



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

May 2020

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m.

Online Worship Service

www.wpcspi.org

Sunday School:

Young Children and Worship

Bible Story YouTube Video

emailed to Families

Children Birth-Grade 5

Youth Gather by Zoom

Junior High Youth 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Senior High Youth 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

May 3

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Quiet Confidence

May 10

MOTHER'S DAY

1 Peter 2:1-10; John 14:1-6a

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

A Time to Be Born

May 17

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

With Gentleness and Reverence

May 24

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Rise Up

May 31

DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Lift Every Voice

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR ENDEAVOR PROCESSES FAITHFULLY

On Sunday, April 26, the congregation took a historic vote and overwhelmingly approved the Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape loan for up to \$1.3 million from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program. The interest will be between 3.5 and 3.76% and the loan will be paid back over 20 years. On April 7, the Presbytery of Great Rivers guaranteed the loan.

The **Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor** is possible because of the successful **"Building a Legacy of Faith"** Twenty-Year Anniversary Endowment Campaign. The loan payments will be made from the interest earned from our General Endowment which had a market value of \$4,062,600 on March 31, 2020. This General Endowment is part of the total Support and Endowment Fund, which had a market value of \$6,599,400 on March 31, 2020.

This endeavor fulfills the vision of our congregation, who voted to remain in our present location and to be a steadfast presence in this neighborhood 20 years ago. Today we are investing in our neighborhood by beautifying our grounds, expanding our parking, and reaching out to the neighborhood in the mission component, which will be one-third of the renovation costs. The mission funding will be made from the interest earned from our General Endowment. Neighbors will be invited to apply for matching grants or partake in the Steadfast Neighbor Service week August 10-14, 2020. A team of members are being recruited to do minor repairs and small landscape projects for homes in the neighborhood.

At their April 15 meeting, Session unanimously approved the Steadfast Neighbor bids presented by Strategic Planning Committee Chair, Dr. Todd Knox. Our parking lot was designed by Vasconcelles Engineering and will be constructed by O'Shea Builders. The West Terrace and East Entry were designed by Architect John Shafer and will be completed by Sexton's Landscape Concepts. Lighting will be provided by Springfield Electric and installed by B&B Electrical Contractor. One of the silver linings of this cloud called "COVID-19" is that the parking lot work will begin immediately and completed with no phasing, saving close to \$100,000. Thank you to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and task forces for their perseverance, collaboration, and fortitude.



The West Terrace and East Entry were designed by Architect John Shafer and will be completed by Sexton's Landscape Concepts. Lighting will be provided by Springfield Electric and installed by B&B Electrical Contractor. One of the silver linings of this cloud called "COVID-19" is that the parking lot work will begin immediately and completed with no phasing, saving close to \$100,000. Thank you to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and task forces for their perseverance, collaboration, and fortitude.

2020 Strategic Planning Committee: Todd Knox (chair), Pat Hildebrand Culler, Sally Godbey, Keith Hamilton, Beth Kincaid, Carolyn Swanson, Brinton Wilkey, Todd Wise, Dr. Kieffer

Hardscape Task Force: Linda Chronister, Randy Germeraad, Mal Hildebrand, Gregg Humphrey, Mark Vasconcelles, Gary Warnick (staff liaison)

Landscape Task Force: Scott Day, Peter Kieffer, Becky McDonald, Andy Sherrick, Dale Rogers

Mission Task Force: Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Brad Milliman, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Mary Peura, Rev. Trajan McGill, Rev. Christian Choi

Founders' Sunday, which was planned for May 31 and intended to be a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction work, will now be a ribbon cutting celebration sometime in July, God willing!

All Gatherings at Westminster, Including Worship, Suspended through May 31, 2020

In April, Session acted to suspend all gatherings, including worship, at Westminster and to empower the staff worship team to continue to create online Sunday worship services until the way be clear by the Governor of Illinois.

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

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And people began to think differently. And the people healed.

And, in absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, and the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

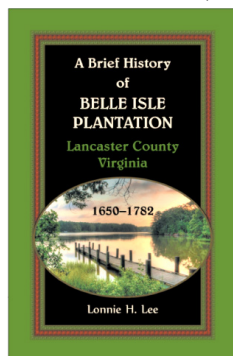
– Kitty O'Meara

This lovely poem, written at the beginning of the pandemic by Kitty O'Meara, warmed my heart. The poem captures the hope that something good can come out of this time. I am grateful for the resilience, faith, and thoughtfulness of each member, I miss you, and I look forward to the time we will join together again when the danger passes.

