



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

June 2025 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

11:15 a.m. – Summer Adult Ed Forum

June 1

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Should I Stay or Should I Go

June 8

DAY OF PENTECOST
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Acts 2:1-8, 12-18

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Breath of Fresh Air

June 15

TRINITY SUNDAY

Proverbs 8:1-4, 27-31; Romans 5:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Unbroken Circle

June 22

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a; Psalm 42

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Still, Small Voice

June 29

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 16

The Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
Take It Up

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

COMPASSION CAMP: WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS

JUNE 9-13, 2025

Children ages 4 - Grade 5 will enjoy Bible stories, crafts, games, music, and snacks the week of Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13 from 9:15 a.m. to 12 noon. *All VBS ministry partners will meet on Sunday, June 8, at 9:15 a.m. in Parish Hall:*

Director and Assembly Leader: Dr. Berkowitz

Registrar: Pat Roller

Bible Story and Drama Team: Rev. Bishop, Charlotte and William Affrunti, Abigail Eldridge, Sophia Llosa

Art/Crafts: JoAnn Berkowitz **Games:** Isaac and Ethan Alt, Aerwyna Eastvold

Music: Meleah Berkowitz **Snack:** Pat Hymans **Decorations:** Al Hymans

Camp Counselors: Kathy Bacon, Keri Goble Billick, Juliana Eastvold, Dee Dee Duffy, Liliana and Nora Kennerly, Camille Massey, Julie Sundquist

We still need Camp Counselors, so if you can join us, please sign-up by following the link on the Westminster's website. There is still time to register children campers by visiting our website as well.

Mission: *The children will collect school supplies for Camp Compass:*

Crayons **Markers** **Scissors** **Pencils** **Sanitizer** **Colored Pencils**
Book Bags **Glue Sticks** **Kleenex** **Sticky notes** **Sharpeners** **Healthy Snacks**
Clorox Wipes **Index Cards** **Erasers** **Pens** **Spiral Notebooks**



The children will make a presentation **Sunday, June 15**, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service followed by a reception in Parish Hall.

SIXTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK, JUNE 23-27



Westminster is in its sixth year of fulfilling the congregation's commitment to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood over the course of the decade. During the week of May 12-14, members of the Steadfast Neighbor Task Force visited neighbors who have applied for a matching grant or service week project. We have **35 matching grants** and **34 service week projects** at 19 homes in the neighborhood. Many hands make light work. To date, 19 ministry partners have signed up. **Sign-ups need to be made by Sunday, June 15, to allow Dr. Todd Knox to assign teams.** Team captains are: Tim Kluge, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Dale Rogers, Pete VanGieson, Gary Warnick.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR TEAM MEETING will be Tuesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. **STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK IS JUNE 23-27.** The team will gather each morning at 8:30 a.m. for a devotion to begin the day before arriving at our neighborhood sites. Lunches will be prepared by Pat Hymans' Hospitality Team and served at noon in Parish Hall. Neighbors will be our guests at lunch on Friday, June 27. The congregation will hear a report on Sunday, June 29.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION OUTREACH TASK FORCE: *Dr. Todd Knox, Chair, Tim Kluge, Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Dr. Diane Rutledge, and Pete VanGieson.*



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

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:7*

Psalm 36 is a powerful profession of faith. The psalmist affirms the gift of life and the steadfast love of God, which holds life and the world together. Even amid the hatred, arrogance, and violence that seem so prevalent and even when it appears the world is falling apart, the psalmist confidently prays for God's steadfast love and righteousness, because the psalmist trusts that God's love is the fundamental reality in the universe and God's righteousness holds the world together. The richness of the psalmist's theology is the affirmation that we belong to a loving God who is steadfast, consistent, reliable, and totally for us.

If the greatest challenge and reward of my tenure as your pastor has been the successful anniversary endowment campaign from 2015-2020, the most gratifying and fulfilling undertaking has been the **STEADFAST NEIGHBOR ENDEAVOR** from 2020-2025.

The name "steadfast" grew out of a conversation between Peter and me during a study week at my mom's condo in Fort Myers. Peter suggested "steadfast" because it affirms our commitment and echoes the "steadfast love of God." Steadfast in the sense of continuity, consistency, resilience, being there, and staying the course provides rich imagery for God's faithfulness to us and God's call for us to be faithful to our neighbors.

The Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor began with an investment in the homestead of Westminster in a \$1.4 million Site and Landscape Plan (four major renovations: East Terrace, Parking Lot, West Terrace, and Landscape) completed in 2020 and an investment in the homesteads of our neighborhood with a \$450,000 Mission Outreach (matching grants, an annual service week, the little pantry at Graham Elementary School, and sponsoring a Habitat House on Glenwood) during this decade.

