects on her experience and viewpoint from Camp Henry as a summer camp photographer, which is a Presbyterian Camp in Newaygo, MI.
  - **College Age Youth Brunch (Boone's)** All are invited to meet for brunch today. Hosted by the Rev. Sarah Bishop and Mary Ray at Boone's, plan to meet in the West Narthex at 11:15 a.m. before heading out.
  - **Deacons deliver Pointsettias to members who are grieving or shut ins. Pick up in West Narthex.**
- **4:00 p.m. Christmas Vespers (Sanctuary)** Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's sisters will present a program featuring Christmas music of Sir John Rutter.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FUND

To the Glory of God and in thanks for Dale Rogers by Anonymous

In honor of Dale Rogers for wrangling the choir, The Walnuts, and St. Andrews Sisters
by Bob and Julie Blythe

In loving memory of our nephew James Blythe, whom we miss every day,
by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe.

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, whom we miss every day,
by Julie, Bob, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Jennie Davis Moy, dear friend and sister, gone too soon,
by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In honor of Riley Young by Ellen & Rance Carpenter

In memory of Morris D. Cooper, Sr. by Virginia Cooper & family

In memory of my husband, Kevin J. Cox by Linda Cox

In loving memory of Arthur & Louise Cragoe by Cathy Cragoe

With thanksgiving for the Westminster staff by Mary Jo and David Jenkins

In honor of our Westminster family by Meg and Jim Kontio

In loving memory of Glen Pittman by Jeanne Pittman and family

In honor of Dale Thomas Rogers and the Westminster Choir by Bill Post
For the glory of music and in honor of Dale Rogers by Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer

CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUND

In loving memory of Fred and Betty Blythe by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe
In loving memory of Ken and Lois Davis and Kathy Stittsworth by Julie & Bob Blythe
In loving memory of Aunt Viola by Julie Blythe
In memory of our grandparents by Meridith & James Bryans
In honor of Nolan Young by Ellen & Rance Carpenter
In memory of Cathryn Gordon Huff by Virginia Cooper & family
In loving memory of Tony Leone, Jr. by Cathy Cragoe
Tara Fritsch
In loving memory of our mothers by Doris and Mal Hildebrand
In memory of loved members of the Jenkins and Mattern families by Mary Jo & David Jenkins
In memory of Janet & Bob Massey and Earl Tucker by Camille & Tom Massey
Sharon and Larry Reynolds
In memory of my parents, Herbert and Jane Stebbins by Pat Roller
In honor of our parents by Julie & Mike Sundquist
In loving memory of Heather Huitt, Dan VanDeventer, Dave, Marilyn, and LeRoy Tungett by the Manning, Tungett and VanDeventer families
In memory of Martha Havey and John Volle by their loving family, Meredith, Darren, Eva & Mae Volle

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUND

In honor of Ioana Popescu by Linda Andrews and Claudia Nash
In memory of Roger Lawson by Katrina Archer
In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison and Jeanette and L.B. Beatty by Carolyn and Keith Beatty
George Botanga
In memory of Christopher Caupert by Linda & Ed Caupert
In memory of Mary Lou by the Art Cochran family
In memory of my parents, Rev. Dr. William & Ruth Cross by John Cross
With appreciation and thanks to Dale Rogers for his expertise in music by Sue Cull

Bill Deemer

Peg and Lou DiFonso

In loving memory of Bill and Mary Schnirring, Henry and Darleen Germeraad, and Carolyn Dungan by Kathy and Randy Germeraad

Sharon Gilmour

In memory of Gerry Hale by her loving family

Ann and Keith Hamilton

Remembering Scott Hoff by Elaine Hoff

Georgina Hudspeth

Pat and Al Hymans

In memory of our parents by Priscilla & Tim Kluge

Giving thanks for Westminster's glorious Christmas traditions by Judy and Todd Knox

Eleanor & Richard Leary

In memory of Lois Volk and Joe Volk by Joyce Matthews

In loving memory of Lance Shupe by Pat McNutt

In memory of Ralph and Georgia Norton and Megan N. Salisbury by Maribeth Norton

In memory of Dorothy and Walt Peura by Mary and Morley Peura

Judy and Fred Prillaman

In memory of beloved family members by the Robbs family

In memory of Harold and Rosella Rogers by Dale Rogers

In memory of our parents and loved ones we have lost this year by Linda and Bill Schlosser

In memory of our parents by Nancy & Lon Scott

Susan & Michael Shaw

In memory of our loved ones by Judy & Harvey Stephens

In memory of our parents by Marty and Alan Stutz

In memory of Grace and Bernard Reeder by Carol Volle

In memory of JoAnn Wehrle and Walter & Luanna Hinesley by Vonnie Hinesley and Dr. Roy Wehrle

In memory of John & Eileen Wilkey by Brinton Wilkey

Charles Wilkin

In memory of Dr. Elvin Zook by Sharon Zook

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.

