



# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

August 2025

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 3

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

11:15 a.m. Summer Adult Ed Forum

August 3

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Hosea 11:1-4; Luke 11:1-13

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Kindness

August 10

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM  
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hebrews 11:1-3

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Beautiful

August 17

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM  
RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 13:10-17

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Compassion

August 24

DR. KIEFFER'S FINAL SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Gratitude

August 31

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Jeremiah 2:4-13; Hebrews 13:5-8; 15-16

The Rev. Sarah A. Bishop  
Knowing God's Faithfulness

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

A CELEBRATION OF THE REVEREND DR. BLYTHE DENHAM KIEFFER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 GATHERING AT THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN MUSEUM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 FINAL SERMON AND RECEPTION IN PARISH HALL

Sunday, August 24 will be the last Sunday the Reverend Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer leads worship at Westminster as Westminster's Eighteenth Pastor. A Service of Parting will be included in the worship service and a reception celebrating Blythe's ministry will be held in Parish Hall following worship.

Members and friends will also gather on Friday, August 22, 6:30-10:00 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum for dinner, drinks, toasts, and dancing. RSVP's are still being accepted through August 10.

Donations to the Westminster Support and Endowment Fund in honor of Blythe's ministry continue to be welcome. To date, over \$30,000 has been received. An endowment fund will be established to support education at Westminster. The names of those who give will be included in the August 24 bulletin.

A Congregational Meeting has been called on Sunday, August 10 immediately following worship to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Dr. Kieffer and Westminster effective October 1, 2025, the date of her retirement. She will be taking accrued study leave during the month of September.

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE



On Sunday, August 17, 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 24 FROM 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 24, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a swim party at the home of Judy and Todd Knox (2004 Maryknoll Place) as we splash into a new year together. Please bring a towel and a dish to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.



ANNUAL YOUTH KICK OFF SWIM PARTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 FROM 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 31, 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. Please bring a towel and Freshmen-Sophomores bring a side dish; Juniors-Seniors a dessert to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

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

As a young woman, I saw the 1975 musical A Chorus Line. Set on the stage of a Broadway theater, the musical provides a glimpse into the personalities of seventeen Broadway dancers auditioning for spots on the chorus line as they describe the events that have shaped their lives and their decisions to become dancers. I loved the collaboration in the dancing and resonated with the song "What I Did for Love."

This is not a romantic love song but rather a song about the profound love for one's passion and career. It is about reflecting on a life dedicated to a pursuit, even with its challenges and potential for loss, and embracing the experiences and sacrifices made for the love of it. "What I Did for Love" expressed my passion for ministry and willingness to accept the sweetness and the sorrow on the travel narrative I chose.

I preached the candidacy sermon auditioning to serve as Westminster's eighteenth pastor on July 28, 2013. It was a culminating day on my personal travel narrative in ministry and an opportunity for which I had sought for many years. To sit in Westminster's stunning chancel for the first time was a powerful and poignant moment for me. I will forever be grateful to this gracious congregation for the opportunity to lead and to collaborate on the road we have traveled together.

On July 13, 2025, as the Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall preached her candidacy sermon and was elected to serve as co-pastor in an intentional act of collaboration before becoming Westminster's nineteenth pastor, it was another poignant moment for me. Sitting where I was in the chancel, I noticed that the three Marys in the stained glass window beyond Anne in the pulpit, were smiling with me. The windows, a gift of Porter Paddock, were given in loving memory of his wife and the many noble women who have served this church faithfully who collaborated in ministry, doing what they did "for love."

Luke places the story of Martha and Mary immediately following the story of the Good Samaritan, (the text for Dr. Marshall's sermon) because each emphasizes important complementary characteristics in the life of a disciple following the commission of the seventy. To the lawyer who is so caught up in studying the Torah that he never learned how to do it, Jesus shares the story of one who shows mercy and bids him "Go and do likewise." To the young sisters who are caught up in a society that denies them the privilege of studying the Torah, Jesus encourages them "to sit at his feet and to listen to what he is saying."

