

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

August 2020

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday Schedule:
10:00 a.m.

Live Stream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

Sunday School:
Parable YouTube Video
emailed to Families
Children Birth-Grade 5

August 2

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION AND FIFTH GRADE RECOGNITION

Genesis 32:22-32:11; Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Face of God

August 9

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMISSIONING OF STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE TEAM

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Rev. Trajan I. McGill
Bringing Good News

August 16

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK PRESENTATION

Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 15:10-20

Rev. Christian K. Choi
Truth Seekers

August 23

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Hidden Figures

August 30

Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-26

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Holy Ground

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK - AUGUST 10-14

How precious is your steadfast love, O God?

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wing. Psalm 36:7

When Westminster's Strategic Planning initiative began to take form in 2019, the committee chose the name *Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor* because it articulates what we believe about God and affirms our commitment to the neighborhood. Steadfast in the sense of continuity, consistency, resilience, and staying the course provides rich imagery for God's faithfulness to us and God's call for us to be faithful to our neighbors.



Along with the Site and Landscape Plan, perhaps the most important aspect of the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor is the outreach to our neighbors. A Matching Grant Program to our immediate neighbors began this spring and the Neighborhood Service Week will be held August 10-14. Forty-nine members (including our youth and a few neighbors) will paint, power wash, and do minor repairs and landscape projects in the neighborhood. Over the next ten years, Westminster plans to invest one-third of the total cost of our Site and Landscape Plan in the neighborhood. The team of ministry partners includes:

Adult Partners

Jerry Boutelle
Judy Boutelle
Ellen Carpenter
Ed Caupert
Scott Day
Susan Day
Bob Fox
Bud Green
Melanie Green
Keith Hamilton
Mal Hildebrand
Al Hymans
Pat Hymans
Peter Kieffer
Todd Knox
David Mitchell

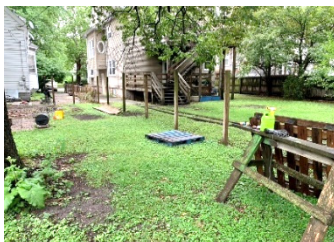
Mary Caroline Mitchell

Mary Peura
Mary Ray
Julie Robbs
Diane Rutledge
Mike Scott
Noel Scott
Mike Sundquist
Pete VanGiesen
Jess Weitzel
Youth Partners
Braden Barton
Grace Batterman
Ben Brower
Emily Brower
Sam Brower
Clayton Kurmann

Ella Kurmann

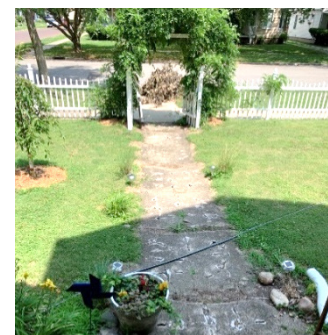
Jack Milliman
Bryce Pound
Amber Robbs
Austin Robbs
Allison Scott
Matthew Scott
Neighborhood Partners
Jane Staley
Bill Steele
Staff Partners
Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Rev. Christian K. Choi
Rev. Trajan I. McGill
Dale Rogers
Gary Warnick

The team of ministry partners will be commissioned Sunday, August 9 during worship. During the work week, the team will gather each morning at 8:00 a.m. for a devotion to begin the day before arriving at our neighborhood sites. Projects include power washing, painting, building front porches, installing fences, replacing brick sidewalk, and landscape improvements. Sandwich sack lunches will be prepared by Pat Hymans'



Hospitality Team and served at 12 noon in Parish Hall to ministry partners and neighbors.

Following lunch each day the teams will return to their sites to complete the day's work. A report to the congregation including photos will be presented Sunday, August 16 during worship.



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

In life and in death, we belong to God.

The Reverend Dr. James Spencer Barge, 16th Pastor of Westminster died on July 12, 2020 with Silvey –his beloved wife, kindred spirit, and partner in ministry –at his side. Although I never had the privilege of meeting Dr. Barge, many of you have shared your respect and appreciation for Jim and his meaningful ministry. Since my arrival, Jim has reached out to me by letter and phone to express appreciation for my leadership and to encourage this congregation whom he loved. He was enthusiastic about the Endowment Anniversary Campaign and our investing in the neighborhood through the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor.



