



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Lent

22 February 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

**Voluntary**

Through Adam's Fall, We Sinned All    Gottfried August Homilius

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: People of the covenant:

People: **God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.**

Leader: God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love:

People: **The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.**

Leader: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness;

People: **We put our trust in God as we follow Christ on the Lenten path.**

All: **Let us worship the God who leads us in faith!**

**\*Lenten Candle Service**

As we extinguish the first Lenten candle, we remember the covenant of colors in the rainbow and Christ's journey to the cross. We reflect on the wonders of a God who has covenanted to love us through all the turnings and seasons of our lives. Let us pray:

**We come to you, O God, to affirm the many promises and covenants you have made to your people throughout history. Come to us in this season and remind us once again that you are always with us: in death and resurrection, in desert and in flood. Amen.**

**\*Processional Hymn 783**

When We Are Tested

*Angels of Heaven*

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy, Lent is a hard time for us. In a culture which showcases success, you call us to sacrifice ourselves for others. In a world which promotes power, you invite us to deny ourselves. In a society which encourages us to 'feel good,' you point us to the struggles of siblings, the burdens others bear. By your mercy, forgive us. Remind us that as we journey with Jesus, we learn the steps of discipleship. As we listen to his call to obedience, may we learn how to say 'no' to all that tempts us. As we see his suffering, may we live out the good news which has come to us through our Lord and Savior, 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**

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.

**Children's Message**

**Congregational Response**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

John Carter

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me. (sung three times)**

*Children in Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes. Youth in Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation-Prep class.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Reading**

Matthew 6:9-15

Pew Bible, NT page 6

## Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Pew Bible, NT pages 3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

What Do You Mean By That? Temptation

Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

## Anthem

Out of the Depths

David Mitchell

Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O Lord God, hear my voice! Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my crying, If thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee that thou may be feared. I wait for the Lord and in God's word do I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning. Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love. With God is full redemption. God will redeem us from all our sins. Psalm 130

## \*Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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, a 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.**

## 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** Soliloquy Robert Cundick

**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** **May the privileged always share with the forgotten, may the powerful learn the grace of humility, and may our generosity reveal our gratitude for all the blessings we have been given so we can share them with others. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 839** Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine *Assurance*

**\*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** We All Believe in One God Johann Sebastian Bach

(\*) 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 Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Willow Stallings
- **Acolytes:** Connor and Lily Hill
- **Greeters:** Jim, Meredith, Cara and Kate Bryans
- **Ushers:** Joyce King (Head Usher), Kyle Duffy, Linda Caupert, Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Chelsea Ekstedt, Andrew Affrunti, Pete Sherman
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Eleanor VanDeeventer, Soprano, 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: Kara Milward*
- **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: “God Always Welcomes Us Home (The Prodigal Son)”
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week’s story: “Living as God’s Children (Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18)” *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz and Julia Robb*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week’s story: “Holy People (Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18)” *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz and Sophia Choi*
  - **Pre Confirmation Sunday School (Conference Room)** Youth in Grades 6-7 will gather in the conference room for their next Old Testament lesson. Teachers: Meridith Bryans and Cara Barnet
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students will gather in the conference room for their next lesson *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)**

## 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.

**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 add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

**ELDER AND DEACON NOMINATIONS- FILLING UNEXPIRED TERMS** Due to life circumstances, two elders and one deacon have needed to step down from their roles. The nominating committee will be meeting to begin the process of nominating congregation members to fill these vacant leadership positions. If you would like to nominate yourself or another congregation member, please email Julie Robb, chair of the nominating committee, no later than **March 15** at [Julie.robbs10@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.robbs10@gmail.com).

**NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS TODAY:** What Do You Mean By That? Unpacking the Vocabulary of Faith The language we use at church to explain our faith can feel confusing — or even intimidating. Words like fasting, temptation, sin, repentance, salvation, and sanctification are used in our prayers and hymns, but what do they really mean? During Lent, we'll take a closer look at these key words of faith, exploring their theological roots, their relevance for our lives today, and how understanding them more deeply can transform the way we follow Jesus. Whether you've heard these words all your life or are encountering them for the first time, we'll unpack what they mean and discover how God's truth works through them in practical, life-giving ways this Lent. Let's answer the question together, what do you mean by that?

**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM TODAY** The Adult Education Forum **Today** 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 MEETS TODAY** The Pokémon Club meets with Aaron Berkowitz **from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Today** 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 meets **Today from 5:00 p.m-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.

**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM ON MARCH 1:** The Adult Education Forum on **March 1** will be on Law and Faith. This class will explore the historic impact the church has had on American Law. Led by Jack Sherrick, J.D.

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

**SING BY HEART MEETS ON WEDNESDAYS 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

**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.

### LENTON GIVING



**One Great Hour of Sharing** The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering invests in the PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People ministry. Received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. You may donate by check, noting "One Great Hour of Sharing." To give online, view the QR code in this bulletin with your phone camera. Once you accept the web location, choose One Great Hour of Sharing from the dropdown list of funds.

**Lenten Coat Drive** The 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. **We have received 26 coats so far.**

### 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 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. To download the entire set, scan the QR code below.



## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, February 23rd

9:30 AM King's Daughter's Board Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Tuesday, February 24th

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids  
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)  
6:00 PM Congregational Care Meeting (Conference Room)  
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off Site)

### Wednesday, February 25th

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)  
12:30 PM Reporter (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM Helping Hands Hot Meal (Kitchen)  
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)  
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)  
5:00 PM Deliver Meal to Helping Hands  
5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

### Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

4:00 PM Personnel Committee (Conference Room)  
5:00 PM Membership Committee (Conference Room)  
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, February 27th

### Saturday, February 28th

9:00 AM Church Safety Training by PGR (Off-Site)  
11:00 AM Church Mice (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Sunday, March 1st

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chapel and Classroom)  
Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)  
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)  
Confirmation (Conference Room)

## 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