Luke has taken us on a journey and pointed out the importance of collaboration, balance, and reaching beyond ourselves, doing what we do for love, as disciples of Jesus Christ. Collaboration includes both doing and listening, both serving and studying, and both single-mindedness and multi-tasking. Each of us has a tendency toward a one-dimensional life. We need collaboration within ourselves and with one another to fulfill our calling as disciples.

As we seek to be faithful disciples within our own travel narratives, may we demonstrate the mercy of the Good Samaritan, the courage of Mary, and the hospitality of Martha on the journeys we travel. May we do what we do for love, and when the time comes to say goodbye and travel on, may we embrace the sweetness and the sorrow, wish each other well, and give thanks for the gift was ours to borrow.

## BUILDING AND PROPERTY NEWS by Gary Warnick

**THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW SOUND SYSTEM** for the Sanctuary and Parish Hall by Thompson Electronics was completed in July.

**THE WHITE LINE AT THE CURB** of the West Narthex North Entrance was painted.

**A SLIGHTLY USED LAWN TRACTOR** was purchased from Sloan for when our current tractor failed in July. It includes a four-year warranty, and they accepted our tractor in the trade.

**A NEW VENTED CHAMPION DISHWASHER** for Westminster's kitchen was approved by the Property Committee at their July meeting.

**REVISED BUILDING USE FEES** for Westminster were approved by the Property Committee at their July meeting.

**THE YOUTH ROOM** will be painted in late August by a team of ministry partners in preparation for the new ministry year.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**SUMMER CHOIR WILL SING SUNDAY, AUGUST 24** at the 10:00 a.m. service, with a rehearsal on Thursday, August 21 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Sunday. In honor of Dr. Kieffer's final sermon the choir will sing "How Lovely are the Messengers of Peace" Felix Mendelssohn and "Grieve Not the Holy Spirit" by T. Tertius Noble.

**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR AUGUST** will be Brian Richardson, baritone on August 3, Mary Ray and Eleanor VanDeventer on August 10, Katie and Pat Moore, on August 17, and the St. Andrew's Sisters on August 31.

**CHOIR FOLDERS LOADED ON SEPTEMBER 2** 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.

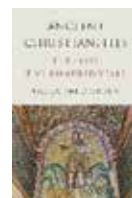
**WESTMINSTER CHOIR** resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 4. Choir from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 7 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. where we look at music for the months ahead as well as Christmas. A choir pot luck dinner at the Kontio's will follow the retreat,

## SUMMER ADULT ED FORUM: SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

On Sunday, August 10, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present the third of three presentations entitled "**Paths to the Future**" as part of the **Geopolitics of the World Today** Series. The forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.

## APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, August 26 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Ancient Christianity by Paula Frederickson. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



## NEW MEMBER CLASS

**SUNDAYS, AUGUST 3 AND 10 AT 9:00 A.M.**



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, August 3 and 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be recognized on Sunday, August 17, following a Special Session meeting

## NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2025 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for positions of leadership at Westminster.

**ELDER, DEACON, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2028), NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2026)**

**Nominations may** be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Dr. Michael Nenaber, at [m.nenaber@comcast.net](mailto:m.nenaber@comcast.net), or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete it by August 10, 2025. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

**2025 Nominating Committee:** *Dr. Michael Nenaber (Chair), Sam Batterman, Mal Hildebrand, Brad Steller, Carolyn Swanson, Julie Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman*

## FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah Bishop

### 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:

**Tad Allen**, for his steady strength in guiding and nurturing our youth.

**Greg Boutelle**, for his comedic timing, fantastic t-shirts, and hard-working spirit to encourage us all too.

**Cathy Brower**, for her nurturing presence and being such a wonderful listening ear.

**Susan Day**, for her strong leadership and driving skills as she modeled for the youth a servant heart.

**Kyle Duffy**, for his positive attitude to encourage others, and engaging curiosity.

**Dave Leonatti**, for his guitar skills, positive encouragement, and sustaining calm spirit.

**Val Leonatti**, for her driving skills, genuine curiosity with others, and such amazing stories.

**Mary Ray**, for her whole heart as she gives unreservedly to our youth, adults, and those we served in such a Christ-like spirit.