Jim graduated in 1953 from the University of Oklahoma (with majors in history, literature and philosophy) and went on to attend Yale Divinity School before transferring to Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. In 1977, he earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

Jim began his tenure with Westminster in 1965 ultimately becoming our Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff and serving through 1986. Highlights in his ministry at Westminster include serving the Great Rivers Presbytery in various positions including Moderator and Commissioner to the church's General Assembly. Jim was consistently engaged in and committed to important social causes of the day. In Springfield, he shared in the founding of Contact Ministries and We Who Care (developing dialogue between the Caucasian and African American communities). He served on the Illinois College, Planned Parenthood and YMCA boards, and was President of the Springfield Mental Health Board.

We are grateful for the life and ministry of our beloved pastor, for the positive difference he has made in our lives, this community, and the kingdom of God.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

At the end of June, income exceeded expenses by only \$57. Operating Fund donations are underbudget by more than \$15,000, but mission donations exceed the budget by \$18,000. These two factors account for much of the \$5,376 income overage shown below.

2020 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 525,869	\$ 520,493	\$ 5,376
Expenses	-\$525,812	-\$520,493	-\$5,319
Net Total	\$ 57	\$ 0	

Thank you for continuing your financial support through these summer months as many are sheltering at home. Contribution statements for the second quarter of 2020 were mailed in early July. Contact Lisa Runkle if you have any questions.

THANK YOU

The congregation is grateful to Bob and Elsie Fox whose expertise and experience in photography and video is making our live stream worship service possible. They are pictured here at the new media station located in the choir loft.



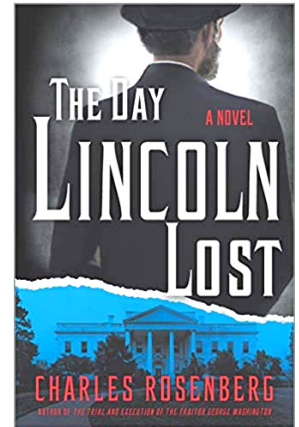
MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

We are grateful to Lyle VanDeventer, our hymn singer, and all our soloists as we continue to provide music during the live stream worship services.

“The Day Lincoln Lost” by Charles Rosenberg.

On August 11, a new book about Abraham Lincoln will be released. The thing that sets this book apart from others is that it has a strong Second Presbyterian (now Westminster) connection. The book is in the “alternative history” genre. So if you read the book, you have to remember that it is a “what if” story.

The book is “The Day Lincoln Lost” by Charles Rosenberg. In the summer of 2018, Charles and his wife visited Westminster’s archives when they were in Springfield doing research for this book. They were drawn to Second Presbyterian Church for our strong abolitionist identity in the 1850’s as they were seeking a setting for several scenes in the book. While here, I introduced them to the Reverend Albert Hale, pastor of this congregation from 1839-1866. From this introduction, Albert Hale became a pivotal character in the book.



Charles Rosenberg is a retired lawyer from Los Angeles. He has taught at Loyola Law School, Pepperdine, and UCLA. Several years ago, he was legal consultant for E! television’s coverage of the O. J. Simpson trials and has been the legal consultant for television and movies such as *L.A. Law*, *The Paper Chase*, and *Boston Legal*. His earlier book in the alternative history genre speculates “what if” George Washington had been captured by the British and sent to England to be tried and executed as a traitor.

In the acknowledgements, the author thanks the clergy, our archivists past and present, me, and praises our well organized archives.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Your Coronavirus Task Force continues to meet weekly via Zoom to review the most current information regarding this pandemic. Our overall goals continue to be to deliver accurate local information that affects our community and our congregation and to guide our church leaders as we reassemble. All reports are that church services at Westminster are going well. There have been between 22 and 27 attending worship, with social distancing measures in place and being respected. Precautions are listed on the church website wpcspi.org.

Remember, if you would like to attend the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service, you will need to make your reservation using [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com). This ensures we keep attendance below 50 and will also be used for contact tracing if any of our worshippers have a positive test result.

You may also call the church office to make your reservation.