2026 STEWARDSHIP GOAL SURPASSED As of Thursday, December 18, we have received 208 pledges totaling $890,405 which is 102% of the 2026 Found Faithful Stewardship Campaign goal of $871,000 goal. Thank you to all who pledged and to the 2026 Stewardship Committee: Julie Robbs, Chair, Linda Andrews, Adam Ekstedt, Joe Fierstos, Claudia Nash, Linda Purves, Jeanne Van Gieson, Sarah Zerfas

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please consider giving toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church. **PREPARE THE WAY** is this year's theme.

CHRISMON BOOKLETS which outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree in the Chancel can be found in the pew pockets.

ADULT ED FORUM ON DECEMBER 21: THE JOY OF CAMPING Kristianna Eastvold will reflect on her experience and viewpoint from Camp Henry as a summer camp photographer, which is a Presbyterian Camp in Newaygo, MI.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT BOONE'S All College Age Youth are invited to meet for brunch today. Hosted by the Rev. Sarah Bishop and Mary Ray at Boone's, plan to meet in the West Narthex at 11:15 a.m. before heading out.

BOARD OF DEACONS DELIVER POINTSETTIAS TODAY The red pointsettias in the Chancel will be delivered today by members of the Board of Deacons. The list of recipients is in the West Narthex. Pleae pick up flower picks with cards with your assignments and flowers from the Chancel.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. **Knitters will knit at home December 23 & 30 and resume knitting at church January 4.** Additional hats and mittens are welcome on the Mitten Tree.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex. Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age through Tuesday, December 30. This is a program of the Marine Corps Reserve which collects gifts for Christmas in 2026.

THE MITTEN TREE for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex near the elevator. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed and will be collected through Sunday, January 4, 2026.

INTERFAITH PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON CHRISTMAS DAY Members of Temple B'rith Sholom and Tenmple Israel will host their annual breakfast on Christmas Day from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Temple B'rith Sholom at 1004 So. Fourth Street. Adults tickets are $10.00 and children 5-12 tickets are $5.00. All proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Club.

YEAR-END 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled their 2025 pledge. Be sure any donations for the 2025 tax year are dated December 31, 2025 or earlier and delivered to the church no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2026.

ANNUAL REPORT PREPARATION Current committee chairs have receivewd copies of the 2024 reports to help them prepare reports to be assembled into the Annual Report for the Congregational Meeting on January 25.

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 Westminster Church Officers who are newly elected will be ordained and installed during the 10:00 a.m. service. During this special service, we will renew our baptisms and consider how at baptism we are united with Christ and sent serve. On Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Annual Church Officer Retreat. The Board of Deacons will meet Wednesday, January 14 and Session will meet Wednesday, January 21.

ADULTED ED FORUM: HOPE IN DARK TIMES (Parish Hall) On January 4, a class led by Carole Kennerly exploring the history of WWII prisoners of war who were imprisioned around the US, including Carol's father's cotton farm in rual Arkansas.

BACK TO THE START SERMON SERIES BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 Many of us remember the Bible stories we learned as children — Creation, the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Abraham and Sarah. But as adults, these stories invite us to look again, to wrestle with their questions, and to discover deeper truths about God, humanity, and hope. In this series, we return to the book of Genesis to hear these familiar stories with fresh ears—finding that even in our chaos, doubt, and longing, God is still creating, still calling, and still bringing forth new beginnings.

EXPLORATION CLASS JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1 AT 9:00 A.M. Visitors and friends who are interested in membership are welcome to join us prior to worship on January 25th and February 1st and are invited to come learn more about the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We will meet in the Zeigler Library at 9:00 a.m. for conversation, connection, and exploration about how you might get more involved in the church. For those who would like to join the church, a special meeting will occur on Sunday February 8th at 9:00 a.m. with church leadership and a public welcome will be offered during worship at 10:00 a.m. If you have interest in learning more about the church or becoming a member and are not able to attend, please contact Pastor Anne at amarshall@wpcspi.org.

Church Offices will be closed at Noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The offices will be closed all day on December 25, 26 and January 1, 2026.

Advent at Westminster

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 21

Westminster's Chancel and West Narthex will be filled with red poinsettias. Following the service the Board of Deacons will deliver the poinsettias to bereaved members.

Sunday School Procession during 10:00 a.m. service

Christmas Vespers at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Westminster's Christmas Vespers program will be presented by Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters, with Mu-Chi Hseih, Violin, and Dale Rogers, Organist. Music of Sir John Rutter will be featured.

Christmas Eve at Westminster ~ Wednesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant

The Confirmation youth and Bridges children will narrate the Christmas story in a costumed pageant with special music by the Children's Choir. All children participate as shepherds, angels, and lambs.

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Dinner Hosted by the Board of Deacons

7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our Senior High will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Marshall will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 22
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, December 23
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, December 24
Noon: Church Office is Closed at Noon
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:00 PM Helping Hands Hot Meal (Kitchen)
5:00 PM Children's Service (Parish Hall)
5:30 PM Christmas Eve Dinner (Parish Hall)
7:30 PM Lessons & Carols Candlelighting Service

Thursday, December 25
Church Office is Closed

Friday, December 26
Church Office is Closed

Saturday, December 27

Sunday, December 28
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)

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

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