**Thanks to all** on this exceptional leadership team, and for all their servant leadership in relationship building and strengthening in Asheville. They were led by the Holy Spirit in compassionate, creative, courageous, thoughtful, and in fun. It was a hard to beat mission trip and privilege to serve with this amazing team, to be the hands, feet, heart, and see the face of our Lord, and to be the love of Christ in action with them.

#### YOUTH MISSION TRIP REUNION

##### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

On Sunday, August 10 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. participants of the 2025 Mission Trip will gather at Susan and Scott Day's Home (47 Fairlawn Ln.) for a lakeside potluck and play day. Youth bring a salad, side dish or chips. Adults bring dessert and drinks.

#### YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION

##### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Youth Ministry Partners (Junior and Senior High) will meet **Sunday, August 24, 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, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Mary Ray**

**Senior High Mentors:** **Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray, and Jack Sherrick**

#### COLLEGE AGE BRUNCH

##### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

All college-age youth are invited to brunch with Rev. Bishop and Mary Ray on Sunday, August 10 at 11:30 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

### THANK YOU SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

This summer our children in Pre-K through Grade 5 learned stories from the weekly lectionary through the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. **August 17 through August 31** the children will learn about worship and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Special thanks to ministry partners: **Lindsay Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Rose DeJong, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Leigh Milward, and Julie Robbs.**

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND NURSERY GUILD ORIENTATION SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Sunday school teachers for Pre-K through Grade 5 and members of the Nursery Guild will meet Sunday, August 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in Parish Hall for orientation and mandatory reporter training. Thank you to the following teachers who nurture our children's faith:

Nursery Guild: **Linda Caupert, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara Eldridge, Priscilla Kluge, Judy Knox, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMnamin, Leigh Milward, Julie Sundquist**

Pre-School Sunday School: **Cara and Taryn Barnett, Kate Bryans, Cathy Brower, Lindsay Boutelle, Maria and Rose DeJong, Dee Dee Duffy, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward, Katrina Opperman**

Sunday School: **Cathy Brower, Lindsay Boutelle, Sophia Choi, Juliana Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara Eldridge, Katrina Opperman, Laura and Eric O'Reilly, Linda Purves**

#### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7

Flyers outlining opportunities for the 2025-2026 program year were mailed the first week of August.

**Nursery:** Our youngest children are taught Bible stories from the **Frolic Nursery** curriculum, which includes motions, songs, and coloring sheets.

**Pre-School (Lower level Preschool Room):** Preschoolers age 3-5 learn Bible stories with the **Frolic Preschool Sunday School** curriculum, which helps our youngest children experience Bible stories in a lasting way.

#### Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel) and Grade 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom):

Children (K-Grade Five) 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.

#### BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR THEME: VOICES OF HOPE

##### BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 10, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom. This after-school fellowship precedes Westminster Children's Choir for children in Kindergarten – Grade Five from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission and service projects and time together at Children of Abraham. The 2025-2026 theme is "Voices of Hope." Together with their Bridges Advocates, children this year will explore Biblical stories of faith and hope.

Leaders: **Rev. Bishop, Meleah Berkowitz, Pat Roller, and Dale Rogers**

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO ASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



Our 2025 Youth Mission Trip to Asheville, NC July 12-July 19 was a memorable and rousing success. With Asheville Youth Mission, our youth and adult ministry partners were able to serve Asheville and the surrounding communities with food distribution (in community food banks and hot meals), community garden's maintenance and harvesting as well as deep relational care to unhoused people.