Ellen Carpenter,
Virginia Dolan, MD
Peter Kieffer, MD

Todd Knox, MD
Michael Nenaber, MD
Marilyn Rigney, RN
Cara Vasconcelles, MD

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

YOUTH GATHERING SUNDAYS, AUGUST 9 AND 23

Junior and Senior High Youth plan to meet in-person on August 9 and 23 at 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., with an openness to gather by zoom. If you are a youth interested in joining this gathering, please contact Rev. Choi.

KEEP COLLEGE AND GRAD STUDENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Augustana College	Claire Bess
Belmont College	Carolyn Lowe
Boston College	Annie Sherrick
Butler University	Gabi Huston
Central Michigan University	Jenna Milward
City College - Manhattan	Emma Shafer
Columbia College	Zach Wheelhouse
Columbia Law School	Jack Sherrick
Denison University	Abigail Fierstos
DePaul University	Allison Scott
Duke University	Matthew Knox
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Jocelyn Nester
Hope College	Mack Shepherd
Illinois State University	Zayne Ireland, Holling Kniffin, Mason Reiff
Lewis & Clark CC	Alivia DuBois
Lincoln Land CC	Ben Brower, Sam Brower, Dennis Elkin, Ella Kurmann, Ross Lochbaum, Jacob Pennell, Amanda Wheelhouse
Loyola University	Emma Batterman
Miami University (Ohio)	Drew Borland, Jack Zervas
Millikin University	Julia Lakin
Northeastern University	Ethan Sommer
Northwestern University	Stella Cole
San Diego State University	Eli Vogler, Talen Vogler
School of Visual Arts - Manhattan	Miranda Schneider
St. Louis University	Barrett Kurmann, Sarah Wagner
SIU School of Medicine	Ryan Vasconcelles
Texas Christian University	Lauren Marines
U of I - Springfield	Will Formea
U of I – Champaign/Urbana	Austin Robbs, Adam Vasconcelles
U.S. Naval Academy	Matthew Tungett
University of the	
Cumberlands PA School	Emily Vasconcelles
University of Iowa	Katie Kruger
University of Kansas	Natalie Miller, Olivia Pennell
University of Michigan	Maggie Shepherd
University of Mississippi	Kenny Guard
University of Missouri	Jack Milliman, Jake Robinson
West Point	Noah Bright
Western Illinois University	Chad Sims, Corey Sims

WILL HOVEY COMPLETES GOD AND CHURCH BSA BADGE

Congratulations to Will Hovey on the completion of the “God and Church” Boy Scouts of America badge. Will worked with Dr. Kieffer, who served as his counselor and pastor, during the 2019-2020 school year. The pandemic provided Will the opportunity to complete the project. Dr. Kieffer signed off on the book in July. We look forward to recognizing Will for this accomplishment during a Sunday worship service.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 DURING WORSHIP

The tradition of presenting Bibles to third graders is rooted in the belief that it is an important, transitional year of growth and wisdom. We honor **Taryn Marie Barnett, Katherine Jane Bryans and Charles Davis Graham** on Sunday, August 2, during the 10:00 service, as they reach this milestone. It is our hope that these scriptures will be a guiding light for them on their faith journey.



BRIDGES GRADUATION BOOK PRESENTATION SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 DURING WORSHIP

As our children age out of Bridges and are old enough to attend Youth Group, we traditionally recognize the milestone with a celebration during our mid-week gathering. This year we will be presenting our former fifth graders with the book, *The World Jesus Knew* on Sunday, August 2, during the 10:00 service. Congratulations to **Sam Batterman, Maria DeJong, Abigail Eldridge, James Maeda, and Macklin Metzger** as you enter middle school.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES ONLINE

Although in-person worship resumed in July, summer Sunday school remains online. **WPCConnections** is emailed each Friday to bring joy and creativity into the homes of our families during this pandemic. Along with a video from the Saddleback Church featuring the Parable, each week you will find: **Weekly prayers** to empower parents to build a repertoire of prayers to share with your children, **Play Together** which includes a craft idea related to our Bible story or prayer, and **Sing Together** which includes child-friendly songs to make a joyful noise to the Lord (since we still cannot sing in church!) You will also see the dates of any gatherings, birthdays, special notes and more to help us stay connected during this time.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

