



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

August 2024

WORSHIP &  
EDUCATION

CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and  
Livestream Worship Service  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery  
Children Birth – Age 4

10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School  
following Children's Sermon  
Children -Kindergarten - Grade 5

August 4

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Psalm 78:23-29, John 6:24-35*  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Bread from Heaven*

August 11

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:35, 41-51*  
The Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle  
*Top Ten to Avoid*

August 18

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Psalm 30:1-3, 8-12, John 8:1-11*  
The Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup  
*For the Love of Grace*

August 25

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-42, Psalm 84, John 6:56-69*  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*From Strength to Strength*

Sermon manuscripts are located in the West  
Narthex and online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

## STEADFAST NEIGHBOR RENOVATION OF 518 S. GLENWOOD PROPERTY

FINAL WORKDAY ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Last January Session approved adding \$30,000 to the 2024 Steadfast Neighbor Mission designation to renovate the 518 S. Glenwood Rental Property in preparation for its sale as another way to invest in our neighborhood. Income from the sale will repay the loan from Support and Endowment to purchase the property. Thanks to the Steadfast Neighbor Renovation team, Westminster's 518 S. Glenwood Rental Property will be available for sale this month.



Members and friends are invited to a final workday on Saturday, August 3, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and to an Open House on Sunday, August 11 following worship.

Thank you to the following ministry partners who have been a part of the renovation: Brownie Anderson, Lindsey, Juliet, and Brooke Boutelle, Rich Canady, Ellen Carpenter, Linda Caupert, Jim Dolan, Joe Fierstos, Bud Green, Marci Irvine, Charlie King, Jim McDonough, Lynn McMenamin, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Mike Sundquist for their labor of love. We are especially grateful to Ed Caupert for bringing his craft to the details of painting this home, and to Tim and Priscilla Kluge and Pete VanGieson who have led the effort and served as Project Managers throughout the renovation.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE



On Sunday, August 25, the children and youth of Westminster are invited to bring their backpacks to the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the blessing of backpacks as they begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.



## SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR!

YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 FROM 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 25, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a swim party at the Kieffer home (26 Island Bay Lane) as we splash into a new year together. Please bring a towel and a snack to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

## ANNUAL YOUTH KICK OFF SWIM PARTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 FROM 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 25, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., incoming Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a swim party at the Batterman Home (1620 Outer Park Dr.) as we kick off a new year together. Friends are always welcome and encouraged. Please bring a towel!

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

Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.  
Romans 12:13

Last December, as Westminster was preparing to host a refugee family through Welcome Corps, Archivist Sue Cull introduced an Adult Education Forum with a brief history of Westminster's refugee outreach during our 188 years. Her thoughtful and well-researched presentation inspired my 2023 Christmas Eve sermon "The Work of Christmas" and introduced me to the story of how Westminster hosted Presbyterian refugees fleeing religious persecution in Madeira, Portugal. They arrived in Springfield on November 13, 1849.

Dr. Robert Reed Kalley, a Scottish Presbyterian physician and missionary became ill on his way to India. During his recuperation in Madeira, he treated and shared his faith with many patients. Several Madeirans who accepted Presbyterianism were later persecuted by the Roman Catholic community. Their choice was exile, imprisonment, or even death. The American Presbyterian Society made contacts around the country following the refugee arrival in New York, by way of Trinidad. When a member of our church, Erastus Wright, was contacted, plans to welcome 130 families began.

This month, between August 11 and 19, Peter and I will travel to Lisbon and Madeira to experience the beauty and to explore the rich history of Presbyterians in this country.

Before we depart for Lisbon from Boston, we will join Paul and Peter's extended family in Stowe, Vermont and New London, New Hampshire for a few days to honor the life of Ann Feeley Kieffer, Peter's stepmom, an artist and co-founder of the Stowe Mountain Chapel.

Our time away will be limited by our current pastoral staff circumstances. I continue to be grateful to our Parish Associate Rev. Gerald Boutelle for his worship leadership, and I am grateful to Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup who will preach August 18. The APNC will welcome a qualified and experienced candidate to Springfield for an in-person visit August 22 - 24.

