



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
1 February 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Praise to the Lord

Johann Gottfried Walther

\***Ringing of the Bell**

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

\***Call to Worship**

Leader: Holy God, you gather us this morning to save us from the biggest mistake: pretending that we are already complete. Instead, you invite us to grow in your spirit.

People: **Come and dwell among us. Let us experience the fullness of your grace.**

Leader: Holy God, you gather us this morning because we are not righteous or perfect, but we are sinners and imperfect. You are the one who can transform our flaws.

People: **Turn fear into courage, anxiety into hope, over-confidence into humility.**

Leader: Lord, we come to you this morning with open hearts and open hands.

People: **Fill us with your grace. Amen.**

\***Processional Hymn 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*In Babilone*

\***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**\*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 will remain in worship.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Reading**      Genesis 2:4b-10, 15-25      Pew Bible, OT pages 2

**Second Scripture Reading**      Genesis 3:1-24      Pew Bible, OT pages 2-3  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      Misplaced Desire      Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

## **Anthem**

## **God First Made a Fruitful Garden**

Alfred V. Fedak

God first made a fruitful garden, sowed with life a barren field,  
Knew what peace and joy and beauty that blest living seed would  
yield. Oh, if only every soul would be such soil.

That same God prepared another seed with power to sprout and  
grow, Seed of Abraham and Mary, Seed from which all blessings  
flow, freely scattered over all this desert globe.

Jesus came, the Word from heaven, growing from that special  
seed, bread of life to feed the hungry, satisfying every need.

Christ the promised seed; Seed we see and Word we hear.

Word eternal, word of splendor, word of judgment, word of grace,  
word of wisdom, word of power, word of love and joy and  
peace, word of mercy, word of pardon, sow through us your  
words of life.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Westminster Mission Statement

**Westminster Presbyterian Church believes it is in the world  
for ministry. With each new day, we affirm our common  
purpose: to join in the worshipful praise of God; to teach  
the children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call  
everyone to life-long learning in the church; to be  
influential participants in society, by being accountable to  
the Gospel; to show the love and compassion of Jesus  
Christ toward each other, and toward those who are  
hurting; to be a caring community welcoming both friends  
and strangers; to own our Presbyterian heritage, reformed  
and always reforming; and to be prayerfully open to the  
renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Let the door of this  
church be a way to service. 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**

Benedictus es, Domine

Everett Titcomb

Blessed art thou, O Lord God: praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art thou for the Name of Thy Majesty: praised and exalted above all 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  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy God, we present these offerings to you in faith. We trust that you will bless and use them to further Christ's ministry and serve those in need. May these gifts bless those we know who are suffering and those known only to you. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 611**

Mission Statement Hymn

*Woodlands*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Closing Response**

The Lord Bless and Keep You

Dale Rogers

The Lord bless and keep you, May God's presence abide with you, be gracious and kind to you, the Lord give you peace.

**190<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

**\*Voluntary**

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Rev. Frank N. Gready**

January 16, 1945 - January 20, 2026

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



**FROM OUR PARISH NURSE:** Respiratory illnesses are high in Sangamon County. It is advised that person(s) stay home if they are sick or show symptoms. There are masks available, please ask a Deacon if you need one.

### SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in loving memory of their mother, Faye Hildebrand by her children, Pat Hildebrand-Culler and Mal Hildebrand
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Juliet Boutelle
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Brooke Boutelle
- **Greeter:** Elaine Hoff
- **Ushers:** Joyce King (Head Usher), Kyle Duffy, Linda Caupert, Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Chelsea Ekstedt, Andrew Affrunti, Pete Sherman
- **Safety Team:** Charles King
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **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*
- **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)** This week's story "Jesus Welcomes Children (Jesus Blesses Children)"
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Living in Kindness"(Matthew 5:1-12) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz and Sophia Choi*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Blessed are You" (Matthew 5:1-12) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. The 190<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation**
- **5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** Parish Hall and 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](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.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION IS TODAY** Annual Reports are available at the 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. Visitors are welcome to stay and learn or can leave during the closing response.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 5:00 P.M.** The Senior High Youth Group meets at 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall and the Youth Room for fellowship, Bible Study and dinner. Thank you to Tanya DeSanto and Craig Batterman for providing dinner.