The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Dr. Todd Knox, presented the plan to the congregation, and with Session approval in April 2019, the related task forces groomed their plans, communicated to our neighbors, sought permits and bids, and explored mission opportunities.

The foundation for this endeavor was laid over twenty-five years ago (May 2, 1999) when the congregation approved long range strategic goals to remain at the present location including: expansion of the parking lot, enhancement of landscaping in parking areas, and purchase of additional properties to allow for expansion. The strategic goals also included mission initiatives within the neighborhood: tutoring/counseling programs for families in this area who are living in poverty and programs to serve and improve the neighborhood around the church. The Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor builds on this foundation.

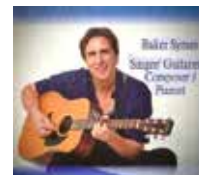
The successful anniversary endowment campaign provides financial resources to make the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor possible. The earnings from the general endowment designated for building improvements are repaying the twenty-year loan. The mission outreach of the endeavor, which is at least one-third of the Site and Landscape Plan expenditure, is funded by the general endowment earnings designated for mission.

During these last months of my tenure as I prepare to entrust the responsibility of leading this beautiful and steadfast congregation to the next senior minister, please know how grateful I am for the time we have shared, the work we have accomplished, and the difference we have made together.

With affection in Christ, Blythe

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

SUMMER MUSIC On Sunday, June 1, we welcome Baker Symes, who will provide special music. Baker is a professional musician and worked with Dr. Kieffer at Webster Groves Pres. in St. Louis. The Westminster Choir will sing *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* on Sunday, June 1. Linda Andrews and Jamie Greenwald will be the organists on June 8 and 15. Summer Choir will rehearse on Thursday, July 17 in preparation for singing Sunday, July 20.



SUMMER ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS: GEOPOLITICS OF THE WORLD TODAY

On Sunday, June 22, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present "**CHINA, THE U.S., AND WORLD TRADE TODAY.**" Join Roy in a discussion on the likely outcomes of the US/China Trade War and rivalry, and probable impacts on the world economy and nations.

Dr. Wehrle has a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University.

EDUCATION AND COMPASS LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 1

The following members will be recognized this Sunday, June 1 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. In their honor, we will purchase **three pairs of goats from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog**. Goats provide much needed nutritional food from yogurt, milk, butter and cheese for those who need it most. We are grateful for these individuals and their compassionate nurturing of the faith of our children, youth, adults, and Graham Elementary School students.

Nursery Guild: Linda Caupert, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Sally Godbey, Priscilla Kluge, Dr. Judy Knox, Meg Kontio, Maria Lafrenz, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Leigh and Kara Milward, Christy Pound, Sue Scaife, Julie Sundquist, Erin Winn

Sunday School Teachers: Taryn Barnett, Dr. Aaron and Mrs. Meleah Berkowitz, Kate Bryans, Lindsay Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Maria and Rose DeJong, Dee Dee Duffy, Juliana Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward, Kristina Opperman, Laura and Eric O'Reilly, Julie Robbs, Erin Winn

Bridges Midweek Fellowship: Meleah Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Pat Roller

Children of Abraham: Dr. Aaron and Mrs. Meleah Berkowitz, Rev. Bishop, Dr. Kieffer, Mary Ray, Dale Rogers, Sophia Choi, Georgina Hudspeth, Pat McNutt, Susan Shaw

Confirmation Prep (Grades 6-7): Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, Mary Ray

Confirmation (Grade 8): Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Mary Ray

Youth Group Leadership Team: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray

Adult Education: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Dr. Vena Long, Rev. Jihyun Oh, Dr. Deborah Parker, Rev. Godfrey Musengwa, Dr. Peter Kieffer, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Roland Folse, Dale Rogers, Lyle VanDeventer, Dr. Roy Wehrle

COMPASS for Kids: Emily Brower, Linda Cox, Juliana Eastvold, Kris Gates

FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

WCP DIRECTOR/TEACHER EMILY ROWLEY RETIRES

On Sunday, June 1, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service Westminster will honor Emily Rowley who has served as the Westminster Cooperative Preschool Director and Four Day Teacher since 2015. The WCP board and Family Ministry Committee will be gifting Emily with a child-size rocking chair painted by Wooden It Be Lovely and a gift card as a token of our appreciation. We are grateful for Emily's leadership during this past decade and for all the young lives she has nurtured and guided. During her tenure, we celebrated WCP's 50 Year Anniversary (2022) and the preschool invested \$10,000 in a designated fund within Westminster's Endowment Plan in 2024.



