



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

March 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. Sunday School and Confirmation Prep following Children's Sermon

Children Pre-K – Grade 7

11:15 a.m. Confirmation
Adult Education Forum

5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

March 2

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
In the Clouds

March 9

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Modest Proposal

March 16

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 15:1-7, 17-18, Luke 13:31-35

The Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
Securest Place

March 23

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

– Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Want and Plenty

March 30

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 33:1-10, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Time to Embrace

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

THEME: THE SANCTUARY FOR LENT

5:30 P.M. SIMPLE DINNER IN PARISH HALL

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

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

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

Small votive candles will be given to each worshipper as a tangible reminder for the sanctuary we have in Christ as we journey during this Holy Season.

THE SANCTUARY FOR LENT

Meditations from The Sanctuary for Lent devotional book, written by Justin LaRose, an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church and a licensed clinical social worker, will be emailed daily to members during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday.

FAMILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL CALENDARS

Westminster families received a Lenten Devotional Calendar which includes a word and scripture for each day of Lent. Families are invited to discuss each word, take a photo of its meaning for them, and post on the "Westminster Young Families" Facebook Group. Youth are encouraged to share their photo of the day on Instagram by tagging the "Westminyouth_spi" page.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE

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

LENTEN GIVING

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

Lenten Coat Drive – Once again we will collect new or gently used coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday as we commemorate those who *spread their cloaks on the road* upon Christ's entry to Jerusalem. The coats will then be donated to Contact Ministries.

Celebrating 190 Years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy Fine Arts Display on Sunday, March 23

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

If you would like to participate, contact Dale Rogers.



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

The beginning of God's revelation is a conversation. God does not simply thunder; God asks, invites, listens, urges, waits, pushes a bit harder. James C. Howell Daily Feast

During this final year of my ministry at Westminster I find myself reminiscing about our journey together and would like to share some of those thoughts in this column these coming months.

The beginning of the conversation between Westminster and me began twelve years ago this month. The first voice I heard was Bill Deemer's who called about a phone interview which took place Thursday, March 7 with him and Jenny Bright. When PNC Chair Brad Swanson reached out a few days later to arrange a Skype interview, Peter and I were thrilled. On Monday, March 18, I met the rest of the committee: Ellen Carpenter, Judy Knox, Glen Pittman, and Diane Rutledge. On March 19, I wrote in my journal.

Holy and loving God, my heart overflows with gratitude and fear, with joy and hesitation. This could be big... Westminster is a beautiful church, and I really connected with the members of the PNC. If you trust me with this call and are asking "Whom shall I send and who will go for us." My answer is "Here am I, send me!" Thank you for Peter, my rock. Be with us as we journey down this unfamiliar road.

During the week of March 23-27 while Peter, Paul, and I visited my parents at their Fort Myers condo during Spring break, I received an email from Brad asking me not to decide about my next call until we had further conversations.

On Sunday, May 5, the PNC worshiped at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church to hear me preach. Peter and I enjoyed brunch with the committee in a private room at Cardwell's in Frontenac Plaza.

On Tuesday, June 18, Peter and I spent the day in Springfield with the committee touring the church and community. Dr. Roy Wehrle interviewed me in the Swanson's living room for theological soundness on behalf of the Committee on Ministry. (I passed!) On Wednesday, June 19, I hosted Dale Rogers at our Clayton home (since he was in St. Louis music shopping).

On Monday, July 8, while visiting my parents at their home in Crete, IL, I received a telephone call from the PNC inviting me to serve as Westminster's next head of staff. My response was "Yes, yes, yes, absolutely!" I met members of the PNC at Starbucks in Springfield on my way home to St. Louis the next day. Peter, Paul, and I celebrated at a favorite restaurant in Clayton that night.

