WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Milestone Membership Sunday
27 September 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment CROP Hunger Walk

Voluntary Grace — Georg Philipp Telemann

***Ringing of the 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 noticing who is missing.**
All: **Let us love God and neighbor as we pay attention.**

Recognition of Milestone Members

***Processional Hymn 733** We All Are One in Mission — *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done. 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 — 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 Sermon

Congregational Response

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

Following the response, children in Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes and youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep class.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7 — Pew Bible, NT pages 123-124

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

Sermon Seeing Who is Missing — Rev. Dr. Anne C. S. Marshall

Reflection Prompt On your leaf, please write a word or phrase:
Where might God be inviting you to pay attention? It may be a person, group of people, place, or situation.

Leaves will be collected during the offering. Please place your leaf in the offering plate as it is passed.

Anthem We Call You Beloved — Mark Miller

We call you to enter, we call you beloved, to join us in building this household of faith. We love and affirm you as you are becoming; Together we're blessed, growing in faith, touched by God's grace.

God's hope whispers softly when hearts fill with sorrow; God's hope becomes steadfast when trouble assails. O God, give us strength to fight fear and oppression, with hope for the day, the day of the Lord, when justice prevails. We set our minds on things of the Spirit! We reach across all the walls that divide. None separates us as when Jesus has called us, restored and redeemed, the children of God.

Love is our homeland, the source of our being, where difference is honored, and each voice is heard. So, join in the singing, a part of God's love-song, each one unique, each one reborn born in God's word. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. Living in hope, living in faith, the children of God.

***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 hence 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

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 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 — Bourrée — Michael Praetorius

***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**

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

***Hymn 744** — Arise, Your Light is Come! — *Festal Song*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response** — The Lord Bless You

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you,
May God's love ever always surround you;
Protect you and guide you in all that you do;
Our prayer for you, Amen.

***Voluntary** — Postlude in D — Denis Bédard

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ann Armstrong
10/22/1931 – 09/21/2026
United with Westminster 04/07/1963

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Abigail Eldridge
- **Acolytes:** Connor Hill and Simon Marshall
- **Greeter:** Sue Cull
- **Safety Team:** Karl Pound
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Cameron Hudgins, Maria Lafrenz, Joyce Matthews, Claudia Nash, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley.
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers and Sound**: Bill Deemer, Krista Steller, William Affrunti

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. *Caregivers: Kara Milward and Michella Arnold*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 Sunday School**
  - **PreK – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Sophia Choi*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz & Cathy Brower*
- **10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Classes**
  - **Grades 6 & 7** meet from 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room during worship (except) Communion Sundays.
  - **Grade 8** meets from 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room following worship.
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Adult Education "Love Your Neighbor" Small Groups** see posted list in West Narthex for meeting locations. Those who have not signed up before today are welcome to join with Dr. Marshall in the front of Parish Hall to join the discussion.
- **12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Pokémon Club** meets with Aaron Berkowitz in the Second Floor Classroom. All children and the young at heart are welcome. No experience necessary and all supplies will be on hand.
- **12:30 p.m. Halloween Costume Exchange** in the preschool classrooms.
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** in Parish Hall.

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.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY & RECEPTION Today we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961, 1956, 1955, 1954, 1953 during worship. We are deeply grateful for the many ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship as we celebrate them and express our congratulations and appreciation.

Fifty-Year Members: Carolyn & Keith Beatty, Sandy Bellatti, Kathy Kenyon, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Hal Perkins, Judith Rader, and Sue Scaife

Fifty-Five-Year Members: David Barringer, Doug Barringer, Elsie & Bob Fox, and Ralls Melotte

Sixty-Year Members: Marilyn & Jerry Davis, Linda Folse, Tom Massey, Morley Peura, Marlene Rinehart, and Linda & Bill Schlosser

Sixty-Five-Year Member: Carol Bloemer

Seventy-Year Member: Gaynell Peters

Seventy-One-Year Member: Dee Tozer

Seventy-Two-Year Member: Charles Adams

Seventy-Three-Year Members: Camille Degner, Tom Lewis, and Anne Smith

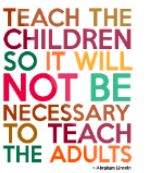
ALL-CHURCH BOOK READ – Small Groups for "Love Your Neighbor" start today! Extended care will be available in the nursery after worship and there will be activities for school-aged children so that parents can participate in a small group. There is a master list of small group participants and locations posted in the West Narthex. Dr. Marshall will be leading a discussion for anyone not signed up for a small group in the front section of Parish Hall. You do not need to have read in advance to participate in the conversation.