Emily graduated with a degree in elementary education from Cedarville University and worked as a preschool assistant and lower elementary teacher for five years before staying home with her three children. This is what Emily shared about her experience with us:

After both of my boys attended Westminster Co-op Preschool, I was delighted to take the position of afternoon teacher in 2014. For the last decade, I have had the delight of spending my afternoons with the best groups of four-year-olds. Their

excitement about life and learning, their imaginations, and their growth have made my time at WCP wonderful. In addition, their parents, who have chosen our school because they want to be involved in our community and give their time and effort to make our school succeed, have become my treasured friends. I have had the privilege of working with such delightful people in the easy times and the difficult. During these ten years, I have appreciated the Westminster Presbyterian Church pastors, staff, and congregation so very much. Their constant support, steady partnership, and gracious spirit have made this an excellent place to work. You have all been so very kind and so very helpful to me and to the preschool. I will be thankful forever! Needs in my family have led me to the conclusion that my time at WCP will be over at the end of this school year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the care and love I have felt from Westminster Presbyterian Church over the last ten years.

REBECCA NIKA JOINS WCP TEACHING STAFF

Rebecca (Becky) Nika is excited to join the WCP family this fall as the Four Day Teacher. Becky has worked with children and families in the Lincoln Land Community College for Kids program and looks forward to this opportunity to expand her teaching experience. A graduate of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Becky has a B.S. degree in Journalism with a minor in Anthropology/Archaeology.



Becky brings a passion for education, strong interpersonal skills and a detail-oriented outlook that will serve well in working with preschoolers and their families. All her children are alumni of WCP, including her daughter, Jessica, who was in the 3-day morning program this year.

SESSION APPROVES NEW WPC POSITIONS

DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL AND MUSIC ASSISTANT

On Friday, August 1, we welcome Meleah Berkowitz as the new *Director for Children's Ministry, Westminster Cooperative Preschool and Music Assistant*.



This full-time position combines three areas to implement greater communication, collaboration, and creativity. The Director for Children's Ministry will assist the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry with the implementation of effective ministry for children (15 hours per week). The Director for Westminster Cooperative Preschool will work closely with the Board, oversee the administrative responsibilities of the preschool, and meet the requirements for NAEYC (10 hours per week). The Music Assistant will direct the Children's Choir and assist the Director of Music and the Arts with the implementation of an effective music ministry for all ages (10 hours per week).

Meleah joined Westminster in 2018 and has been active in Children's Ministry from the beginning. She and her husband Aaron have served as Co-Directors for Children's Ministry since August of 2023.

Meleah is a Clinical Informatics Consultant at Springfield Memorial Hospital and earned her B.S.N. at Millikin University. She served on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and Chaired the Westminster Cooperative Preschool Board twice.

The new position will allow Meleah to focus all her professional and creative gifts on the ministries at Westminster and spend more time with their three children: Sam (10), Junie (8), and Benji (5).

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

On Friday, August 1, we welcome Dr. Aaron Berkowitz as the new *Education Coordinator*. The Education Coordinator will assist the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry with the implementation of effective education for all ages. This is a part-time position (5-10 hours per week).



Aaron will plan, prepare, and teach as directed in Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and Adult Education, develop and oversee intergenerational educational opportunities, maintain the Adult Education Resources, assist in the ministry of the Children's and Adult Libraries, and serve as resource to the Adult Education Committee with the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry.

Aaron is a Professor of History at Lincoln Land Community College. He earned his B.A. in Classics and his Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Aaron has been a valuable contributor within our Adult Education Forum and chaired the Adult Education Committee.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM MAY 8 GATHERING



Grace United Methodist Church hosted our Children of Abraham May gathering, as we concluded our ninth year of interfaith fellowship. Donations were made to the Methodist Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, IL.

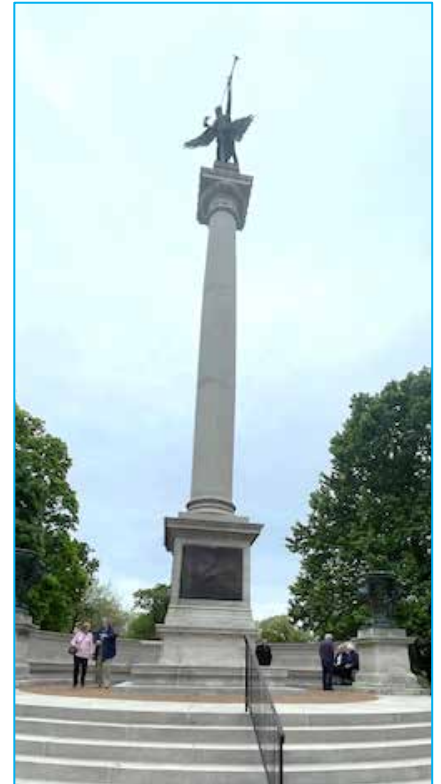
Confirmands Charlotte Affrunti, Taryn Barnett, and Kate Bryans were commissioned on May 4. We missed Charlie Graham who will be recognized with the next New Member Class.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - MAY 4, 2025



190TH ANNIVERSARY RETREAT MAY 1-3, 2025

Sixteen members and staff gathered at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, IL to explore our founders' connection to Elijah Parish Lovejoy. We traveled the Great River Road to visit historical sites in Alton, IL including the Elijah Parish Lovejoy Monument (surrounded by the whispering bench) and the location of the Lincoln Douglas Debate. Along with deepening friendships, we sang hymns together, shared worship and partook in the Sacrament of Communion.



