



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

April 2025

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service

www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery

Children Birth – Age 3

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

following Children's Sermon

Children Pre-K - Grade 5 and

Grade 6 -7 Confirmation

11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation

and Adult Ed Forum

5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

April 6

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Wild Love

April 13

PALM SUNDAY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Luke 19:28-40; Luke 22:14-23:56

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The Long Walk Home

April 20

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-8

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Where Joy and Sorrow Meet

April 27

YOUTH SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalms 150; John 20:19-31

Joy In Christ Amid Questions

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Youth: Lilianna Kennerly, Liam Kiszely

Sermon manuscripts are located in the West Narthex and online at www.wpcspi.org.



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. Sunday School children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children's Choir will sing *Hosanna, Heysanna, Wave Your Palms*, and the Westminster Choir will sing *O Divine Redeemer* of Gounod.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY

April 13 – April 20 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster's Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall during Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 17

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord, What Wondrous Love is This*, and *Lamb of God*. The service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the *Adagio for Strings* of Samuel Barber and the seven last words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, *The Coronation Te Deum* of Stanford and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.



DEACONS BRING LILIES to members who are shut-in and who have lost loved ones since Christmas as we find comfort and strength in our Risen Lord.

FROM THE PASTOR by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Quality is never an accident.

It is always the result of intelligent effort. John Ruskin

The timing of my call to Westminster was the summer after Paul graduated from high school. As Paul began his college adventure at Hope, Peter and I journeyed to Springfield to begin new professional lives at Westminster and St. John's and a new life in Springfield. As I recently shared at the New Member Class, "All the energy and 'intelligent effort' I invested in raising our only son was transferred to this congregation." In retrospect, the diligent and intentional work I did those first few years was not only a healthy coping mechanism for the *necessary loss* of Paul's departure, but also laid the groundwork for what we have been able to accomplish together.

2014 was a year of staff transition. We honored and bid farewell to staff members who had served faithfully during the interim with special recognition of the Rev. Julie Wells Blythe in June. The congregation elected an APNC, chaired by Dave Leonatti, which resulted in the call of two Associate Pastors: Hannah Dreitcer in July and Trajan McGill in November. Additionally, Trajan's wife Sarah was hired as Parish Associate for Children's Ministry.

2014 was a year of renewing financial confidence. Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, began shortly after my arrival and has been a trusted partner in this endeavor. My work with the Support and Endowment Committee, chaired by Randy Germeraad, began with laying the groundwork for the 2015 Anniversary Campaign with the goal of growing our \$1.9 million endowment to \$5 million.

2014 was a year of restructure and upgrades. In January, I led the Church Officer Retreat in a process of reviewing and restructuring board structure to include collaboration among committees on Session and Deacons. With the assistance of Krista Steller, a new website was created and launched March 1, 2014. The Reporter and Friday email also got a new look (with color added to the Reporter and expanded to eight pages in 2015). A new computer software, ACS, was installed in 2014 to assist with membership, and the Church Life Smart Phone App was added in 2015. The Property Committee upgraded the carpet in Parish Hall with the purchase and installation of the "John 15" carpet and redesigned the Church Office for better workflow. Seeds for environmental stewardship were planted by replacing Styrofoam cups with newly designed logo mugs. Real cream replaced powder for our coffee. The unexpected gift of a large, wood conference table in 2015 transformed the West Narthex and heightened the hospitality during Sunday morning coffee hour.

2014 was a year of initiatives. New hymnals were purchased to enrich our worship (and the old hymnals were recycled). New Sunday School and Confirmation Curriculum were purchased. An Adult Ed Forum schedule was reconfigured on Sunday mornings. The Disciple Bible Study, which I teach September – May, began in the fall of 2014. A new intergenerational PW Circle "Ruth and Naomi" was added, and a new Men's Fellowship was initiated in collaboration with Mark Ranck. A young adult gathering "Wine, Wings, and a Prayer" met monthly at the Kieffer home and we hosted the first "All Church Cook Out" to welcome new members in June, 2014. The first cycle of prayer ministry with pastors praying for members weekly was completed in 2014. Over the years of praying weekly for members, the joy and affection I have for this congregation is immeasurable.

Thank you for walking with me down memory lane as I prepare for the *necessary loss* of retirement.

MUSIC NOTES BY DALE T. ROGERS

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room with regular work on anthems and special music for Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Day, our 190th Anniversary Celebration, and Sundays through May. On Easter Day and our Anniversary Celebration, we will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR rehearses at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays following Bridges. They are working on music for Palm Sunday and Mother's Day.

CHURCH MICE, a musical experience for infants through age four, meets each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will meet each Saturday through April 12.

THE EASTER MUSIC AND DECORATIONS FUNDS provide for the Millikin Brass Quartet on Easter Day as well as other musical offerings and for the palms and lilies for Holy Week and Easter. The suggested donation is \$25 per fund. For both giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks to WPC with the appropriate designations. The deadline for the bulletin wording is Palm Sunday, April 13.

SING BY HEART CHOIR



The final session of this joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregiver will be Wednesday, April 9 and will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public.

LANDSCAPE GUILD SPRING CLEANUP

Thank you to James Capler, Sue Cull, Scott Day, Keith Hamilton, Richard Leary, Jim McDonough, Rebecca Van Nydeggen, Jeanne Pittman, Gary Warnick, and Brinton Wilkey who helped with the spring cleanup trimming the grass in the parking lot islands this year. Additionally, the custodial staff spread \$495 worth of mulch around the property.



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

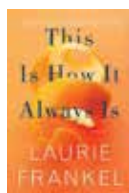
AMERICAN REVOLUTION April 6, 13

The Adult Education Forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War, we will explore how Presbyterian Polity influenced American Democracy. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

HOSTS BABY SHOWER ON THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study meets Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. During April, we continue our study of Paul's letters. On Thursday, April 24, we will host a baby shower for Bible Study members Michella and Ben Arnold.



APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, April 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *This is How it Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION APRIL SCHEDULE

GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP met during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) for their final class on Sunday, March 30 (New Testament Review). Thank you to ministry partners Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, and Joe Fierstos who faithfully taught our sixth and seventh graders this year with Mary Ray. Next year, confirmation prep will cover the Old Testament.

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION are encouraged to continue to prepare for their meeting with Session on **Wednesday, April 23 at 6:15 p.m.**

DINNER CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMANDS will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:15 p.m. in the Library, following the 6:15 p.m. presentation to Session. Confirmands, their families, and mentors are invited to enjoy a wonderful meal provided by the Membership Committee. Mentors are: Charlotte Affrunti/Cathy Brower, Taryn Barnett/ Krista Steller, Kate Bryans/Susan Day, Charlie Graham/Cress Maddox, **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 4.**

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP APRIL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 – All Youth (6th grade through 12th grade) will meet from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for Youth Sunday planning, dinner, and fellowship. **YOUTH SUNDAY IS APRIL 27.**

SUNDAY, APRIL 27 - Senior High will meet from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for games, dinner, and to celebrate a fantastic year.

Youth group meals will be prepared by Jen & Marc DeJong (April 13) and Cara & Chris Barnett (April 27). Thank you to ministry partners Cathy Brower, Susan Day, and Kyle Duffy who serve with Mary Ray and Rev. Sarah Bishop.

2025 YOUTH MISSION TEAM UPDATES

The Youth Mission Team Adults met on Sunday, March 16 to begin preparations for our journey to Asheville, the week of July 12-19. To date, we have thirteen youth and twelve adult leaders who will serve on the team led by Rev. Sarah Bishop. The team will join Asheville Youth Mission in Re(New)ed Creation as our theme by serving in a Homeless Vet's shelter, clean-up from Hurricane Helene, and other services. The team will stay at First Presbyterian Church of Asheville. For the travel down, they will worship with First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN and enjoy the Nashville area. **Completed paperwork and final payment due April 30.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz


FAMILY MATTERS ZOO TRIP

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 11:30-2:00PM

We invite families with young children (birth to Grade 5) to join in a trip to the Henson Robinson Zoo on Saturday, April 12. We will meet in the park at 11:30 a.m. for a picnic lunch and time to enjoy the park. Then, at 12:30 p.m., we will make our way through the zoo exhibits. Families will purchase their own tickets at the zoo. Please RSVP to Meleah and Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 9:45 A.M.

All children and youth are invited to meet in Parish Hall at 9:45 a.m. with their **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES**. We will prepare for the processional and presentation of our fish boxes. 

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20 AFTER THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE



Families with children (birth-grade 5) are invited to Parish Hall for an Easter egg hunt.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COMPASSION CAMP: WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS
JUNE 9-13, 2025

Monday – Friday, June 9-13 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will explore what all living things need to live: shelter, food, water, air, and community! Campers practice compassion for the living earth and get up close with our local ecosystem. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories, create beautiful crafts, play fun games, and enjoy delicious snacks. Registrations for children and Ministry Partners to volunteer is open on the Westminster website.

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

DATE: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

TIME: 4:30-6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Grace United Methodist (1612 E. Capital Ave.)

WHO: Children & Youth Grades K-12

Join us for our last gathering in the 2024-2025 program year as we participate in a service project honoring our theme "Celebration."

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Highlights of March included wonderful days playing outside in the warm weather, using our imaginations to create cars and dinosaurs out of boxes for our box study, and many new STEM materials purchased with a grant from the American Business Club of Springfield. After a week off for spring break, we attended the Pete the Cat show at Sangamon Auditorium. We're looking forward to Dessert with Someone Special (an evening the children can spend with a special adult showing them our preschool classroom) and our Spring Fun Fair both in April.

Our search for a new afternoon teacher continues! Please spread the word that we are looking for someone who would enjoy a part time teaching position with wonderful, supportive families, an excellent work environment, and the best children! The ideal candidate would hold a higher education degree in Education, Child Development or equivalent experience in a classroom setting, including curriculum development and classroom management or state certification to practice in a public school. Potential hours are 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday: Labor Day to Memorial Day. Additional hours will be necessary for professional development, classroom preparation, special events, fundraisers, and Board meetings. We're asking anyone interested to please send a cover letter, resume, and three references to the Attention of WCP Teacher Search Committee at director@westminster-preschool.org. For questions regarding the position, please contact Meghan Noll, Westminster Preschool Board Chair, at 217-414-2112.

We are excited about all the prospective families who attended our open house and are interested in our preschool for the 2025-26 school year. General enrollment is now open, and we have just a few openings in our 3-day class and a couple openings in our 2-day class.

Emily Rowley, Director

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER AND COMMUNION



190TH ANNIVERSARY FINE ARTS DISPLAY



Artworks by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Scott Day, Juliana Eastvold, Dr. Roland Folse, Bob Fox, Randy Germeraad, the late William T. Kieffer, Jr., Priscilla Kluge, Dr. Richard Leary, Bob Leffler, Pat McNutt, Maggie Pinke, Josh Pinke, Camille Proud, Dale Rogers, and Sue Scaife are included in the display.

Thank you to Dale Rogers and the Worship, Music and Arts Committee who hosted this event.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED – SUNDAY, MARCH 16



Linda Cox joined Westminster by Letter of Transfer from Epiphany Lutheran Church of All Saints in Carbondale, IL. Linda graduated from SIU-C with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She taught fourth grade for 33 years in Carbondale before returning with her husband Kevin to their hometown of Springfield. They built a home in Cory Woods, on a 21-acre plot of land that had been in her mother's family since 1884. Linda served as initial advisor and credentials analyst for the Teachers Education Program at UIS for seven years before her retirement. Linda's husband, Kevin, died in 2023 and their daughter, Alicia, lives in Springfield.

Linda's sponsors are Peter Hancock and Cress Maddox.

Josh Pinke joined Westminster by Reaffirmation of Faith. Josh graduated from University of Illinois in 2012 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial Design and works as an account coordinator for a third-party logistics company. Josh first attended Westminster in 2011 with the Day family. He and Maggie were married at Westminster in 2012 and relocated from Lake Geneva, WI to Springfield in late 2023. Josh has earned the title of "World's Best Dad" from their two children, Arthur James and Robin Lu. Josh looks forward to being involved in his children's Christian education.

Josh's sponsor is Maggie Pinke.



Barb and Pete Sherman joined Westminster by Letter of Transfer from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Springfield, IL. Barb is a licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a private counseling practice. Pete is the Managing Editor of the Illinois Bar Journal for the Illinois State Bar Association. Both Barb and Pete served many leadership roles in their former church and look forward to being active members at Westminster. They have two adult children, Luke and Lydia.

Their sponsors are Christy and Karl Pound.



REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATE

April 1 marks the Velásquez Alonso Family's transition into greater financial independence on the one-year anniversary of their arrival. A new lease was signed for 522 S. Glenwood which has become their home. Additionally, they are taking more responsibility for household expenses.

Since their arrival on March 26, 2024, we celebrate the following accomplishments: Javier has been employed full-time at Bunn-O-Matic since May, passed his driver's license test over the summer, and purchased a vehicle for the family. Eva, along with the meticulous care of their home, cleans houses on a part-time basis, and passed the written driving test. Abi (Javiera) completes the fifth grade in May, participates in Bridges, and takes violin lessons from Ann Collins. Jonathan celebrated his fifth birthday on March 25 and will complete one year of full-day preschool at the Early Learning Center.

Javier and Eva continue to be tutored in English by members and friends of the congregation, and their green card application is nearly complete.



SIXTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH



In 2020, the Strategic Planning Committee and the congregation made a commitment to invest \$450,000 in Westminster's neighborhood over the course of the decade. As we anticipate our sixth service week, we are on track to meet our goal. Last

year we extended our boundaries to a portion of State Street for matching grants. This year they are also invited to participate in the Service Week.

SERVICE WEEK: JUNE 23-27

Mark your calendars for this year's neighborhood outreach, taking place from **June 23-27**. We invite you to join us for one or more days during the fourth week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood.



MATCHING GRANTS

Local homeowners have been invited to apply for matching grants up to \$1,500 toward simple property improvements, especially addressing certain needs such as safety, security, and energy efficiency upgrades.

EARTH CARE UPDATE

Westminster has been recertified for the tenth year by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an **EARTH CARE CONGREGATION**.



SPRINGFIELD EARTH AWARENESS FAIR
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

The Earth Care Team will host a table again this year at the annual Springfield Earth Awareness Fair, on Saturday, April 26, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Union Square Park (500 E. Madison St.) by Union Station. This year's theme is "Green Gardening."



On Wednesday, March 26, Peter Kieffer provided the Adopt-A-Street community service on behalf of the Earth Care Team and Westminster.

EARTH CARE TEAM: Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair, Keith Hamilton,

Charlie King, Todd Lafrenz, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller

HUNGER MINISTRIES

Thank you to Kris Gates, Pat Hymans, Judy Prillaman, Becky Martin and Judy Huston for preparing the March 14 bagged lunches for 70 community members.



Chelsea, Adam, August, and Rosco Ekstedt and Erin Ekstedt prepared, delivered, and served the hot meal for 120 community members on Wednesday, March 26.



WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary, which is also a part of our Steadfast Neighbor Outreach. If you are interested in helping, please scan the QR code or use the link



(<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>), or contact Jennie Alt for details.

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH APRIL MENU

Canned chicken, canned veggies, canned fruit in water/juice, and baked beans. Optional items – body wash, toothpaste, or all in one shampoo and conditioner (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex and to the group of ministry partners who delivers them to the Central Illinois Foodbank.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on April 13, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to The Berkowitz family and Melanie & Bud Green who made visits to four members on Sunday, March 9.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, April 6 with Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



PW LUNCHEON Friday, April 4 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. This is a mission project day, so Midwest Mission will guide us in making personal dignity kits. Carolyn Beatty is the Chair of the Day and Ann Collins is the Kitchen Chair.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Carpenter (2529 Wydown Ave, 62704). Christy Pound will lead the devotional by Catherine of Genoa entitled "Waiting upon God." (pp. 180-185) from the book, Devotional Classics.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on Monday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Lynn McMenamain will lead Lesson 8 & 9 "Intergenerational Justice & Sustaining Creations Health for All" from the PW Horizon's Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on Tuesday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Joyce Matthews. Joyce will host and Nancy Scott will lead Lesson 7 "Economic Climate Justice" PW Horizon's Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Thursday, April 10 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Dr. David Sandercock with Memorial Health Internal Medicine will speak and field questions on men's well care topics. Rich Canady will provide breakfast, and Tim Kluge will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.



DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, APRIL 11 AT 5:30 P.M. *SECOND FRIDAY

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet **Friday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Bob Bunn will speak on the "Bunn & Lincoln Family Friendship." RSVP with the weekly email link, website, or call the church office.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Income is strong through the first two months of the year. Expenses are over budget since the youth mission registration, winter utilities, and the quarterly property insurance premium were paid. The Operating Fund ended the month of February with income exceeding expenses by \$24,458.

2025 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 224,136	\$ 190,817	\$ 33,319
Expenses	\$-199,678	\$- 190,817	\$ 8,861
Net Total	\$ 24,458	\$ 0	

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$38.50 per member as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support the work of our denomination in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your special per capita contribution of \$38.50 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Andy Smith will celebrate 99 years on April 5.

Dr. Bill Lienemann will celebrate 93 years on April 6.

Dr. Naomi Lynn will celebrate 92 years on April 16.

WEDDING

McKennah Cripe and Matthew Tungett will be united in marriage on Saturday, April 26 in our Sanctuary.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Gary Vitale died Wednesday, March 12 in Springfield, IL. Gary was a longtime friend and supporter of Westminster.

Pat Roller on the death of her brother-in-law, Wesley C. Harrod, on April 1 in Carey, IL/

NEW ADDRESS

Cindy & Bill Ruesink, 209 S. Woods Mill Rd, Apt 1305, Chesterfield, MO, 63017 *beginning April 9

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

During the month of April, Dr. Kieffer and Rev. Bishop will lead worship at the Illinois Presbyterian Home on Thursdays, April 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 4:00 p.m.

LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION

TUESDAY, April 8 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.



On Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., the Support and Endowment Committee, chaired by Jeff Wilday, will host a Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712).

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. Please RSVP with Jennie Alt by Monday, April 7 at noon.

UPDATE FROM THE PNC COMMITTEE

By Chair Todd Knox

The Ministry Discernment Profile was approved by the Presbytery of Great Rivers Committee on Ministry on Thursday, March 6, activated on the Church Leadership Connection on Tuesday, March 10. On Friday, March 14, 81 letters were mailed to pastors of large congregations, former pastors of Westminster, and perspective candidates. Online ads were placed in the Christian Century and Presbyterian Outlook for two weeks. The PNC is pleased with the response to our Co-pastor position and has started initial interviews with potential candidates.



DR. KIEFFER'S RETIREMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Chair Brad Swanson

Members serving on the committee which is organizing the festivities around Dr. Kieffer's Retirement are Brad Swanson, Chair, Bill Deemer, Dr. Judy Knox, Jeanne Pittman, Julie McDonough, Mary Ray, Dale Rogers, Dr. Diane Rutledge, and Carolyn Swanson.

A Celebratory Dinner is being planned for Friday, August 22, at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Dr. Kieffer's final sermon will be Sunday, August 24 with a reception following worship in Parish Hall. Details to follow.



YOUTH SUNDAY, APRIL 27

JOY IN CHRIST AMID QUESTIONS

YOUTH LEAD THE 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

On Sunday, April 27, our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year's theme is *Joy in Christ Amid Questions* based on John 20:19-31.

Senior Liliana Kennerly and Junior Liam Kiszely will present reflections on the text. Junior and Senior High youth will serve as liturgists and present special music.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

190 YEARS

Celebrating Faith, Art & Advocacy

Thank you to Maggie Pinke who created the logo for Westminster's 190th Anniversary Celebration. Two signs were installed near our Walnut Street Entrance and on Edwards Street as we prepare for Founders' Sunday on May 18.

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS:

FAITH, ART, ADVOCACY PART III: ABOLITIONISM

Sundays, April 27, May 11

As Westminster celebrates 190 years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy, the Adult Education Forum will present the nineteenth century abolition movement. On April 27, Dr. Peter Kieffer will highlight the giants in the movement including Elijah Parish Lovejoy who was martyred in the year 1837 in Alton, IL. On May 11, Dale Rogers will shed light on the rich history of Mercy, James, and Clinton L. Conkling. This forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.

WESTMINSTER 190TH ANNIVERSARY RETREAT

Thursday - Saturday, May 1-3

PERE MARQUETTE LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER



This retreat will trace the journeys of our founding abolitionists to Alton (13 of whom signed the Lovejoy Anti-Slavery Petition) and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminster's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy. Reservations were due on March 31, 2025. If interested in

participating, contact Dr. Kieffer.

WESTMINSTER 190TH FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

Saturday - Sunday, May 17-18

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the events scheduled for the weekend:

THE ALL-CHURCH WOMEN'S GARDEN PARTY will be hosted by Sue Cull at their lake home Saturday morning, May 17.

A DINNER HONORING FORMER PASTORS will be held Saturday evening, May 17. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Lonnie Lee, Dr. Shelly White Wood, Rev. Mark Merrill, Rev. Hannah Dreitcer Zyla, and Rev. Trajan Iloff McGill.

FOUNDERS' SUNDAY WORSHIP AND DINNER RECEPTION will be held May 18. Westminster's Timeline created by Susan Day, is being extended through 2025 to highlight events in the last 15 years and will be presented Founders' Sunday.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
sbishop@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth
zkarmar.mr@gmail.com

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
keri@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat5@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Braden Barton, James Capler,
Terry Gietl, Javier Velásquez**
Part-time Custodians

*Reporter folding and mailing will
be on Wednesday, April 30.*