## THE REV. MARGARET ANN JESSUP PREACHES

On Sunday, August 18 we are pleased to welcome the Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup as our guest preacher. Prior to seminary, Margaret served as a cancer and hospice nurse for 25 years.

With the love and support of her family, she became a full-time commuter student at Eden Theological Seminary. During her seminary studies, she completed an Internship at Magdalene House and Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN. It was there that Margaret's heart was changed by women who experienced lives of addiction, abuse, and prostitution. During seminary, Margaret also began serving at Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church. With the support of an amazing congregation, Wooden It Be Lovely was founded. Wooden It Be Lovely, a ministry of DAUMC, is a social enterprise that offers hope by assisting mothers in need of employment, job skills, recovery tools, mentoring, and love. WIBL is not about painting furniture; it's about offering hope to mothers and loving their children. Restoring furniture is a good thing, restoring hope to a mother is an amazing thing.



Westminster supports WIBL through our Mission Endowment Grants. In 2022, we committed \$49,000 (\$7,000 per year for seven years).

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

SUMMER CHOIR WILL SING SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 at the 10:00 a.m. service, with a rehearsal on Thursday, August 8 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Sunday. If you have contemplated joining the choir, this is a great time to find out how fun it is to sing.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR AUGUST will be Jim Kontio, tenor on August 4, the Westminster Summer Choir on August 11, Brian Richardson, baritone on August 18, and Scott Munro, guitarist and vocalist on August 25.

CHOIR FOLDERS LOADED ON SEPTEMBER 3 at 2:00 p.m. in preparation for the upcoming season. Assistance is needed to put the choral music for the Sundays from September to January. We will meet in the choir room for this seasonal ritual.

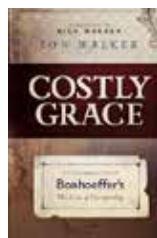
WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 5. Choir will now meet from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 14 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. A choir dinner will follow the retreat, where we look at music for the months ahead as well as Christmas.

## ADULT EDUCATION SUMMER FORUM SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

"Democracy in the World Today" will be presented on Sunday, August 11 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Join Dr. Roy Wehrle in a discussion about democracy. In many countries the center of the political spectrum is diminishing while the right and left are growing. In some cases, the conservative and far right parties are gaining votes and pushing for stronger, less democratic leaders. Join this discussion on the meaning of this shift and what is at stake if we continue in this direction.



## APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, AUGUST 27



The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, August 27 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Costly Grace: A Contemporary View of Bonhoeffer's Cost of Discipleship by Jon Walker. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

## JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Income through June 2024 continues to be higher than budgeted. Expenses are less than budgeted by \$31,000. The year-to-date net total is \$72,073 income exceeding expenses.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 602,274	\$ 561,425	\$ 40,849
Expenses	-\$530,201	-\$561,425	\$ 31,224
Net Total	\$ 72,073	\$ 0	

## UPDATE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE BY CHAIR CHRISTY POUND

Rev. Choi has extended his temporary leave. This leave is a benefit provided by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Board of Pensions.

We are grateful Sophia, Diana and Zachariah remain active in the life of our congregation, and we continue to hold Christian in our prayers.

## YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

### SPECIAL THANKS TO MISSION MINISTRY PARTNERS

Thank you, Westminster, for supporting this year's youth mission through your generosity and prayers. It could not have been as successful, life-changing, and spiritually nurturing without the dedicated individuals who became ministry partners on this journey. Thank you to:



**Andrew Affrunti**, for serving outside his comfort zone and being ready to assist no matter the task. His faith shines through in his service!

**Beth Allen**, for her dedication to serving others in yet another capacity and for making sure we interjected fun and laughter along the way.

**Tad Allen**, for strength of character and carrying others on his shoulders, physically and emotionally...and for great hugs.

**Lindsay Boutelle**, for being a servant who thinks of others first and shows us all the beautiful and faithful love of a mom.