ALBERT HALE CIRCLE

The **ALBERT HALE CIRCLE** is listed below and includes pledges, gifts, pre-campaign gifts and planned gifts. Reverend Hale, pastor from 1839-1866, laid the cornerstone for the legacy of faith and sure foundation we are building together in the Westminster Support and Endowment Fund.

In May of 2015, on the 180th Founders' Sunday, Westminster dedicated the Building a Legacy of Faith Twenty-Year Anniversary Endowment Campaign and established the ALBERT HALE CIRCLE. During the five-year campaign the market value of Westminster's Support and Endowment Fund grew from **\$1.9 to \$8.1 million**. As of March 31, 2025, the market value of the Support and Endowment Fund was **\$8,939,504**. This does not include planned gifts. We continue to welcome donations and testamentary gifts to the Westminster Support and Endowment Plan.

Support and Endowment Committee: Chair, Jeff Wilday, Joe Fierstos, Randy Germeraad, Christy Pound, Dr. Diane Rutledge, Dale Smith, Advisory Members: Jim Bryans, Lucy Preckwinkle Stafford, Treasurer, Todd Wise.

Cornerstone

(\$250,000 and above)

Fern Garrett Estate*
Betty & Henry Dale Smith, Sr.
Henry Dale Smith, Jr.

Foundation

(\$150,000 to \$249,999)

Kathy & Randy Germeraad
Dorothy Kessler Estate
Robyn E. Newton Estate
Lynne O'Shea †
Mary & William Schnirring Estate

Tower

(\$100,000 to \$149,999)

Harry Bergmann*
Memory of Ruth Bergmann
Garvey Estate*
Alice Stuart Payne Estate*

Keystone

(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Paul Bowman Estate*
Linda Chronister Folse
*Memory of Elder
Grady Chronister*
Linda & Grady Chronister
Louise Cragoe †
Sue & Roland Cull
Linda Culver Memorial*
Carolyn & Dan Dungan
Blythe & **Peter Kieffer**
Judy & Todd Knox
Barbara & Lonnie H. Lee †
Preckwinkle Families
Jean & William Sherrick
Jean & William Sherrick*
Nancy & Bill Simpson
Marty Summer

Pillar

(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Silvey & James Barge
Frances Batchelder Estate*
Bennett Estate*
Mina & Harry Bentsen
Betty & Bill Denham Estate
Velda & George Finney*
Kathy & Randy Germeraad*
Gerry & Harold Hale
Alice Lambert Estate*
Ruth Langdon Estate*
Emma Mae Large Estate*
Ann & Bill Lienemann

Trudy M. & Douglas C. Nelson
Karen & Andrew Sherrick
Hannah Morrow Siebert Estate*
Marty & Alan Stutz
Barbara Sutton Estate*
Eleanor Wahlbrink*
Martha & Jeff Wilday
Martha & Jeff Wilday †
Lisa & Todd Wise
Elvin & **Sharon Zook**

Samaritan

(\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Jane & Steve Arbuthnot
*Honor of Julia & Steven
Arbuthnot's marriage*
Kathie & Michael Nenaber
William Schultz
Memory of Kyle G. Schultz
Rebecca & Lionel Stirrett
Dorothea Thrasher Estate

Advocate

(\$10,000 to \$14,999)

Frances & Edwin Bay*
Carolyn & Keith Beatty*
Mark Beatty*
Dorothy D. & William Black Trust*
Leah & Martin Duling
Chris & Butch Elzea
Sharon & Matthew Gilmour
Helen Hansen Estate*
Judy and Dale Huston
Irwin & Becker Estate*
Evelyn Jensen Estate
Priscilla & Tim Kluge
Margot Kramer
Carol & Walter Lohman*
LaVerne Marlowe Estate*
Bev & Jim Orr †
Honor of our Family
Dorothy Park Estate*
Holly Howe Parker*
Jeanne & Glen Pittman
Cathy Schwartz & John Shafer
Dorothy Temple*
Don Thompson Estate*
Marjorie VanNattan Estate*
Westminster Cooperative Preschool

Counselor

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Anonymous
Anonymous

George Adams Estate*
Katrina Archer
Jan & Cliff Baxter
Carolyn & Keith Beatty
Sandy Bellatti

Carolyn Berning
Don Blackburn Estate*
Meridith & James Bryans
Honor of Kate Bryans

Eleanor Copper Foundation*
William Deemer, Jr.