Our youth cherished their time in Asheville and were honored to share the week by leading worship on Sunday, July 20. The youth extend their heartfelt thanks to their church family that offered prayers, financial support through fundraisers and those who wrote daily encouragement letters. The mission team looks forward to sharing more as they lead the Adult Ed Forum on Sunday, December 14, following worship.



## WELCOME TO THE REVEREND DR. ANNE MARSHALL



On Friday, July 11 over 120 members gathered at the congregational dinner to meet the Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall. It was a delightful evening with a Taco theme.

On Sunday, July 13, Dr. Marshall was enthusiastically elected to serve as Co-Pastor and transition to Pastor/Head of Staff on October 1, 2025. Dr. Marshall's sermon on the Good Samaritan was titled "The Road to Life." Dr. Kieffer explained to the children that we are coming to a place on our journey together for her to pass the "walking stick" of leading this congregation to Dr. Marshall.

PNC member Christy Pound introduced Anne on Friday and Anne is pictured with the PNC (left to right) Dr. Scott Day, Greg Swanson, Jess Weitzel, Dr. Todd Knox, M. Brownell (Brownie) Anderson, Lucy Stafford and George Botanga.

The congregation is grateful to the PNC for their timely, good work and excellent choice of Dr. Marshall.

**PARISH LIFE NEWS by Dr. Kieffer**  
**MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**HUNGER ACTION TEAM**

**MONTHLY HELPING HANDS MEALS**

Westminster members prepare sandwich bags for 70 community members served by Helping Hands on the Second Friday and a hot meal for 70 on the Fourth Wednesday.

Thank you to Julie Robbs, Georgina Hudspeth, Judy Prillaman, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Judy Huston, and Sue Sawers for preparing 70 bagged lunches for the Helping Hands shelter on July 11.



**WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY** - Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry on the grounds of Graham Elementary

**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.

**FAIR TRADE MINISTRY SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**

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 17** following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

**CORN PICKING AT GRIGSBY FARMS TUESDAY, JULY 29**

The annual sweet corn harvest for area food pantries and homeless shelters was Tuesday, July 29 in the early evening. Thank you to *Rev. Sarah Bishop, George Botanga, Jim Bryans, Erin Ekstedt, Scott Day, Melanie and Bud Green, Harold Hale, Dr. Kieffer, Charlie King, Val Leonatti, Richard Leary, Christian, Liliana, and Nora Kennerly, Jay Kennerly, Josh Pinke, Christy and Avery Pound, Mary Ray, Krista Steller, Brad Swanson, Mike Sundquist, Jeanne and Pete Van Gieson, Jess Weitzel, and Sarah Zerfas.* 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.



**MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERED**



We have two routes open on Aug. 8. Please call the church office if you can help.

Thank you to the following ministry partners who delivered food to eligible senior citizens as part of the Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program: the last week in July and first week in August. *Ann and Keith Hamilton, Vonnie Hinesley & Roy Wehrle, Mary Caroline Mitchell and Sam Simonson, Mary Ray and Gayle Olson, Krista Steller and Mary Ray, and Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer.*

**CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**

We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 3. To date we have received 136. Please, drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in West Narthex.



**MOTHERLAND GARDENS HOSTS OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

The Motherland Gardens will host an Open House this Saturday, August 2, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at 815 S. 15th Street, Springfield, IL. Get ready for a day of celebration, connection, and community joy at the Motherland Community Project Awards Day & Community BBQ. We're coming together to honor the amazing work that's been growing right here in Springfield from the roots of our urban garden to the branches of youth empowerment and food justice. Westminster supports this ministry through endowment grants.



**COMPASS FOR KIDS WELCOMES MINISTRY PARTNERS**

**Compass for Kids Needs Volunteers on Tuesday's 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after-school program for the Graham Elementary School site. **Compass is unable to start in August, due to the lack of ministry partners.** If you would like to be a part of this meaningful outreach, please contact site director, Kieley Hendricker at [kieley@compassforkids.org](mailto:kieley@compassforkids.org) or call 217-588-8241.