**SING BY HEART RESUMES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 10:00 A.M.** The Sing by Heart choir is a joyful musical experience for members of the community with dementia and their caregivers. This program is sponsored by the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine, the Springfield Choral Society, and Westminster Presbyterian.

**CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 4:30-6:00 PM** Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of 2026 for Children of Abraham at Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capital Ave.). This year's theme is "strength in diversity." Join us as we explore the diversity within each of our faiths and the strength it brings to each. A vegetarian dinner will also be served.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets on **Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Marilyn Rigney (3801 Indian Lands Ln). Christy Pound will lead the discussion of Chapter 6 in Becoming Spiritually Intelligent by Paul M. Burns. RSVP directly to Marilyn at 217-494-8039.

**THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** meets on **Thursday, February 5, 5:45-6:45 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. They continue their study of A is for Alabaster by the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence with Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer.

**ALL WOMEN'S BRUNCH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 FROM 10:00 A.M. – NOON** PW will host All Women's Brunch on Saturday, February 7 from 10:00 a.m. - noon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to the church office or our website by Wednesday, February 4th.

**MISSION SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8** On Sunday, February 8, Westminster mission will be highlighted during worship. This is the ninth Mission Sunday which began in 2016. A booklet including a comprehensive list of the 2025 mission supported by Westminster and the members of the committees who serve will be distributed. The total Mission Giving for 2025 is \$314,862. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 9:00 A.M.** Those wishing to join the church will meet with Session in the Ziegler Library and be welcomed by the congregation during worship.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FEBRUARY 8** Help us tackle hunger in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship on Sunday, February 8.

**MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8** All youth and adults interested in attending the 2026 Mission Trip to Charleston, SC (Saturday July 11-Saturday July 18) are invited to an informational meeting on **Sunday, February 8 at 11:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. During our meeting we will learn more about our mission site, Charleston, SC and working with Charleston Youth Mission.

**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8** The Adult Education Forum on February 8<sup>th</sup> will be presented by a local expert on Potawatomi history at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Dr. George Godfrey is a retired entomologist who taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. He has served as the President of the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, and is an expert on that event, when 859 Potawatomi from Indiana were forcibly removed to Kansas in 1838. The Trail of Death passed through Springfield, IL. Dr. Godfrey will be giving a presentation on the Trail of Death as a monologue where he plays the role of a 19th century Potawatomi elder who lived through the experience. He will be wearing traditional Potawatomi regalia during his presentation. Children are welcome to join the Adult Education Forum with their parents.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on **Monday, February 9, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead Lesson 6 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be **Thursday, February 12 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Mike Murphy, President & CEO of the IL Chamber of Commerce, will speak on its role in the community. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on **Tuesday, February 17 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Sandy Bellatti will lead Lesson 5 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

**ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18** We begin our Lenten journey with a community **dinner at 5:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall followed by a family centered worship in the **Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** Liturgy and music will be presented by our Bridges children and Children's Choir, a mediation by Rev. Bishop, the imposition of ashes and communion by intinction.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL -BEATITUDES -** Each week our entire church family will receive a card and/or email with a devotional around the Beatitudes from Matthew 5 starting Ash Wednesday. The devotional card will have a scripture, artwork, reflection questions and prayer. There is also an invitation for creative art practice. A complete copy can be downloaded from our website.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, February 2

9:00 AM Garden Club of Springfield

### Tuesday, February 3

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
12:00 PM KDO- Willing Circle  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids  
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

### Wednesday, February 4

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel  
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir  
(Parish Hall)  
10:30 AM Worship Planning  
3:30 PM DBSA Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:30 PM Children of Abraham (Off site)  
6:00 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)  
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)  
7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle (Off site)

### Thursday, February 5

1:30 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group Mtg  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, February 6

### Saturday, February 7

10:30 AM Women's Brunch (Parish Hall)  
11:00 AM Church Mice (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Sunday, February 8

9:00 AM New Members meet with Session (Ziegler  
Library)  
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)  
11:15 AM Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall)  
11:15 AM 2026 Youth Mission Trip Mt. (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Classroom)

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

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

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