Linda N. Dillard
Sue & Bill Donels
Hazen & Roland Folse
James S. Francis Estate*
Barbara Greening

Memory of Dr. Gershom K. Greening

Ann & Keith Hamilton

Joseph A. Harrison
Christie, Robyn & Will Hovey
Paul Denham Kieffer

Honor of his mom's ministry

Louise Kuehn Estate*
Eleanor & Richard Leary
Barbara & Lonnie H. Lee
Judith & Tom Lewis

Ann & Bill Lienemann*
Mary Caroline & David Mitchell

Robyn Newtonson
Sally & Stan Papp
Memory of Dr. & Mrs. W. J. Trainor

Judy & Fred Prillaman
Patricia Albrecht Purdy Estate*
Mary Ray

Memory of Doris Ray

Julie & Randy Robbs
Ruth Robert-Roland*

Diane Rutledge
Elaine Ryder Estate*
Sue & Steve Scaife
Schemmerhorn Estate*
Linda & Bill Schlosser
Linda Shaefer

Susan R. Shea
Mary Anne & James Singleton

Judy & Harvey Stephens
Julie & Michael Sundquist
Carolyn & Brad Swanson
Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer

Jeanne & Peter VanGieson
Sue & Jesse Werner
Cheryl & Neville White
Jean Williamson Estate*
Sarah & Bob Zerfas

Companion

(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Anonymous
Anonymous
Catherine Brower
JoAnn & Doug Brown*
Ellen & Rance Carpenter
Ann W. Collins
Deborah & David Coontz
Memory of David M. Coontz
Carol & Dick Cordier
*Memory of John S. & Theda Muirhead
and George & Dorothy Cordier*
Lois Davis Memorial*
Judy & Dan Dees
Gale & Jack Fixmer

Elsie & Robert Fox
Ione Hermann Estate*
Renee Housel Estate
Nancy & Keith Huston
Marci & Bill Irvine
Mary & Charles King
Mary & Bob Leffler
McGaugh Estate*
Patricia McKenzie
Mary Ann Nation

Memory of James Nation

Richard Newton Estate*
Stan & Barbara Papp
Memory of Sally Trainor Papp

Sharon Reynolds
Judy Ridinger
Ruth Robert Roland Estate

Leona Sangster Estate*

Nancy & Lon Scott
Krista & Brad Steller

Robert A. Stuart
John Thompson Estate*
Alan J. Wallace

Friend

(up to \$2,499)

Anonymous

Anonymous

Norma Adams-Johnson

Beth & Tad Allen

Marc Anderson

Linda Andrews & Claudia Nash

Charlotte Bailey

Jane R. Barry

Neil Bassett

Ella Grace & Robert Bengel Estate*

Lynnette Berdoll

Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

Meggan & Brady Bird

George Botanga

Carol & Stanley Brosam

Catherine D. Brown

*Honor of Anne Beckner
and Robert Sterling*

Jo Ann L. Brown Estate

Nancy & Richard Canady

Linda & Ed Caupert

Alexander Moore Chipman

Sophia and Christian Choi

Stephanie Churchill

Ada & Stephen Cobourn

Memory of Loved Ones

Marilyn Cohen

Robert Copper Estate*

Robert Cordier

Linda Cox

Catherine Cragoe

John Cross

Betty Dawkins

Barry Denham

Margery Dodds

Virginia & Jim Dolan

Hannah M. Dreitcer

Tempa Dunn

Betsy Dye

Chelsea & Adam Ekstedt

Helen Evenson

Joseph Fierstos

Donna & Francis Foster

Carmel Fratianni

& Michael Schneider

Deborah Fritsch
Deanna & Donald Funk
Honor of Dale T. Rogers

Melanie & Bud Green
Anne & David Haaker
Roberta & Richard Hendee

Mal Hildebrand

Pat Hildebrand-Culler

Tamika & Jacob Hill

Sandy Hill

Sandy & Jon Hockenyo

Katharine M. Hughes

Thomas H. Janeway

Kathy & Jeff Johnson

Minnie Lee Jones Estate*

J. M. Keller

Kathleen H. Kenyon

Beth & Jim Kincaid

Clyde Knock*

Karen Kraft

Memory of Amolee McIntyre

Marilyn Kushak

F. Wells Langbehn

Valerie & Dave Leonatti

Vena Long

Memory of

Donald Ray Long

Naomi & Robert Lynn

Katie & Carl Matteson

Joyce Matthews

Teresa & Terry McElwee

Sarah & Trajan Iliif McGill

Jack McKee Estate*

June McKee Estate*

Kathy & Bill Meriwether

Lisa Metzger

Memory of Mary & Edmond Metzger

Leigh & Kevin Milward

Carolyn & R. L. Moore

Kathy & Tim Moore

Memory of the Koessel

& the Moore Families

Stephanie S. Moore

Bev & Ken Morey

Madelyn Morris Bogue

Memory of Richard Morris

Joyce Newcomb Family

Kathy Culver Nickell

Tom Owen

Mary & Harold Perkins

Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer

Michelle Power

Claire & Richard Priller

E.L. Pruitt Co.

