WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
11 October 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Prelude in A Minor — J.S. Bach

***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 allowing God to expand our understanding.**
All: **Let us love God and neighbor as God transforms our minds.**

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

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

0 Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. 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

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 42:6-9 — Pew Bible, OT pages 670-671

Second Scripture Reading Acts 11:1-18 — Pew Bible, NT page 130

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

Sermon When God Changes Our Mind
Rev. Dr. Anne C. S. Marshall

Reflection Prompt

On your leaf, please write a word or phrase:
What is one thing God has taught you, or one way God has helped you changed your mind?

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

Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord — Phillip Stopford

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statues; and I shall keep it until the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein is my desire. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. O turn away mine eyes lest they behold vanity; and quicken me in thy way. O stablish thy word in thy servant, that I may fear thee. Amen. Psalm 119: 33-39

***Affirmation of Faith** *Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39*

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 in the pew racks.*

Offertory — If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee — J. S. Bach

***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**

Lord, we dedicate this money for the work of the church. We ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

***Hymn 450** — Be Thou My Vision — Slane

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response — Day by Day — Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Congregational Meeting

***Voluntary** — If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee — J.S. Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Eleanor M. Leary
04/22/1938 – 10/04/2026
United with Westminster 02/10/1980

IN MEMORIAM

Terry “Katharine" “Kate” Eastvold
5/24/2008 – 10/06/2026

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Lily Swanson
- **Acolytes:** Sam Berkowitz and Lily Hill
- **Greeter:** Nancy and Rich Canady
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Ushers:** Pete Sherman (Head Usher), John Addo-Yobo, Maud Essel Addo-Yobo, Linda Caupert, Chelsea Ekstedt, Deb Fritsch, Lisa Metzger, and Willow Stallings.
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers and Sound**: Bill Deemer and William Affrunti

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – Exploration Class (Ziegler Library)**
- **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 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 Sunday School**
  - **PreK – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Sarah Eldridge*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz & Dee Dee Duffy*
- **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.
- **11:00 a.m. – Congregational Meeting –** the congregation will hold a brief congregational meeting directly after worship for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and members for Strategic Planning Committee. Below is the slate of nominees.

  Elders Class of 2029: Debbie Parker, Marci Irvine, Dee Dee Duffy, Angie Lafrenz, Bob Leffler, Dick Cordier, Scott Day, Kevin Dorsey

  Elder Class of 2027: Becky Martin will fill an unexpired term for the Class of 2027

  Youth Elders: Kate Bryans and William Affrunti

  Board of Deacons Class of 2029: Bud Green, Richard Leary, Brian Richardson, Linda Cox, Kelly Robertson, Glenna Kniss, Mary King, Valerie Leonatti

  Youth Deacon: Macklin Metzger

  Strategic Planning Committee Class of 2029: Brinton Wilkey, Todd Knox, Kathy Germeraad

  2027 Nominating Committee: (At large members) Julie Robbs, Jeanne Pittman, Pat Roller, Pete VanGieson
- **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 Dr. Marshall in the front of Parish Hall to join the discussion.

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.

WPC is introducing new Worship Bags for our Sunday services. These bags are intended for congregation members of all ages to help you more deeply engage with the service. Each bag contains a flipbook of the order of the service; bookmarks to mark the hymns and scripture; paper, pencil, and crayons for notetaking or doodling, and fidgets to keep your hands busy. If you have suggestions for additional items you'd like to see in these bags, please speak with Meleah Berkowitz. Bags can be found outside the entrances to the sanctuary and should be returned at the end of church.

ALL-CHURCH BOOK READ "Love Your Neighbor" – Small groups continue to meet. Check the sign in the West Narthex if you need to remember which group you are in. Anyone not signed up for a small group can join Dr. Marshall after worship for a casual conversation about "Choosing Curiosity Over Judgement" in the front half of Parish Hall.