DR. LEE'S NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK IS AVAILABLE

A few weeks ago, Heritage Books released Dr. Lee's book, *A Brief History of Belle Isle Plantation, Lancaster County, Virginia, 1650-1782*. In the book, Dr. Lee identifies and interprets the rich cache of surviving archival and primary records relating to the Virginia colonial plantation that came to be called Belle Isle. After a long history as a Native American settlement visited by Captain John Smith in 1607 and 1608, this Rappahannock River plantation was first patented by Thomas Powell (d. 1670) as English settlers were pouring into this part of Virginia in 1650. In 1692, a Huguenot-Anglican immigrant clergyman named John Bertrand (c. 1651–1701) purchased this 500-acre plantation that he later enlarged to 924 acres.

Dr. Lee has graciously donated a copy to our library. Books will also be available for purchase (\$22.50) on Founders' Sunday and a portion of the cost will go to the Special Church Support Endowment Fund in support of the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor.



MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We received strong support in the first quarter of 2020. Annual pledge donations received in full early in the year increased income to more than \$33,000 above budgeted revenue. Expenses are nearly \$13,000 under budget, so total income over expenses is \$45,939.

2020 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 293,345	\$ 260,246	\$ 33,099
Expenses	\$-247,406	\$-260,246	\$ 12,840
Net Total	\$ 45,939	\$ 0	

Contribution statements for the first quarter of 2020 were mailed in April. Contact Lisa Runkle if you have any questions.

ONLINE GIVING - Members are encouraged to continue their giving during this time and can do so at www.wpcspi.org at the giving tab.

As always, members are welcome to send a check through the U.S. Postal Service. Please indicate where your funds should be applied on the memo line. 2020 Operating Budget, H.E.A.L., Per Capita, Endowment, One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

Over the past weeks we have had to adapt our mode of how we do worship. For me, one of the greatest losses in our online presence is the absence of choirs. I miss coming together for weekly rehearsals that prepare us for joining our voices in song. In the new format that we have adapted we have designated Lyle VanDeventer as our hymn singer and soloists for the special music spots. For May, our soloists will be Eleanor VanDeventer, Adam Miller, Krista Steller, Diane Dietz, and Kamen Petkov.

On Friday, June 12, I am scheduled to play a Noontide Recital at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, now, an online feature. As details are known, they will be posted here and in the weekly bulletins. My program is patterned after the Town Hall programs in England, a mix of classical and more popular styles of music.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Your Coronavirus Task Force has been meeting weekly via Zoom. Our overall goal is to deliver accurate local information that affects our community and our congregation. **This full report (with graphs) can be found on our website and is updated every Wednesday.**

As of Tuesday, April 28 there are 153 positive tests in Sangamon County. This increase is due to (1) more testing, (2) our hospitals are bringing in cases from outside the county, and (3) there has been a major outbreak at The Villas, a senior care center in Sherman. The Villas has had 37 total cases (24 residents and 13 staff members).

State-wide, 90.4% of cases have been in Chicago and the surrounding counties. Sangamon County accounts for 0.33% of all Illinois cases. So, despite this week's spike in new cases, we remain relatively unaffected. This is good news in that our social distancing measures are working, but it also makes it easy to get complacent. We must guard against this, as there are numerous examples of outbreaks in areas that have prematurely loosened their restrictions.

Governor Pritzker announced modified Stay-At-Home orders for the month of May. It continues our current social distancing requirement but includes some modifications. These include outdoor recreation, nurseries and similar businesses, and non-essential retail businesses. Non-essential businesses must provide curbside pickup from telephone and online orders, while essential businesses must provide face coverings for all employees unable to maintain a six-foot circle. **Most importantly, face coverings will be required for all people in all public spaces where a six-foot circle cannot be maintained and in all indoor facilities.** That means you must wear a face covering when going to the grocery store, for example.

Despite the relaxation of some restrictions in Illinois, the task force feels strongly that we all need to remain vigilant in our preventative measures. Please continue to practice social distancing, stay at home if you can, wash your hands frequently, and wear a face covering when going out in public.

