



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

December 2022

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and
Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5
11:15 a.m. Jr. High Confirmation
11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

December 4

ADVENT CELEBRATION SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9a, 12-13
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Tree of Life

December 11

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Unforeseen Joy

December 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
God will Honor it

December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 9:2,6-7; Luke 2:1-7
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Sacred Journey

ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

THE ADVENT WREATH

We began the Season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing, on Sunday, November 27 with the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Thank you to new members: Mark Luttrell, Vonnie Hinesley, Dr. Roy Wehrle, Georgina Hudspeth, Glenna Kniss, Ann Kelson, Dr. Vena Long, Mary and Coleman Moore for leading us in this Westminster tradition this year.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 4

HANGING OF THE GREENS MUSICAL PRESENTATION - The morning includes a special musical presentation of the “Hanging of the Greens” by Westminster Choristers (Grades 3-5) and the Children’s Choir (Grades K-2) under the direction of Katie Moore, Director for Children’s Music during the worship service.

ADVENT CELEBRATION - A reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, the creating of ornaments, the preparing of paperwhite bulbs, and the decorating of Christmas cookies. Children who were not in Sunday School on November 27 will have the opportunity to create an advent wreath for home.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 11

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION will be celebrated during worship.

CHRISTMAS VESPERS

4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

On Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Westminster’s Christmas Vespers program will include choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew’s Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist. Vespers will include the seasonal music of Willan, Lloyd Webber, Forrest, Thiman, Walmisley, Chilcott, and choral settings of Christmas Carols.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

Following the Children’s Sermon, the Sunday school classes will come together to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will then join us in worship as they process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS

Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster’s decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias. You may send a check or go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate. Donations of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund are also accepted at this time. Please submit your donations with your desired wording and dedications by Monday, December 12. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Dear Friends,

St. Andrew's Sunday was a festive culmination of the Christian calendar year for the Westminster family as 200 members and friends gathered for worship. The bagpipers brought us back to our Scottish roots and the children's sermon featured The Highland Reel danced by Financial Administrator, Lisa Runkle, Augusta Harris-Patel, and Olivia Hawley. The anthem "Deep Peace" is a Celtic blessing whose rich harmony washed over all of us with comfort, solace, and strength. The Scripture readings and sermon challenged our understanding of power and invited us to ponder the paradox of the crucifixion. Jesus is a Messiah who saves others by not saving himself.

As we begin the Christian calendar anew, we enter this Holy Season with hope and expectation. The staff joins me in wishing you a joyous Advent and a meaningful Christmas. Sometimes it is difficult to conceive how it is that the One who created the ends of the earth would join us in our humanity and embrace us in a love beyond our understanding. Music will nourish our spirits as we contemplate the wonder of our faith, the gift of our children, and the story that never grows old.

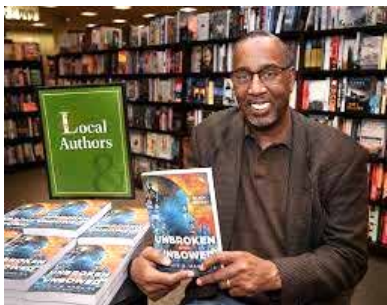
NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

New members will be recognized in worship on December 11 after being received at a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library.



WESTMINSTER WELCOMES REV. JIMMIE HAWKINS MLK SUNDAY, JANUARY 15



On MLK Sunday, January 15, the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins will preach and present a workshop following worship in Parish Hall. Rev. Hawkins serves as the Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC); a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, VA); and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center/Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Atlanta, GA).

For twenty years Rev. Hawkins served as the pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC, 1996-2016. Between 1992-1996, he served as the senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Holmes Memorial and Trinity Presbyterian Churches in Virginia (Peaks Presbytery).

Rev. Hawkins served as Treasurer on the Church World Service global board and as a board member of the National Council of Churches. He was a board trustee with Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is a tri-chair of the Washington Interreligious Staff Community and the Heads of Washington Offices. He has chaired several interfaith/ecumenical and non-profit boards.

His book, Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America, published by Westminster John Knox Press, came out in February 2022.

We are grateful for his good work on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and anticipate our time together with great joy as we honor the ministry and life of the Rev. Dr. King.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR present the "Hanging of the Greens" Sunday, December 4 during worship with explanations of the meaning of Christmas evergreens interspersed with Carols. We are delighted to welcome the leadership of Katie Moore, Director for Children's Music, who joined our staff in October.

WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS VESPERS will be on Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. The program will include choral music and Carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist and feature the seasonal music of Willan, Lloyd Webber, Forrest, Thiman, Walmisley, Chilcott, and choral settings of Christmas Carols.

CHURCH MICE (infant through age 4) meet Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce our youngest children to music and to one another as friendships blossom. Church Mice resumes in January. Mae Volle and Everard Carlson-Eastvold are pictured making a connection in class.



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

NO ROOM AT THE INN: HOMELESS MINISTRIES SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 11, 18

This Advent, the Adult Ed Forum is highlighting ministries Westminster supports who serve the homeless in Springfield. The class meets Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.

On **Sunday, December 11** we welcome **Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup, Executive Director for Wooden It Be Lovely**. WPC made a \$49,000 pledge over seven years beginning in 2021 to their "Be Lovely Home," another component of the ministry Rev. Jessup began at Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church in 2013. The residence at 801 S. Grand Ave. was always part of Rev. Jessup's vision for this non-profit organization, where women recovering from forms of addiction, poverty or abuse are given jobs refurbishing furniture, sewing, or making candles.



On **Sunday, December 18** we welcome **Susan Carrigan, Community Outreach Manager, Habitat for Humanity** who will partner with Dr. Todd Knox in presenting the impetus, inspiration, and specifics for the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat House.

We will also welcome and meet Paris and James Capler and their children, who will make 626 S. Glenwood their home. You can find their photo



and bio on page six of this Reporter. Along with the presentation, participants will enjoy festive snacks as we celebrate the beginning of our journey together.

The tentative **BLITZ WEEK** dates are **March 27-April 1**. Mark your calendar as we collaborate with this family in building their future home. Plan to be flexible as these dates are weather dependent.

YOUTH MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi



Senior High Youth Group enjoy dinner prepared by Nichole Magalis on Sunday, November 6.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration: Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the youth are invited to Parish Hall for cookie-decorating, ornament-making, holiday brunch, and caroling!

12:30 p.m. Contact Ministries Christmas Shopping: Following the Advent Celebration, join us to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary) The Confirmation Class will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party: The Junior and Senior High youth are invited to the Pounds' home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a holiday potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift (maximum of \$15).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:00 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary) The Confirmation Class will gather after worship for a second rehearsal, this time with the children's participation.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seniors rehearse for the Service of Lessons and Carols (Youth Room and Sanctuary) Our seniors will gather in the Youth Room at 11:15 a.m. to review readings and move to the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. Confirmands meet for Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary) Junior High youth will lead the children in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service. Please arrive by 4:00 p.m. and gather in the Chancel for a final rehearsal and sound check.

7:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols (East Narthex)

High school seniors gather in the East Narthex to robe and prepare to lead the Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. **Bring your bells to ring for the final hymn!**



Junior and Seniors participating in the 2021 Lessons & Carols.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BRIDGES COLLABORATE

The children of Westminster have a unique opportunity to bring Christmas cheer and share the Gospel through our words and deeds this holiday season. In our Sunday school classroom and in our Bridges mid-week class, we will create Christmas decorations for the Capler family with whom we are collaborating to build a Habitat home at 626 S. Glenwood and for the Burmese refugee family living near Chicago whom we co-sponsored with Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston. We are excited to grow in the care and understanding of our neighbors, near and far.



Bridges pictured following their Friendship Feast.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 P.M.

All our children are invited to participate in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as the confirmands read the Christmas story. Children will be shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated Junior High leader. Children ages three and under are invited to be lambs.

Children are invited to a walk-through rehearsal on Sunday, December 18, 11:00 a.m. – 12 noon in the Sanctuary.

Children need to arrive on Saturday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. and gather in the Second Floor Classroom, where they will receive a costume and be given instructions if they missed the rehearsal on December 18.

Please complete and return the postcard included in the Advent mailing to Karen Sherrick no later than Sunday, December 11 to let us know if your children are joining us and their preferred parts. We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating this Holy Season! If you have questions, contact Karen Sherrick (ksherrick@wpcspi.org).

WCP PRESCHOOL FRIENDSHIP FEAST



Each year in November at our Friendship Feast, we act out the story of Stone Soup for our parents because it contains an important lesson exemplified by our preschool. "When everyone works together, wonderful things happen!" It is always great when we gather together and celebrate our friendships. – Emily Rowley

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM – NOVEMBER 9



Westminster welcomed over 60 children, youth, and parents on November 9 with a focus on the Creation Story in each of our faiths. We agreed the Earth also needs a Sabbath and discussed ways to pack an environmentally friendly lunch, including decorating cloth napkins to replace paper napkins.



BAY WEEKEND – NOVEMBER 12-13



The Bay Weekend was fun and meaningful. Over 50 members gathered at the Knox Home to welcome Dr. Rogers Smith. Highlights of the evening included a rendition of the Temptations "My Girl" dedicated to Betty Smith and a meeting of three political scientists: Rogers with Dr. Naomi Lynn and Dr. Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold. Over 100 members gathered on Sunday to hear Rogers compelling message on Race and Religion and enjoy a meal together. Rogers is pictured with his brothers, Dale, Chris, and Andy.



CONCORDIA COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCH – NOVEMBER 17



ST. ANDREWS AND CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 20



THANKSGIVING TURKEY AND HAM DISTRIBUTION – NOVEMBER 21



November was a month of communion (breaking bread together), celebratory worship (honoring our Scottish heritage), and partnership (sharing God's bounty with our neighbors).

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi
MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ADOPT A FAMILY: This year, Westminster is sponsoring seven families in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, providing Christmas gifts as they work their way toward independence. Each family has a **Wishlist online and a link can be found on www.wpcspi.org**. Check to see if there are any remaining items to purchase. All gifts need to be at the church by **December 4** and can be placed under the Christmas tree in the elevator lobby. Please contact Jennie Alt with questions.



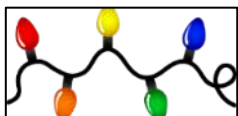
TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex. Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age through January 1. This is a program of the Marine Corps Reserve.

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 and can be collected through January 1.

CONTACT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION: will be held for the first time at Contact Ministries Headquarters (1100 E Adams St.) on Wednesday, December 14. Westminster hosted the event for 32 years. If you can serve at this event, please call their office 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 it funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please look among your offering envelopes for those specifically marked or on our website to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

DECEMBER EARTH CARE TIP



CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING - Last year's Christmas tree lights don't work? If simply replacing a bulb or fuse doesn't solve the problem, reclaim valuable copper, plastic, and glass by recycling them (without bags or boxes) in the top bin at the southwest corner of Westminster's West Narthex. Consider purchasing more efficient LED lights! - Dr. Peter Kieffer

HUNGER ACTION

HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Nancy Canady and Cathy Allen for preparing the November 11 meal. They are pictured with Bill Allen, a Marine Corps Veteran. The December 9 meal will be prepared by Ann Collins, Judi Mier, Betsy Ruklick, and Sue Sawers. All dates in 2023 are available and the link to sign up can be found at www.wpcspi.org.



