WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday
13 September 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Allegro in D — William Boyce

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Which commandment is the greatest?
People: **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**
Leader: And the second is like it.
People: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**
Leader: What does it look like to love our neighbor?
People: **By showing up in community.**
All: **Let us love God and neighbor as we gather together.**

***Processional Hymn 305** Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! — *Darwall's 148th*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. 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 Educational Leadership Commissioning

Following the response, children in Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes and youth in Grades 6-7 remain in worship to participate in Communion.

Congregational Response

God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God's love is strong and it never ends. (Repeat three times)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 — Pew Bible, OT pages 616-617

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

Meditation Love Your Neighbor: Meant for Community
Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem Jubilate Deo — Charles Villiers Stanford

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before God's presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord is God it is God that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. Psalm 100

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 Gavotte — Sergei Prokofiev

***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.**

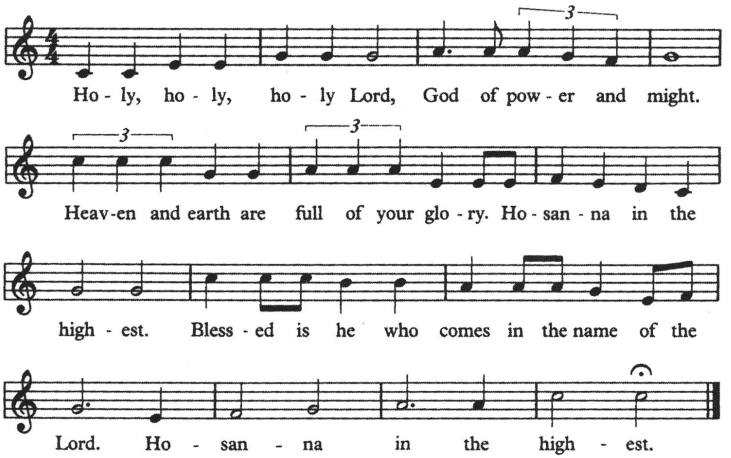
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Pastor: Holy God, creator of the universe, with joy we praise you and give you thanks. You brought light from darkness and drew land from the sea…

…Therefore we lift our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:



Leader: We praise you, most holy God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus…

People: **Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup, giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ and offering ourselves to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Great is the mystery of faith:**

Leader: Let us join our voices together praying as Christ taught us:

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	Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen	Timothy Strand
***Prayer after Communion**	**God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**	
***Hymn 515**	I Come With Joy	*Dove of Peace*
***Charge and Benediction**		
***Closing Response 515**	Forth in Thy Name Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue; Thee, only thee, resolved to know, In all I think, or speak, or do.	Orlando Gibbons
***Voluntary**	Psalm XIX	Benedetto Marcello

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St. Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465
http://www.wpcspi.org

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Gerry Hale by her family.
- **The Prayer of Confession** was written by Teri McDowell Ott
- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Kate Bryans
- **Acolytes**: Sam Berkowitz and Caroline Bryans
- **Bible and Cross Carriers:** Charlotte Affrunti and Juliet Boutelle
- **Today's Communion Bread** was lovingly prepared by Mary Leffler.
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Rachael Hickman (Team Leader), Sandy Bellatti, Nathaniel Brower, Deb Coontz, John Cross, Joe Fierstos, Cress Maddox, Julie McDonough, Pat Moore, Greg Swanson, Julie Robbs, and Marilyn Rigney
- **Communion Prep:** Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, and Krista Steller
- **Greeters:** Todd and Judy Knox
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Cameron Hudgins, Todd Lafrenz, Joyce Matthews, Claudia Nash, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, and Cathy Yokley
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. – Confirmation Parent Meeting** Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting today in the Second Floor Classroom with Rev. Sarah Bishop. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another, to meet the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2026-2027 schedule and expectations.
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. *Caregivers: Erin Winn and Michella Arnold*
- **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. PreK – 2 will meet in the Chapel each week, and 3rd – 5th will meet in the Tower Room. We will be following our Feasting on the Word Curriculum in both classes, as well as learning more about the structure and contents of our Reformed worship services.
  - **Pre-K – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Leigh Milward*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Senior High youth** will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning **today, September 13** in Parish Hall for fellowship/games and dinner followed by Bible Study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us is 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.