**Cathy Brower**, for her calming spirit and the ability to listen with her heart. Her compassion is contagious!

**Susan Day**, for being Mary's roomy, sounding board, and strength and for her patience, faithfulness, belief in all that is good, and for holding us together.

**Bill Deemer**, for always thinking of others first and for tending to the needs of everyone so gracefully.

**Kyle Duffy**, for his faithful devotion, for being ready for whatever came before us, and for serving always with a smile and positive spirit.

**Dave Leonatti**, for being Mary's brother and rock. He brings energy, humor, and a very strong sense of integrity. Everyone wants to follow in his footsteps and be like him.

**Kevin Simonson**, for being attentive to the serving of the disenfranchised, for having courageous convictions, and for leading with love.

**Thanks to all** on this exceptional leadership team, and for jumping in with both feet on the mission to NOLA. They are creative, courageous, thoughtful, compassionate, fun, and led by the Spirit. It was an amazing opportunity and privilege to serve with this amazing team, to be the hands, feet, heart, and voice of our Lord, and to be the love of Christ in action with them.

### YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Youth Ministry Partners (Junior and Senior High) will meet **Sunday, August 18, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** for orientation.

**Confirmation Teachers: 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Meridith Bryans, Cara Barnett, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Mary Ray**  
**Senior High Mentors: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Mary Ray,**



### COLLEGE AGE BRUNCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

All college-age youth are invited to brunch with Mary Ray on Sunday, August 11 at 11:15 a.m. Plan to meet Mary in the West Narthex following worship and catch up with friends over brunch.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

### DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Rowan O'Reilly and Robin Pinke were baptized in July at Westminster. They will receive a book a month until age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This tradition began in 2022 through a gift from Todd Wise, presented in memory of his wife, Lisa Wise, who was a kindergarten teacher, and in honor of Dr. Diane Rutledge who brought this exciting ministry to his attention.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ORIENTATION AUGUST 18

Sunday School teachers for Kindergarten through Grade 5 will meet Sunday, August 18, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. for orientation. Thank you to the following teachers who will nurture our children's faith in 2024-2025:

**Lindsay Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Mark DeJong, Juliana Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara Eldridge, Laura and Eric O'Reilly, Katrina Opperman, Linda Purves, Julie Robbs, Karen Sherrick**

### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

#### HOMEcomings SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Flyers, emails, and registration forms outlining opportunities for the 2024-2025 ministry year will be sent to families this month. The following classes begin Homecoming Sunday, September 8.

**CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH AGE 4** will gather in the **Nursery** following the children's sermon for a lesson from the **Frolic Preschool Sunday School** curriculum, which is play-based and helps our youngest children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful ways. Our Nursery, located on the lower level, is staffed by Nursery Coordinators, Kara Milward and Erin Winn, Nursery Worker, Maria Lafrenz, and members of the Nursery Guild.

**KINDERGARTNERS - GRADE 5** will gather on the **Third Floor** following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the **Feasting on the Word** curriculum. This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week, which makes it easier for families to live out their faith together. The curriculum invites learners into the rhythm of the church year. **Children grades Kindergarten through grade 2** will meet in the **Third Floor Chapel** with Meleah Berkowitz and Ministry Partners. **Children grades 3-5** will meet in the **Tower Classroom** with Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Ministry Partners.

### WELCOME NURSERY COORDINATOR KARA MILWARD



We are excited to welcome Kara Milward as Co-Nursery Coordinator. Kara has a B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Western Governors University and served as a professional nanny for seven years. Kara and her son, Kenzo, are returning to Springfield this month and Kara will be teaching kindergarten at Feitshans Elementary School. Kara was introduced to Westminster's nursery as a toddler under the tutelage of her mother Leigh Milward. We welcome Kara and are grateful for the gifts she brings to our youngest members.

### BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 11, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission projects and interfaith gatherings. **Leaders: Meleah Berkowitz and Pat Roller**



## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM CELEBRATED SUNDAY, JULY 7



## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THEIR TEACHERS



On July 7, we welcomed Rowan O'Reilly and Robin Pinke into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz are grateful for the many ministry partners who have joined them teaching Summer Sunday School.