SALVATION ARMY WARMING CENTER - Thank you to Kathy Germeraad, Marilyn Rigney, Sue Scaife, Sue Sawers, Krista Steller, and Jeanne VanGieson for preparing the November 23 meal. The next meal will be prepped on December 28. Please contact

Krista Steller ksteller@wpcspi.org to participate.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please check SignUpGenius (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>) for open dates in November.

BREADLESS BREADLINE SUNDAY - We collected \$586 for St. John's Breadline. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH DECEMBER MENU

Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Hash, Oatmeal Packets, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/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 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Do you need sweet treats for stocking stuffers? On Sunday, December 4, following worship, Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold in West Narthex. Thank you to Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson for leading this ministry.



INTRODUCING THE CAPLER FAMILY:

FUTURE HOMEOWNERS OF 626 S. GLENWOOD

When Paris Capler received the call from Habitat for Humanity, it meant that she and her husband, James, would be able to move their family into a bigger home with room for everyone. Paris and James Capler have four daughters, Cieara, 17, Laparriona, 14, Aaleeviah, 10 and Jami'ona, 5, as well as two stepsons, James, 15 and Jamo, 9. Paris is employed as a nurse's assistant and James does landscaping. Once they move into their house and the family is settled, Paris plans to go back to school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse.

The Caplers are already participating in homeowner education classes and have been able to work toward their required 400 volunteer hours, between their regular work schedule and family responsibilities. Working with their Habitat Nurturer, they found a suitable lot in Springfield in a central location, near family. "I keep driving by that lot to look at it," Paris shared with excitement.

The tentative **BLITZ WEEK** dates are **March 27-April 1**. Mark your calendar as we collaborate with this family in building their future home. Plan to be flexible as these dates are weather dependent.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Knox (2004 Mary Knoll Pl, 62704). Jeanne VanGieson will lead Lesson 3 "Sabbath and Sunday."

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, December 12, 1:00 p.m. at the home of Eleanor VanDeventer (1811 Plover Rd, 62711). Eleanor will lead Lesson 4 "Sabbath and Surrender."

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, December 20, 12 Noon for a Christmas luncheon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE HOSTS CHRISTMAS TEA

Women and their guests will gather Friday, December 2, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. to enjoy an afternoon of tea, sandwiches, salads, and desserts at the Village Tea Room with a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters, accompanied by Dale Rogers.



KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. A Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 6 will be held at noon in Parish Hall. Knitters will knit at home December 27 and January 3. Questions-call Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Presbyterian Men gather Thursday, December 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall for devotional, breakfast, and a program. Chris Disler of the Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission will speak on the history and mission of BGFM. Jim Dolan will provide breakfast and Dr. Roy Wehrle will bring the devotion. RSVP to the church office or at www.wpcspi.org.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

DMA Fellowship will resume in March 2023.

WESTMINSTER 2022 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The first draft of the 2022 Church Directory has been reviewed and corrected. We still anticipate it will be available for those who were photographed at the Annual Meeting in January. It will serve as a visual reminder of our activities since the last pictorial directory was printed in 2018. In addition, it provides an updated roster of our members. Thank you to Krista Steller and Jennie Alt for their diligence in completing the directory.

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION UPDATE

As of Wednesday, November 30 we have received **212** pledges for a total of **\$780,224**. This is **92%** toward our \$848,800 goal. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.



2023 Stewardship Campaign Committee: Brownie Anderson, Becky Huston, Jay Kennerly, Julie McDonough, Kate Morthland, Greg Swanson, Brinton Wilkey, Bob Zervas, and Robyn Hovey, Chair

YEAR-END 2022 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 their 2022 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 2022 tax year are dated 2022 and received no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Louise Cragoe celebrates 98 years on December 5.

Dorothy Wire celebrates 93 years on December 11.

Edith Irwin celebrates 99 years on December 14.

Joanne Roderick celebrates 90 on December 21.

Elsie & Bob Fox celebrate 61 years on December 23.