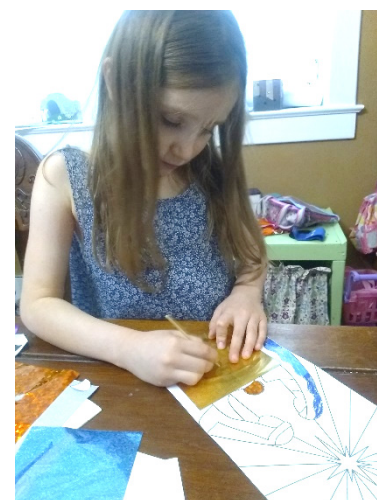
To prepare for the return to in-person instruction after Labor Day, WCP has established a Health and Safety Team to develop guidelines to be implemented for the 2020-21 school year. Their goal is to develop measures that will allow us to support a safe and healthy learning environment at WCP. The plan will be communicated to our families as soon as it is approved by the WCP Board.

We would again like to thank the Westminster Presbyterian Church for its continued support of WCP. Without this support our unique learning experience would not be possible.



2020 VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power. Ephesians 6:10



Due to the health guidelines, we presented an online version of Cokesbury's Knights of the North Castle during July. We welcomed 10 children from Westminster and 14 children from the community. We spent each Wednesday in July sharing Bible stories, crafts, snacks and music, as each week, we donned a new piece of the Armor of God:

- July 1: The Belt of Truth (Daniel 3)
- July 8: The Breastplate of Justice (1Samuel 17:1-50)
- July 15: The Shoes of Peace (Luke 2:1-20)
- July 22: The Shield of Faith (Matthew 14:22-23)
- July 29: The Helmet of Salvation (Acts 16:16-40)

Our brave knights learned how these protective pieces of armor work in the lives of familiar Bible characters and explored how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

INVESTING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR ENDEAVOR – PARKING LOT TRANSFORMATION



During the month of July, the **Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan** is nearing completion.

Parking Lot: The north half of the parking lot has been paved with concrete. The curbs and gutters have been installed and new sidewalks are in the process of being installed. During the first part of August the remainder of the parking lot will be paved with concrete, the new entrances will be completed, and lighting will be installed.

East Entry: The planter, foundation for the limestone steps, and sidewalks have been completed. During the month of August, the caps for the planter, the limestone steps and landing, the railings, and the electronic door opener will be installed. Additionally, the blue stone pavers will be laid.

West Terrace: The former pavers and the yews have been removed in preparation for the blue stone pavers and new yews, the concrete sidewalk and steps have been installed, and the new fountain has been ordered. During the first part of August, the blue stone pavers, the yews and the retaining wall will be installed.

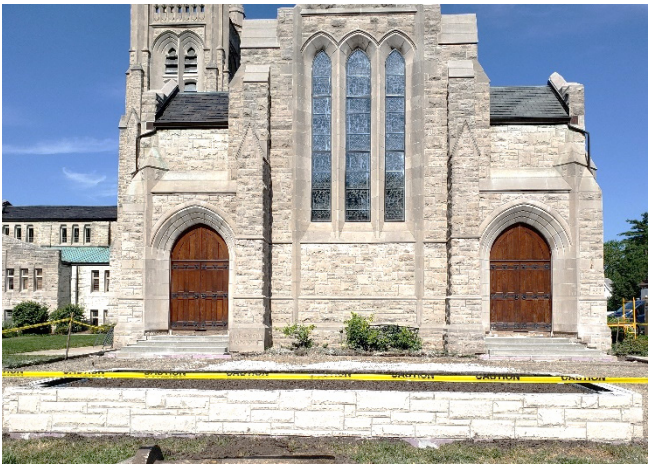
Landscape Plan: A landscape design has been submitted to the Task Force for their final review. This final phase of the endeavor will proceed in August and September.

Steadfast Neighbor Celebration and Ribbon Cutting will be Sunday, September 27. We are planning an outdoor worship service at 10:00 a.m. on the East lawn followed by an outdoor celebration (all within CDC guidelines).