Each Sunday, the children explore one of Jesus' Parables and the older children (Grades 3-5) also explore a line from the Apostles' Creed.



## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED SUNDAY, JULY 28



**Linda Andrews and Claudia Nash** by Reaffirmation of faith. Linda and Claudia grew up in Macomb, reconnected as a couple a few years ago, and married in May of 2023. Linda earned a music degree from Western Illinois University and a master's in church music from Northwestern University in Evanston. Her professional experience includes serving as a church organist, professor of organ at WIU, business owner, and counselor for the Illinois Department of Corrections. Linda serves as Dale's substitute organist. Her sponsor is Dale Rogers. Claudia earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a master's degree in biology from Western Illinois University. Her professional experience includes being a part of the newly created SIU School of Medicine as a researcher in genetics, working at Memorial Medical Center, St. John's Hospital Kaiser Permanente, and the Illinois Department of Public Health as manager of the Genetics and Newborn Screening programs. Her sponsor is Krista Steller.

**Michella Arnold** by Reaffirmation of Faith. Michella was born and raised in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia. She completed degrees in International Relations and Philosophy from Gadjah Mada University. She also completed courses in fashion and design from the royal school in Yogyakarta. She has worked as a teacher and businesswoman, is the author of two books about philosophy, and was recently featured as a designer in a fashion show in Yogyakarta. Michella became a Christian several years ago in Indonesia and feels blessed to be joining Westminster. She met her husband Ben, who joined Westminster this spring, while working together as interpreters and teachers in Indonesia. Her sponsor is Ben Arnold.



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP REUNION - SUNDAY, JULY 28



## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER

**HELPING HANDS** - Thank you to Jeanne VanGieson, Pat Hymans, Mary King, and Judy Prillaman who prepared the July 10 bagged lunches.



The July 24 hot meal was prepared by Julie McDonough, Jeanne Pittman, and Mary Ray.

#### 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. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank (CIFB).

#### FAIR TRADE MINISTRY

Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea are sold to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. This month's sales will be **Sunday, August 18** following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

#### CORN PICKING AT GRIGSBY FARMS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

The annual sweet corn harvest for area food pantries and homeless shelters was Wednesday, July 31 in the early evening.

This corn is planted each year by Grigsby Farms (thanks to the Hale and Pound families). Following the harvest, sweet corn will be delivered to Central Illinois Food Bank.



#### CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

WPC is partnering in ministry with Contact Ministries through a backpack collection. This year's backpacks will be distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we have collected **150 backpacks** as of July 31. It is not too late to contribute to this worthwhile community service. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 11. Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.

#### ENDOWMENT MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS

REVIEWED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Thank you to those who have submitted grant applications. The Mission and Community Service Committee will review grant applications for funding from Westminster's Mission Endowment at its September 4 meeting. The deadline for submission is September 1. Applications are available under Congregational Life on our website on the bottom of the Mission and Service page. Please contact Jeanne VanGieson, 217-341-9255 for more information.

## ROHINGYA REFUGEE FAMILY THANK YOU

In May 2022 Westminster donated \$5,000 to Refugee One in collaboration with Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston to host a Rohingya Refugee family and purchased \$2,000 in household goods through the Betty Smith Endowment.



This summer we received an update and thank you from Northminster

saying: *The family is doing so well. They are well connected to the local Rohingya community, involved with a mosque and madrase (which the younger attend after school), and live just a few blocks from their schools and a shopping area. All of them are engaged, good-natured, and committed to doing well in school and in life.*

#### COMPASS FOR KIDS RECRUITING MINISTRY PARTNERS

On Sunday, August 25, Compass School year program manager Vyvyan Wesley will present a ministry moment during the 10:00 a.m. worship service and be available following worship to answer questions and sign up volunteers for the 2024-2025 school year in the West Narthex. The orientation for volunteers will be Tuesday, August 27.