On a positive note, it was wonderful to see our church members gather online for our congregational meeting this past Sunday. Blessings to you all, and we look forward to the time we can meet in our beautiful building. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Feel free to send us an email at WPCCoronavirus@gmail.com. Be safe and be healthy! You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Ellen Carpenter, RN
Virginia Dolan, MD
Peter Kieffer, MD
Todd Knox, MD

Michael Nenaber, MD
Marilyn Rigney, RN
Cara Vasconcelles, MD

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

YOUTH GATHER BY ZOOM

WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS

During this time of isolation with young people asked to stay at home, Westminster is providing a way to connect as Rev. Choi gathers ministry partners and youth together via Zoom each Wednesday and Sunday.

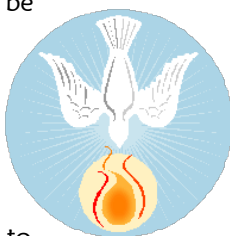
Junior High Youth (Grades 6-8)
Sundays & Wednesdays: 4:00 p.m.

Senior High Youth (Grades 9-12)
Sundays: 5:30 p.m. & Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

We will continue to hold virtual meetings until we can physically gather once again in our church building when it is deemed safe.

2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Class of 2020 will meet with Session via Zoom on Wednesday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. to be received by Session. The Membership Committee will bring a picnic dinner to each family that evening so they can celebrate with one another in the intimacy of their home. Confirmands will be recognized and commissioned on a Sunday to be determined once we resume gathering for worship. This is a time to celebrate our young people affirming their faith. We welcome:



Kristianna Elizabeth Eastvold

William Andrew Hovey

Olivia Grace Simonson

*Thank you to those who served as mentors for our confirmands:
Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos and Beth Kincaid.*

ASP YOUTH MISSION TRIP CANCELLED!

It is with a heavy heart that we relayed to our youth the disappointing news that the ASP Youth Mission Trip scheduled for July 25-August 1 has been cancelled. 22 youth and 7 adults were signed up to share God's love. Each will receive a full refund. Rev. Choi and the ministry partners are exploring other mission options and ways for our youth to be together this summer.



STEADFAST NIGHBOR ENDEAVOR

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE WEEK: AUGUST 10-14

Although we are not heading out to Appalachia to fix people's homes this summer, we are bringing the similar opportunity to Springfield. College young adults as well as middle/high school youth are invited to bring the skills learned at ASP missions to beautify Westminster's neighborhood. Our new tentative dates for neighborhood service week is August 10 – 14. If you wish to join this endeavor or have any questions about Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Missions, please contact Rev. Choi at cchoi@wpcspi.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - NORTHSIDE

Last year, Westminster joined four other churches to share God's love with over 100 kids on the northside of Springfield. To further our commitment and partnership, Youth and adults are invited to serve the greater Springfield community in this ecumenical VBS. The date for this event is to be determined. If interested, please contact Rev. Choi at cchoi@wpcspi.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

A WORD FROM MR. ROGERS

Fred Rogers often told a story about when he was a boy and saw scary things on the news: My mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." We are frequently reminded of this quote after a tragic event. Children depend on the adults in their life for everything. "Look for the helpers" turns a child's anxiety toward safety. This advice was part of a list of eight tips which included: limit TV (especially news), give your child extra physical affection, like snuggling up with a book, and keep a regular routine.

WPCONNECTIONS - We hope our newsletter will assist you to maintain a regular worship routine as we stay in place during this pandemic. Along with the Young Children and Worship Bible Story, what you will find each week is:

PRAY TOGETHER

Weekly prayers are included from *Prayers for Faithful Families* by Presbyterian Minister and mother of three, Traci Smith. You will eventually build a repertoire of prayers to share with your children.

PLAY TOGETHER

This includes a craft idea related to our Bible story or prayer.

SING TOGETHER

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Get your hands clapping and your feet tapping with these children friendly worship songs!!

You will also see the dates of any gatherings, birthdays, special notes and more. I hope this helps us to stay connected during this uncertain time and I look forward to being together soon.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

EXPLORES JESUS' PARABLES

Summer Sunday school begins on May 24 for our younger children (preschool age thru those finishing second grade). Our Sunday school lessons will continue in an online format. Please look for our WPCConnections each Friday. When we resume our regular church gatherings and face-to-face Sunday school, our newsletter will be sent each Monday as a recap of the Sunday lesson. If you are interested in teaching contact Karen at ksherrick@wpcspi.org or check available dates at signupgenius.com.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH SAVE THE DATE: JULY 27-31

This summer, VBS will be held the last week of July (27-31) from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Children age 3 through grade 5 are invited to join us on a quest with the Knights of the North to armor up with truth, justice, peace, faith and salvation. ***Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power. Ephesians 6:10***

Online registration:

www.wpcspi.org/vbs.html



To serve on the VBS leadership team, please sign-up online (use registration link). Adults and youth are invited to join this dynamic group of leaders and ministry partners. If you are interested in serving, please contact Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org. She will begin reaching out to make contacts on June 1, 2020.