A few days after the call, I wrote a line from Mary Oliver in House of Light in my journal: *Have you ever found something beautiful, and maybe just in time?* Then I added: *This is how I feel about Westminster Presbyterian Church ---Thank you, loving God, from the bottom of my heart.*

On Sunday, July 28, I preached my candidacy sermon and was officially called by the congregation with a beginning date of October 1, 2013. On August 2, Peter secured a position with St. John's ED. Thus began our twelve-year journey of collaboration and ministry with this beautiful church.

LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION

TUESDAY, April 8 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., the Support and Endowment Committee, chaired by Jeff Wilday, will host a Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). The purpose of the gathering is to thank those who have remembered Westminster in their will and to invite others to consider this opportunity. All are welcome. Please RSVP with Jennie Alt by Monday, April 7 at noon.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR Continues to rehearse on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for each Sunday morning's service during the upcoming season of Lent.

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

CHURCH MICE, a musical experience for infants through age four, meets on Saturday mornings at 11:00. Follow the pathway of cheese to music, fun, and friends.

SING BY HEART CHOIR

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 5, 13, 19, 26

The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, will continue this joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregiver on Wednesdays in March. The final session on Wednesday, April 9 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public.



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

Join us Sundays 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall.

WOMEN IN SPACE

March 2, 9

This forum illuminates the ways female astronauts overcame gender oppression to transform American space exploration and will be presented by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold.

SOCIAL AND MEDICAL HISTORY OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

March 16

A history of medical procedures and social perspectives on reproductive health will be presented by Dr. Peter Kieffer.

HISTORY OF THE SIU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

March 30

The history of the SIU School of Medicine will be presented by a founding faculty member, Dr. Roland Folsie.



APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group will meet on Tuesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library. The book for March is The Red Tent, a novel by Anita Diamant.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

SUNDAYS, MARCH 2 AND 9 AT 9:00 A.M.

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 2 and 9 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, March 16, following a Special Session meeting.



FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

THANK YOU For feeding the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship on Sunday, February 9, together we raised \$1,588.



WESTMINSTER YOUTH GROUP IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

Families, youth, and the church family are invited to follow the youth group page, [Westminyouth_spi](#) on Instagram to see important youth group information, photos of our time together and to tag our page as you participate in the Lenten Family Photos Devotional Calendar.

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION MARCH SCHEDULE

GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP meets during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) on Sundays, March 2 (Peter), March 16 (Paul), March 23 (New Creation) and March 30 (Summary and Review). NO Class on March 9 (Communion).

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION meets following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) on Sundays, March 2 (Presbyterian Polity), March 16 (Presbyterian Worship), March 23 (The Sacraments) and March 30 (Statements of Faith and Confirmation). NO Class on March 9 (Communion). Confirmation Class will meet with Session on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:15 p.m. to be received as members and attend a celebratory dinner with families and mentors following the meeting.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Senior High youth meet Sundays, March 2 (meal Meridith and Jim Bryans) and March 30 (Trivia Night).

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.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

ASHEVILLE, NC - Saturday, July 12- Saturday July 19, 2025



We have a full team preparing for the 2025 Mission Trip as we partner with Asheville Youth Mission (AYM) in Asheville, NC. The cost will be: \$350 for youth and \$300 for adult chaperones. The full cost needs to be paid by April 30.

MISSION TRIP PLANNING MEETING AND FUNDRAISER

YOUTH MISSION TRIP ADULT PARTICIPANTS will meet Sunday, March 16 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER is Sunday, March 30. All youth mission trip participants, please arrive by 4 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

LENTEN FAMILY DEVOTIONS AND ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING CALENDARS

This year's Lenten Family Devotion includes a Lenten Family Photos Devotional as well as the OGHs calendars and Fish boxes. The Daily Photo Challenge begins Ash Wednesday, March 5. This daily devotion includes a short scripture and a word of the day. You are invited to share a photo in the Westminster Young Families Facebook group on how your family experienced that word in your day. There is still time to be part of the Facebook group, please contact Jennie Alt in the church office.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES



Throughout Lent, children are invited to fill their fish boxes with donations as we remember those in need and support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hunger and disaster assistance programs.