**Compass for Kids begins Tuesday, September 3 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after-school program for the Graham Elementary School site. We welcome Kielely Hendricker as our new Site Director. Kielely previously worked as a paraprofessional at Blackhawk Elementary School and is a mother of two.

On Sunday, July 21, Emily Brower, Kristiana Eastvold, Ben Parker, and Matthew Scott presented a Ministry Moment about their experience teaching the Compass for Kids Camp this summer. The summer camp was awarded the Dept of Education Engage Every Student Recognition



Program Champs on July 16 in Washington, D.C. Across the country, 13 non-profit organizations and city municipalities, working in partnership with local schools, are being honored for their efforts to expand access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs for students.

#### AUGUST EARTH CARE TIP



Many of us enjoy fresh sweet corn during this time of year, buying directly from our local farmers. Let's remember that on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from May through October we can purchase a variety of fresh local produce at our 4th and Adams Farmer's Market downtown. Buying local supports our regional economy and saves precious resources and CO2 emissions required to ship food (which is not so fresh when it arrives!). Stop by on Wednesdays if you work downtown or ride your bike on Saturdays to save even more!

-Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon on the second Tuesday, August 13. Beverages and dessert will be provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**PW SALAD SUPPER** will be held Tuesday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** resumes on Monday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032).

**LYDIA CIRCLE** resumes on Tuesday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

**RUTH AND NAOMI** will resume on Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Folsie (14 Virginia Lane, 62711). Call Linda (217-306-3455) for details.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER COOKOUT SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, AT 5:00 P.M.

On Saturday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m., the men of the congregation and their spouses/partners are invited to a summer cookout at the Grigsby/Hale Farm (15594 Rogge St, Tallula 62688). Please RSVP to Jennie Alt and let her know whether you will bring a side dish, dessert or drink. Those who want to come early to fish are welcome.



## DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 AT 5:30 P.M.**

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, August 16 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. called "Sing-along with Junior." Junior Stevens is a local musician who plays regularly in the area. He hand-crafts wooden cigar box guitars which he sells locally. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by contacting the church office.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** will resume Sunday, September 8. If you would like to volunteer to be on the home communion team or would like to receive it, please let the church office know.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION** will be available on the **second Sunday of the month, August 11**, by our Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

## WELCOME JAVIER VELASQUEZ

We are happy to welcome Javier Velasquez to our custodial staff. Javier and his family moved to Springfield late March through the Welcome Corps program with the support of Westminster.

While in Nicaragua, Javier worked in road construction operating heavy machinery and received certification from Caterpillar as a large equipment operator. In addition to working at Westminster, Javier is currently employed at Bunn O Matic Corporation. We welcome Javier to our staff.



## COMMUNITY EVENT

Join the Sound Celebration Chorus on Saturday, September 7, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. The chorus presents "Mousekevision" – an afternoon of Disney songs that your whole family can sing-along to. Tickets can be purchased at [www.hcfta.org/tickets](http://www.hcfta.org/tickets).



## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Al Hibbert celebrates 94 years on August 11.

Sharon and Matt Gilmour celebrate 63 years on August 12.

Anne Smith celebrates 93 years on August 17.

Carolyn & Keith Beatty celebrate 61 years on August 31.

### NEW ARRIVAL

Jace Amir Mdaseh Zohfonyi was born July 17 to Kelly and Edison Zohfonyi. Jace's aunt is Mervice Alah Abung.

### MARRIAGE

John Loudon Sherrick and Natalie Olivia Gillard were united in marriage at a private ceremony in Washington D.C. on October 6, 2023. A celebration of their union was held at the Sherrick Farm in Pleasant Plains on July 6.

### IN MEMORIAM

Mary "Lynne" Cleverdon died July 10. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her son, Joe Cleverdon, daughter and husband, Carol and David Booth, and grandchildren, Joshua, Naomi, and Naytal Booth. A service celebrating her life will be held at Westminster on Monday, August 26 at 11:00 a.m. A lunch reception will follow.

