



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

Happy New Year!

January 2025

## WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

### FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery  
Children Birth – Age 3

10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Prep following Children's Sermon

Children Pre-K – Grade 7

11:15 a.m. Adult Education Forum  
5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

January 5

### EPIPHANY

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION  
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Star of Enlightenment*

January 12

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:16-17  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Beginning Again*

January 19

### MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND

Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11  
The Rev. Godfrey (Bobby) Musengwa  
Guest Preacher

January 26

### ANNUAL MEETING AND EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21  
The Rev. Sarah A. Bishop  
*Same Care for One Another*

## NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

On Sunday, January 5, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on October 20, 2024. Their bios can soon be found on the church website ([www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)) under Church Leadership.



### SESSION CLASS OF 2027

Brownie Anderson, Dr. Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Joe Fierstos, Vonnie Hinesley, Julie McDonough, Pat Moore, Marilyn Rigney, and Lyle VanDeventer  
*Youth Elder* – Sam Batterman

### BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2027

Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Linda Caupert, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Christian Kennerly, Claudia Nash, Brad Steller, and Cathy Yokley  
*Class of 2025* – Dr. Debra Parker *Class of 2026*: Randy Wiseman  
*Youth Deacon*: Maria Lafrenz

## CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT AND JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATES

On Saturday, January 4, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Annual Church Officer Retreat. The Board of Deacons will meet Wednesday, January 8 and Session will meet Wednesday, January 15.

## THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2024

We are grateful to the following Elders and Deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

**SESSION:** Jay Kennerly, Tim Kluge, Dave Leonatti, Christy Pound, Karen Sherrick, Eleanor VanDeventer and Kristianna Eastvold (Youth)

**BOARD OF DEACONS:** Mervice Alah Abung, George Botanga, Sophia Choi, Melanie Green, Camille Massey, Jim Parker, Susan Shaw, *Class of 2025*: Coleman Moore

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT PNC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 5, immediately following worship, to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) that will recommend a candidate for Co-Pastor who will transition to Head of Staff.

The nominees are:

**Brownie Anderson, George Botanga, Scott Day, Todd Knox, Christy Pound, Lucy Stafford, Greg Swanson, Jess Weitzel**

A congregational gathering will follow the meeting in Parish Hall to provide an opportunity for input from members. Thank you to all who submitted nominations and to the 2024 Nominating Committee: Eleanor VanDeventer, Chair, Michael Nenaber, Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, Carolyn Swanson, Julie Sundquist. Bernie Wiseman

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

*Arise, Shine, for you light has come... Isaiah 60:1a*

Dear Friends,

We begin January with Epiphany, a celebration of the light that guided the Magi from the East. The significance of the Magi in the story is not the presents they brought, rather it is their presence at all. If Christmas celebrates God's embrace of humanity, then Epiphany announces God embraces all of humanity. God welcomes all people including the Gentile represented by those who were guided by the light of a star on a sincere and persistence search for light and truth. Part of Westminster's Epiphany celebration this year will include the ordination and installation of new church officers who will lead us into a new year of ministry.



New Elders and Deacons welcomed at the Joint December meeting.

Additionally, we elect a Pastor Nominating Committee that will search for a co-pastor who will transition to Head of Staff in the coming year. Thank you to the good work of the 2024 Nominating Committee, four men and four women from different walks of life within our faith community will represent Westminster on this search.

Following their election on Epiphany Sunday, the PNC will meet for initial training and to develop the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). Upon approval by Session and the Committee on Ministry, the MDP will be posted on the Church Leadership Connection of the PC(USA) and the process of reviewing applications and interviewing candidates will begin. Once a candidate is selected and approved by the COM, negotiation of terms of call, proposed start date, and a Congregational Meeting will take place.

If the stars so align, the arrival of the co-pastor will be toward the end of the 2024-2025 ministry year and hopefully in time for Westminster's 190 Years of Celebrating Faith, Art, and Advocacy on Founders' Sunday, May 26. The transitional period with the co-pastor over the summer will provide an opportunity to pass the baton of leadership and to collaborate in planning for the 2025-2026 ministry year.

### NEW MEMBER WELCOMED SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Dr. Brian Richardson joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Brian is a practicing clinical psychologist working at a women's prison, Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, IL, for the past 10 years. Previously he worked in private practice since 1988. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute. Brian was married



for 28 years, divorced in 2008, and has 3 children, Chris, who is married to Kathleen, and has 2 young boys, Lincoln and Oscar, Carolyn Medrano, married to Gustavo, a psychologist, and Robert. Brian sings in the Springfield Choral Society and the Westminster Choir. His sponsor is Dr. Peter Kieffer.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN** will be Tuesday, January 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Many thanks to those who assisted in decorating the church. We have enjoyed these adornments through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come help store things away for another year.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** will sing *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* Sunday, January 5 at the 10:00 a.m. service as we celebrate Epiphany. Rehearsals for the new year resume on Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR** will resume rehearsals in the new year on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:00 p.m.

**CHURCH MICE**, a musical experience for infants through age four will begin its new year on Saturday, January 11 at 11:00.



### A CONCERT OF SPIRITUALS AND HYMNS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

A Concert of Spirituals and Hymns will be the opening event of the year as we celebrate Westminster's 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, February 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. Alfonzo Cooper, Jr. tenor, who last year was featured in our program *Portraits of Peace* (remembering the lives of civil rights leaders C.T. Vivian and Rosa Parks) returns with his pianist Curtis Baum in a celebration of music of the African American Diaspora and the Oral Tradition. Dr. Cooper has recently been appointed to the music faculty at the prestigious Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. This program falls in the week of Abraham Lincoln's birthday and in Black History month.

### A FINE ARTS DISPLAY SUNDAY, MARCH 23

On Sunday, March 23, we will host a Fine Arts Display at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. This event is in celebration of Westminster's 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will provide an opportunity to highlight the work of Westminster's gifted artists.

### ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

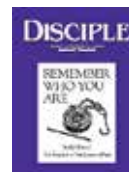
#### FAITH, ART, ADVOCACY PART II: CIVIL RIGHTS

#### SUNDAYS, JANUARY 12

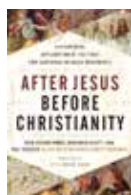
Join us Sunday, January 12 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for an extended class entitled "**Faith, Art, Advocacy Part II: Civil Rights.**" During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, emerging technologies permitted musicians to develop new genres of Jazz, Rock, and Reggae that would transform the music industry and lead this march of the civil rights movement. Dr. Peter Kieffer will lead the class.

### DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study resumes on Thursday, January 9, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. We continue the Disciple: **Remember Who You Are** and begin with the Letters of Paul with Lesson 17: Called through God's Grace. New Members are welcome!



### APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP



The Apostles' Read Library Book Group will meet on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. The book for January is *After Jesus Before Christianity: A Historical Exploration of the First Two Centuries of Jesus Movements* by Erin Vearncombe, Brandon Scott, Hal Taussig, and the Westar Institute.



## FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

### YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

#### YOUTH MISSION TO ASHEVILLE, NC IN 2025

#### MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

All youth and adults interested in attending the 2025 Mission Trip are invited to an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 12 at 11:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. During our meeting we will learn more about our mission site, Asheville, NC and working with Asheville Youth Mission.

We will have confirmed dates, intent to participate forms as well as accept deposits for this exciting week of service, care, and education.

#### EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

All youth attending the 2025 Mission Trip are expected to work the annual Egg-tastic Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, January 26.

**Plan to arrive by 8:15 a.m. and work through the morning!** The Mission participants will assist in serving a delicious Egg-tastic Breakfast prepared by Pat Hymans before worship at 10:00 a.m.

#### JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION JANUARY SCHEDULE

**GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP** meets during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) on Sundays, January 5 (New Promise), and January 19 (Death to Life). NO Class on January 12 (Communion) and January 26 (Eggtastic Breakfast).

**GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION** meets following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) on Sundays, January 19 (attend Adult Education), and January 26 (attend Congregational Meeting with mentors). **Mentors are:** Charlotte Affrunti/Cathy Brower, Taryn Barnett/ Krista Steller, Kate Bryans/Susan Day, Charlie Graham/Cress Maddox.

#### SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS



Thank you to Megan and Greg Swanson for hosting the Youth Christmas Party for over 20 youth and

adults. Senior High youth meet Sundays, January 5 (meal Lindsay & Greg Boutelle) and January 19 (meal Dana and Andrew Affrunti).

Eighth graders (especially those attending the 2025 Mission Trip) are invited to participate as we build community in preparation for our mission adventure. Leaders: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Mary Ray.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BY MELEAH & AARON BERKOWITZ

### CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S SERVICE THANK YOU'S

A special thank you to all our Christmas Eve Children's Service participants, adult support, and those creative hands that refreshed the costumes. Thank you to our Tableau Actors from Bridges and Sunday School, and speakers Sam Berkowitz, August Ekstedt, Lily Hill, Charlotte Moore, Paislee Reich and Roscoe Ekstedt. Thank you to our Holy Family, Kelly, and Edison Zohfonyi with their son, Jace.



### BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP RESUMES JANUARY 8



Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom.

During December, along with improving their Bible skills, the Bridges children enjoyed skits re-telling Bible stories, like Ruth and Naomi and the anointing of King David.

Bridges Advocates are invited to join them February 5 for special Valentines projects and relationship building.

### NURSERY GUILD MINISTRY PARTNER MEETING, JANUARY 12

On Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, the Nursery Guild and Nursery Coordinators will meet to provide an opportunity for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays through winter and spring and to discuss forming a NEW Preschool Sunday School.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY PARTNER MEETING, JANUARY 12

On Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, Sunday School teachers will meet to provide an opportunity for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays through winter and spring. New Sunday School teachers are welcome!

### CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

#### GATHERS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**Children and Youth** (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on **Wednesday, February 12, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** at the Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capital Ave.). This year's theme is "Celebrate." Join us as we explore the celebrations within each of our faiths.

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

**WESTMINSTER CO-OP PRESCHOOL BY EMILY ROWLEY** Happy New Year from WCP! We are looking forward to returning from break on January 7th. We had a great December with our fun gingerbread traditions. We read so many gingerbread books, made all kinds of gingerbread crafts (including a gingerbread village made from recycled materials!), and mixed up our own gingerbread dough to make cookies. The cookies "ran away" and hid in the third story classroom; the students enjoyed it all so much. It's also a special WCP tradition to have each preschool family come and share one of their holiday traditions. The children loved to share with their classmates, and it is so valuable for the children to understand what the holidays mean to different people, the various holidays, and the different ways people who honor the holiday celebrate it. We were especially thankful to two of your church members. One member donated Christmas mugs for all the children to make a special gift for someone they cared about and donated the recycled materials for our gingerbread village. Another member purchased, cut, and delivered all the wood for our parent presents. We are so thankful for the contributions your congregation makes to the preschool!

As we begin the new year, we'll be accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year. Current alumni and church members have early registration through February 28th. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested.



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER



Westminster is always beautiful; however, Advent at Westminster is spectacular, thanks to the labor of love from the team of elves directed by Dale Rogers.

Advent highlights include the PW Tea, the Advent Celebration, the youth group shopping extravaganza, Christmas Vespers, and Sunday School Processional.