LENTEN COAT DRIVE Families are invited to donate coats for both children and adults to benefit those in need. Please bring coats to the designated basket in the West Narthex.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

Bridges children (grades 3-5) continue to meet Wednesdays at 4:00-5:00 p.m. and explore Bible stories about Jesus. This word cloud was created as the children named the names of Jesus.



We are so thankful for those Bridges children that helped lead worship on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

SAVE THE DATE – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COMPASSION CAMP: WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS
THE WEEK OF JUNE 9-13, 2025



Monday – Friday, June 9-13 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to explore what all living things need to live – shelter, food, water, air and community- and how we can have compassion for the living earth, especially our local ecosystems. Each session is centered on Psalm 104 as our grounding text and stitched together with other Biblical stories to highlight each session theme. Registration is opening soon, and we are excited to practice ways we can show compassion as Jesus' disciples.

WESTMINSTER CO-OP PRESCHOOL BY EMILY ROWLEY

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. 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 has made this an excellent place to work. I will be forever thankful!

Needs in my family have led me to the conclusion that my time at WCP will conclude 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. Your support in so many different ways has been noticed and appreciated. WCP is a very special place, and I would urge you to continue your unwavering, generous support of this preschool and its people.

A Teacher Search Committee to find a replacement has been formed and is accepting resumes through March 21. To learn more, please see the Indeed job listing.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN FEBRUARY



Our NEW Preschool Sunday School which was introduced on February 2 had fun learning with Mrs. Sara Eldridge and Miss Abigail Eldridge about being 'fishers of people.'

Our Elementary Sunday School loved learning that God's blessings are for everyone with Mrs. Sophia Choi and Mrs. Julie Robbs.

YOUTH CONTINUE TRADITION OF SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, Westminster youth continued the tradition began in 1990 at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC by collecting funds in soup pots for local food pantries. The \$1,588 collected was divided between the food pantries at Kumler Outreach Ministries and Grace Lutheran Church. Gathering twice monthly on Sunday evenings provide an opportunity for fellowship, games, and Bible Study. Youth Elder Sam Batterman was ordained and installed on Wednesday, February 19 prior to Session.

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. SARAH A. BISHOP



FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY



Rev. Bishop's Installation Commission gathers in the library, Sarah responds to questions from Great Rivers Moderator Carol Sleeth, Sarah is pictured with her dad Dan following the service, and the Swanson and Bryans families enjoy another exceptional reception (thank you, Pat Hymans).

PW Officers host New Beginnings Brunch welcoming 50 women, Knitters celebrate Mary Ann Nation's 95th birthday, John Stafford presents his FBI experience to 20 men gathered for their monthly breakfast, and Dr. Roy Wehrle shares his experience as a Senior Economist in President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors with 50 members and friends gathered at an Adult Ed Forum.

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

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMPASS FOR KIDS



On Sunday, February 2, Kiele Hendricker, Westminster Site Coordinator gave a ministry moment inviting members to join the team of Compass for Kids.

We are delighted to learn that former teacher and prospective new member Linda Cox has participated in the training to join the Compass for Kids team. We welcome others to consider this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of at-risk children within our community.

HUNGER MINISTRIES

HELPING HANDS: Thank you to Kris Gates, Pat Hymans, Mary King, Becky Martin, Judy Prillaman, Kelly Robertson, and Eleanor VanDeventer, for preparing the February 14 bagged lunches.

The Swanson and Bryans families will prepare and deliver the hot meal Wednesday, February 26.



WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY:



Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Christian Kennerly and his daughters Liliana and Nora recently joined the team. Please sign up on SignUp Genius.

(<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>)

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MARCH MENU

Canned Ravioli, Canned Veggies, 100 % Juice canned or boxed; Optional: Toothpaste, Dry Cereal, Granola/Breakfast Bars, Deodorant



FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Join us on Sunday, March 16. Come check out our chocolate and other Equal Exchange items following worship! Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson oversee this ministry.