Linda & Mark Ranck

Marilyn & James Rigney

Kelly Robertson

Mary Gail & Steve Romack

Memory of Helen & Clyde Knock

Kim Leistner Root

Memory of Dorothy Irvine

Debra (Pollock) Rudis

Memory of Laura Pollock

Betsy Ruklick

Susan & Grant Russel

Memory of Betty & Joseph Dawkins

Jo Ann & Eric Schmidt

Rosemary Schussle*

Rebecca Sherrick

Honor of Dr. & Mrs. William

Sherrick's 60th Anniversary

Donna Solomon

Suzann & Thomas Spada

Kim & Mark Stegeman

Honor of Phyllis & Bob McCormick

Barbara Stewart

Paula Stewart

Strawbridge Estate*

Bruce Strom

M. Jill Sullivan

Debbie & Skip Turnbull

Sharon Turner

Elizabeth E. Unglaub

Memory of Margot Kramer

Mary Waddell Estate*

Anne & Frank Waldburger Estate

James Wilday

Charles Wilkin

Memory of Rebecca Wilkin

Kate Wilson

Amy & Sam Xanders

Cathy Yokley

Marlene Zimmerman

Testamentary

(Amount Unknown)

Anonymous †

Janie & Clay Bahlow †

David Becker †

Sandy Bellatti †

Marilyn Cohen †

Ann W. Collins †

Virginia & Jim Dolan †

Sue Donels †

Daniel Dungan †

Donna Garman †

Kathy & Randy Germeraad †

Sharon & Matt Gilmour †

Anne & David Haaker †

Elaine Hoff †

Christie & Robyn Hovey †

Judy Huston †

Thomas H. Janeway †

Vivian Keithley †

Blythe & Peter Kieffer †

Rebecca Martin †

Kathy Culver Nickell †

Tom Owen †

Jeanne Pittman †

Richard Priller †

Mary Ray †

Sharon Reynolds †

Pat Roller †

Diane Rutledge †

Timothy Schweizer †

Susan R. Shea †

Nancy Simpson †

Kay & Gerald Smith †

Marty & Alan Stutz †

Julie & Mike Sundquist †

William Wright †

New since last published

Donation in Honor of

Dr. Kieffer's Ministry

* Pre-campaign gift

† Planned gift

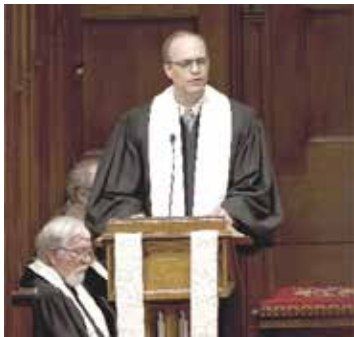


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GARDEN PARTY – MAY 17



Over 40 Presbyterian Women gathered at the lovely lake home of Sue Cull for the 190th Founders' Garden Party. Hosted by Elizabeth Circle, those gathered enjoyed a delicious brunch. In honor of the Birthday offering, \$1,405 was collected to fund special projects serving women. Special thanks to Sue's daughter, Debbie Sanders, who joined us for the celebration.

WESTMINSTER'S 190TH FOUNDERS' SUNDAY



Founders' Sunday was a joyous occasion as we celebrated 190 years of faith, art, and advocacy. We welcomed home Drs. Lee and Wood and Reverends Blackburn, Merrill, and McGill. We missed Reverend Zyla who was unable to attend because of the St. Louis tornados. Rev. Ann Schwartz, Lead Presbyter, brought greetings on behalf of the Presbytery of Great Rivers. Over 250 gathered for worship and 170 attended the dinner reception. Rev. Albert and Abiah Hale, portrayed by Andy and Debbie Van de Voort, welcomed us, and shared a bit of history (written by Dale Rogers) before the meal was served.

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Dr. Kieffer
MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HUNGER ACTION TEAM

MONTHLY HELPING HANDS MEALS

Thank you to Linda Andrews, Keith Hamilton, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Claudia Nash, Julie Robbs, Sue Sawers, and Sue Scaife for preparing 70 bagged lunches on May 9th.



Mary Ray prepared the hot meal for 70 community members Wednesday, May 28.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY - Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry on the grounds of Graham Elementary. If you are interested in helping, please sign up using the QR code here.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JUNE MENU

Canned tuna or chicken, boxed meal to put canned meat in, canned fruit in juice/water, canned veggies (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

FAIR TRADE -Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers are available by contacting the Church Office. Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson oversee this ministry.



MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES – SAVE THE DATE
JULY 28 - AUGUST 1 AND AUGUST 4 -8



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 July 28 - Aug 1 and Aug 4 - 8, 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 between 9:00 & 9:30 a.m. For more information and to sign up, use the QR code here.



GRACE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES GRANT



At their May meeting, the Mission and Community Service Committee approved a \$1,000 grant to support the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry located at 714 E Capitol Avenue. Grace also received \$794 which was half of the Youth Souper Bowl Collection.

JUNE EARTH CARE TIP

Not looking forward to watering the garden this summer? How about a rain collection barrel under a gutter downspout connected to a soaker hose that courses under your garden? With a \$25 CWLP rebate and water bill savings of up to \$5-10/month, a rain barrel can pay for itself in a few years and soak the whole garden after a brief summer rain hits the roof. Your plants will love the natural rainwater, soaker hoses do not waste through evaporation, and diverting gutter runoff can reduce basement flooding, soil erosion, stream pollution, and storm drain overload.



-Dr. Peter Kieffer

PENTECOST OFFERING DEDICATED JUNE 8

The Pentecost Offering will be dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. Forty percent stays with the local church and will support our 2025 Youth Mission Trip.



YOUTH MINISTRY

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

On Sunday, June 1 at 9:15 a.m. the entire Youth Mission Team will gather in the Second Floor Classroom for a meeting before this summer's mission trip.

On Sunday, July 6 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service the team will be commissioned. July 12 - July 19 the team joins Asheville Youth Mission in their theme, Re(New)ed Creation by serving in a homeless veterans shelter, cleaning up from Hurricane Helene, and other services. On Sunday, July 20, the team leads worship and reports to the congregation.

YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISERS

THE CAR WASH / BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, JUNE 15 – 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



Members are invited to support the Youth Mission Team for their final two fundraisers before they depart for Asheville, NC. Arrive early with your cars for the youth to clean them and stop by the table of delicious baked goods prepared by members of the youth mission team and their parents.

All Mission participants will arrive at church at 9:30 a.m. wearing clothing to work in. Cars will be washed in our parking lot, so bring all the family cars along!



Youth families will supply baked goods for the Bake Sale! Thanks to Val Leonatti for organizing the Car Wash and to Cathy Brower for organizing the Bake Sale.

PARISH NURSE NEWS by Ellen Carpenter

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, June 1 by Parish Nurse Marilyn Rigney.

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on June 8, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to Melanie and Bud Green, Drs. Judy and Todd Knox, Val Leonatti and Mary Ray who made visits to six members on May 11.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will knit at home on June 10. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet Wednesday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Wheat (11 Pickering Lane, 62712). Vonnie Hinesley will lead the devotional *Evangelism* by Watchman Nee (pages 323-329). RSVP directly to Pat (217-836-6091).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE, LYDIA CIRCLE AND PRESBYTERIAN MEN will resume in September.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

FRIDAY, JUNE 20 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, June 20 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Charli Swain, educational programmer and horticulturist with the Washington Park Botanical Gardens, will speak on how it operates all around the year. RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, June 24 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson (Young Adult version recommended). New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

SUNDAYS, JUNE 8 AND 15 AT 9:00 A.M.



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, June 8 and 15 at 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. The class will be led by the pastors. New

members will be recognized on Sunday, June 22, following a Special Session meeting.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Following a review of 70 Personal Discernment Profiles and after conducting Zoom interviews with seven applicants, the committee narrowed the selection to three potential candidates for in-person visits to Westminster during May and early June.

- Dr. Todd Knox, Chair

Let's Celebrate!

Dr. Kieffer's Ministry

Friday, August 22, 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

212 North Sixth Street

Springfield, Illinois

Dinner, Drinks, Toasts, Dancing

\$35 per person

Make checks payable to Westminster with

Retirement Party in the memo line

RSVP to Jennie Alt by August 1, 2025

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Vivian Keithley celebrates 103 years on June 2.

Beverly Orr celebrates 94 years on June 3.

Joyce Olson celebrates 96 years on June 12.

Mary Barringer celebrates 92 years on June 29.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Bill & Mrs. Ann Lienemann celebrate 70 years on June 4.

Jan & Jim Pinkerton celebrate 65 years on June 11.

Carole & Jay Kennerly celebrate 60 years on June 12.

Dr. Richard & Mrs. Eleanor Leary celebrate 64 years on June 18.

Mary & Bob Leffler celebrate 60 years on June 19.

Judy & Fred Prillaman celebrate 60 years on June 26.

WEDDING

Congratulations to Mary and Morley Peura on the marriage of their daughter Jenni Peura to Tommy Anderson on May 3 in Soldotna, Alaska.

NEW ARRIVAL

Cal Maurice Baier was born May 6 in Bloomington to Kelsey and Jeremy Baier, siblings are Thea and Lane, and proud grandparents are Jeanne and Pete Van Gieson.

