



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Communion Sunday

Renewal of Baptism and Ordination of Officers

11 January 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Prelude

Maurice Greene

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader:

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong.

People:

**Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters.**

Leader:

You sit enthroned above the floods of life.

People:

**As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved.**

All:

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Processional Hymn 490**

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

*Beach Spring*

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful and loving God, You have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling to proclaim the good news in word or deed. We are quick to speak when we ought to listen and remain silent when it is time to speak. We put too much faith in our own actions and fail to trust in the strength of your Spirit. O God, forgive us. Strengthen us anew to follow Christ's way in the in the world. By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need to be more faithful disciples and fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**\*Silent Confession**

*During this silence, worshipers are asked to offer individual prayers of confession.*

**\*Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

**\*Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end, Amen, Amen.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Reading**

Matthew 3:13-17

Pew Bible, NT page 3

**Meditation**

What Does it Mean to be Baptized?

Rev. Dr. Marshall

**Profession of Faith**

Leader: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**People: I do.**

Leader: Who is your Lord and Savior?

**People: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior**

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Leader: Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

**People: I will, with God's help**

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;

from hence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise

## Children's Message

## Baptismal Renewal

## Congregational Response

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

*Children in Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes. Youth in Grades 6-7 will remain in the service for communion.*

## Second Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-14

Pew Bible, NT pages 174

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Meditation

Baptized to Serve

Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

## Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

### The Presentation of Elected Church Officers

*Session:* Sandy Bellatti, George Botanga, Nathaniel Brower, Deb Coontz, Cress Maddox, Sr., Lucy Stafford, Brad Swanson, and Jess Weitzel. Youth Elder: Sam Batterman

*Board of Deacons:* John Addo-Yobo, Maud Essel Addo-Yobo, Andrew Affrunti, Chelsea Ekstedt, Cameron Hudgins, Lisa Metzger, Joyce Matthews, Pete Sherman. Youth Deacon: Macklin Metzger

### Constitutional Questions

*The pastors shall ask the constitutional questions to the elders and deacons.*

### \*Questions to the Congregation

Pastor: Do you, as members of the church, accept these individuals as Elders and Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: **We do.**

Pastor: Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

People: **We do.**

**\*Laying on of Hands**

*The candidates for ordination kneel. Ordained elders are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands.*

**\*Ordination Prayer**

**\*Declaration of  
Ordination and Installation**

**The Presentation of Our Gifts**

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass*

**and Prayer of Dedication**

*the Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew*

**Offertory**

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional

As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down. O sisters, let's go down to the river to pray.

**Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table  
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** At the dawn of time a voice sang out, the stars heard and began to shine... We lift our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*The people sing:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: In time your people heard a new voice: a voice that cried from beside the River Jordan, “prepare the way of the Lord!”... The mystery of faith is great, but we put it into words as best we can:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Let us now join together in the words that Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

*The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*

*Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.*

Communion Music

Meditation

**\*Prayer after Communion**

Living Lord, as we leave this table of grace, to go to other tables and other meals may we always remember the mystery of your love and share your grace with all we meet. Amen.

**\*Hymn 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

*Hear, I am Lord*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Closing Response**

The Lord Bless and Keep You

Dale Rogers

The Lord bless and keep you, May God's presence abide with you,  
Be gracious and kind to you, The Lord give you peace.

**\*Voluntary**

Sortie

Theodore Solomé

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand

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



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
533 S. Walnut St.  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
Phone (217) 522-4415  
<http://www.wpcspi.org>

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Macklin Metzger
- **Acolytes:** Rose DeJong and Caroline Bryans
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** Kate Bryans and Maria DeJong
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Light Wheat Bread and was lovingly prepared Susan Day
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Judy Knox, Jeanne VanGieson, Brinton Wilkey, Greg Swanson, Julie Robbs, Marilyn Rigney, Mary Ray, Sam Batterman, Pat McNutt, Pat Moore, John Cross and Gregg Humphrey.
- **Communion Prep:** Mary Ray (Team Leader), Ann Collins, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Home Communion Delivery:** Judy & Todd Knox, Marilyn Rigney, Krista Steller, Mary Ray, Val Leonatti
- **Greeters:** Dee Dee and Rick Duffy
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Melanie Humphrey, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Maria Lafrenz, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organ
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. Nursery Guild and Sunday School Ministry Partner Meeting**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story. *Caregiver: Erin Winn*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. Youth in Grades 6-7 remain in worship.
  - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "The Wise Men Follow a Star to Find Jesus (Wise Men) *Teachers: Leigh Milward*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Jesus is Baptized" (Matthew 3:13-17) *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Jesus' Baptism" (Matthew 3:13-17) *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** ) An invitation for the congregation to join in a season of prayer and spiritual discernment with training in intentional listening and beginning the WPC mission study. Led by Dr. Marshall and Dr. Berkowitz
- **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Students will gather in the conference room for their next lesson. *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about us is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE** Aaron Berkowitz heads a committee that has catalogued over 200 books using the Library of Congress system. Members are also reorganizing the Children's Library as well as the Ziegler Library and have prepared a cart in the West Narthex with topics from both libraries which are available for check-out. Please stop by to view the cart and select a book.

**ADULT ED FORUM: LISTENING FOR GOD - JANUARY 11 IN PARISH HALL** An invitation for the congregation to join in a season of prayer and spiritual discernment with training in intentional listening and beginning the WPC mission study. Led by Dr. Marshall and Dr. Berkowitz

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCH** will not meet in January.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on Monday, January 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Sue Baker will lead Lesson 5 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

**ANNUAL REPORT DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 AT NOON** It is time to compile the 2025 Elder and Deacon chair reports. Committee chairs have received copies of the 2024 reports to help them prepare reports to be assembled into the Annual Report for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday January 25. Please email completed reports to Jennie Alt ([Jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:Jalt@wpcspi.org)) by Friday, January 16. If you should have questions, please contact the pastor overseeing your committee.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

**BACK TO THE START SERMON SERIES BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 18** Many of us remember the Bible stories we learned as children: Creation, the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Abraham and Sarah. But as adults, these stories invite us to look again, to wrestle with their questions, and to discover deeper truths about God, humanity, and hope. In this series, we return to the book of Genesis to hear these familiar stories with fresh ears; finding that even in our chaos, doubt, and longing, God is still creating, still calling, and still bringing forth new beginnings.

**ADULT ED FORUM: STORIES OF HOPE WITH PRE-1900'S AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC- JANUARY 18 IN PARISH HALL** A class exploring stories of hope as we listen to recently discovered music and their impact on the world today. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on Tuesday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Randy Wiseman will lead Lesson 4 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

## **THE 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST, MONDAY JANUARY 19**



The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual MLK Breakfast hosted by Springfield Frontiers will be held Monday, January 19 - 8:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Westminster will be a Gold Sponsor, donating \$1,500 (\$1,000 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund and \$500 from the Peace and Global Witness collection for local ministry.) Erika Harold, Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, will be the guest speaker. An advocate for civility, ethics, and inclusion, Erika leads the Commission's extensive educational programming focused on advancing professionalism among the state's lawyers and judges to build confidence in the justice system. If you would like to join the Pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org).

**EXPLORATION CLASS - JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1 AT 9:00 A.M.** Visitors and friends who are interested in learning more about the mission and ministry of Westminster are welcome to join us prior to worship on January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. On January 25<sup>th</sup> we will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast, conversation, connection, and exploration about how you might get more involved in the church. For those who would like to join the church, a special meeting will occur on Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with church leadership and a public welcome will be offered during worship at 10:00 a.m.

**APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP- TUESDAY, JANUARY 27** The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, January 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Better Ways to Read the Bible* by Zach W. Lambert. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**MONTHLY SESSION REPORTS** Please email monthly Session reports to Jennie Alt in the church office by second week of the month at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PICTURES** If you have announcements for the bulletin or newsletter or pictures from events you would like to share, please email these to [Communications@wpcspi.org](mailto:Communications@wpcspi.org).

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast that will be served by youth attending the 2026 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission Trip and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship!

**10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

**11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**2025 ANNUAL REPORTS** from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are **due Friday, January 16, 2026 by noon**. Please submit your reports to [jalt@wpcpi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcpi.org). They will be included in the 2025 Annual Report.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM Presbyterian Women Board Meeting  
(Second Floor Classroom)  
1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle

### Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4  
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids  
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters

### Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel  
10:30 AM Worship Planning  
3:30 PM DBSA Group  
4:00 PM Bridges  
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee  
5:00 PM Children's Choir  
5:30 PM Board of Deacons  
5:45 PM Membership Committee

### Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

12:00 PM Library Guild-day work session  
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study  
6:00 PM Library Guild-evening work session  
7:00 PM Choir

### Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM Church Mice

### Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chapel and Classroom)  
Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)  
11:15 AM Fair Trade Sale  
Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)  
Confirmation (Conference Room)

## WESTMINSTER STAFF

**The Reverend Dr. Anne Marshall**  
Pastor and Head of Staff

**The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop**  
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
Parish Associate

**Dale T. Rogers**  
Director of Music and the Arts

**Dr. Aaron Berkowitz**  
Education Coordinator

**Mary A. Ray**  
Director for Youth

**Meleah Berkowitz**  
Director for Children's Ministry,  
Westminster Cooperative Preschool  
and Music Assistant

**Keri Tate, Becky Nika**  
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

**Kara Milward, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

**Ellen Carpenter**  
Parish Nurse

**Pat Hymans**  
Hospitality Coordinator

**Lisa Runkle**  
Financial Administrator

**Jennie Alt**  
Church Administrative Assistant

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

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