WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday
09 August 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Voluntary My Heart Abounds With Pleasure in This Fair Summertime — Johannes Brahms

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

People: **The eyes of all look to you, God, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

Leader: The Lord is just in all God's ways, and kind in all God's doings.

People: **The Lord is near to all who call on the Lord.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

***Processional Hymn 451** Open My Eyes, That I May See — *Open My Eyes*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ. Every thing we need to know about you has been shown. Your goodness, mercy, healing and renewal are on full display. But sometimes we do not see what is right before us. Sometimes we miss the miracle. We misunderstand you, and so we misunderstand the world. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the ability to see you as you reveal yourself. Renew within us the capacity to perceive your way in the world, for this life, and in the life that is to come. We pray it in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.

***Silent Confession** *During this silence, worshipers are asked to offer individual prayers of confession.*

***Sung Response** Lord Have Mercy — 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 — 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 *Following the response, children in Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes.*

Congregational Response Listen, Listen, God is Calling — Neno Lake Mungu

Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy. (Repeat three times)

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading Matthew 4:1-11 — Pew Bible, NT page 3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation Even the Devil Quotes Scripture

Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem How Beautiful — Twila Paris

How beautiful are the hands that served the wine and the bread
and the sons of the earth. How beautiful the feet that walked the
long dusty roads and the hill to the cross How beautiful is the body
of Christ.

The Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts *At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew.*

Offertory Lord of All, Most Holy — Hal Hopson

Lord of all, most holy; how shall we give thanks?
How, for a broken body? How for a crown of thorns?
What thanks have we for such a crown?
What thanks have we, O Lord, what thanks have we?

***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.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

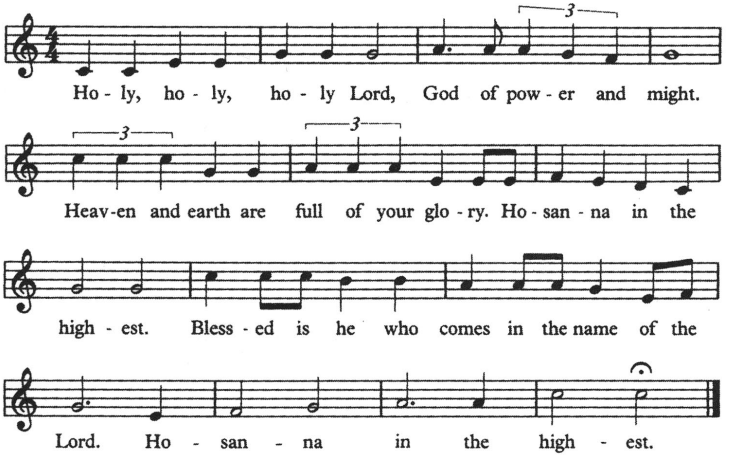
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age…

For all these things we praise you, joining our voices to the whole company of heaven, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:



Leader: Praise to you for the gift of this holy meal.
With this bread and this cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine…
Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer		Hymnal, page 35
Words of Institution		
Distribution of Elements	*The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ. Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.*	
Music at Communion	We Gather Here in Jesus' Name	Bryan Leech
***Prayer after Communion**	**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**	
***Hymn 459**	O Word of God Incarnate	*Munich*
***Charge and Benediction**		
***Voluntary**	Rondo	Tielman Susato

(*) 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 A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Abigail Eldridge
- **Acolytes**: Lucy Bassett and Lily Swanson
- **Bible and Cross Carriers:** Maria DeJong and Maria Lafrenz
- **Today's Communion Bread** was lovingly prepared by Susan Day.
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Vonnie Hinesley (Team Leader), Julie Robbs, George Botanga, Jonathon Carlson-Eastvold, Tara Fritsch, David Jenkins, Christy Pound, Lucy Stafford, Brad Swanson, Mary Ray, Jess Weitzel, Brinton Wilkey.
- **Communion Prep:** Pricilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, and Krista Steller.
- **Home Communion Delivery:** Judy & Todd Knox, Marilyn Rigney, Melanie & Bud Green, Mary Ray, Judy & Harvey Stephens.
- **Greeters:** Chris, Rachael, and Madelynn Hickman
- **Ushers:** Joyce King (Head Usher), Kyle Duffy, Linda Caupert, Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Lisa Metzger, Andrew Affrunti, Pete Sherman.
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **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: Kara Milward*
- **10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. Summer Sunday School is in session! Our children will continue to learn in their respective classrooms with the Frolic Preschool and elementary students will have special lessons on parables of Jesus and the Psalms.
  - **Preschool – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Maria DeJong*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession** written by Baron Mullis for the Presbyterian Outlook.
- **4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Youth Kick Off Party and Mission Trip Reunion** – Incoming Junior and Senior High youth and participants of the 2026 Mission Trip will gather at Susan and Scott Day's Home (47 Fairview Ln., Springfield) for a lakeside potluck and play day. Angie and Todd Lafrenz will stop by to give a boat ride! Youth bring a salad, side dish or chips. Adults bring dessert and drinks. All be sure to pack your swimsuit and towel for a fun evening, including smores!

