THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

July 2024

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. Summer Sunday School following Children's Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5

July 7
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
2 Samuel 1:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Strength and Weakness

July 14
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 6:14-29
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Dance of Change

July 21
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Coming and Going

July 28
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
2 Samuel 11:1-15; John 6:1-15
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Above the Law

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

2024 YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO NOLA – JUNE 15 - 22

On Sunday, June 23, thirteen youth and eleven adult mentors led Westminster's Sunday worship and shared their experience Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church.

This year the youth raised $11,988 toward their mission trip including $1,484 at the Eggtastic Breakfast, $4,305 at the Trivia Night, and $2,127 during the Car Wash/Bake Sale. The youth received $1,152 from the Pentecost Offering and $2,920 from donations. Thank you for the collaboration and teamwork of our youth, their parents, adult mentors, and this generous congregation. See page five for additional photos and details from their mission adventure.

2024 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK – JUNE 17-21

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. I Corinthians 14:58

Projects included power washing, repairing and painting front porches, installing a door, building a fence, and landscaping. See page six for photos and summary of accomplishments. Thank you to the team, led by Dr. Todd Knox, who made all this possible. Participating members are listed below.

MINISTRY PARTNERS
Marc Anderson
Linda Andrews
Brownie Anderson
Julie Barton
Jim Dolan
Adam Ekstedt
Joe Fierstos
Bud Green
Doug Green
Noah Green
Vonnie Hinesley
Elliot Huston
Nancy Huston
Peter Kieffer
Charlie King
Mary King
Tim Kluge
Todd Knox
Richard Leary
Camille Massey
Jim McDonough
Lynn McMenamin
Claudia Nash
Doug Nelson
Trudy Nelson
Tom Owen
Jim Parker
Julie Robbs
Diane Rutledge
Andy Sherrick
John Stafford
Brad Steller
Jeanne VanGieson
Pete VanGieson
Becky Wernlund
Rev. Paul Wernlund

NEIGHBOR PARTNER
Bill Steele

HOSPITALITY TEAM
Melanie Green
Al Hymans
Pat Hymans
Kathy Kenyon
Priscilla Kluge
Pat McNutt
Gail Olson
Jeanne Pittman
Betsy Ruklick

STAFF PARTNERS
Jennie Alt
Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Krista Steller
Gary Warnick

From the Pastor by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Live Into Hope

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19

General Assembly Meets in Salt Lake City

The theme of GA226, "Live into Hope," is based on the hymn by Jane Parker Huber. The hymn references Luke 4:16-20 and daily themes have been chosen based on the hymn verses.

It is an honor and privilege to represent Westminster at the 226th General Assembly as a member of COGA (Committee on the Office of the General Assembly). Peter and I arrived in Salt Lake City on June 28 and will return to Springfield July 5. This is the first time the General Assembly has gathered in person since the 223rd General Assembly met in St. Louis the summer of 2018 where Rev. Choi and I had the good fortune of meeting.

We continue to hold Christian and the Choi Family in our prayers as he begins the third month of his three-month temporary leave.

The Rev. Jihyun Oh Elected as Stated Clerk of PC(USA)

The Rev. Jihyun Oh has been elected as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Oh's first name is pronounced "Jee-hun." Jihyun, who was born in South Korea and raised in Kansas, is the first Korean American to serve in the PC(USA)'s highest ecclesial office, only the second woman, and the first woman of color.

Oh, who is 49, earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and German Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1996 and a Master of Science in Finance from Florida International University five years later. In 2006, Columbia Theological Seminary conferred a Master of Divinity degree.

In 2007, she was ordained as a teaching elder by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida on behalf of the Presbytery of Chicago. Before being selected to lead Mid Council Ministries in the OGA in 2019, she managed the PC(USA)'s Call Process Support from 2017-19; served as interim pastor at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church in Atlanta from 2016-17; as interim pastor and head of staff at Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church in Hoschton, Georgia, from 2015-16; as staff chaplain and clinical pastoral education resident at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta from 2009-10 and again from 2011-15; and as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois, from 2007-09. She is a trustee of the New Covenant Trust Company and has served as a member of the PC(USA) Foundation Board, as an ordination exam reader in both English and Korean, as moderator and vice-moderator of committees of the 221st and 222nd General Assemblies, and as moderator-elect and later moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

We are grateful for Rev. Oh's leadership as we live into hope during this time and place as the PC(USA).

Music Notes by Dale T. Rogers

Summer Choir

The Westminster Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room to prepare for the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, July 14.

In August, the Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, August 8 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Sunday, August 11. If you have considered joining the choir, this is a great time to give it a try.

The regular season of the choir will begin on Thursday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. and hold its annual retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 14. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates for the choir.

Special Music for July will be Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer, on July 7; the Westminster Summer Choir on July 14; Katie Moore, flute and Pat Moore, euphonium on July 21; and Ioana Popescu, violin, on July 28. Linda Andrews will be the organist for July 7, 21, and 28.

New Member Class

Sundays, July 14 and 21

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on Sundays, July 14 and 21 9:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on July 28 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Summer Adult Ed Forum Presents

The World Order and the Global South

Sunday, July 14

On Sunday, July 14, at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present "The World Order and the Global South." This forum will provide an opportunity to view the world through the eyes of various countries in the southern hemisphere such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Turkey, and African nations.

Apostles' Read Library Book Group

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, July 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

Reverends CeCe Armstrong and Tony Larson Elected Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly

The 226th General Assembly elected two South Carolina pastors to serve a two-year term as co-moderators. Larson is Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Southside Beach and Armstrong is Associate Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church on St. James Island.

Rev. Armstrong is a graduate of Spelman College and Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. Rev. Larson is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA.

They have the privilege of representing the Presbyterian Church (USA), at home and abroad, speaking with the church and to others outside the church, all of this that Christ might be glorified and made more fully known.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Camp Firelight

Thank you to our incredible leadership team of **36 youth and adults**, we welcomed **47 children** to VBS. Thank you to all who donated supplies for Camp Compass. We delivered a trunk load.

MONDAY'S LESSON: God Goes with Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22)

TUESDAY'S LESSON: Ruth Chooses to Go (Ruth 1)

WEDNESDAY'S LESSON: Young Jesus Shares Wisdom (Luke 2:41-52)

THURSDAY'S LESSON: Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)

FRIDAY'S LESSON: The Good News Sparks Joy! (Acts 8:26-40)

MISSION: School Supply Drive for Camp Compass

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Registrars: Pat Roller and Carole Kennerly **Art/Crafts**: Pat McNutt

Bible Story: Dr. Kieffer and Karen Sherrick **Music:** Katie Moore

Bible Drama Team: Charlotte Affrunti, Aerwyna Eastvold, Abigail Eldridge, Sophia Llosa, and Ned Moore

Games: Ethan & Isaac Alt, Mario Berg, and Emily Brower

Snack: Pat Hymans, Melanie Green, Kelly Robertson, & Sue Scaife

Camp Counselors: Kathy Bacon, JoAnn Berkowitz, Ann Collins, Juliana & Kristianna Eastvold, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Jay Kennerly, Liliana Kennerly, Judy James, Maria Lafrenz, Linda Purves, Julie Robbs, Charity Romero, Susan Shaw, Karen Sherrick, Julie Sundquist, and Eleanor VanDeventer

Tenth Annual All Church Cookout on May 31

The Membership Committee welcomed 95 members at the Kieffer Home for the Tenth Annual All Church Cookout. (We missed 2020 due to the pandemic.)

Special thanks to Elsie and Bob Fox and Keith and Carolyn Beatty who provided boat rides and to Dale Rogers, Lyle VanDeventer, and Jay Kennerly for special music as we welcomed new members with a round of "Consider Yourself Part of the Family."

Those gathered also enjoyed the gift of a spontaneous violin recital presented by Ioana Popescu who was accompanied by Linda Andrews.