**EARTH CARE AT WESTMINSTER**

Thank you to Keith Hamilton who has agreed to succeed Dr. Peter Kieffer as chair the Earth Care Team. Charlie King, Dr. Todd Lafrenz, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller will continue to serve on the team.



**BREAD GUILD**

Thank you to Susan Day who has agreed to succeed Dr. Peter Kieffer as chair of the Bread Guild. Emily Brower, Priscilla Kluge, Mary Leffler, Mary Maddox, Steve Scaife, and Brad Swanson will continue to serve on the guild. If you are a bread baker and would like to be a part of this meaningful ministry, please contact Susan Day at [susanday@excitingwindows.com](mailto:susanday@excitingwindows.com).

**ENDOWMENT MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWED WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6**

The Mission and Community Service Committee will meet Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30 p.m. to review grant applications for funding from Westminster's Mission Endowment. The deadline for submission of grant proposals for consideration is August 5. Applications are available on our website on the Mission and Service page. Please contact Rachael Hickman, 618-946-0226 for more information.

**PARISH NURSE NEWS by Ellen Carpenter**

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION** will be available on Sunday, August 3 by Nurse Marilyn Rigney.

**HOME COMMUNION** – If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on August 10, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to Sara Eldridge, Krista Steller, Dr. Kieffer, Julie and Mike Sundquist, and Lyle VanDeventer who served communion to six members on July 13.

**TENTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

The Tenth Biennial Health Fair will be Sunday, September 14 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Along with B/P screening, glucose screening, and other health related tables, flu vaccinations will be provided. Details will be forthcoming.



## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters are encouraged to knit cold weather items (warm hats, mittens, and scarves) for our fall and winter donations. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

## PW CORRESPONDING SECRETARY RECOGNIZED



On Sunday, July 27, Camille Degner was recognized for her tenure as PW's Corresponding Secretary from 2013-2024. During her service, Camille sent 1,270 cards to members. Eleanor VanDeventer, Moderator of PW joined Dr. Kieffer in recognizing Camille during the Ministry Moment and presented her a brass sparrow referencing Luke 12:6: "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God." Gratitude was expressed to Camille for extending God's love and care for the smallest creatures to Westminster's members through her card ministry.

## DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, August 15 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Dr. Scott Day will speak about "The Art of Bonsai." RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church. While RSVPs are helpful, please come if you find you are able to attend.



## WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 11:30 AM

Members and friends of Westminster will gather Thursday, August 14, at 11:30 a.m. with the pastors and the director of music and the arts, for communion followed by lunch.

## WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

**Orientation meeting for families is Tuesday, August 26, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Parish Hall.** Classroom Open House and Popsicles on the Playground will be Friday, August 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Classes begin Tuesday, September 2.



WCP is the only privately-operated preschool in the Springfield area that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The 2025-2026 staff includes Meleah Berkowitz as Director, Keri Tate as the 2 & 3 year old classes teacher, and Becky Nika as our 4 year old class teacher.

## DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY BOOKS A GIFT TO INFANTS AT THEIR BAPTISM

Benjamin Louis Arnold, Davis Scott Durko, and Charlotte Kathleen Wise will receive a book a month until age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



The tradition of providing this gift to infants baptized at Westminster was initiated in 2022 by Todd Wise, and given 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.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Al Hibbert celebrates 95 years on August 11.  
Anne Smith celebrates 94 years on August 17.

### MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Sharon and Matt Gilmour celebrate 64 years on August 12.  
Debby & Mike Bond celebrate 55 years on August 30.  
Carolyn & Keith Beatty celebrate 62 years on August 31.

### NEW ARRIVALS

Charlotte Kathleen Wise was born July 13 to Shannon and Eric Wise. Charlotte's proud grandfather is Todd Wise and her aunt is Morgan Durko.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Michella and Ben Arnold will present their son, Benjamin Louis, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 10.  
Morgan and Scott Durko will present their son, Davis Scott, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 17.  
Shannon and Eric Wise will present their daughter, Charlotte Kathleen, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 17.

### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Sharon Manning on the death of Sharon's brother and to her son, Lyle and Eleanor VanDeventer on the death of Lyle's uncle, Roger Manning on June 28 in Odesa, TX.  
Carrie and Mark Pennell on the death of her father, and to Jacob, Mia, and Olivia Pennell on the death of their grandfather, Ed Cunningham on July 4 in Springfield.

### NEW ADDRESS

Elsie and Bob Fox, 900 Southwind Road, Apt 214, Springfield, IL 62703

## 2025 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. IN PARISH HALL**

Westminster will once again collaborate with the Historic Westside Neighborhood Association and host the 2025 National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. Join us in Parish Hall for subs from Head West, chips, drinks, and sweets, as we meet with our local public officials. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.



RSVP to the *Historic West Side National Night Out 2025 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.

## JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

With your faithful financial support, we can increase the Operating Fund income. At the end of June, year-to-date income is below budget by \$13,444 which is not unusual during the middle of the year. The timing of expenses early in the year have them over budget by \$7,009 because of the installation of an air conditioner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and snow removal costs.

| 2025 Operations | Actual     | Budget      | Difference |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Income          | \$ 558,606 | \$ 572,450  | \$ -13,844 |
| Expenses        | \$-579,459 | \$- 572,450 | \$ -7,009  |
| Net Total       | \$ -20,853 | \$ 0        |            |

## RECOGNITION OF BOB AND ELSIE FOX SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 DURING WORSHIP



Bob and Elsie Fox will be recognized on Sunday, August 3. In March of 2020, the silver lining of the COVID-19 cloud was the dedication and collaboration of Bob and Elsie in taping worship services which were made available on our website on Sunday mornings. Our last in-person worship was March 15, 2020 and our first recorded worship service was March 22, 2020. By June of 2020, we began live streaming our Sunday worship services.

None of this would have been possible without Bob and Elsie. We will forever be grateful for the gifts of filming, editing, graphic arts, and photography they have shared so generously.

Over the years, Bob has also shared his gift of woodworking in the Children's Sermon bench in the Chancel and the Communion Table in the Ziegler Library. The hospitality of Bob and Elsie is unsurpassed as they have provided Lake Springfield boat rides for numerous children, youth and adults within our congregation. Last Sunday, July 27, was Bob's final Sunday behind the camera; however, he will continue to serve as Westminster's photographer.

### DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL AND MUSIC ASSISTANT

**On Friday, August 1,** Meleah Berkowitz begins her new role as *Director for Children's Ministry, Westminster Cooperative Preschool and Music Assistant.*

This full-time position combines three areas to implement greater communication, collaboration, and creativity. The Director for Children's Ministry will assist the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry with the implementation of effective ministry for children (15 - 20 hours per week). The Director for Westminster Cooperative Preschool will work closely with the Board, oversee the administrative responsibilities of the preschool, and meet the requirements for NAEYC (10 hours per week). The Music Assistant will direct the Children's Choir and assist the Director of Music and the Arts with the implementation of an effective music ministry for all ages (10 hours per week).



### EDUCATION COORDINATOR

**On Friday, August 1,** Dr. Aaron Berkowitz begins his new role as *Education Coordinator.* The Education Coordinator will assist the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry with the implementation of effective education for all ages. This is a part-time position (5-10 hours per week).

## HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

BRUNCH RECEPTION AT 11:15 A.M.

Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 7. We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m. and welcome the Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall for her first Sunday leading worship as Westminster's Co-Pastor. We will welcome the Westminster Choir and commission Westminster's Educational Leadership.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2024-2025 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service. Do not miss the beginning of a new ministry year and season at Westminster!



## Westminster Staff

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**Braden Barton, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl, Jerry McCullum**  
Part-time Custodians

*Reporter folding and mailing will be on  
Wednesday, September 3 at 12:30 p.m.*