Gary Warnick, Building and Property Manager, will be recognized on September 27 for his invaluable oversight of this endeavor and in celebration of his ten-year anniversary on staff this past June.



EAST ENTRY AND WEST TERRACE TRANSITION TO PLACES OF WELCOME



PARISH LIFE by Rev. Trajan McGill MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES AUGUST 4 & 6 AND AUGUST 11 & 13!

This summer Westminster again is helping Senior Services of Central Illinois deliver food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program. This year it is taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. We will need four to eight pairs of deliverers on each day. Sign-up and info sheets are in the West Narthex, or you can take part by contacting Jennie Alt in the church office.



LITTLE PANTRY – Our Little Pantry, located on Cook Street on the south side of Graham Elementary (near the main entrance of the school), has continued to get heavy use. So far, the church and its members individually have contributed well over \$1,000 in food and supplies to the pantry—and residents of the neighborhood and others in the area have been pitching in on top of that as well. If you'd like to help maintain the pantry and its supplies, contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org for details. Reimbursement is available for items purchased. Donation suggestions are on our website – wpcspi.org.



HELPING HANDS

Thanks to Mary Ray and Chris Smith for providing the Helping Hands dinner meal on July 10. The Allens and Canadys are preparing the meal on August 14. **We are still looking for people to fill this need on the second Friday of each month in September, October, and November.** If you are able to help in this vital time, please email Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH AUGUST MENU

Beef Stew, Applesauce, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Fruit in juice or water. **High-Demand Items:** *personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.*

EARTH CARE NEWS – AUGUST EARTH CARE TIP

Energy-efficient laundry can clean up the air too! "Cold Wash" then "Cold Rinse" usually cleans clothes efficiently with less fading. Drying clothes in the backyard on the clothesline captures solar energy whereas a dryer consumes a lot of electricity or gas and, in summertime, makes the AC consume even more energy. If we do use a dryer, we could hang-dry the shirts and avoid the need for an iron. Skip the Bounce and toss in a reusable tennis ball to reduce wrinkling, static cling, and dryer time! Thank you for continuing to promote environmental stewardship at WPC!



FAITH COALITION FUNDRAISER

In lieu of their annual outdoor Horseshoe Festival, the Faith Coalition for the Common Good is holding a virtual fundraiser trivia night on Saturday, August 1. Tickets are \$15 at illinoistimestix.com and participants can even order horseshoes from local restaurants to enjoy during the event.



COMPASS FOR KIDS UPDATE

With the present situation impeding the gathering of groups, Compass for Kids has decided not to begin the school year with an onsite after-school program. However, they are forging ahead anyway in maintaining programming for the children whom they serve. Compass will be continuing to provide online educational opportunities and activities aimed at filling many of the same needs, and their goal is still to provide children with the meal they would have had here, as well as the food provided by the backpack program. Even though it will look different than usual, doing this effectively will, as in ordinary years, require a good number of people giving of their time to make this happen. Thank you to everyone who has served this program in the past, and we hope whether you have been previously involved or not, you will consider joining in as the program's needs and plans become clearer over the next several months.



HUNGER TASK FORCE



The Mission and Community Service Committee and Session of WPC recently committed to becoming a "Hunger Action Congregation," which is a congregation that covenants to build its work in ending hunger and its causes, specifically through action in six areas: hunger alleviation, development assistance, hunger education, our own lifestyle integrity, corporate and public policy witness, and worship.

One of the expectations of this program is that we form a "Hunger Action Team." Just as our Earth Care Team works to keep our eyes on the goal of intentional environmental stewardship, the Hunger Action Team examines ways that all the areas of our church's practice can grow in helping alleviate hunger. If this is a particular need you would like to help address, please consider joining this team and helping forge our direction on engaging with practical and strategic ways to work against hunger in the world. Contact Rev. Trajan McGill at tmcgill@wpcspi.org for more details.

CORN PICKING AT GRIGSBY FARMS



As in years past, thanks to the Hale and Pound families for devoting land to growing sweet corn for area hunger ministries. This year the corn is expected to be ready for harvest in the first or second week of August. **Watch for an email from the church in the next several days inviting you to help pick this corn!** This is a great opportunity to help the Central Illinois Food Bank and other area hunger programs provide people with good, fresh vegetables.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – Home Communion will resume once nursing homes welcome visitors.