2024 Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans – Jumping in with Both Feet

By jumping in with both feet, I have learned that it is essential to provide hope to those in suffering and to be committed to their cause. During mission week, we were able to strengthen connections with those in need of support and several organizations such as Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans and Rebuilding Together (where we refurbished a home damaged from Hurricane Katrina), New Orleans Mission (a faith-centered organization serving those facing homelessness where we painted interior doors, served lunch, sorted and found clothing for the residents), and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Additionally, I am grateful to have spent a week with some of my closest friends from Westminster. Our team is hardworking, dedicated, and incredibly caring. As the 2024 mission trip comes to a close, I would like to thank the congregation for your generous mission trip support this year. It was a powerful mission trip that I will never forget.

an excerpt from Kristianna Eastvold's Reflection shared Sunday, June 23

Fifth Annual Steadfast Neighbor Service Week

A few statistics on the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week:

131 The number of properties in our neighborhood that we reached out to for our annual Steadfast Neighbor mission work.

16 The number of properties we repaired. There are also twice as many Matching Grants in progress, a record amount.

31 The number of projects we performed on those 16 properties:
power washed 9 houses, painted 9 projects, including fences, decks, porches, railings, windowsills, doors, and our Little Pantry, construction projects at 7 properties, including repairing decks and fences, tightening stair railing, rerouting and extending some downspout tubing, cleaning gutters, installing gutter guards, and reframing and installing a new front door, landscape projects at 5 different houses, including removing overgrowth and tree trimming, and the project of the week was installing a brand new fence to enclose the back yard of our Habitat for Humanity family, the Caplers.

482 The sum of the heat indexes on the five days we worked. It was HOT!

5 The number of delicious lunches prepared by our outstanding kitchen crew.

50 Perhaps, our most important statistic: The number of ministry partners who volunteered their time, efforts, and true expertise this past week to continue the success of this endeavor and to benefit our neighbors. These people worked their tails off during one of the hottest June weeks in memory.

This is truly an incredible outreach which reflects the character of Westminster, and I'm honored to be a part of it.

– Dr. Todd Knox

Parish Life News by Rev. Christian K. Choi

Mission and Community Service

Refugee Ministry Update

The Velasquez family is saving up to purchase a car. If any church member knows of a used vehicle that could be suitable for them, please contact Bob Leffler at 217-899-7427.

They are doing great in their English tutoring classes. Thanks to the church members and friends who are providing tutoring twice a week to improve their English skills.

Helping Hands Meals

Westminster prepares two meals each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Street). On 2nd Fridays, Westminster provides 60 bagged meals. Thanks to Pat Hymans, Judy Prillaman, Krista Steller, and Jeanne Van Gieson for preparing the bagged meal in June.

On 4th Wednesdays, we provide an equal number of hot meals to assist those who are seeking shelter. Thank you to Brownie Anderson and Vena Long for preparing the hot meal in June.

Westminster's Little Pantry Thanks for the fresh coat of paint during the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week and to those who stock our neighborhood micro pantry at Graham Elementary. Sign up at www.wpcspi.org.

Give-a-Meal-a-Month July Menu

Canned Spaghetti or Pasta Meal, Peas, Canned Fruit in Juice/Water, Rice Mixes or Instant Rice (No baby food, please.)
Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

Fair Trade – There will not be a Sunday sale in July. All of the Equal Exchange products (coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts, etc.) can be purchased any day the church office is open.

July Earth Care Tip

Is the heat wave wearing down your AC? Is your furnace a little old too? If it's that time, consider replacing both with an all-electric heat pump which pumps heat out of the house in the summer, pumps heat back into the house in the winter, costs less to run, produces less CO2, and qualifies for a 30% Climate Bill tax credit (up to $2,000). – *Dr. Peter Kieffer*

Congregational Care

Blood Pressure Checks & Consultation will be available on Sunday, July 7 by Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

Home Communion We will not serve home communion in July and August. We will see the recipients in September. As always, please call the church if you have any questions.

Fellowship Opportunities

Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission and Fellowship gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m**. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will meet at Noon for a monthly brown bag lunch on July 9 with drinks provided. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

DMA (Don't Mention Age)
Friday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet **Friday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Peggy Dyson, Executive Director of The Educational Center for the Visually Impaired, will speak on who they serve, how they serve, and what the community can do to help. RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

Milestone Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dr. Alan & Mrs. Marty Stutz celebrate 64 years on July 2.

Dick Washburn celebrates 92 years on July 13.

Dr. Tom & Mrs. Judy Lewis celebrate 63 years on July 23.

Roger Fenstermaker celebrates 92 years on July 24.

Camille & Ted Proud celebrate 61 years on July 27.

Ruth Schmitt celebrates 95 years on July 30.

Matt Gilmour celebrates 91 years on July 31.

Sacrament of Baptism

Laura and Eric O'Reilly will present their daughter, Rowan Marie, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 7. Rowan's proud siblings are Maeven, Emmett, and Holland.