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.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers **every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The group is knitting colder weather items for children and adults. We will collect knitted hats, scarves and mittens in late fall and for the Mitten Tree later. Knitters of any skill level are welcome. Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 218-622-8657 for more information.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP -- The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of **September 29 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to discuss "Jesus and the Powers" by N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will have its first gathering on **Wednesday, September 30 at Compass for Kids (1201 S. 4th St) from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** hosted by the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield. The theme for this year is "Rooted in Faith." Mark your calendar with the remaining dates: Wednesdays, November 11 at Westminster; February 17, 2027 at Grace United Methodist; April 14, 2027 at First Presbyterian Church and May 5, 2027 at Temple B'rith Sholom.



LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION – On Wednesday, September 30 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., the Support and Endowment Committee, chaired by Jeff Wilday, will host a Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception at the home of Christy and Karl Pound (100 Pinehurst Dr., Springfield).

The purpose of the gathering is to thank those who have remembered Westminster in their will and to invite others to consider this opportunity. All are welcome.

THE WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING, received during "A Season of Preparation" leading up to World Communion Sunday on October 4, is a new way for Presbyterians to "love kindness" expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this Offering. Donate with a check noting World Communion on the memo or to donate online, use the QR code in this bulletin and choose the "World Communion" fund.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Next Sunday, on World Communion Sunday, October 4, our elementary children will be encouraged to stay in worship with their families and participate in Communion with their church. Informational brochures on Communion are available at the Sanctuary entrances for all who would like to learn more about the Sacrament and our extended invitation to all who trust in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior to come to the table.

ANNUAL CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK Join the Springfield community in fighting hunger on World Communion **Sunday, October 4** at the annual CROP Hunger Walk at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh). **Check-in starts at 1:00 p.m.** and the 2.2-mile **Walk begins at 1:30 p.m.** Krista Steller is the event coordinator, with Becky Martin organizing the Westminster walkers. We hope you will consider joining our children and youth who will walk or sponsor them. The Betty Smith Mission Fund is providing a $5,000 grant. Let us join and give generously. Find additional details in West Narthex following today's service.

FAIR TRADE The next Fair Trade Sunday has been rescheduled to **October 4.** Fair Trade items can be purchased throughout the week and in the church office. There are new coffee options this time!

JOHN W. W. SHERER, ORGANIST RECITAL – The British are Coming, a program of English organ music will be presented by John W.W. Sherer, organist on **Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. For 28 years, John was the organist of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and is now the organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, New York. John has been hailed by critics as a "terrific musician, a pronounced virtuoso who plays with assurance, authority, and superb energy."

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL – Our first fundraiser for the year will be Macaroni Fest - join us on **October 5th** for a delicious dinner, crafts and activities, and live music!

SAVE THE DATE! The Annual Youth Spud Bake will be on Sunday, October 18. Before and after worship, Westminster youth will be in the West Narthex to take orders for loaded bake potatoes for $5.00 per potato. Potatoes can be ordered "to go" and all, including small group participants, can enjoy that day. Funds from the Spud Bake will support the Contact Ministry Christmas gifts distribution. So mark your calendar to "Buy a Spud and share God's love!"

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off-Site)

Wednesday, September 30

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Cancel (Chancel)
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:30 PM Children of Abraham (Off-site)
6:00 PM Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception (Off-site)

Thursday, October 1

5:30 PM Adult Ed Small Group (Zoom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, October 4

World Communion Sunday
9:00 AM Stewardship Mailing (3rd Floor Classroom)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Small Groups (As Assigned)
1:00 PM Crop Walk (Off-Site)
4:00 PM Organ Recital with John Sherer (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Recital Reception (West Narthex)

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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