### NEW ADDRESS

Elsie & Bob Fox, Brenden Gardens, 900 Southwind Rd Apt. 222, Springfield, IL 62703-

Cathy & Bill Allen, 1409 Discovery Loop, Port Angeles, WA 98363

### WESTMINSTER SIGNS

An addition to our facilities this summer included updated signs which display Sunday morning service, Sunday School, and Nursery times.

Thank you to Dale Rogers for coordinating this project.



### WCP PRESCHOOL NEWS by Emily Rowley



We are enjoying summer and also looking forward to our first day of classes on Tuesday, September 3rd. We'll prepare parents for our school year with a parent orientation on Tuesday evening, August 27th. On Friday morning, August 30th, we'll have a meet your teacher open house for students and their families. We have openings in our two day class (Tuesday & Thursday mornings for 2 1/2 - 3 year olds). If you know anyone looking for a play-based preschool with a wonderful cooperative family, please let them know!

### PRESCHOOL BENCHES DEDICATED

During the WCP Orientation on Tuesday, August 27, Westminster youth will make a brief presentation on the two benches (created from recycled bottles) they donated to the preschool playground. This was a community service project the youth participated in last January which completed the recycling of bottle caps left over from Will Hovey's Eagle Scout Project. Thank you to the Mission and Community Service Committee for the grant to cover additional costs, to Peter Kieffer and Mary Ray for collaborating on the project, to Charlie King for transporting the bottles caps and picking up the benches, and to Gary Warnick for assembling and placing the benches in the playground.



## 2024 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Westminster will once again collaborate with the Historic Westside Neighborhood Association to host the 2024 National Night Out on **Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Join us in Parish Hall for subs from Head West, chips, drinks, and Dilly bars from Dairy Queen, as we meet with our local public officials.



RSVP to the **Historic West Side National Night Out 2024 Facebook page** for food count if you are able, but it is not required. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship and strengthen our neighborhood bond the night of the event.

### THANK YOU TO THE STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MINISTRY TEAM

Dr. Kieffer, Thank you so much for the amazing work you and your church members have done on the neighborhood. It was such a hot week for your service week, but you all carried on and worked so hard. It is greatly appreciated! Thank you for inviting me to lunch of Friday. It was wonderful to gather with those who worked so hard on behalf of this neighborhood. The food was so good, and the musicians were incredible! We are all so blessed to have Westminster as the anchor of our neighborhood. Thank you all so much!" Mary Carey, homeowner.

### HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

BRUNCH RECEPTION AT 11:15 A.M.



Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 8 as we explore a story of homecoming in Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11-33. Rembrandt's painting of "The Return of the Prodigal Son," can be found at the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was created at the end of Rembrandt's life, in the late seventeenth century. In the painting, Rembrandt captures the nature of God's compassion in the hands that embrace both sons.

We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., share the Sacrament of Communion, welcome the Westminster Choir and commission the Education Leadership Team.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a

PowerPoint Presentation of the 2023-2024 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service. Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

### NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2024 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

**DEACON (CLASS OF 2027)**

**ELDER (CLASS OF 2027)**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2025)**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2027)**

Nominations may be completed online at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) or by emailing the Nominating Committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer at [ehuitt@yahoo.com](mailto:ehuitt@yahoo.com). Please complete by August 18, 2024. Nominees will be presented at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2024.

2024 Nominating Committee: *Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Michael Nenaber, Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, Carolyn Swanson, and Julie Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman*

### Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff  
[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
Associate Pastor for Parish Life  
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**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
Parish Associate

**Dale T. Rogers**  
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**Mary A. Ray**  
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**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
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**Katie L. Moore**  
Director for Children's Music  
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**Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinator

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
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[emily@westminster-preschool.org](mailto:emily@westminster-preschool.org)  
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**Ellen Carpenter**  
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**Lisa Runkle**  
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**Krista Steller**  
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**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager  
[gwarnick@wpcspi.org](mailto:gwarnick@wpcspi.org)

**James Capler, Javier Velasquez**  
Part-time Custodians

*Reporter folding and mailing will be on Wednesday, August 28 at 12:30 p.m.*