



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epiphany

January 4, 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

What Child is This

Searle Wright

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader:

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**People:**

**and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Leader:

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick  
darkness the peoples;

**People:**

**but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory  
will appear over you.**

Leader:

Nations shall come to your light,

**People:**

**and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

Leader:

The people who walked in darkness

**People:**

**have seen a great light;**

Leader:

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

**People:**

**on them light has shined.**

Leader:

Let us celebrate the Light of the world,

**People:**

**for upon us has the Light shined.**

**\*Processional Hymn 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*Kings of Orient*

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. 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**

**Go, Tell It On The Mountain**

Go Tell It

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

*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 60:1-6

Pew Bible, OT page 690

**Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, NT page 2

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People:

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Following the Star

Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

## **Anthem**

### **All Bells in Paradise**

Sir John Rutter

All bells in paradise I heard them ring: Sounding in majesty the news that they bring. All bells in paradise I heard them ring, Welcoming our Saviour born on earth a heavenly King.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Second Helvetic Confession is one of twelve statements of faith from our Book of Confessions, composed in 1561 by Heinrich Bullinger, a Reformed minister serving in Zurich, Switzerland during the emergence of Swiss-German Reformed Protestantism. The following is excerpted from the longer confession.

What is the Gospel?

**The Gospel is properly called glad and joyous news, in which, first by John the Baptist, then by Christ the Lord himself, and afterwards by the apostles and their successors, is preached to us in the world that God has now performed what God promised from the beginning of the world, and has sent, nay more, has given us the only Son and in him reconciliation with our Creator, the remission of sins, all fullness and everlasting life. 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**

### **I am Alpha and Omega**

Sir John Stainer

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord; which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

**\*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**      Like the Wise People who noticed your light, we bring our gifts to honor you. Bless these gifts that they may bring light and hope to a hurting world through the ministry and mission of the church. Amen

**\*Hymn 152**      What Star is This, With Beams So Bright      *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

**\*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**      Wassail Carol      Traditional English

(\*) 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:** Sue Sawers
- **Worship Leader:** Nora Kennerly
- **Acolytes:** Sam Berkowitz and Connor Hill
- **Greeters:** Becky, Todd, Reese and Harper Huston
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Maria Lafrenz, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, 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. *Caregiver: Erin Winn*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children in Pre-K – Grade 7 begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
  - **Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** The Sunday School children will gather in third floor chapel for a combined lesson. *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 Barnett*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** ) Class led by Carole Kennerly will explore the history of WWII German prisoners of war.
  - **Parish Nurse Ministries (Church Office)** Ellen Carpenter will take blood pressures and provide health advice.
  - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students will gather in the conference room for lesson Nine: John Calvin Reforms. *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*

## 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.

**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.

**2026 STEWARDSHIP GOAL SURPASSED** We have received 209 pledges to date totaling \$894,885 which is 103% 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

**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.

**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 today and delivered next week.

**ADULT ED FORUM: HOPE IN DARK TIMES (Parish Hall)** On January 4, a class led by Carole Kennerly will explore the history of WWII German prisoners of war who were imprisoned around the US, including Carol's father's cotton farm in rural Arkansas.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN** will be Tuesday, January 6 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Many thanks to those who assisted in decorating the church. We have enjoyed these adornments through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come help store things away for another year.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCH** will not meet in January.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets on Wednesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Knox (2004 Maryknoll, 62704). Kathy Germeraad will lead the discussion of Chapter 4 in Becoming Spiritually Intelligent by Paul M. Burns. RSVP directly to Judy at 217-691-1057

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be Thursday, January 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Bob Bunn will speak about the history of the Bunn and Lincoln family friendship. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

**CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT AND JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATES** 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.

**NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 11** Westminster Church Officers who were elected on October 12 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 to serve.



**SESSION CLASS OF 2028:** Sandy Bellatti, George Botanga, Nathaniel Brower, Deb Coontz, Cress Maddox, Sr., Lucy Stafford, Brad Swanson, and Jess Weitzel. *Youth Elder:* Sam Batterman

**BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2028:** John Addo-Yobo, Maud Essel Addo-Yobo, Andrew Affrunti, Chelsea Ekstedt, Cameron Hudgins, Lisa Metzger, Joyce Matthews, Pete Sherman. *Youth Deacon:* Macklin Metzger

**THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2025** We are grateful to the following Elders and Deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

**SESSION:** Scott Day, Jim Dolan, Gregg Humphrey, Judy Knox, Amanda Maddox-Wenthe, Pat McNutt, Mike Nenaber, Jeanne VanGieson

**BOARD OF DEACONS:** George Botanga, Chris Hickman, Sabrina Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Kathy Kenyon, Debra Parker, Bill Schlosser, Erin Winn and Maria Lafrenz (Youth)

**ADULT ED FORUM: LISTENING FOR GOD - JANUARY 11 IN PARISH HALL** An invitation for the congregation to join in a season of prayer and spiritual discernment with training in intentional listening and beginning the WPC mission study. Led by Dr. Marshall and Dr. Berkowitz

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on Monday, January 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Sue Baker will lead Lesson 5 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

**ANNUAL REPORT DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 AT NOON** It is time to compile the 2025 Elder and Deacon chair reports. Committee chairs have received copies of the 2024 reports to help them prepare reports to be assembled into the Annual Report for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday January 25. Please email completed reports to Jennie Alt (Jalt@wpcspi.org) by Friday, January 16. If you should have questions, please contact the pastor overseeing your committee.

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

**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.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on Tuesday, January 20, at 1:00 p.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 membership are welcome to join us prior to worship on January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> to 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 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

**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** from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are **due Friday, January 16, 2026 by noon.** Please submit your reports to [jalt@wpcpi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcpi.org). They will be included in the 2025 Annual Report.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, January 5th

4:00 PM          Symphony Guild

### Tuesday, January 6th

10:30 AM        Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

### Wednesday, January 7th

10:00 AM        Pastors Pray in the Chancel

10:30 AM        Worship Planning

3:30 PM         DBSA Group

4:00 PM         Bridges

5:00 PM         Children's Choir

6:30 PM         D & D Group

7:00 PM         Ruth & Naomi Circle

### Thursday, January 8th

8:00 AM         Men's Breakfast

1:30 PM         Memory Loss Graduate Group Meeting

4:00 PM         Personnel Committee

5:45 PM         Thursday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM         Choir

### Friday, January 9th

1:00 PM         Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep

### Saturday, January 10th

9:00 AM         Church Officer Retreat (Parish Hall)

### Sunday, January 11th

10:00 AM        Communion Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Church Officer Installation

10:15 AM        Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)

(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chapel and Classroom)

11:15 AM        Confirmation (Conference Room)

Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

5:00 PM         Sr. High Youth Group (Youth 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

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

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