Maggie and Josh Pinke will present their daughter, Robin Lu for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 7. Robin's proud bother is AJ and her grandparents are Dr. Scott and Susan Day, and his uncle is Spencer Day.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Lynn and Joe McMenamin on the birth of their granddaughter, Josephine Beaudet McMenamin to Ed McMenamin and his wife, Libbie Beaudet on June 3. Josephine's big sister is Pearce.

In Memoriam

Eric L. Rinehart died June 19 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Penny, their sons, Jonathan (wife Stefanie) and William and granddaughters Claudette and Camille Rinehart.

Prayers and Sympathy to

D.L. Stanfield on the death of his aunt, Connie Jean Barfield on June 11, 2024 in Lakeland, FL.

New Address

Lynne Cleverdon, Concordia, 4101 W. Iles, Springfield, IL 62711

Sue Donels, Concordia, 4101 W. Iles, Apt. 4128, Springfield, IL 62711

Eleanor Leary, Trustwell Living of Springfield, 2451 W. White Oaks Dr. #154, Springfield, IL 62704

Lynne & Paul O'Shea, IL Presbyterian Home. 2101 W. Lawrence Apt. 302, Springfield, IL 62704

Community Event

Sound Celebration & Land of Lincoln Choruses Concert
Saturday, July 13 7:00 p.m. at Duncan Park

Join the Sound Celebration Chorus and Land of Lincoln Chorus for an outdoor concert held at Duncan Park on Saturday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs, drinks, snacks, and enjoy an hour of fun and upbeat acapella music. You will see a couple of Westminster members!

May Financial Report by Lisa Runkle

With your faithful financial support, the Operating Fund income is $45,348 more than our budget through May 2024. Expenses are under budget by $27,093. Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by $72,441. Please be sure to continue to send your offering in support of Christ's work at Westminster through the summer months.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	$ 513,202	$ 467,854	$ 45,348
Income	$-440,761	$-467,854	$ 27,093
Net Total	$ 72,441	$ 0	

Steadfast Neighbor Renovation of 518 S. Glenwood

The Steadfast Neighbor Renovation team anticipates that the 518 S. Glenwood Rental Property will be ready for sale in August. Income from the sale will repay the Support and Endowment Loan. Session designated $30,000 from the 2024 Steadfast Neighbor Mission budget to invest in the renovation.

The installation of flooring and carpeting was completed in June as well as the plumbing. Drywall installation in the kitchen and bathrooms is underway and kitchen cabinets have arrived and will be installed in July. Special thanks to Ed Caupert, Pete VanGieson, Tim and Priscilla Kluge for their labor of love on this renovation.

Meals on Wheels Deliveries
August 5-9 and 12-16

Each summer, Westminster partners with Senior Services of Central IL to deliver food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program. This year's dates are August 5-9 and 12-16, where you can sign up for one day, all ten days, or the number of days you are available to help. This service of kindness is best done in pairs and the expected time commitment is about an hour-and-a-half, starting at 9:30 a.m. **For more information and signup, click/use the QR code.**

Contact Ministries Backpack Collection Through Sunday, August 11

Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries through a backpack collection. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries in August. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 11. Last year, we collected 192 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.

Endowment Mission Grant Applications Reviewed Wednesday, September 4

The Mission and Community Service Committee will review grant applications for funding from Westminster's Mission Endowment at its September 4 meeting. The deadline for submission of grant proposals for consideration September 4 is September 1. Applications are available on our website on the Mission and Service page. Please contact Jeanne VanGieson, 217-341-9255 for more information.

Nominations for Church Officers

The 2024 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

Deacon (Class of 2027)

Elder (Class of 2027)

Nominating Committee (Class of 2025)

Strategic Planning Committee (Class of 2027)

Nominations may be completed online at wpcspi.org or by emailing the Nominating Committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer at ehuitt@yahoo.com. Please complete by August 18, 2024. Nominees will be presented at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2024.

2024 Nominating Committee: *Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Michael Nenaber, Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, Carolyn Swanson, and Julie Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman*

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
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Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth
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Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

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

Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
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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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Krista Steller
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ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

James Capler
Part-time Custodian

Reporter folding and mailing will be on Wednesday, July 31 at 12:30 p.m.