EARTH CARE TIP

Every day at Westminster, solar panels on our new education roof soak up sun to produce electricity for our church, thanks to collaboration among the Earth Care, Property, and Mission Committees. **Go to the bottom of our homepage at wpcspi.org to link to how much clean energy our panels produce as we continue to care for God's creation!** -Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We are receiving donations toward this multi-denominational annual collection throughout Lent. This ecumenical, special offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people throughout the world.



If you would like to receive a fish box, please contact Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATE

As we celebrate the one-year anniversary since the Alonso Velásquez Family arrived in Springfield on March 26, 2024, we continue the application process with the University of Illinois law school students to transition the family from legal refugees to permanent residents, modify their lease as they gain more independence, and provide safeguards with the executive orders of the new administration.



FIFTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH

The Strategic Planning Committee and Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force continue to address the mandate to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood within the decade. These investments include matching grants, service week projects, and the Little Pantry at Graham Elementary School. **The week of March 10**, letters will be mailed inviting our neighbors to participate in the June 23-27 Service Week and/or apply for a \$1,500 matching grant toward simple home improvements. 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.



WOODEN IT BE LOVELY

In 2021, Westminster committed a recurring endowment mission grant of \$7,000 a year for seven years to support this meaningful ministry which offers hope and employment to women healing from lives of poverty, addiction, and abuse; providing transitional employment, mentoring, recovery tools, education, community networking, and a safe community. The 2025 grant for \$7,000 was disbursed in February as we reach \$35,000 of the \$49,000 committed. The gathering room in the Wooden It Be Lovely home is named for Westminster in recognition of our commitment to that ministry. Westminster members serving on this community board are Jen DeJong, Kathy Germeraad, Dr. Diane Rutledge, and Cindy Davis.



This Saturday, March 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wooden It Be Lovely will host a St. Patrick's Pop-Up sale at their boutique at 801 South Grand Ave W.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on March 9, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to Marilyn Rigney and Sara Eldridge, Mary Ray and Val Leonatti, Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer who made visits to four members on Sunday, February 9.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, March 2 with Marilyn Rigney.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP gathers on Tuesdays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. For the time being knitters will not meet for their monthly brown bag lunch. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PROGRAM AND CIRCLES

PW LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM will be Friday, March 7 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. Rebecca Morales will present "USA Mission Experience." Nancy Canady is the Kitchen Chair and Joyce Matthews is the Chair of the Day. Please RSVP on the website or with Jennie Alt in the church office.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will not meet on March 5 as it is Ash Wednesday. We will gather as a circle for the dinner and worship. We will meet Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Carpenter (2529 Wydown Ave).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, March 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 6 & 7 "Climate Change & Economic Climate Change" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, March 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the library and will study lessons 5 & 6 "Air Quality & Climate Change" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

RESUMES FRIDAY, MARCH 21

DMA will meet Friday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. All ages and friends are welcome! Lynette Strode, Program Manager of IATP - Illinois Assistive Technology Program, will speak on the program and how it helps the community. NO RSVP necessary, bring a side to share or come to the program.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Join the men of Westminster on Thursday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Charlie King will speak on his career with the Illinois EPA. Brad Swanson will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

NEW WATER FOUNTAIN

Westminster received an upgrade this week when Drs. Todd and Judy Knox donated a new Elkay water fountain. It is located between the restrooms in the West Narthex. It dispenses cold, filtered water for drinking. It can also be dispensed into a water bottle, pitcher, or cup.

Thanks to Judy and Todd for freshening our drinks!



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Rich Canady celebrate 66 years on March 13.

Pat Picchi celebrates 99 years on March 20.

Elsie Unglaub celebrates 99 years on March 23.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Sue and Steve Scaife on the birth of their great grandson, Wesley Rowan Anderson. His parents Katie and Matthew Anderson welcomed Wesley into the world on January 27 in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

IN MEMORIAM

Deanna Funk died January 25. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her daughter, Anne E. Funk, son, Donald D. Funk (Layna) and granddaughters, Ayden and Ella Funk.

Bob "Bobby" G. McCormick died on February 15 in Springfield, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to Bobby's wife, Phyllis, their daughter Kim (husband Mark) Stegeman and grandchildren Ashley, Kristin, and Jack Stegeman. A private graveside service at Camp Butler National Cemetery will be held at a later time.

The Memorial Service for John Kirk will be held Monday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Westminster's Sanctuary with a lunch reception following in Parish Hall.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Kathy Watson on the death of her husband, Jerome "Jay" Watson on January 28 in Springfield.

Cynthia and Roy Collings on the death of Roy's mother, Carolyn Carmichael on February 4 in Springfield.

THANK YOU TO WESTMINSTER

Please know how much I appreciate the responses related to my Ph.D. dissertation on how political polarization affects people in their everyday lives. *Laura O'Reilly*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Thank you so much for your generous contribution toward our hurricane recovery efforts. We are keeping our ministry and mission going while we work to get back into our building. The support of caring friends like you is heartening. Thank you also for the warm welcome you extended to me. I will always cherish our friendship.

The Rev. Bobby Musengwa

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT BY LISA RUNKLE

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the month of January with income above budget. The Youth Mission registration was paid in full in January which took the expenses over budget. Total expenses exceeded income by \$3,310.

2025 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 96,906	\$ 93,950	\$ 2,956
Expenses	\$-100,216	\$- 93,950	\$ 6,266
Net Total	\$ - 3,310	\$ 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 of \$38.50 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

TRIVIA NIGHT SUNDAY, MARCH 30 DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.

Each year, members support our youth mission trip at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. Sign-up yourself or your team online. Childcare is available in the nursery.



DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M. Dinner is available for \$5.00 and prepared by Pat Hymans and her kitchen team. Participants are also welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

QUESTIONS BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M. Once again, we welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions.

TICKETS ARE \$20.00 and can be purchased on our website or from a youth on Sunday mornings.

ROUND SPONSORSHIP IS \$100 - You or your business can sponsor a round and will be featured on the screen between rounds. This does not include the cost of individual tickets. Contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org).

Gather your friends and join us for a fun, competitive evening supporting our mission-minded youth.

WESTMINSTER 190TH ANNIVERSARY RETREAT CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF FAITH, ART AND ADVOCACY THURSDAY - SATURDAY, MAY 1-3, 2025

PERE MARQUETTE LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER

This retreat will trace the journeys of our founding abolitionists and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parrish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminister's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy.



The cost of the two-day retreat is \$275 per person (double) and \$300 per person (single). This includes two nights of lodging and four meals. Saturday breakfast will be in the lodge restaurant. Sign-up begins Sunday, March 2 in the West Narthex and applications are also available on our

website www.wpcspi.org. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for 35 participants.

Grafton became a booming business community and important river port in the late 1800's. It reached its peak in the early 1900's and the population began to decline by the 1920's. Today, Grafton retains its charm and is steaming steadily ahead. Pere Marquette Lodge was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933-1939 and was opened for business in 1940.

PNC UPDATE

On Sunday, February 9, over 50 members joined the PNC in Parish Hall to provide input on the qualities we are looking for in the next Head of Staff.



On Wednesday, February 26, the PNC will present the Ministry Discernment Profile to the Session for approval. The document will then be sent to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Great Rivers for their approval on Thursday, March 6.

We anticipate posting our Co-Pastor Position on the Church Leadership Connection on Friday, March 7 and look forward to being matched with qualified candidates as we begin the process of reviewing Personal Discernment Profiles and conducting Zoom interviews. *Dr. Todd Knox, PNC Chair*



Daylight savings time – Sunday, March 9, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour!

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

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

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth
zkarmar.mr@gmail.com

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

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

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat5@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

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

The Reporter folding and mailing will be on Wednesday, April 2.