



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Before Lent

15 February 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Flute Tune in F

John Stanley

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Leader:

God has called us

People:

like Sarah and Abraham

Leader:

to step out in faith

People:

to go where we don't know

Leader:

to be blessed

People:

to be a blessing.

All:

Let us worship the God who leads us in faith!

***Processional Hymn 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord. You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all. Forgive us, O Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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**

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

Hymnal, Back Cover

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 Message

Congregational Response

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 go to Confirmation-Prep classes.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:8-12

Pew Bible, NT page 225

Second Scripture Reading

Genesis 11:30-12:9

Pew Bible, OT pages 9-19

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

By Faith

Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem

Give Me the Good Words

Bob Chilcott

Sometimes a piece of paper, a piece of white paper can set a person free. Just a few words written in black ink on white paper can set a nation free. Sometimes one person, one good person, can set a nation free. Just a few words written on the open page of the human heart can set a people free. Give me the good words. Make me the right person. Give me a piece of paper to set me free. Pure words written on my heart can set me free.

*Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 and Prayer of Dedication

At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew.

Offertory Love Like a Winter Rose John Carter

Love like a winter rose, love like a summer star; love reaching out from God to where you are. Love like the morning dew, cool as a gentle rain, warm as the summer sun, love comes again. Timeless and broad as the sea, wondrous and willing and free; no other love so true as God's love for you. Love like a lovely song, love like a melody; love reaching out from God so tenderly. Love that will never fail, sure as the bloom of spring. Love, like a winter rose is for remembering.

Offertory Response Doxology Hymnal, 606

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

***Hymn 51** To Abraham and Sarah *Llanfylln*

***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.

***Voluntary** Trumpet Tune in D John Stanley

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Dr. William H. Lienemann
April 6, 1932 – February 8, 2026
United with Westminster on January 26, 1968

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

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Lyle VanDeventer
- **Worship Leader:** Abigail Eldridge
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Greeters:** Bob and Mary Leffler
- **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. *Caregiver: Erin Winn*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 begin in worship & go to Sunday school Youth in Grades 6-7 will go to Pre Confirmation following the Congregational Response.
 - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: “Families Accept Each Other - No Matter What!” (The Prodigal Son)
 - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week’s story: “Choose Life (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)” *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz and Cathy Brower*
 - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week’s story: “Choose Life” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
 - **Pre Confirmation Sunday School** Youth in Grades 6-7 will gather in the conference room for their next Old Testament lesson on Saul. Teachers: Meridith Bryans and Cara Barnet
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
 - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students will gather in the conference room for lesson Nine: John Calvin Reforms. *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** *Led by Dale Rogers- Underground Railroad*
 - **Fair Trade (West Narthex)**

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.

LOST AND FOUND Please check the lost and found for items that may have been left. We will donate any coats left to the Lenten Coat Drive. The lost and found basket is at the volunteer desk in West Narthex and the large basket by the coat rack.

FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 Come check out our chocolate and other Equal Exchange items following worship! Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson continue to oversee these sales and will assist other members interested in being part of this ministry.

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.

THE WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST. This is the preschool's largest fundraiser of the year and is crucial in helping offset the cost to operate the preschool while keeping tuition affordable for families. If you are interested in supporting this mission of Westminster, please consider joining the preschool community at this event. **If interested, tickets, sponsorships, and add-ons can be purchased online at <https://givebutter.com/c/WCPTrivia2026>.** This year's theme is a throwback to all things 90s, so dust off your tracksuits & Nirvana t-shirts, grab your Walkman (cassette or CD), and join us for a great cause!

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 The Adult Education Forum on **February 22** will be led by Rev. Sarah Bishop. The topic will be the Christian Traditions of Lent- An interactive discussion of the history and traditions in Lent.

POKÉMON CLUB The Pokémon Club meets with Aaron Berkowitz **Sunday, February 22, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** in the Children's Library. All children and young-at-heart are welcome. No experience necessary and all supplies will be on hand.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP Senior High youth meet **Sunday, February at 22, 5:00 pm-6:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall for their continued lesson on What is a Disciple of Jesus? Beth and Tad Allen will provide the meal.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets **Tuesday, February 24 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to discuss *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James H. Cone. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP Junior High youth meet **Wednesday February 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room and continue our study on the Bible. The meal is by Maud Essel and John Addo-Yobo.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 11:30 a.m. Members & friends of Westminster will gather at Concordia **Thursday, February 26** with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts. We will gather for Holy Communion at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel followed by lunch at 12 noon in the New Harmony Room.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
THEME: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? FASTING
5:30 P.M. ALL CHURCH DINNER IN PARISH HALL
6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including:

- Liturgy and music presented by Bridges children and Children's Choir
- Meditation by Rev. Bishop
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

BEATITUDES: LENT AT HOME STUDY

Each week our entire church family will receive a card and/or email with a devotional around the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. The devotional card will have a scripture, artwork, reflection questions, and a prayer. There is also an invitation for creative art practice. Our Beatitudes Lent At Home Study is for all ages and all definitions of family. A card will be available each week next to bulletins on Sundays as well as through the weekly email.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE

During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

LENTEN GIVING

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

A **Lenten Coat Drive** will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and be donated to Contact Ministries.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, February 16th

The Church Office is closed for Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 17th

9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off Site)

Wednesday, February 18th

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir
(Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Ash Wednesday Dinner (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 19th

12:00 PM Library Guild- Day Work Session
(Children's Library)
6:00 PM Library Guild- Evening Work Session
(Children's Library)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, February 20th

Saturday, February 21st

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

Sunday, February 22nd

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)
(3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)
Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
Confirmation (Conference Room)
12:00 PM Piano Festival
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

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