Our Children's Service on Christmas Eve presented the Christmas Pageant with Confirmation and Bridges speakers and the Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00 p.m. was a joyous and festive gathering. Between the two services, we welcomed 475 in-person for worship and 115 views as of December 30 on our YouTube channel.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT WESTMINSTER



CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL, PAGEANT, AND SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS





**PARISH LIFE NEWS** by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

**MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 2**

On Sunday, February 2, 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 2024 mission supported by Westminster will be presented on Sunday, February 2.



Below are highlights of 2024 mission disbursements from the Endowment Fund and Operating Fund.

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2024 Mission Disbursement Highlights	Regional National International
<b>Betty Smith Mission:</b>	<b>\$86,763</b>
<b>Refugee Ministry</b>	<b>\$35,331</b>
<b>Rooftop Solar Panels</b>	<b>\$41,432</b>
<b>CWS CROP Hunger Walk</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Mission Grants and Giving:</b>	<b>\$44,001</b>
<b>Butler Elementary Garden Fence</b>	<b>\$525</b>
<b>Children of Abraham Service Project</b>	<b>\$886</b>
<b>Compass for Kids</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Contact Ministries – Prom Fundraiser</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Helping Hands</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Illinois Presb, Home-Beyond Green</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Kemmerer Village</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Motherland Gardens</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Spfld. Choral Society-Dementia Choir</b>	<b>\$2,600</b>
<b>The Outlet</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>WPC Youth Bottle Cap/WCP benches</b>	<b>\$590</b>
<b>Word Up</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Wooden It Be Lovely</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>YMCA – The Rise &amp; Shine Initiative</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Youth First – L.A. Youth Program</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>
<b>Steadfast Neighbor Mission:</b>	<b>\$45,543</b>
<b>Matching Grants</b>	<b>\$28,803</b>
<b>Service Week</b>	<b>\$6,527</b>
<b>Little Pantry</b>	<b>\$10,213</b>
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT HIGHLIGHTS:</b>	<b>\$176,307</b>

<b>Presbyterian Mission (GA, Synod, Presbytery)</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>
<b>PCUSA Per Capita</b>	<b>\$37,809</b>
<b>Youth Mission Trip</b>	<b>\$27,774</b>
<b>Contact Ministries</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>
<b>Helping Hands</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Faith Coalition for the Common Good</b>	<b>\$900</b>
<b>TOTAL MISSION OPERATING FUND HIGHLIGHTS:</b>	<b>\$95,983</b>

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GIVING**

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY:** WPC members fulfilled **84 gift requests (over 300 gifts) and wrapping paper/accessories for nine families** living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. Special thanks to Jennie Alt for her oversight making this Christmas giving possible.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4:** Our knitting group continues creating hand-made items and donating them to the community. K2P4 and other Westminster members again lovingly donated knitted goods to persons in need of warmth this winter. A total of 190 items were donated: 59 hats, 14 scarves, 24 gloves, and 12 hat/scarf sets were provided to Contact Ministries.



**TOYS FOR TOTS:** Thanks to those who responded generously, providing 2 gifts in 2024 for this children's program of the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supports racial/ethnic leadership development, schools and colleges, and supplies financial assistance to active and retired ministers having special circumstances of need. The total received in 2024 to date is **\$2,490**.

**HUNGER MINISTRIES**

**HELPING HANDS:** Thank you to Kris Gates, Georgina Hudspeth, Pat Hymans (and grandchildren), Mary Caroline Mitchell, Judy Prillaman, Julie Robbs and Jeanne VanGieson for preparing the December 13 lunch. The Christmas Day hot meal to be prepared by the Swanson and Bryans Families will be rescheduled.

**2025 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK JUNE 23-27**

The dates for next year's neighborhood outreach are June 23-27. 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](mailto:hardknox1@mac.com).



**WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY:** Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please sign up on SignUp Genius. (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>)

**GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH JANUARY MENU**

Canned spaghetti and meatballs or pasta meal, canned veggies and fruit in 100% juice/water, instant pudding or jello. High-demand items: personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

**EARTH CARE NEWS**

**JANUARY EARTH CARE TIP**

After the giving and receiving of the Christmas season, would you like to regift, donate, or downsize and not send stuff to the landfill? The thrift stores for Goodwill and Salvation Army near the intersection of Wabash and Chatham accept gently used clothes and household items. The Habitat Restore on 6th Street accepts tools. For other usable stuff, the Springfield, IL dashboard for Freecycle ([www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)) provides a green venue whereby neighbors can post both "offered" and "wanted" items to facilitate sharing and reusing what God has given us.



- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Come check K2P4 out!

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP** gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. A Celebration for the New Year will be held on Tuesday, January 14 in the Parish Hall. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** pictured below in kitchen as they hosted the Christmas Tea. They will skip New Year's Day and meet on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Knox (2004 Maryknoll Place, 62704). Mary Ray will lead the devotional by Frank Laubach entitled "Opening Windows to God" (pp. 101-107) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP to Christy Pound at (217-971-3082).



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on Monday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and Lynne O'Shea will lead study Lesson 4 "Water Justice" from the PW Horizons Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets Tuesday, January 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the library and Randy Wiseman will lead study Lesson 4 "Water Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study. Call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

### ALL WOMEN'S BRUNCH

**Saturday, February 1 from 10:00 a.m. - noon**

PW will host All Women's Brunch on Saturday, February 1 from 10:00 a.m. - noon in Parish Hall. Dr. Roy Wehrle, Mary Caroline Mitchell, and Eleanor VanDeventer will present a program called "WPC Refugee Programs in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." Please RSVP to the church office or our website.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be Thursday, January 9 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall to reflect on the year 2024. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

### NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We have received strong support throughout 2024, and with the usual rise in donations at year-end, we expect to finish the year with a positive net total. At the end of November, income and expenses are each under budgeted amounts. Our year-to-date net total is \$41,513 income exceeding expenses.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,015,485	\$ 1,029,279	\$ - 13,794
Expenses	\$ -973,972	\$ -1,029,279	\$ 55,307
Net Total	\$ 41,513	\$ 0	

**PER CAPITA:** This year Westminster will pay \$38.50 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 \$38.50 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Judith and Ted Flickinger celebrate 60 years on January 2.  
John Jaech celebrates 96 years on January 20.

### IN MEMORIAM

Keith Huston died on November 30 in Springfield, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Nancy, children Todd Huston (wife Becky), Patrick Huston, Scott Huston and Vallery Huston, grandchildren Gabi, Harper, and Reese Huston, Elliott and Elisha Huston.

Phyllis J. Lowrey died November 30 in Springfield, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, Pamela Lowrey, Robert Lowrey (wife Sherrill Kent), Norman Lowrey, grandson Samuel Kent (wife Danielle), and great grandchildren; Amelia, Olivia and Aria Kent.

Dorothy Wire died December 15 in Springfield, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her husband Robert Wire, their daughter Janice Schramm (husband, Rick) , son Donald Wire (wife, Melissa), grandchildren Kristen McDaniel (husband, Jessey), Courtney Yazzie (husband, Lawrence), Selah and Paxton Wire, and great-grandchildren Skyler, Sage, and Pearce Yazzie.

Dr. James A. Singleton died on December 19 in Asheville, NC. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his sons James, John, and Pat, grandchildren, Jessie, Phil, May, Gloria, and Roo, and great-grandchildren, Hank and Walter. A Memorial Service honoring his life will be held at Westminster after the new year.

John W. Kirk died on December 20 in Springfield, IL The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Janice, their daughters Chelsea Pokrzywninski (husband Jason), Jessica Mellen (husband Matt), and grandchildren Becca Kirk-Wolessen, Nathan and Nicole Pokrzywninski, and Ewen Mellen. A Memorial Service honoring his life will be held at Westminster on Monday, March 17, 2025.

### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

The friends of Lilian Ford, Westminster's former business manager, who died on November 22 in Petersburg, IL.