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 at the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

ALL CHURCH BOOK READ -- *Love Your Neighbor* books are now available in the West Narthex (on Sundays) or the Church Office (during the week).

THANK YOU! We are still accepting donations through this Sunday, August 9. This Summer we have collected **253** backpacks for children served by Contact Ministries! Last year we collected 175. Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks in person or mailed them to the church, and for the monetary donations.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – At the Ministry Moment next Sunday, August 16, the children, and youth of Westminster are invited to bring their backpacks to the **10:00 a.m.** worship service for the blessing of backpacks as they begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers every Tuesday at **1:00 p.m**. in the Second Floor Classroom. Summer is a good time to begin knitting colder weather items for children and adults. We will collect knitted hats, scarves and mittens in late fall and for the Mitten Tree. If there are extreme heat warnings, we encourage people to knit from home out of an abundance of caution. Watch for emails from Mary Jo for any cancellations or contact her at 217-622-8657 with questions. Knitters of any skill level are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER/MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION – Sunday school teachers for Pre-K through Grade 5, Pre-Confirmation, members of the Nursery Guild and Youth Group Ministry Partners will meet **Sunday, August 16, from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.** in Parish Hall for orientation and mandatory reporter training for the 2026-2027 program year.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS A group of intrepid adventurers will meet with Dungeon Master Aaron Berkowitz on **Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to explore Alexandria, Egypt and prepare for a cruise on a pleasure ship (where nothing bad will happen, I'm sure). If you are interested in joining in, contact Aaron Berkowitz at aberkowtiz@wpcspi.org

SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR! YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING – On Friday, August 21, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth – grade five) are invited to a swim party at the home of Judy and Todd Knox (2004 Maryknoll Place, Springfield) as we splash into a new year together. Please bring a towel and a dish to share! Friends are welcome and encouraged.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) meets on the third Fridays in the months of March thru November with a potluck at **5:30,** and program at **6:15 p.m.** Bring a side to share with others. Our program for **Friday, August 21** will be announced in the weekly email. An RSVP is suggested but not required. Go to the WPC website under fellowship or by calling the church office. If you should find yourself with time to attend and did not call or email, please come.

COLLEGE AGE BRUNCH SUNDAY -- All college-age youth are invited to catch up with friends over brunch with Rev. Bishop and Mary Ray on **Sunday, August 23 at 11:30 a.m**. Plan to meet Mary in the West Narthex following worship, or you can meet the group at Boone's.

THE 2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2029)
ELDER (CLASS OF 2029)
NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2027)
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2028)

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Julie Robbs, at robbs@casscomm.com, or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete it **today, August 9, 2026**. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting in October.

2026 Nominating Committee members: *Julie Robbs (Chair), Nathaniel Brower (elder), Sam Batterman, Brad Steller, Carolyn Swanson, Julie Sundquist, Pete VanGieson, and Bernie Wiseman*

Name of Nominee_____

Recommended for (check choice)

____Deacon ____Elder ____Nominating ____Strategic Planning

1. Qualities that would make this person a good church officer

_____
_____
_____

2. Past experience/current interests and activities in the church

_____
_____
_____

3. Helpful information: special skills, training, employment, community involvement, etc.

_____
_____
_____

Your Name (optional) _____

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, August 10

5:30 PM Strategic Planning (Conf. Room)

Tuesday, August 11

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

Wednesday, August 12

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:30 PM Nominating Committee (Library)
5:15 PM Family Ministry (Library)

Thursday, August 13

Friday, August 14

1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep (Kitchen)

Saturday, August 15

Sunday, August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Backpacks

9:00 AM Sunday School Teacher/Ministry Partner Orientation (Parish Hall)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (Chapel)
11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut Street
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415
Fax (217) 522-4465
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

Sue Sawers, CRE
Interim Care Coordinator

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

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

Braden Barton,
Terry Gietl, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians