

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February
2026

Come Join Us!
Sundays At 10:00 a.m.
In-person or Livestream

www.wpcspi.org

Watch us on our
YouTube Channel -
Westminster Presbyterian
Church Springfield IL

February 1
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Genesis 2-3
Back to the Start: Things Fall Apart
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

February 8
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
MISSION SUNDAY
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
Genesis 11:1-9
Back to Start: Noah's Ark
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

February 15
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Genesis 11:30-12:9; Matthew 28:16-20
Back to Start: Abraham and Sarah
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

February 22
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
What Do You Mean By That?
Temptation
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

See page 7 for new sermon
series information.

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 8

LET THE DOOR OF THIS CONGREGATION BE A WAY TO SERVICE

On Sunday, February 8, Westminster mission will be highlighted during worship. This is the ninth Mission Sunday which began in 2016. A booklet including a comprehensive list of the 2025 mission supported by Westminster and the members of the committees who serve will be distributed.

The total Mission Giving for 2025 is **\$314,862**. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

THEME: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? FASTING

5:30 P.M. ALL CHURCH DINNER IN PARISH HALL
6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including:

- Liturgy and music presented by Bridges children and Children's Choir
- Meditation by Rev. Bishop
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

BEATITUDES: LENT AT HOME STUDY

Each week our entire church family will receive a card and/or email with a devotional around the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. The devotional card will have a scripture, artwork, reflection questions and a prayer. There is also an invitation for creative art practice. Our Beatitudes Lent At Home Study is for all ages and all definitions of family. A card will be available each week next to bulletins on Sundays as well as through the weekly email. To download the entire set now, scan the QR code on page 3.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE

During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

LENTEN GIVING

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

A **Lenten Coat Drive** will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and be donated to Contact Ministries.

FROM THE PASTOR

What is a Mission Study?

Typically, during a pastoral transition, the Presbytery invites congregations into a period of self-study to reflect on who they are, who their neighbor is, and how God may be calling them forward to engage in mission and ministry in the future. The PNC did an abbreviated process to help put together a profile that ultimately led to hiring me as Pastor and Head of Staff. However, because Westminster had a Co-Pastor Transition, and not an interim pastor tasked with helping the congregation complete a full mission study, the Presbytery has asked that I help guide Westminster through a fuller self-study as I begin my ministry with you.



Mission Study Process

Phase 1 Listening- to God and others.

Phase 2 Asset Mapping- What resources do we already have in place? What is going well, or working partially? How can we build off what is already at place in Westminster?

Phase 3 Matching what we heard from listening with our current resources or assets to determine the lowest hanging fruit or the easiest places to expand our ministry.

Phase 4 Setting Priorities- working with Strategic Planning and Session to determine what areas of opportunity we want to focus on first.

Phase 5 Needs Assessment- Is there anything we are missing that would allow us to better meet our goals and how might we fill those needs?

Current Phase- Phase 1

Listening to God: Please join us in a season of prayer for the church.

- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in the process.
- Pray that our hearts, minds, and ears would be open to where God is leading us.
- Pray that we might strengthen our relationships within the congregation, with the Springfield community, and with those who may be in need of a new church home.

Listening to our neighbors and those who might help us better understand how to strengthen our outreach.

During the month of February, we are inviting as many members of Westminster as possible to participate in one-on-one conversations that may help us gain insight.

- With current families with children who attend Westminster.
- With friends, neighbors, or family members (children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, etc.) who either live in Springfield or other locations who can share their experience of what it is like to be a young adult or young families raising children so that we can better understand their lives, interests, and needs which may direct us in how we can enhance our ministry to young people.
- With neighbors who live near the church building itself. What is their experience of the neighborhood? What are their hopes and needs? Are there ways we can build upon our Steadfast Neighbor Initiative to deepen our relationships and support our neighborhood even more?
- Our Mission partners. What can the agencies we support through our current mission efforts tell us about Springfield and how we might develop stronger partnerships to meet the particular needs of the community.

If you would like instruction on how to carry out one-on-one conversations, please let Pastor Anne know. We also have conversation guides available.

If you attended our Officer Retreat and/or the January 11th Adult Education Forum and have already signed up to participate in one-on-one conversations, please try to submit your responses to Pastor Anne by **March 1st** so that Strategic Planning can begin compiling responses and looking for common themes.

Throughout the process, the Membership Committee will start a membership roll review to determine who on our rolls is still actively participating in our ministry, who we might reach out to re-engage with our ministry, and who might have moved to new locations and/or new churches and should be released from our roles. Personnel and our Fiscal Committee are also looking at our staffing model and finances in assessing our readiness to start an APNC for Parish Life search.

Ministries have also been encouraged to try our new ideas or make small tweaks to what they do and pay attention to what is working or not in each area of ministry.

We will continue to provide opportunities to share with the congregation about what we are learning.

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah Bishop

YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who enjoyed the Egg-tastic Breakfast in support of the 2026 Youth Mission Trip on our re-scheduled Sunday, February 1. We are grateful for Pat Hymans and her team and those youth attending the mission trip who served. Stay tuned for an update on funds raised toward the Mission Trip.

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Help us tackle hunger in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship on Sunday, February 8.



JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP meets during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) on Sundays, February 15 and February 22 as they continue their exploration of the Old Testament.

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION meets following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) on Sundays, February 15 and 22.

Confirmation enjoyed brunch with their Mentors on Saturday, January 24. **Mentors:** Lucy Bassett/Melanie Green, Harper Huston/Christy Pound, Reese Huston/Dee Dee Duffy, Lily Swanson/Katie Carlson-Eastvold.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Senior High youth meet Sunday, **February 1 and 22**, in Parish Hall for their continued lesson on *What is a Disciple of Jesus?* February 1 meal to be provided by **Tanya DeSanto and Craig Batterman**. Meal on February 22 is provided by **Beth and Tad Allen**.

Eighth graders (especially those attending the 2026 Mission Trip) are invited to participate as we build community in preparation for our mission adventure. Leaders: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Mary Ray and Jack Sherrick.

JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Junior High youth meet **Wednesday February 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room and continue our study on the Bible. Meal to be provided by **Maud Essel and John Addo-Yobo**.

Leaders: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower, Tara Fritsch, and Mary Ray

YOUTH MISSION TO CHARLESTON, SC 2026

SATURDAY, JULY 11 – SATURDAY, JULY 18

MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

All youth and adults interested in attending the 2026 Mission Trip are invited to an informational meeting on **Sunday, February 8 at 11:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. During our meeting we will learn more about our mission site, Charleston, SC and working with Charleston Youth Mission.

Be sure to complete the Intent to Participate forms, for youth as well as adults, and submit a \$100.00 deposit for this exciting week of service, care, and education. Forms and deposits are due by March 3.

SUNDAY YOUTH SCHEDULE

10:15 a.m. Grade 6 -7 Confirmation – Conference Room
11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation – Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group – Bi-monthly

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BY MELEAH BERKOWITZ

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

Children of Bridges (Grades 3-5) enjoyed time together with their Advocates on January 14, learning about Daniel in the lion's den, and talking about God's faithfulness. May they keep their lights shining! Our Bridges Advocates are Krista Steller, Julie Robbs, Ellen Carpenter, Todd Knox, Pete VanGeison, Cathy Brower, Lyle Vandeventer, Steve Wright, and George Botanga. In February, they will continue learning the stories of the Old Testament, with lots of activities and art along the way! They are also preparing to lead worship on Ash Wednesday.

LENTEN FAMILY DEVOTIONS AND ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING CALENDARS

Children and Families please be on the lookout for this year's Lenten mailing which will arrive the week of February 9 in preparation for Ash Wednesday, February 8. This year's Lenten Family Devotion will include a weekly Beatitudes at Home devotion with art as well as the OGHs calendars and Fish boxes. Begin your Lenten journey by weekly gathering around the artwork, scripture and share in the reflection materials. There are also opportunities to create your own family art then closing in prayer. To download a copy now, scan this QR code to see the entire devotional.



TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

GATHERS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the next gathering of Children of Abraham on **Wednesday, February 4, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** at the Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capital

Ave.). This year's theme is "strength in diversity." Join us as we explore the diversity within each of our faiths and the strength it brings to each.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

A group of intrepid adventurers have been meeting with Dungeon Master Aaron Berkowitz on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings in the Ziegler Library to explore the 1st century AD ancient Near East. They recently finished a quest in ancient Nineveh and Teredon inspired by the deuterocanonical Book of Tobit. They recently acquired their own ship and are about to set sail from the Persian Gulf. If you are interested in joining in, contact Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

POKÉMON CLUB

The Pokémon Club meets with Aaron Berkowitz Sunday, **February 22, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** in the Children's Library. All children and young at heart are welcome. No experience necessary and all supplies will be on hand.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

WCP is looking for some classroom assistants from the church!

We are needing adults who would be willing to volunteer as assistants in our afternoon classes. Class meets Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3:00p.m. Any days you can help would be appreciated! Contact Meleah Berkowitz for more information if you are interested in joining in the fun!

SUNDAY CHILDREN SCHEDULE

9:45 a.m. Nursery for Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Sunday School follows the Children's Sermon for ages Preschool - Grade 5

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN JANUARY



CONFIRMATION CLASS 2026 AND MENTORS BRUNCH



While the winter weather canceled some activities this January, you can never get enough Christmas warmth to carry you through! Enjoy a few more of the Christmas joy from our Children's Pageant Christmas Eve service

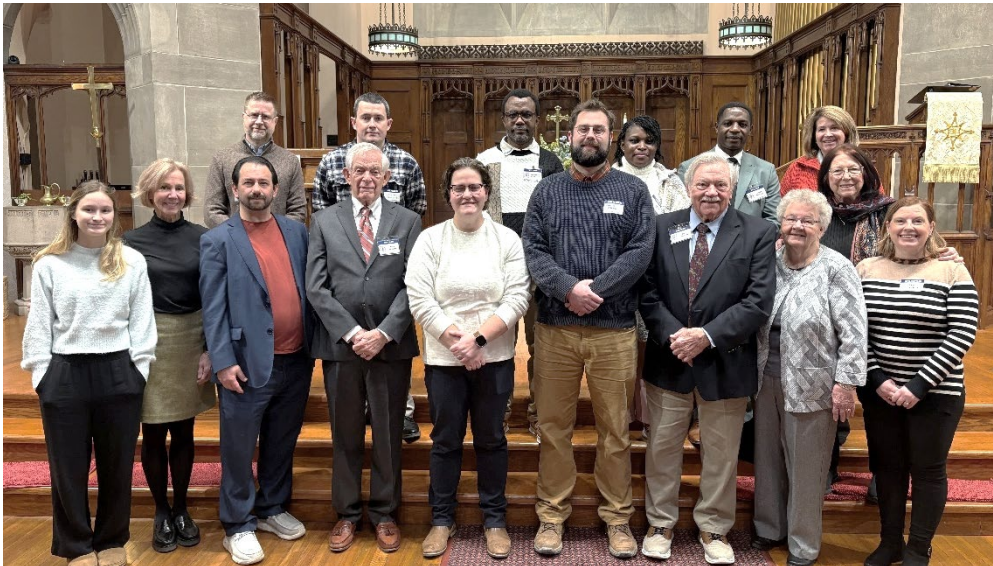
Mr. Rogers working with the Children's Choir which goes from Kindergarten to 5th Grade on Wednesday evenings.

Rev. Sarah attended the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educator's Annual Event in Pittsburgh, PA as continuing education January 21-24 meeting some PC(USA) Giving Catalog goats – up close and personal with the children's offering selection for this year!

Our Confirmation Class 2026, Lucy Bassett, Reese and Harper Huston and Lily Swanson enjoyed brunch with their Mentors, Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dee Dee Duffy, Melanie Green and Christy Pound on Saturday, January 24 at Papo's. A special thanks to Mary Ray who arranged this special meal together.



CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT, ORDINATION & INSTALLATION



The Church Officer retreat was held on Saturday, January 10. On Sunday, January 11, the Elder and Deacon Class of 2028 was installed. We are excited for all of the ways this class will help lead within WPC. Thank you for volunteering to serve.

Back Row: Pete Sherman, Cameron Hudgins, John Addo-Yobo, Maud Essel, George Botanga, Lucy Stafford

Front Row: Mack Metzger, Lisa Metzger, Andrew Affrunti, Brad Swanson, Jess Weitzel, Nathaniel Brower, Cress Maddox, Joyce Matthews, and Chelsea Ekstedt.

WESTMINSTER HONORS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Westminster Presbyterian Church joined the Springfield community at the Frontier's Club 51st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast as a Sponsor. Thanks to Linda Cox, Mary Caroline and David Mitchell, Angie, Todd and Maria Lafrenz, and Steve Vollmer joined Pastors Anne and Sarah for a lovely morning.

LIBRARY GUILD HARD AT WORK!



This year the Library acquired a new digital cataloging system, and we are in the process of processing, cataloging, and reshelving all the books in both of the libraries. We appreciate the work of Aaron & Meleah Berkowitz who chair this work of love, along with Lindsay Boutelle, Nancy Canedy, Ellen Carpenter, Mary Alice Davis, Judy Mier, and Mary Peura.

FAIR TRADE SALES



Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson took over our Fair Trade Sales in 2019. We appreciate all of their hard work over the years. It's time to find someone new to lead this ministry. If you should have any questions or interest, please feel free to talk with Jeanne or Becky or one of the pastors.

PARISH LIFE NEWS

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 8

On Sunday, February 8, mission will be highlighted. Thanks to all in the WPC members who contribute time, effort, donations, and expertise to the church's mission. A comprehensive list of the 2025 mission supported by Westminster will be available.

Please note highlights of 2025 mission disbursements from the Endowment Fund and Operating Fund.

HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER

HELPING HANDS LUNCH PREPARED

Members of Westminster's Hunger Action Team met Friday, January 9 to prepare bagged lunches that were delivered to Helping Hands Shelter. Kris Gates, Judy Huston, Pat Hymans, Mary King, Becky Martin, Judy Prillaman, Sue Sawers, and Jeanne Van Gieson prepared and delivered the lunches.

On Wednesday, January 28 Pat Hymans and Krista Steller prepared a hot meal serving 70 consisting of pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, green beans and sugar cookies.

Westminster has committed to continue providing one hot meal and one bagged lunch per month in 2026.

Join the many Westminster members who share responsibility for filling the **Graham School Little Pantry**. Signup is on the website or this QR code.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH FEBRUARY MENU

Canned soups with pop tops, peanut butter, boxed crackers, applesauce, toothpaste and brushes, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, and travel sized deodorant. (No baby food, please.)

FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Join us on Sunday, February 15. Come check out our chocolate and other Equal Exchange items following worship! Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson continue to oversee these sales and will assist other members interested in being part of this ministry.



FEBRUARY EARTH CARE TIP

It's still cold outside, but seed catalogs are arriving, or have arrived, in our mail. It's fun to think about the vegetables and flowers we can plant in our gardens. Yummy tomatoes, green beans, lettuce, or whatever you enjoy, there are lots of choices. When thinking about what to plant, especially flowers, opt for native plants. Natives often need less water (a plus during a hot, dry summer), do well without fertilizer, and attract and support many pollinators. The Illinois Native Plant Society and Lincoln Memorial Garden hold plant sales where a wide variety of both sun-loving and woodland plants are sold.

Susan Shaw, Earth Care Committee



2026 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH

The dates for next year's neighborhood outreach are **June 22-26**. Once again, we will assist with exterior repair and improvement projects. Please consider joining us for one or more days of the fourth week of June as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood! If you are interested, contact Todd Knox at hardknox1@mac.com.

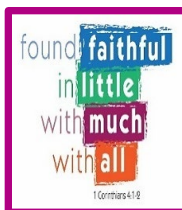
CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive Communion at home on February 8, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to those who made visits to twelve shut-in members on January 11.

ARE YOU INTERESTED? – Have you ever considered serving home communion? Would you like more information on how to serve home communion? Please contact Rev. Sarah Bishop by phone or email (sbishop@wpcspi.org) with questions. We would love to have you!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, February 1 with Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter.