WEDDINGS

Meredith Elzea and Ike Mor were married June 10, 2022 in Puerto Escondido, Mexico. Meredith is the daughter of Chris and Butch Elzea.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Anne Singleton died November 14 in Asheville, North Carolina. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to her husband, Dr. Jim Singleton, their sons James, John, and Patrick, grandchildren, Jessie, Phil, May, Gloria, and Roo, and great-grandchildren, Hank and Walter. A Memorial Service will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Tom Owen and Deb Boeker on the death of Deb's father, Floyd Peter Olesen, Jr. on November 10.

Drs. Todd and Judy Knox on the death of Todd's uncle, to Greg Knox, Dr. Natalie Knox Heater (husband Zach), and Matthew Knox on the death of their great-uncle, and to Neva Knox on the death of her brother-in-law, Dean Knox, on November 12 in Tallahassee, Florida.

Norma and Frank Adams-Johnson on the death of Norma's brother, Bill Wilmert, on November 20 in Lebanon, TN.

Krista and Brad Steller on the death of Brad's mother, to Erin Schey (husband Mike) and Elizabeth Knoedler (husband Joe) on the death of their grandmother and to Jackson and Stella Schey, Brice and Camille Knoedler on the death of their great-grandmother, Mary Claire Steller, on November 22 in Springfield.

Rev. Gerald and Judy Boutelle on the death of Jerry's sister-in-law and brother, to Lindsay and Gregory Boutelle on the death of their aunt and uncle, and to Brooke and Juliet Boutelle on the death of their great aunt and great uncle, Margaret Boutelle on November 23 and Richard Boutelle on November 24 in Bloomington, MN.

NEW ADDRESS

Pat Shafer, 2320 Peppermill Pointe Ct, Springfield, IL 62712

Sarah Graham, 1904 S. Douglas Ave, Springfield, IL 62704

Bob Pyle, 1009, Bonnie Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Donations in October were higher than in recent months and brought total income above the amount received at this time last year. Thank you to those who donated. Year-to-date expenses are under budget, although they exceed income by \$18,418. Please contact Lisa if you have any questions about year-end donations.

2022 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 831,550	\$ 853,148	\$ -21,597
Expenses	\$-849,968	\$-853,148	\$ - 3,179
Net Total	\$ -18,418	\$ 0	

STOCK DONATIONS Please contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, for instructions to make a stock donation and to alert us to watch for the transfer at our brokerage firm.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class of 2023 will read the Christmas story; Mervice Alah Abung and her daughter Dayana will be our Holy Family, and the children will participate as shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Your child can arrive at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume and instructions or participate as a leader and attend practice on Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Don't miss this special event which includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, vegetable, garden salad, cheesy potatoes, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$21.50, children 6-12 are \$12.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. **Reservations and payment must be made no later than Tuesday, December 20.** Please send your payment and number attending to the Church Office. Reservation forms will be in the bulletins on December 4, 11 and 18.

7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our High School seniors will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the Highest) the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

*SO BRING YOUR SILVER BELLS, BRASS BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS, AND EVEN COW BELLS*

TO THIS SERVICE AND BE PREPARED TO RING OUT IN PEALS OF JOY!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SERVICE

The Westminster family will gather for a joyful celebration of Christmas Day. Worship will include a brief meditation, the singing of favorite Christmas carols, and special music. Childcare will be provided; however, Sunday School will not be held.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 A.M. NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

On New Year's Day, we will gather for one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. and partake in the Sacrament of Communion. Childcare will be provided and a combined Sunday School class presents "A Refugee Family," Matthew 2:13-23.

PASTORS BEGIN TENTH YEAR OF PRAYER MINISTRY

This Advent we began the tenth 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 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 Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

Katie L. Moore
Director for Children's Music
kkiduski@gmail.com

Karen H. Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
keri@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
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Pat Hymans
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alnpat5@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
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Jennie Alt
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jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

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

Church Offices closed on December 23 (at noon) and on December 26. Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, December 28.