WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
New Member Recognition
23 August 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Recognition of Legacy Gift

Voluntary Remembrance — Jean Langlais

***Ringing of the Bell**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy.
People: **Jesus will give us rest.**
Leader: Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace.
People: **Christ will give us peace.**
Leader: Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus.
People: **For our Savior will give us rest in our souls.**
Leader: Come, let us worship our God.
People: **Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life.**

***Processional Hymn 693** Though I May Speak — *Gift of Love*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Guiding Christ, you are our way, our truth, and our life. Yet we insist on our own way. We believe we don't really need you. We believe we can be smarter, stronger, more independent. We believe we can compartmentalize our faith from our daily life and actions. Forgive our arrogance. Teach us to merge our whole life with your abundant life, and to be guided by you all the way home. 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, 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

First Scripture Reading Exodus 31:12-17 — Pew Bible, OT page 78

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 12:1-14 — Pew Bible, NT page 12

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

Sermon The Rule of Love: A Test Case — Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall

Special Music Fantasy on "Come Holy Spirit" Richard Proulx

Recognition of New Member

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer Hymnal, page 35

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

Offertory Namasté Mark Hayes

The divine in me blesses and honors the divine in you.
The beauty of God stands before me, expressing uniquely as you.
The spirit of goodness within you shines forth in all that you do.

***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**

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you, grateful for all you have given us, and grateful for the chance to give to others. Build up your church through these offerings, that we might be a place where your goodness is seen, practiced, and shared. Amen.

***Hymn 692** Spirit, Open My Heart — *Wild Mountain Thyme*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Praise the Almighty — Jeffrey Blersch

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465

http://www.wpcspi.org

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** James Maeda
- **Acolytes:** Diana Choi and August Ekstedt
- **Greeters:** Brinton and Susan Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Ushers:** Joyce King (Head Usher), Kyle Duffy, Linda Caupert, Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Chelsea Ekstedt, Andrew Affrunti, Pete Sherman
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, alto saxophone and voice; Linda Andrews, Organist
- **Videographers and Sound**: Bill Deemer, Krista Steller, William Affrunti

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:10 a.m. – Special Session Meeting (Library)** to receive our new member.
- **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 following the Congregational Response. Summer Sunday School is in session! Our children will continue to learn in their respective classrooms with Frolic Preschool lessons and elementary students will have special lessons on baptism and communion.
  - **Preschool – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Cathy Brower*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:30 a.m. – College Age Brunch Sunday --** All college-age youth are invited to catch up with friends over brunch with Rev. Bishop and Mary Ray today at 11:30 a.m. Plan to meet Mary in the West Narthex following worship, or you can meet the group at Boone's.
- **12:30 p.m. Pokémon Club** –The Pokémon Club meets with Aaron Berkowitz today from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. All children and the young at heart are welcome. No experience necessary and all supplies will be on hand.

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.

NEW MEMBER DR. CAL ROBINSON was received at a Special Session meeting this morning and will be recognized in worship. Dr. F. Cal Robinson PsyD. joins Westminster by Letter of Transfer. Cal is a clinical and medical psychologist who assists individuals with chronic medical conditions such as chronic pain, neurological disorders and traumatic conditions and serves in leadership roles in national pain organizations. Cal is a classically trained musician who attended Eastman School of Music in his youth and graduated from the College Conservatory of Music. He has served as Minister of Music in other Presbyterian churches over the years. Cal and his spouse, Daniel Jones, own and manage the Exquisite Victorian home in Springfield. Pat and Steve Jacobs will serve as Cal's sponsors.

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND DEDICATION were written by Carol Holbrook Prickett.

ALL CHURCH BOOK READ – Additional copies of *Love Your Neighbor* books have been ordered and will be available in the West Narthex (next Sunday) or the Church Office (during the week).

COMPASS FOR KIDS WELCOMES MINISTRY PARTNERS – Compass for Kids is looking for ministry partners on **Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after school program, Club Compass, for the Graham Elementary students. This community-based program helps develop social-emotional/leadership skills while also giving kids the opportunity to participate in interactive life-skills and enrichment activities. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful outreach, please contact Shelly Kinner by phone at 217-414-7940 or by email at shelly@compassforkids.org.

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.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP -- The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of **August 25 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to discuss the August book, *Night Flyer* by Tiya Miles. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA -- Members and friends of Westminster will gather **Thursday, August 27, at 11:30 a.m.** with the pastors and the director of music and the arts, for communion followed by lunch.

COME TO THE TABLE – **On Sunday, August 30, after worship**, upper elementary children (grades 3-5) and their families will be participating in a **NEW** workshop, *Come to the Table*, an interactive program on Communion. In their time together, families will explore what communion means, why and how we celebrate this sacrament, and equip families to talk about the Lord's Supper together. Rev. Sarah will lead this time together in the Sanctuary.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with hearing amplifier packets on lanyards for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and amplifier packets at the end of worship. Members may also download an app to their smart phone and connect via Bluetooth to listen through their hearing aids to the church's sound system in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. For assistance, ask an usher or Krista Steller.

SAVE THE DATE for the All Church Picnic! Sunday, September 13

- Dress casually for worship and stay for fellowship!
- Indoor and outdoor seating will be available for the meal or bring a lawn chair to watch the festivities outside.
- A Flu Shot Clinic will be in the Church Office.
- Information will be available about our new Church App.
- Westminster's Membership Committee will provide chicken tenders.
- Our church families with last names beginning with A-M bring a side or salad to share. Families with last names beginning with N-Z bring a dessert.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, August 24

9:30 AM King's Daughter's Board Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM WCP Parent Orientation (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, August 25

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)

Wednesday, August 26

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Deliver Meal to Helping Hands
5:15 PM Membership Committee (Library)

Thursday, August 27

11:30 AM Concordia Worship (Off-site)
12:00 PM Library Guild-day Work Session (Children's Library)
2:30 PM Early Stage Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Library Guild-evening Work Session (Children's Library)

Friday, August 28

10:00 AM Garden Club Sub-Committee (2nd Floor Class)

Saturday, August 29

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel)
11:00 AM Communion Workshop (Sanctuary)

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