2026 STEWARDSHIP GOAL SURPASSED



We have received 210 pledges to date totaling \$896,085 which is 3% above 2026 Found Faithful Stewardship Campaign goal of \$871,000 goal. We will include this pledge amount in our \$1,186,800 balanced budget for 2026. Thank you to all who pledged and to the 2026 Stewardship Committee: Julie Robbs,

Chair, Linda Andrews, Adam Ekstedt, Joe Fierstos, Claudia Nash, Linda Purves, Jeanne Van Gieson, Sarah Zerfas.

2025 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT BY LISA RUNKLE

Thank you to those who completed their pledge or made donations this year to further the ministry of Christ at Westminster. The Operating Fund ended the year with expenses exceeding income by \$92,534. This was as a result of lower than expected contribution income and additional expenses for the staff transition, replacement of the unexpected failure of some computer equipment and lawn tractor, in addition to higher snow removal expenses. Total income was under budget by \$15,430, and total expenses were over budget by \$77,104.

2025 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,134,470	\$ 1,149,900	\$ -15,430
Expenses	\$ -1,227,004	\$ -1,149,900	\$ 77,104
Net Total	\$ -92,534	\$ 0	

2025 SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT PLAN: The year-end market value of the Plan assets was \$10.5 million. Total income received in 2025 was \$1,038,108 comprised of investment income or \$623K and bequests, memorials and donations of \$415K including the establishment of the Blythe and Peter Kieffer Education Endowment with donations of \$70,000 in honor of the Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer's retirement. The investment rate of return was 17% and 20% from assets at the two investment firms. Disbursements of \$428K included \$182,700 in community, regional and international mission support and funds disbursed for the installation of a sound system for the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, a new dishwasher, and roofing and tuckpointing maintenance.

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$39 per member as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support the work of our denomination in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your special per capita contribution of \$39 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Dr. Roy Wehrle celebrates 94 years on February 5.
Mary Ann Nation celebrates 96 years on February 11.
Jo Ridley celebrates 90 years on February 11.
Harvey Stephens celebrates 92 years on February 17.
Jerry Davis celebrates 91 years on February 18.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Frank N. Gready died on Friday, January 20, 2026 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Sue, their families, and to his caregiver.

NEW ADDRESSES

Camille Degner, IL Presbyterian Home, 2005 W. Lawrence Ave, Rm. 71, Springfield, IL 62704 *Corrected

Betsy Ruklick, IL Presbyterian Home, 2005 W. Lawrence Ave, Rm. 34, Springfield, IL 62704 *Corrected

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Rigney 3801 Indian Lands Ln). Christy Pound will lead the discussion of Chapter 6 in *Becoming Spiritually Intelligent* by Paul M. Burns. RSVP directly to Marilyn at 217-494-8039.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on Monday, February 9, at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead Lesson 6 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on Tuesday, February 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library. Sandy Bellatti will lead Lesson 5 in *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Thursday, February 12 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Mike Murphy, President & CEO of the IL Chamber of Commerce, will speak on its role in the community. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

SAVE THE DATE!

DMA RETURNS ON MARCH 20

DMA (Don't Mention Age) is a potluck and program held on the third Friday of March to May. It begins with a potluck at 5:30, then a program that starts at 6:15 p.m. The programs are very diverse and appeal to people of all ages. This is open to members, friends, and children. Bring a side to share and fellowship with this wonderfully faithful group of attendees. You can RSVP on the website under fellowship or by calling the

+church office. If you should find yourself with time to attend and did not call or email, please come. You do not have to attend the potluck to enjoy the program. We look forward to seeing some new faces with our regular attendees.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 11:30 P.M.

Members & friends of Westminster will gather at Concordia Thursday, February 26 with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts. We will gather for Holy Communion at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel followed by lunch at 12 noon in the New Harmony Room.

NEW SERMON SERIES INFORMATION

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

UNPACKING THE VOCABULARY OF FAITH

The language we use at church to explain our faith can feel confusing — or even intimidating. Words like fasting, temptation, sin, repentance, salvation, and sanctification are used in our prayers and hymns, but what do they really mean? During Lent, we'll take a closer look at these key words of faith, exploring their theological roots, their relevance for our lives today, and how understanding them more deeply can transform the way we follow Jesus. Whether you've heard these words all your life or are encountering them for the first time, we'll unpack what they mean and discover how God's truth works through them in practical, life-giving ways this Lent. Let's answer the question together, what do you mean by that?