MINISTRY PARTNERS for the new program year will be commissioned in this morning's worship service. Thank you to the following teachers who nurture our children and youth's faith:

Nursery Guild: Linda Caupert, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara Eldridge, Priscilla Kluge, Judy Knox, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Kara Milward, Leigh Milward, Julie Sundquist & Erin Winn

Sunday School: Cara and Taryn Barnett, Kate Bryans, Cathy Brower, Lindsay Boutelle, Sophia Choi, Maria and Rose DeJong, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward, and Katrina Opperman

Youth Teachers: 6th/7th Grade: Meridith Bryans, Cara Barnett, Marc DeJong, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. **8th Grade:** Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall, and Mary Ray

Junior High Mentors: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Tara Fritsch, and Mary Ray

Senior High Mentors: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy and Mary Ray

ALL – CHURCH PICNIC Join us after worship for food, fellowship, and fun! The Westminster Membership Committee is providing chicken tenders. If you brought a dish to share you can drop it off in the kitchen before worship and our kitchen team will make sure it is put out for the picnic. If you didn't bring a dish, please still come join us, there will be plenty of food. Buttons are available for those involved in different ministries of the church so you can identify yourself as someone who can share details about what it looks like to get involved. Please wear applicable buttons at the start of the picnic. Some may want to wear more than one.

There will be an inflatable obstacle course and games for people of all ages. There will be indoor and outdoor seating on the terrace. Bring a lawn chair if you want to sit in the grassy areas for food or watching games.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR WORSHIP SERIES continues next Sunday, September 20th. Come for worship and stay for our adult forum where Dr. Marshall will introduce the topic. **Small groups begin September 27th.** Sign up for a small group if you have not yet done so.

SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING will be held **Sunday, September 30 at noon** in Parish Hall. Please plan to stay after the adult forum to talk about logistics, facilitation guidance and any remaining questions you may have about leading a small group.

COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY Please help us as we assess our communications to become more effective and efficient. Ministry Architects is helping us create a holistic communications plan and your input is important. Please take this brief survey to help us know which communications are most helpful to you.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE resumes on Monday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 1, "Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God" from the PW Horizons Bible Study United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Circle Contact: Lynn McMenamin.

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library and will study Lesson 1, "Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God" from the PW Horizons Bible Study United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Circle Contact: Nancy Canady.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Our Children's Choir for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade will start their fall season this **Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m**.

BRIDGES will resume this Wednesday, September 16 at 5:00 p.m. in the Tower Room. Please note the NEW time! We will have our kickoff on the playground, making tie-dye shirts and items for each other, and enjoying popsicles and fellowship. Families are welcome to join our kickoff!

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS – A group of intrepid adventurers have been meeting with Dungeon Master Aaron Berkowitz. On **September 16 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library they'll 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 berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

DMA - SEPTEMBER 18 - DMA (Don't Mention Age) meets on the third Friday of each month with a **potluck at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:15 p.m.** Bring a side to share with others. Carole & Jay Kennerly will speak to us on "Teaching the Enchanting Children of the Cook Islands" on **Friday, September 18**. An RSVP is suggested but not required either on the WPC website under fellowship or by calling the church office.

FAIR TRADE – The next Fair Trade sale is on **Sunday, September 20.** Thank you to Melanie Green for her work on this ministry.

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION begins Sunday, September 20. Grades 6 & 7 meet Sunday mornings from **10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m**. in the Conference Room during worship (except) Communion Sundays. **Grade 8** meets Sunday mornings from **11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m**. in the Conference Room following worship.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP Begins Wednesday, September 23 from 5:30-7:00 P.M. in the Youth Room. Junior High (6-8 grades) youth will gather once a month for dinner, fellowship, games, and Bible study.

ALL WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. Please join the women of Westminster and friends of the congregation for a salad supper in Parish Hall. Bring a salad to share with those attending. We look forward to fun, fellowship, and a chance to meet someone new. RSVP's on our website or by calling the church are welcomed, but they are not required if should find yourself available on this day.

JULIUS ROSENWALD DOCUMENTARY SCREENING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AT 7:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL Celebrate the upcoming Julius Rosenwald Festival & Concert with the Springfield Choral Society for a free movie night here at WPC in Parish Hall featuring popcorn, snacks, and drinks. Feel free to bring friends & family. Many thanks to Meg & Jim Kontio and Springfield Choral Society for sponsoring this amazing night. RSVP to churchoffice@wpcspi.org.

POKEMON CLUB – The Pokémon Club meets with Aaron Berkowitz on **Sunday, September 27, from 12:30 p.m. - 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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 14

12:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:30 PM Nominating Committee (Library)
5:30 PM Strategic Planning (Conf. Room)

Tuesday, September 15

9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off-site)

Wednesday, September 16

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
6:30 PM Dungeons & Dragons (Library)

Thursday, September 17

12:00 PM Library Guild - Day
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Presb Home (Off-site)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 18

5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, September 19

11:00 AM Church Mice (Music Room)

Sunday, September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K- Grade 5 (Chapel)
10:15 AM Pre-Confirmation (Conference Room)
11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
12:00 PM Small Group Facilitator Training (Parish Hall)

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, Lamonte Gross, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians