



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

December 2020

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m.

Live Stream Worship Service

www.wpcspi.org

Sunday School:

WPConnections

Growing in God's Love

emailed to Families

Children Birth-Grade 5

December 6

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

A Word of Comfort

December 13

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Rev. Christian K. Choi

Who I am Not

December 20

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Luke 1:47-55; Luke 1:26-38

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Much Perplexed

December 27

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40

The Rev. Trajan I. McGill

The Nations Shall See

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 6

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

THE ADVENT WREATH - During the season of Advent, we celebrate this time of waiting and preparing with the lighting of the Advent Wreath by new members. On the Second Sunday of Advent, Confirmand William Andrew Hovey and his parents Christie and Robyn Hovey will light the Advent Candles.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC features tenor, Adam Miller who will sing the opening prologue to Handel's Messiah; Comfort Ye, My People and Every Valley Shall be Exalted.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 13

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

THE ADVENT WREATH - Confirmand Olivia Grace Simonson and her parents Angela and Kevin Simonson will light the Advent Candles.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION will be celebrated.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC features Kamen Petkov who will play the *Benedictus* for violin and organ written by Richard Lloyd Webber.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

CHRISTMAS VESPERS - 4:00 P.M. ONLINE

MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON BY DALE ROGERS, ORGANIST

ADAM MILLER, TENOR KAMEN PETKOV, VIOLIN

ELEANOR VANDEVENTER, SOPRANO

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 20

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

THE ADVENT WREATH - New member Deborah Fritsch and her daughter Tara will light the Advent Candles.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC will be presented by the women's trio, the St. Andrew's Sisters. Among the carols will be *In the Bleak Midwinter*, *Kling Glocken*, *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*, and *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*.

CHRISTMAS EVE - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30 P.M. WESTMINSTER'S CENTENNIAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Continuing the tradition begun in 1920 by Westminster's Christian Endeavor Society, high school seniors will read the Christmas Story and light candles. A vocal quartet has been assembled to sing the carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. At the close of the service, have your bells ready in your homes to ring in the Festival of Christmas.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: DECEMBER 27

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

We will continue the celebration of the twelve days of Christmas as we gather in our homes with reverence and joy.

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

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

Dear Friends,

The staff joins me in wishing you a joyous Advent and a meaningful Christmas. As we begin the Christian calendar anew, we enter this Holy Season with hope, expectation, and a new appreciation for "a time to wait." The good news of effective vaccines and the anticipation of returning to life as we knew it before the pandemic gives us a reason to rejoice. Although we will miss the festive gatherings in December and in-person worship for the Centennial Candlelight Service, we have hope.

Spera in Deo! Hope in God! These are the words with which we begin our advent journey each year. The Latin root for *spera* means to hope or to wait! Linguistically linked, waiting is an integral part of our hoping and without hope it is difficult to wait.

There is a purpose in our waiting. To wait is not a bad consequence. It is not an absence or delay of experience but a deliberate action. Waiting involves the passage of time during which there can be healing, growth, introspection, and resolution. Waiting is also an integral part of human growth and development. It is at the heart of our growing up and our becoming God's children.

As the Kieffer Household begins Advent on the heels of Peter's heart surgery last month, this understanding of the relationship between "to hope" and "to wait" is especially meaningful. As Peter's heart continues to heal in this time of waiting and hoping, both of our hearts are warmed by the steadfast love, prayers, and support we have received from our beloved Westminster family. Thank you, thank you, thank you, best of congregations! Godspeed and love, Blythe



A MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

In person worship has been suspended, except for worship participants and families celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, as we honor the guidelines of the CDC and the Governor.

Weekly messages can be found on the home page of our website. If you have a specific question for us, do not hesitate to reach out on our email: WPCCoronavirus@gmail.com

Ellen Carpenter, RN	Michael Nenaber, MD
Virginia Dolan, MD	Marilyn Rigney, RN
Peter Kieffer, MD	Cara Vasconcelles, MD
Todd Knox, MD	

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Tuesday, December 1 we have received 225 pledges totaling \$746,117. This is 92% of our \$810,000 goal.

If you have not and intend to do so, please pledge ASAP. You may pledge online or contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator at lrunkle@wpccspi.org.

The generosity of this congregation empowers us to share the Gifts of God for the People of God even in uncertain and anxious times.

Nichole Magalis, Chair



MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS VESPERS will be on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m. online and then available on our website. The program will feature organ music based on Christmas Carols from France, the Ukraine, Germany, and England, as well as solos



from Handel's Messiah sung by Adam Miller, tenor, and Eleanor VanDeventer, soprano. Kamen Petkov, violinist, will play the Benedictus of Richard Lloyd Webber (Andrew Lloyd Webber's father) and Jesu Bambino.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT WESTMINSTER went up following the St. Andrew's Celebration in anticipation of the first Sunday in Advent on November 29. Thanks to Carolyn Berning, Linda Chronister, Sue Cull, Priscilla Kluge, Jim Kontio, and Julie McDonough for making the season brighter at Westminster.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS Members and friends are invited to make a donation of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to support Westminster's decoration fund. The music fund assists in providing pipers and drummers for St. Andrews, the Millikin Brass for Easter and other special music through the year. The decoration fund purchases flowers including poinsettias and lilies. **Please submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication for the poinsettias by December 10.**

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR BEGAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

During this unexpected time, a group began the meaningful journey through the Bible on November 1. Without physically gathering members read a portion of Scripture each day and share thoughts and reflections on a private Facebook page. The NRSV Daily Bible: Read, Meditate, and Pray Through the Entire Bible in 365 Days is our text.



Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower, Suzanne Borland, Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Ellen Carpenter, Sophia and Christian Choi, Ann Collins, Deb Coontz, Carol and Dick Cordier, Bill Deemer, Sara Eldridge, Mary Colleen Garrett, Blythe and Peter Kieffer, Beth and Jim Kincaid, Charlie King, Linda Knibbs, Nichole Magalis, Trajan McGill, Meg McGrew, Pat McKenzie, Dale Rogers, Pat Roller, Diane Rutledge, Karen and Andy Sherrick, Krista Steller, Lyle VanDeventer, Kayla and Jess Weitzel.

WPC 2021 PLATINUM SPONSOR

MLK VIRTUAL BREAKFAST ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18

The 46th Annual MLK Breakfast will be virtual in 2021.

WPC is a Platinum Sponsor again in 2021, donating \$1,500 (from the Scholarship Endowment Fund). It is meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality.



FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

YOUTH GROUP DECEMBER GATHERINGS (GRADES 6 -12)

Sunday, December 6, 11:15 a.m.

Junior & Senior High Youth will gather on zoom to look at the gifts that we purchased from Virtual Contact Ministries Christmas Shopping. During this gift-a-thon, we will also share what we are thankful for during Advent/Christmas season.

Sunday, December 20, 11:15 a.m.

Junior and Senior High Youth will have a virtual Christmas party. Please drop off or have your white elephant gift (under \$10) to be directly shipped to church **BEFORE December 16** to participate. Your white elephant gifts will be available for pickup **Monday thru Thursday, December 21-24** from Rev. Choi.

CENTENNIAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This Christmas Eve, we are celebrating Westminster's centennial year of the Candlelight Christmas Eve service.

As many of you already know, it all began in 1920, when twelve high school seniors from the Christian Endeavor Society planned and led a candlelight service during the Christmas season at Westminster. From this simple beginning with twelve red candles on the communion table, the service has grown in beauty and importance for the congregation. Three things have remained the same over the years: the leadership of the high school seniors, the singing of the carols, and the lighting of the candles to represent the Light coming into the world in a manger in Bethlehem.



(Photo from 2014 Christmas Eve)

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are thankful for the wonderful weather that allowed us to enjoy outdoor preschool for all of November! Our love for being outdoors and playing together has grown over the last three months. We've dug rivers, played with rocks and sticks, built block castles and fairy houses, attached a pulley to the playset, and studied all kinds of simple machines and gravity.

Every Thanksgiving, it's a WCP tradition to read and act out the story of Stone Soup because it emphasizes an important lesson that we know well at our co-op preschool. "When everyone works together, wonderful things happen!" Because we could not have our Friendship Feast and perform the story for our parents, we recorded the story and each child reflected on what he/she is thankful for. We think our children in the outdoor videos still captured the spirit of Thanksgiving and community!

WCP Thankful Video on Youtube <https://youtu.be/7PbmVGLuIQE>

WCP 4 Day Class Stone Soup <https://youtu.be/fRNhaMsUTjM>

With Covid numbers on the rise in our area, our Health Safety Team and WCP Board made the decision to move our preschool to remote learning after Thanksgiving. We'll use learning kits, videos, and Zoom calls to keep our children connected and playing in December. As we have mentioned before, we cannot thank WPC enough for all your support and patience during this unusual year. – Emily Rowley

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

SUNDAY SCHOOL GALLERY



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS HIGHLIGHT ADVENT

The **WPConnections** is emailed each Friday and includes a lesson from **Growing in God's Love: A Bible Story Curriculum**, activities, prayers and music. It is designed to be used all at once or over the course of the week as families choose a timeframe that best fits your schedule. Parents are invited to post photos and connect on the private Facebook Page (See Photo Gallery.) If you have not received an invitation to join our WPConnection Facebook Group page, please contact ksherrick@wpcspi.org

The Advent/Christmas supplemental Sunday School workbook for **children in Pre-K through Grade 5** was mailed to each family in November. This includes background info on each Bible story and additional resources for families to build faith traditions around the lighting of the Advent candles.

The beginning of Advent is traditionally marked by a family event at Westminster. Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our children, our Advent Celebration was cancelled. What do you do when you can't bring your families to your celebration? You bring the celebration to your families. We created a Family Advent Kit complete with a pocket Advent wreath, games and crafts for our families to make the weekly lighting of the Advent candles an evening of building fun, faith traditions together. We had 11 families with 35 children in total pick up kits. We are excited to see how you used your kit!



MINISTRY TO INFANTS AND TODDLERS



A Family Worship Booklet and Advent candle kit was mailed to parents of **infants and toddlers in November**. We are also excited to introduce a focused ministry to Westminster's infants and toddlers. Families will receive a weekly email beginning Friday, December 4 (patterned after the WPConnections for our children in Pre-K through Grade 5) which includes the weekly digital curriculum based on *Frolic* by Sparkhouse and tailored for our youngest members. A private Facebook Group Page has been created for families to post photos and communications. We hope this assists in connecting parents of young children to one another and to their faith community during this pandemic.

WESTMINSTER SERVES THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS POLLING PLACE FOR ELECTION



Community members who walked through our doors to vote were invited into our sanctuary for prayer or quiet solitude during this uncertain and anxious time.



LANDSCAPE GUILD PLANTS 420 DUTCH DAFFODIL BULBS



Members of the Landscape Guild planted 420 Dutch daffodil bulbs during the lovely days in the first week of November. Thanks to Linda Chronister, Dr. Scott Day, Bill Deemer, Sue Donels, Ann Hamilton, Keith Hamilton, Jim McDonough, Jeanne Pittman, Dale Rogers, Dr. Diane Rutledge, and Dr. Andy Sherrick. We now are eager to see these clusters of bright yellow flowers in the spring.

SPECTACULAR VIEW OF WESTMINSTER - Thank you to Mark Vasconcelles' engineering firm for this professional photograph.



**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
CELEBRATED ALL SAINTS' DAY NOVEMBER 1 AND
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29**



What a delight to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on All Saints' Day as we honored the lives of the saints who have gone before us and welcomed Jennifer, daughter of Millie and John McNutt into the life of our faith community.

On the First Sunday of Advent new members Kayla and Jess Weitzel led in the Call to Worship and lit the Candle of Hope. Cora Ann, daughter of Erika (Bertucci) and Andrew James joined our family in the Sacrament of Baptism.

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22



Our Scottish Heritage was alive and well on St. Andrew's Sunday thanks to the nimble and lovely dancers, Lisa Runkle and Sammie Zimmer, who performed the Highland Fling and to the skilled pipers, Tom Ogilvy and Steve Scaife.



CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ADOPT A FAMILY: Thanks to the many WPC members who have provided numerous gifts for all nine of the families living in the transitional shelter at Contact Ministries, as well as additional supplies for the common play area used by the children housed there. This year's online signup was a great success! Thanks to **Kathy Germeraad** for coordinating this program. All gifts need to be delivered to the church unwrapped, labeled with the family, recipient, and gift request number, **no later than Sunday, December 6.**



TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex. Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age. This is a program of the Marine Corps Reserve.

THE MITTEN TREE for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. Please deliver donations **by Monday, December 14**, so items can be included in the Contact Ministries distribution. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!

CONTACT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION: this annual event will be hosted by Westminster on **Wednesday, December 16.** Recipients were asked to pre-register, and this year operations will be significantly different than usual, **utilizing the drive-through lane of our new parking lot for curbside delivery of items rather than bringing a large number of people together indoors.** If you can volunteer at this event, please call Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is an annual special collection of the PC(USA). It supports church workers and families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please look among your offering envelopes for those specifically marked to give toward this special fund, and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

THANK YOU WPC FOR BEING A STEADFAST NEIGHBOR!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING - Through the end of November, we received \$405 for this denominational special offering to help address systems of conflict and injustice throughout the world.

BREADLESS BREADLINE SUNDAY - This year members gave \$1,292 for St. John's Breadline, over twice last year's total!

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE - To date we have received \$4,020 to help those affected by this year's record-breaking fire season, storm season, and other disasters.

COMPASS FOR KIDS GROWTH

This year's Compass after-school program has been working to expand their virtual ministry. Thanks to **Jim Bogue, Rance Carpenter, Ann Collins, David Haaker, Lynn McMenamin, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Karen Sherrick, and Olivia Simonson** for their involvement already this year, and to **Dr. Diane Rutledge** for joining the team as well.



HUNGER ACTION TEAM UPDATE



Westminster's new Hunger Action Team met virtually for the first time November 24, with great enthusiasm for bringing our resources to bear on hunger in both practical and strategic ways. They are beginning by surveying the hunger landscape in the Springfield area to

develop a solid picture of efforts and needs that exist here presently. Thanks to **Linda Chronister, Dr. Virginia Dolan, Kathy Germeraad, Pat Hymans, Mary King, Becky Martin, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Tom Owen, Marilyn Rigney, Sue Sawers, Karen Sherrick, Dale Smith, Krista Steller, and Jeanne VanGieson** for taking the lead on this issue.

WPC'S LITTLE PANTRY AT GRAHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thanks to those who continue keeping up our neighborhood micropantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jennie Alt for more details. Reimbursement is available for items purchased, and an assortment of pantry goods is kept at the church in the lower level outside the elevator. Suggestions for specific needs and a link to sign up are on our website.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH DECEMBER MENU - **Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Hash, Oatmeal Packets, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water.** Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola/nutri-grain/breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap*

HELPING HANDS MEAL



Thanks to the **Melanie Green, Pat Hymans, and Krista Steller** families for preparing the meal on November 13. The December 11 meal will be prepared by the **Swanson and Bryans families.** **Meals are needed for all months in 2021!** Please consider taking one or more dates (the 2nd Friday of each month) to prepare and deliver a much-needed dinner for the men at the Helping Hands shelter. Reimbursement is available. Find out more by contacting Rev. Trajan McGill or Jennie Alt at the church office.

EARTH CARE DECEMBER TIP

Amidst the pandemic, we see new challenges for the environment. Consider wearing, cleaning, and reusing two-ply cloth masks to save hundreds of paper masks from the landfill. If your grocery store will only fill plastic bags, save your reusable bags for after the pandemic and recycle those plastic bags right at the grocery. As we shop for Christmas online to avoid crowds, consider a reusable gift – a few dozen, courtesy of a tip from Jay Kennerly, can be found on this page ("Reusable Versions of Things You Use Every Day"): <https://www.rd.com/list/reusable-versions-of-things-use-every-day/>

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

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

K2P4 Mission members will not meet in person until after the holidays. Knitters are encouraged to knit at home, to deliver their knitted items directly to the church office, and to inform Sue Cull of the number and type of items donated. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 622-8657 if you have questions.

ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are invited to join on Zoom **Tuesday, December 15 at 9:30 a.m.** for a **Christmas Social with Lydia Circle**. For those who are not in Lydia Circle and want to receive an email Zoom invitation, email Jennie in the church office at jalt@wpcspi.org.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS DINNER MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Elizabeth Circle will meet via Zoom for the **Christmas Gathering on Monday, December 7**. Those participating are invited to pick up a bagged Christmas meal at Westminster between 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Once your table is set at home and you have poured yourself a glass of wine, **join the zoom link from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.** and enjoy a thirty-minute program of Lyle VanDeventer serenading Elizabeth Circle members.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN will not meet in December.



OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Donations in October were higher than in recent months. They brought the total income up to an amount comparable to what we received at this time last year. Thank you for your faithfulness. Year-to-date expenses are under budget and exceed income by only \$5,164. Contribution statements were mailed in early November.

2020 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 831,866	\$ 867,487	\$-35,621
Expenses	\$-837,030	\$-867,487	\$-30,457
Net Total	\$ -5,164	\$ 0	

YEAR-END 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2020 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. **Be sure any donations for the 2020 tax year are dated 2020 and received no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 4, 2020.**

STOCK DONATIONS TO WPC - Contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, for instructions to make a stock donation and to alert us to look for the stock at our brokerage firm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Springfield Art Association Collective Artist Holiday Sale continues through January 16 in the main (700 N. 4th St.) and new gallery (105 N. 5th). WPC members participating in this sale are Dr. Scott Day, Dr. Roland Folse, Priscilla Kluge, Bob Leffler, and Sue Scaife.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Louise Cragoe celebrates 96 years on December 5.
Dorothy Wire celebrates 91 years on December 11.
Edith Irwin celebrates 97 years on December 14.
Betty Denham celebrates 94 years on December 19.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Olive Mae Swiderski, infant daughter of Natalie and Ed Swiderski will be baptized Sunday, December 20, 2020. Olive's grandparents are Sally Jo and Lawrence Bomke and her uncle is Wolf Bomke.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. John Stahlman died November 15, 2020. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Carrol Stahlman, and to their children Scott Stahlman and Joni Stahlman.

Evelyn N. Jensen died on November 22, 2020 in Springfield. The white rose on the communion table honors her life. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her nephews and their families.

Elder Dr. Elvin G. Zook died November 24, 2020 in Springfield. The white rose on the communion table honors his life. A memorial service celebrating his life will take place after COVID-19. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Sharon, to his daughters, Dr. Tara Bennett and husband Dr. Gregory Bennett, Leigh Krueger and husband James Krueger, Dr. Nicole Sommer and husband Eric Sommer, and to grandchildren Jace Bennett and companion Kaitlin Christensen, Clare Morris and husband Logan Morris, Julia Krueger and fiancé Michael Benjamin, David Krueger, Ethan Sommer, Cort Sommer, and Nola Sommer.

Renee Housel died November 28, 2020 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her son, Dean Housel.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Deb and Dave Coontz on the death of Dave's sister, and to Drew Coontz on the death of his aunt, Sue Argo, on November 19 in Springfield.

Kayla Romack, Lee Romack, Mary Gail and Steve Romack on the death of Kayla's mother, Misty Steffen, on November 22, in Springfield.

Dana and Andrew Affrunti on the death of Andrew's grandmother, and to her great-grandchildren William, Charles, and Charlotte on the death of their great grandmother, Catherine Affrunti, on November 23 in Springfield.

NEW ADDRESS

Suzie and Tom Spada, 3617 Carnoustie Dr., Springfield, IL 62712

Roe Stone, 821 Layla Drive, Fate, TX 75087

CONGRATULATIONS TO

George Preckwinkle on his re-election to the Sangamon County Board in District 5.

Andrew Affrunti for winning his first term as Montgomery State's Attorney.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2020

An email will go out in December asking for 2020 committee reports for the annual report in January.

CELEBRATING MILESTONE MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 DURING WORSHIP

This Sunday, December 6 we will honor our milestone members during worship with a PowerPoint presentation which includes photos spanning the decades.

FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS: Nancy and Rich Canady, Linda and Ed Caupert, Sue Cull, James Hajek, Judy and Dale Huston, Thomas Janeway, Louise and Don Myers, Jeanne Pittman, Judy and Fred Prillaman, Mary Ray, Dr. Will Wright



FIFTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBERS: John Blythe, Gregory Case, Sheila Jones, Vivian Keithley, Ruth Schmitt, H. Dale Smith, Jr., Becky and Lionel Stirrett, Bob Wire

SIXTY-YEAR MEMBERS: Mary Alice Davis and John Thompson

SIXTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBERS: Dee Tozer

SEVENTY-YEAR MEMBER: Margie Dobson and Linda Lee Janus

We also recognize the 50TH ANNIVERSARY of Rance Carpenter's confirmation and Nancy and Lon Scott joining Westminster.

Because we cannot be together, these members will receive a special recognition at the 2021 All Church Cookout hosted by the Kieffers when it is safe to gather.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED TO EDISON ZOHFONYI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 DURING WORSHIP

On Sunday, December 13 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Edison Zohfonyi will be presented \$1,000 to subsidize his tuition from Westminster's Scholarship Fund.



Edison joined WPC in October 2016 by Certificate of Transfer from the Presbyterian Church of Bonaberi, Doualla, Cameroon. Edison won a green card and a work visa in a lottery organized by the United States Embassy through the Diversity Visa Program. He moved to Springfield in May of 2015 leaving behind his parents and siblings. He worked full-time at St. John's and completed his associate degree in Engineering Science from LLCC in May 2019. He attends SIUE in their School of Engineering and plans to graduate December of 2021. His sister, Mervice Alah Abung, moved to the states in 2019 and joined WPC last October. Edison received his first scholarship in July of 2019.

In the past, the scholarships from this fund have been disbursed to Blackburn College and the Springfield Chapter of Frontiers International, Inc. We are delighted to honor one of our members with this scholarship.

PASTORS BEGIN EIGHTH YEAR OF PRAYER MINISTRY

This Advent we began the eighth year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. As we enter into a new cycle of the Christian year, we begin a new cycle of praying for one another. Throughout the year, your pastors gather weekly in the Chancel (sitting with social distancing in the stalls donated by Robert Todd Lincoln) to pray for members and the world.

A letter is mailed three weeks prior to the week members are being lifted in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

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
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The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
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Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians

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