ADULT ED FORUM

Join us Sundays at 11:15 in Parish Hall. All are welcome! If you have suggestions for future forums, please contact Aaron Berkowitz or Rev. Sarah Bishop.

The Potawatomi Trail of Death – February 8

This class will learn more about the historical impact of the Native American tribe, the Potawatomi's, forced removal, which passed through Springfield, and its lasting legacy.

Led by Dr. George Godfrey

The Underground Railroad – February 15

What started out as a study of the Underground Railroad in Jacksonville has turned into an exploration of the Underground Railroad in Sangamon and Menard Counties....including discoveries about a Farmingdale pastor and stations near the Rogers family home in between Petersburg and Greenview.

Led by Dale Rogers

Christian Traditions of Lent – February 22

An interactive discussion of the history and traditions in Lent.

Led by Rev. Sarah Bishop

Law and Faith – March 1

This class will explore the historic impact the church has had on American Law.

Led by Jack Sherrick, J.D.

Women and the Law – March 8

This class will explore the history of women who sought law degrees and how women shape the law today.

Led by Rachael Hickman, J.D.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, February 24 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James H. Cone. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



Over 50 members attended the first session of Adult Ed Forum on Sunday, January 4 following the service. Carole Kennerly talked about the German POW camp during WWII on her father's farm in Arkansas.

MUSIC NOTES BY DALE T. ROGERS

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for each Sunday morning's service. In the coming weeks special music will be *Christ's Flock* for Mission Sunday, *Love Like a Winter Rose* for Abraham and Sarah, *The Abolition of Slavery* by Chilcott sung by the St. Andrew's Sisters for the Sunday after Lincoln's birthday, and *Out of the Depths*, an anthem written by member, David Mitchell for Lent I.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Music Room following Bridges. The Children's Choir is currently preparing music for the Ash Wednesday communion service and for Palm Sunday.

CHURCH MICE, our free musical experience for infants through age four, meets on Saturday mornings at 11:00. Encourage neighbors and friends in your play groups to join. Follow the pathway of cheese to music, fun and friends.

SING BY HEART CHOIR BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, will continue this joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregiver, promoting social connection, creative expression, and overall well-being.



The Sing by Heart choir will meet on Wednesdays beginning February 4 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall and continue for eight weeks. The final session on Wednesday, March 25 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public.

THE CAPTOL BIG BAND, a group of local and area musicians who play vintage, classic, and new music for Big Bands, will play a program in Parish Hall on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.

WEDDING COORDINATOR APPRECIATION

In 1995 the role of Wedding Coordinator was initiated to assist the clergy and the brides and grooms who choose Westminster for their wedding. Sue Cull was one of the first three coordinators, and she supported over 90 weddings. In 2007 Pat Jacobs joined the team coordinating over 75 weddings before retiring in 2025. Today, Meg Kontio holds the important title. We have greatly appreciated volunteers who have helped along the way. Each coordinator spends an average of about 20 hours on each wedding with 2-3 pre-wedding meetings, the rehearsal, and the wedding day itself. The coordinator oversees many tasks including the timing of the wedding day and making sure everyone is in the right place at the right time. The stories we could share... like a fully costumed wedding party for rehearsal on Halloween, the famed, "Mr. T" as an officiant, a record number of 36 wedding party participants and even a wedding on Thanksgiving Day. Wedding Coordinators serve an important function to ensure each WPC wedding is an incredible day filled with memories to last forever.

ALL WOMEN'S NEW BEGINNING BRUNCH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

10:00 A.M. - 12 NOON IN PARISH HALL

AMIGAS FIESTA OLE!

Enjoy some delicious Southwestern food and friendship with your amigas. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 4 so we can get an accurate count for purchasing food. This event is \$5. Please call Eleanor Van Deventer at 217-341-4032 if you have any questions.



Church Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16
in observance of Presidents' Day.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
Pastor and Head of Staff
amarshall@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
sbishop@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
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Dr. Aaron Berkowitz
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Reporter folding and mailing will be
on Wednesday, February 25
at 12:30 p.m.