THANK YOU to all our members for your generous donations to the **CROP Hunger Walk** held last Sunday. We will still accept gifts until **November 1.** The current total amount collected is **$4,915.**

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING Thank you to all who expressed "love kindness" and contributed to our denominational offering that culminated on World Communion Sunday, October 4. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this offering. We received donations totaling **$870.**

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS SUNDAY OCTOBER 18 – Join us as we kick-off our **Growing into God's Future: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope** worship series. We will reflect on the ways that God has provided a foundation for us in Jesus Christ, that generations have been building on. We have benefited from the faith of those who have come before us and our faithful actions will impact the generations that come after us. Let us consider what God is inviting us to dream and do. We also invite you to pray, asking God, "What might you do through me?"

On **All Saints Sunday, November 1,** we invite you to bring your pledge card to be dedicated as part of the worship service. After worship, we will share in a time of fellowship with a light reception in Parish Hall. Return your pledge card to the church office or fill out an online pledge "2027 Stewardship Campaign" at www.wpcspi.org/giving.

Core Stewardship Committee Members Include: Brad Swanson, Chair, Cathy Brower, Christie Hovey, and Maggie Pinke. We give thanks for those who will provide written and spoken reflections during our stewardship series, who stuff envelopes, and who place follow-up phone calls.

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. Due to Election Day on **November 3**, knitters will not knit at Westminster which is a polling place. Knitters are encouraged to knit at home that day.

TWO EDUCATIONAL FORUMS, free and open to the public, will be presented by Dr. Roy Wehrle and LLCC Professor Chris McDonald on the topics of **"AI Today" on Tuesday, October 13** and **"China Today" on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m.** Both forums will be at the LLCC Trutter Center (5250 Shepherd Rd, Springfield, IL 62703). These events are sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Central IL (WACCI).

DMA (Don't Mention Age) meets on the third Friday of each month, **October 16**, with a **potluck at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:15 p.m.** in Parish Hall. Program will be announced in an email in October. Attendees are invited to bring a side to share with others. An RSVP is suggested but not required either on 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.

EXPLORATION CLASS -- Next Sunday, October 18 there will be one more Exploration Class at **9:00 a.m. in the Ziegler Library** for anyone who would like to learn more about Westminster. If you would like to join the church and are not available for the Exploration Classes, please contact Dr. Marshall.

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 Ministries Christmas gifts distribution. So mark your calendar to "Buy a Spud and share God's love!"

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on Tuesday, October 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library and will study Lesson 2, from the PW Horizons Bible Study United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Circle Contact: Nancy Canady

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6:30 P.M.– 8:30 P.M. An intergenerational group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month to play Dungeons & Dragons. New members are always welcome! No experience needed. Our campaign is historically based and is currently set in 26 CE, and the party is about to arrive in Jerusalem! Currently seeking new members! Questions, contact Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

REFORMATION AND HARVEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 – We will celebrate WPC's Harvest Festival following worship on Sunday October 25. Members of all ages are invited to wear costumes to worship and join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.). Dressing up is optional, but how much fun would it be to have many adults and children in costume!

Building off the fun and success of our All-Church Picnic, fall crafts, games, and treats will be available for all to share and enjoy in Parish Hall. Come ready to spend time having fun and connecting with the congregation as we celebrate the origins of Hallows' Eve in our faith tradition. Don't miss this time of creative and meaningful worship… and candy!

Special thanks to Ms. Sue Baker for being our Guest Reader in Sunday School on Reformation and Harvest Sunday, blessing the children of WPC with some fun and spooky stories and books to share!

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 12

Church Closed – Indigenous People/Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 13

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

Wednesday, October 14

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)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Conference Room)
5:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:30 PM Congregational Care (Library)
5:30 PM Congregational Fellowship (Conference Room)
6:00 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

Thursday, October 15

12:00 PM Library Guild – day work session (Children's Library)
5:30 PM Small Group Zoom Call
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Class)
6:00 PM Library Guild – evening work session (Children's Library)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, October 16

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

Saturday, October 17

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

Sunday, October 18

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 AM Spud Bake Fundraiser
9:00 AM Exploration Class (Ziegler Library)
10:00 AM Worship Service - Stewardship Kickoff
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Small Groups (As Assigned)

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

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