Benjamin Louis Arnold was born May 7 in Springfield to Michella and Ben Arnold.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Bill Deemer on the death of his brother-in-law, George Kester, on May 22 in Pontiac, Illinois.

THANK YOU

To all who donated 186 layettes for Kumler Outreach Ministries. We received 67 purchased items, 45 sewn items, and 74 items that were knitted by the members of Knit 2 Purl 4.



To all who made donations to the Church World Service BLANKETS+ offering on behalf of Presbyterian Women. **We collected \$852 thanks to the generosity of this congregation.**

NEW ADDRESS

Michella and Ben Arnold, 823 Independence Ridge, Springfield, IL 62702

Dr. Bill Lienemann, Cedarhurst, 3520 Old Jacksonville Rd # 40, Springfield, IL 62711

Cindy & Bill Ruesink, 207 S. Woods, Apt 1305, Chesterfield, MO 63017 *Corrected Address

Bob Wire, 12300 Quincy St, Apt 3109, Holland MI 49424

ART EXHIBIT

Priscilla Kluge will present an art exhibit entitled Summer Solstice located at the SAA Collective on 105 North 5th Street. The opening reception will be Friday, June 6, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT by LISA RUNKLE

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of Westminster. Income is above budget by \$21,453 at the end of April. while expenses are over budget by \$16,564 largely because of the installation of a new HVAC for the third floor of the education wing. Income exceeds expenses by \$4,889 year-to-date.

2025Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 403,086	\$ 381,633	\$ 21,453
Expenses	\$-398,197	\$- 381,633	\$ 16,564
Net Total	\$ 4,889	\$ 0	

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY CELEBRATED JUNE 1



Baccalaureate Sunday, June 1, we will recognize our graduating high school seniors during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will follow worship in Parish Hall. Congratulations to these young people and Godspeed as they continue the adventure of life. Those attending will receive two gifts from their faith community: a copy of the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer, and a hand-knitted scarf.

Matthew Hibbert from GHS attending Southern IL University in Edwardsville.

Liliana Kennerly from SHG attending Southern IL University in Edwardsville.

Sydney Lettes from Pace Academy in Atlanta, GA, attending Vanderbilt University. She is the granddaughter of Dr. Alan and Marty Stutz.

Julia Musgrave from RHS attending University of Iowa.

Wyatt Myers from Bay School of San Francisco attending Pratt Institute in NY. Wyatt is the grandson of Linda Folse.

Larson Nester from GHS attending Southern Utah University.

Alina Vogler from GHS attending the University of Tampa in Tampa, FL.

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Braden Barton – A.A. from Lincoln Land Community College. He will attend University of IL Springfield to pursue a bachelor's in computer science.

Aerwyna Eastvold – A.A. from Lincoln Land Community College. She will attend Southern IL University in Edwardsville to pursue a bachelor's in music education.

COLLEGE DEGREES

Grace Batterman - B.S. in Exercise, Performance and Health Optimization from Auburn University in Auburn, AL. Grace graduated Magna Cum Laude and plans to pursue her master's physical therapy.

Carter Formea - B.A. in Accounting from the University of Illinois, Springfield in December. Carter is pursuing schools for his master's in accounting.

Kristina Hemberger - B.S. in Health and Science with an emphasis in leadership policy from the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. Kristina will marry Hayden Moellers on August 2, 2025 in Edgerton, KS.

Jaiana Ireland - B.S. in Biology from Illinois State University in Normal, IL in December and plans to obtain a masters in science.

Ella Kurmann – B.S. in Interior Design and Construction Management from Illinois State University.

Benjamin Parker - B.A. in History from American University in Washington, D.C. and plans to attend graduate school in education.

Avery Pound - B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and a Minor in Applied Economics from Cornell University. Avery graduated Magna Cum Laude and will attend Purdue University to pursue his masters in Agricultural Economics.

Adrian Herrera – B.A. in Business Management and Cyber Security from the Southern IL University in Edwardsville. Adrian is the grandson of Nancy Reed.

Audrey Stutz – B.A. in Psychology and a Minor in Creative Writing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Audrey is the granddaughter of Dr. Alan and Marty Stutz.

GRADUATE DEGREES

Claire Bess – Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy and Management from the University of Pittsburgh. She will do further study at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health – Population Health Institute.

Abby Fierstos – J.D. law degree from St. Louis University. Abby is preparing to take the Illinois Bar.

Laura O'Reilly – Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Adler University. She will continue to work in private practice and aspires to work at a university to teach future social workers or psychologists.

Cristian Herrera– M.A. of Science in Chemistry from Southern IL University in Edwardsville. Cristian is the grandson of Nancy Reed.

Westminster Staff

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

*Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, July 2 at 12:30 p.m.*