PRAYER CIRCLE – If you would like members of the congregation to pray for you, or if you would like to join the Prayer Circle, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill.

H.E.A.L. FUND – The "Helpful Emergency Assistance for Living" Fund provides resources to church and community members facing financial challenges. If you or someone you know could benefit from this, please reach out to one of the Westminster pastors.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

Knitters - find your yarn and needles and join us at Westminster on Tuesdays in the month of August from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Due to the parking lot construction and COVID-19 guidelines, we have a few changes:

- Please carpool and park on Glenwood and Edwards.
- Use the Edwards street entrance by the playground.
- Seating will be spaced per the guidelines.
- The monthly luncheon will not be held.
- Please bring your own beverage.

Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 622-8657 if you have questions.

DMA will not resume in September. The date is TBD.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will resume in September. Contact Rev. McGill with any questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON, ELIZABETH CIRCLE, AND LYDIA CIRCLE PW luncheon and meetings will be decided on a month by month basis. Check with your circle for updates.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. on the deck of the Kieffers' (26 Island Bay Lane) to have the discussion we missed on June 3 and to sign up for the 2020-2021 program year. Please read The Letter, #8 and Church Stories from *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans.

LAYETTES FOR KUMLER

Join the women of Westminster in donating layette items during the month of August. Items will be given to Kumler Outreach Ministries. The Layettes Box is located in the West Narthex and online purchases may be sent directly to Westminster. Layettes will be delivered to Kumler on September 1. Please have all donations in by Monday, August 31.



LIBRARY AND BOOK REVIEWS



The WPC Libraries are open during the week and have books that can be checked out. We have children's book for all ages, teen, young adult, and adult books. Keep them as long as you need and then return them to the church. Contact the

church office if you would like a title mailed to you.

Zoom by Istvan Banyai

Open this wordless book and zoom from a farm to a ship to a city street to a desert island. But if you think you know where you are, guess again. For nothing is ever as it seems in Istvan Banyai's. Age 2 and up.

Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug by Ellie Bethel

Litterbug Doug is lazy. He is wasteful. He is messy. But worst of all, he hates recycling! It's up to Michael Recycle, planet Earth's green-caped crusader, to show dastardly Doug the error of his ways...before it's too late! Age 2 and up.

Flawed Families of the Bible by David and Diana Garland

This book takes a real and close look at actual families in the bible. Readers are encouraged to focus on the theme of hope and grace for families, showing that it is in the "imperfect places" that we can catch a glimpse of grace. Age 14 and up.

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths By Bruce Feiler

Bruce Feiler set out on a personal quest to better understand our common patriarch. Traveling in war zones, climbing through caves and ancient shrines, and sitting down with the world's leading religious minds, Feiler uncovers fascinating, little-known details of the man who defines faith for half the world. Age 14 and up.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. and Mrs. James and Mary Anne Singleton celebrate 67 years on August 8.

Betty Cadwallader celebrates 95 years on August 9.

Al Hibbert celebrates 90 years on August 11.

Dorothy and Bob Wire celebrate 55 years on August 15

Bernice Bay celebrates 94 years on August 16.

Patrick Noonan celebrates 91 years on August 19.

Sandy & Jon Hockenyos celebrate 61 years on August 22.

Drs. Naomi & Bob Lynn celebrate 66 years on August 28.

NEW ARRIVAL

Mae Martha was born to Meredith & Darren Volle on July 11. Her proud sister is Evangeline Volle.

IN MEMORIAM

Grant Anderson Lane died July 11 in Oklahoma City, OK. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his daughter, Emersen, his mother Jamie, his siblings Trevor & JJ.

The Rev. Dr. James Spencer Barge died July 12 in Inver Grove Heights, MN. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Silvey Barge, their sons, Kevin (wife Courtney), Stephen (wife Kathleen) and their families. Condolences can be mailed to 6483 Burnham Circle, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076.

Barb Dirksen's July 11 Memorial Service will be rescheduled.

Bill Donels' August 22 Memorial Service will be rescheduled.

