



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

18 January 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

**Voluntary**

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen African American Spiritual

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Come with your questions, come with your awe!

People: **For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.**

Leader: Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

People: **For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.**

Leader: Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

People: **For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.**

**\*Processional Hymn 834**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*Dorsey & Allen*

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we are without excuse. Both Scripture and creation bear witness to your power and wisdom. But we ignore you. We have not honored you as our creator or honored the world as your creation. We have exchanged your immortal glory for worthless, destructive idols. We have replaced your goodness with our greed. As your hands have held the world together, our hands are tearing it apart. By living lives of voracious luxury, we ravage your creation. Creation groans in travail. Forgive us, O Lord. Teach us, O God. Renew within us a right and willing spirit. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and the delight of your sustaining care.

**\*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**      I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light      *Houston*  
I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
*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**

**Scripture Reading**      Genesis 1-2:4      Pew Bible, OT pages 1-2

**Sermon**      Created in God's Image      Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

## **Anthem**

### **He Never Failed Me Yet**

Robert Ray

I will sing of God's mercy, every day, every hour, he gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that he has brought me out. He is my God and I'll serve him, no matter what the text. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, he never failed me yet.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made.**  
**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**  
**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

Hymn to Freedom

Oscar Peterson

When will we be free? When every heart joins every heart  
and together yearns for Liberty, that's when we'll be free.  
When every hand joins every hand and together molds our  
destiny, that's when we'll be free. Any hour, any day, the  
time soon will come when all will live in dignity, that's when  
we will be free. When everyone joins in our song and  
together singing in harmony, that's when we'll be free.

### \*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

**Ever-Present and Calling God, knowing us from the beginning, naming us as your own, you have entrusted us with the holy work of bearing your light to the world. Though we often feel unworthy or uncertain, you remind us that your grace goes before us, and your strength works through us. Receive these gifts, offered with gratitude and hope. Use them—and us—to proclaim your justice, to shine your love to the ends of the earth, and to glorify your name. In the name of Christ, your Servant and our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

### \*Hymn 379

We Shall Overcome

African American Spiritual

### \*Charge and Benediction

### \*Voluntary

Amen

African American Spiritual

(\* ) The congregation is invited

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
- **Worship Leader:** Kate Bryans
- **Acolytes:** August Ekstedt and Paislee Reich
- **Greeters:** Marci Irvine and Deb Coontz
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Maria Lafrenz, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, The 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: "Jesus Calls Us All to Follow Him" (Jesus Calls Disciples) *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 - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "Disciples Follow Jesus" (Jesus Calls Disciples) *Teacher: Cathy Brower*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Paul Sends a Letter" (I Corinthians 1:1-9) *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "God is Faithful" (I Corinthians 1:1-9) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz and Julie Robbs*
  - **Pre Confirmation Sunday School** Youth in Grades 6-7 will gather in the conference room for their next Old Testament lesson.
- **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)** ) A class exploring stories of hope as we listen to recently discovered music from Pre-1900's African American Music and their impact on the world today. *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.*
  - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students will gather in the conference room for their next lesson. *Teachers: Rev. Sarah Bishop*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about us is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website [www.wpcspi.org](http://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.

**BACK TO THE START SERMON SERIES BEGINS TODAY** 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.

**ADULT ED FORUM: STORIES OF HOPE WITH PRE-1900'S AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC-** Today following the service in Parish Hall, join a class exploring stories of hope as we listen to recently discovered music and their impact on the world today. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**THE 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST, MONDAY JANUARY 19** The 51<sup>st</sup>



Annual MLK Breakfast hosted by Springfield Frontiers will be held Monday, January 19 - 8:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Westminster will be a Gold Sponsor, donating \$1,500 (\$1,000 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund and \$500 from the Peace and Global Witness collection for local ministry.) Erika Harold, Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, will be the guest speaker. An advocate for civility, ethics, and inclusion, Erika leads the Commission's extensive educational programming focused on advancing professionalism among the state's lawyers and judges to build confidence in the justice system. If you would like to join the Pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org).

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on Tuesday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Randy Wiseman will lead Lesson 4 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

**EXPLORATION CLASS - JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1 AT 9:00 A.M.** Visitors and friends who are interested in learning more about the mission and ministry of Westminster are welcome to join us prior to worship on January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. On January 25<sup>th</sup> we will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast, 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with church leadership and a public welcome will be offered during worship at 10:00 a.m.

**APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP- TUESDAY, JANUARY 27** The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, January 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Better Ways to Read the Bible* by Zach W. Lambert. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE** Aaron Berkowitz heads a committee that has catalogued over 200 books using the Library of Congress system. Members are also reorganizing the Children's Library as well as the Ziegler Library and have prepared a cart in the West Narthex with topics from both libraries which are available for check-out. Please stop by to view the cart and select a book.

**MONTHLY SESSION REPORTS** Please email monthly Session reports to Jennie Alt in the church office by second week of the month at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PICTURES** If you have announcements for the bulletin or newsletter or pictures from events you would like to share, please email these to [Communications@wpcspi.org](mailto:Communications@wpcspi.org).

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast that will be served by youth attending the 2026 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission Trip and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship!

**10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

**11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**2025 ANNUAL REPORTS** will be available at Sanctuary doors. All members are encouraged to stay following worship to learn more about the mission, ministry and financials review of 2025 and to approve the Pastors terms of call.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, January 19

Church Office is closed for MLK Day  
8:30 AM Martin Luther King Breakfast (Off site)

### Tuesday, January 20

9:30 AM Lydia Circle  
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
12:00 PM Refugee Sub-Committee (Library)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids  
6:00 PM WCP Board Meeting  
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

### Wednesday, January 21

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel  
10:30 AM Worship Planning  
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3<sup>rd</sup> 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, January 22

3:30 PM IL State Historical Society Perspective in  
History (Parish Hall)  
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, January 23

### Saturday, January 24

11:00 AM Church Mice

### Sunday, January 25

8:30 AM Eggstastic Breakfast (Parish Hall)  
9:00 AM Membership Exploration Class  
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)  
Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)  
11:00 AM Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)

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

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

**Braden Barton, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl, Francis Gyebi,  
Jerry McCullum**  
Part-time Custodians