Meredith and Darren Volle on the death of Darren's father, and to Eva and Mae Volle on the death of their grandfather, John Volle, who died December 21 in Springfield, IL.

### NEW ADDRESS

Rev. Sarah Bishop, 1312 W. Edwards St., Springfield, IL 62704  
Barbara and Lonnie Lee, 13001 Mohawk Lane, Leawood, KS 66209.

Linda Andrews & Claudia Nash, 101 Timberridge Drive, 62702  
Judith Rader, 2101 W. Lawrence, Apt. 5, Springfield, IL 62704

Karen & Andrew Sherrick, 8919 Gustavia Ct, Naples, FL 34112

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Caitlyn Sims who graduated summa cum laude with her Doctorate in Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Anesthetist (BSN, DNP) from Millikin University on December 15, 2024.

### FAITHFUL, HOPEFUL, LOVING STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of Sunday, December 29 , we have received **214 pledges** toward our 2025 annual budget totaling **\$843,679** which is **93%** of the **\$902,870 goal**. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon.





## WESTMINSTER WELCOMES REV. BOBBY MUSENGWA MLK SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

On MLK Sunday, January 19, the Rev. Godfrey (Bobby) Musengwa will preach and present a workshop following worship in Parish Hall. Rev. Musengwa serves as Pastor of the Maximo Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, FL.

Bobby was born and raised in South Africa, educated at St. Andrews Presbyterian University (Laurinburg, NC), and received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. He and his wife Veronique (who was born in France) have three daughters. Dr. Kieffer and Rev. Musengwa attended CREDO together in 2008 and have been friends and colleagues in the ministry since that time. We are honored to welcome Rev. Musengwa to our pulpit.



## THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST MONDAY, JANUARY 20



The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Breakfast hosted by Springfield Frontiers will be held Monday, January 20, 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndam 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.) It is symbolic and meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration, especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org).

Justice Lisa Holder White, Illinois Supreme Court, will be the guest speaker. Lisa Holder White earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1990 from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, where she graduated magna cum laude. In 1993, Justice White earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in Urbana-Champaign. Following an appointment by the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice White was sworn in on January 14, 2013, as the first Black Justice on the Illinois Appellate Court, Fourth District. In 2014, she was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court, Fourth District.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

## 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 2025 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission 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

2024 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are due Friday, January 10, 2025 by noon. Please submit your reports to [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). They will be included in the 2024 Annual Report.

CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON JANUARY 20  
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY.

## Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff  
[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop**  
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry  
[sbishop@wpcspi.org](mailto:sbishop@wpcspi.org)

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

**Dale T. Rogers**  
Director of Music and the Arts  
[drogers@wpcspi.org](mailto:drogers@wpcspi.org)

**Mary A. Ray**  
Director for Youth  
[zkarmar.mr@gmail.com](mailto:zkarmar.mr@gmail.com)

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry  
[berkowitz@wpcspi.org](mailto:berkowitz@wpcspi.org)

**Katie L. Moore**  
Director for Children's Music  
[kkilduski@gmail.com](mailto:kkilduski@gmail.com)

**Kara Milward, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
Cooperative Preschool Teachers  
[emily@westminster-preschool.org](mailto:emily@westminster-preschool.org)  
[keri@westminster-preschool.org](mailto:keri@westminster-preschool.org)

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**Lisa Runkle**  
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[lrunkle@wpcspi.org](mailto:lrunkle@wpcspi.org)

**Jennie Alt**  
Church Administrative Assistant  
[jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org)

**Krista Steller**  
Communications Coordinator  
[ksteller@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksteller@wpcspi.org)

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager  
[gwarnick@wpcspi.org](mailto:gwarnick@wpcspi.org)

**Braden Barton, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl, Javier Velásquez**  
Part-time Custodians

Church Offices will be closed New Year's Day. The Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, January 29.