Wilbur Wright's Aug. 29 Memorial Service will be rescheduled.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Kara and Eddie Dubois on the death of her father, and to Alivia and Finley Dubois on the death of their grandfather, Kirby Kitner, on April 20, 2020 in Jacksonville, IL.

Chris and Dr. Michelle Oliver and their son Alexander on the death of Chris's nephew and Alexander's cousin, Christopher Aumiller on June 26, 2020 in Springfield.

Cathy and Scott Brower on the death of Cathy's mother, and to Nathaniel, Eli, Sam, Ben and Emily Brower on the death of their grandmother, Margaret Higgins, on July 8, 2020 in Montague, Michigan.

Jeanne and Pete VanGiesen on the death of Pete's mother, and to Kelsey and Jeremy Baier and Shelby VanGieson on the death of their grandmother, Frances VanGieson, on July 20, 2020 in Galesburg, Illinois.

MINISTRY UPDATES

The Rev. Sarah Iloff McGill completed her service as extended Pulpit Supply for Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church in Williamsville, Illinois on July 1, 2020.

Elder Sue Sawers began as the Interim Minister at the Federated Church in Carlinville, Illinois on June 1, 2020.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Betty and Vic Cadwallader, 1455 W. Mound Rd. #212, Decatur, IL 62526

Paul VanDeventer, 717 W. Whitethorn Way, Bloomington, IN 47403

LINCOLN LAND ONLINE COURSE: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

HIS-299-02 is a special topics online course at LLCC on the History of Christianity (Aug. 24 – Dec. 11, 2020) taught by **Professor Aaron Berkowitz**. To register, call LLCC at 217-786-2292 or register online: <https://www.llcc.edu/student-services/getting-started/>

2020 CONTACT MINISTRY BACKPACK COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 9



Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries as we collect backpacks to be distributed at their Ready for Success Back to School Event on Thursday, August 13, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. At the time of this printing, we have collected 62 backpacks.

We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 9.

Elizabeth Circle members (pictured above from last year) will gather on Monday, August 3 & 10 at 12 noon in WPC's second floor classroom to place a Bible verse backpack tag on each of the donated backpacks.

Around 250 school-aged children will receive a new backpack from Contact Ministries, a voucher for a haircut, and a new pair of Payless shoes from Share the Spirit! Last year, we collected 190 backpacks! *The basket is in the West Narthex. Online orders may be sent directly to Westminster.*

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS - GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK! SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, August 23, the children and youth of Westminster are invited to bring their backpack to the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the blessing of backpacks as our children and youth begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each child will receive a laminated luggage tag with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year. **Luggage tags will be mailed to those students who are unable to attend worship if they contact Jennie Alt, Church Administrative Assistant at jalt@wpcspi.org.**



SECOND HELPINGS COOKBOOK AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL FILE FOR \$10 DONATION

Digital copies of Westminster's Second Helpings Cookbook are available for \$10.00 thanks to Sue Cull's gift to our congregation. This digital file can easily be downloaded to tablets and computers or given as a gift. Please contact Jennie Alt, Church Administrative Assistant, with any questions or for your copy.



Sue Cull and Becky Martin co-chaired the Second Helpings Committee which included Doris Ray, Judy Ridinger, Elaine Ryder, Susan Smith and Sharon Turner. In 1993, two thousand copies were published which include classic recipes from members and interesting excerpts from Westminster's "delicious" history. The title "Second Helpings" is a reference both to the name with which the church was chartered as well as to the spirit of community service that has characterized its ministry.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2020 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2023) ELDER (CLASS OF 2023)
NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2021)
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2023)

Nominations may be completed online at wpcspi.org or by emailing the committee chair, Jim Kincaid, at jbkin@comcast.net. Please complete by August 16, 2020. Nominees will be presented at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2020.

2020 Nominating Committee: Jim Kincaid (Chair), Carolyn Swanson, Amanda Kurmann, Jim Bryans, Camille Massey, and Julie Sundquist.

Westminster Staff

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

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
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Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
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Victoria Hollinshead
Kimberly Hollinshead
Jaymie Hale Ngoupa
Nursery Workers

Emily Rowley, Amy Bonansinga
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
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Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
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Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians

**Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, September 30.**