A TIME TO WORSHIP ONLINE (AND A PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES)

The staff worship team: (Blythe, Dale, Trajan and Christian) are grateful for the professionalism and expertise of videographer and producer Bob Fox, and his partner in all things, Elsie, in the creation of our weekly online worship services.



A TIME TO GIVE, TO SHARE, AND TO FEED

Compass for Kids may not be meeting in person, but it is still actively working on behalf of are children! Food provided through the Compass Backpack Program has shifted to home delivery and pickups. Lynne Cleverdon coordinated a Westminster response, collecting donated items from WPC members. Lynn McMenemy, Lynne Cleverdon, Ann Collins, Sue Sawers, and Sue Baker are pictured below gathering donated goods. Compass ministry partners are pictured receiving items at Central Baptist.

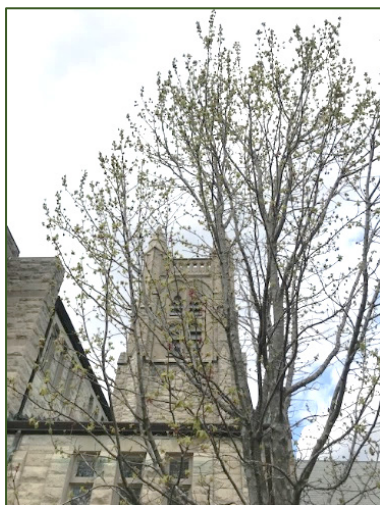


**STEADFAST NEIGHBOR ENDEAVOR
FOR EVERYTHING A SEASON, A TIME TO TAKE DOWN...**



A TIME TO BLOSSOM AND TO GROW

Tuckpointing project on the front of the Sanctuary is complete and the newly planted Red Point Maple Trees are budding.



A TIME TO CLEAN, TO REPAIR, AND TO PAINT



Another silver lining of the COVID-19 cloud is the opportunity to clean, to repair falling plaster, and to paint. Along with cleaning our carpeting, the custodial team cleaned the sanctuary pew cushions. Following the plaster repair in the Southwest stairway (something our Compass students and mentors will especially appreciate) and the hallway between the West Narthex and Sanctuary, the custodial team painted these areas. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

PARISH LIFE by Rev. Trajan McGill

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

PC(USA) SPECIAL OFFERINGS



One Great Hour of Sharing – As of April 28, the Lenten special offering totaled \$10,147. Thank you, everyone for your generosity.

Pentecost Offering – Our denomination collects four special offerings throughout the year, devoted to different purposes.

Westminster already participates in three, and the Session has approved taking part in the fourth: the Pentecost Offering, which “helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children.” Part of this offering can be used by individual congregations in ministering to young people locally, and the rest is put into action by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

HELPING HANDS

At their April meeting, the Mission and Community Service Committee approved a \$3,000 grant for Helping Hands, from the Mission and Benevolence Fund of Westminster's endowment, to help cover additional personnel expenses incurred during this unprecedented time.



WPC provides dinner for the Helping Hands shelter the 2nd Friday of each month. Thank you to Melanie Green, Pat Hymans, Mary Ray, and Krista Steller for providing the April meal. The Westminster family also provided the dinner meal on April 19, catered by Boyd's and delivered by Mary Caroline and David Mitchell. This was a way to cover an extra opening in their schedule and simultaneously support a local business within the Springfield community.

Chris Smith is providing the meal in May. Much appreciated! **June through November are still open.** If you are able to help in this vital time, please email Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org.

LITTLE PANTRY – The Mission & Community Service Committee is partnering with Graham Elementary School by placing a “Little Pantry” on their grounds, to serve as a place where our church and others could share imperishable food or other simple household supplies for people to take as needed. Similar ideas for a “Share what you can; take what you need” approach to helping have been sprouting up elsewhere around the Springfield area.



GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH MAY MENU: Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Canned Soups with Pop Tops, and Granola Bars. The Central IL Foodbank presently has significant need. WPC members are encouraged to set aside food as they normally would, to be gathered & delivered as soon as it is possible. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.*

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION

Neighborhood Service Week: WPC members plan to take to the neighborhood **the week of August 10-17**, assisting with exterior repair and improvements. Please consider taking one or more days and joining as we engage directly with the neighborhood! Contact Todd Knox at hardknox1@mac.com.



YMCA/ MATTHEW PROJECT – The Matthew Project, an area agency serving homeless children, partners with the YMCA to provide opportunities for their children to attend an extended summer day camp with many opportunities for play, socialization, and learning. Westminster's Mission and Benevolence Fund has provided a grant of \$1,000 toward the cost of transporting children to the camp this summer.

EARTH CARE NEWS



MAY EARTH CARE TIP - Are we feeling cooped up yet in quarantine? Let us remember that we can maintain proper social distance even while taking a walk in the park! Although Springfield playgrounds, park bathrooms, and dog parks are closed due to the pandemic, park trails and green spaces are open. Walking, running, biking or even yoga in the outdoors can alleviate stress, promote meaningful exercise, and foster our connection with God's creation.

EARTH DAY – Earth Day, celebrated worldwide every year on April 22, is a chance to give thought and voice to the struggle to protect our natural environment. We may have had no large gatherings this year, but it is nevertheless worth noting. Earth Day began 50 years ago, on April 22, 1970. Let us keep up our devotion to wise environmental stewardship.

GREEN TRANSPORTATION - We are always looking for greener ways to live, including green automobiles. If you have an electric or hybrid car and would like to take part in a “Show and Tell” once the new parking lot is complete, please contact Peter Kieffer at pkieffer@sbcglobal.net.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

CONGREGATIONAL CALLS

The Congregational Care Committee coordinated an effort, once the pandemic began, of Deacons and other members calling all the households of the church to check in. Many messages were left; many conversations were shared (and a few out-of-date phone numbers were discovered)! Thanks to all those who made calls, and our prayers are with all are a part of our church family. We hope you stay healthy, and we look forward to connecting with you again soon.

If you are feeling isolated or need help of some kind, please contact Jennie Alt, Church Administrative Assistant (jalt@wpcspi.org) to receive a call and/or assistance.



HOME COMMUNION – Home Communion is on hold until it becomes safe to visit people once again. We look forward to sharing the the Lord's Supper with you again soon.

PRAYER CIRCLE – If you would like members of the congregation to pray for you, or if you would like to join the Prayer Circle, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill.

H.E.A.L. FUND – Members not feeling the economic impact of this pandemic are invited to make a donation to the “Helpful Emergency Assistance for Living” Fund, which provides assistance to those in our church and community facing financial challenges. With many losing paychecks as the stay-at-home directive is extended, we anticipate the need for assistance will grow. If you or someone you know could benefit from this fund, please reach out to one of the pastors.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MAY FELLOWSHIP GROUPS WILL NOT GATHER

By honoring the Governor's directive to "stay at home" for the well-being of our community and the safety of others in the current COVID-19 pandemic, the following fellowship groups will not meet in person

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION Keep knitting at home!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON (scheduled May 1).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE (scheduled May 11).

LYDIA CIRCLE (scheduled May 19).

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST (scheduled May 14).

DMA (scheduled May 15).

RUTH AND NAOMI, scheduled Wednesday, May 6, will meet by Zoom. Please read *The Water, Gospel Stories* and *The Sea, Fish Stories* from *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans and look for a link sent by email for our gathering.

LAYETTES FOR KUMLER

This collection has been postponed. While we are sheltering at home, you can continue to support this mission project by shopping online for layette items. There are great sales with summer approaching. Watch the church's newsletter, *The Reporter*, and website for updated information as we receive it.



LIBRARY BOOK REVIEWS



God's Quiet Things by Nancy Sweetland

Written in soothing if unsurprising verse, this picture book raises children's consciousness to the quiet marvels found in nature: "Listen for God's quiet things, / like butterflies with velvet wings, / or raindrops making / quiet rings on water."

Grandad's Prayers on Earth by Douglas Wood

Trees pray. Birds pray. Grandad eloquently describes how everything prays, but his grandson can't seem to hear nature's prayers. Years after Grandad's death, the boy discovers Grandad's message. He finds beauty in nature and feels his grandfather close once again. Stunning illustrations and lyrical text bring family together for this poignant story.

I'm in Charge of Me! by David Parker

This preschool aged book teaches self-control. This teaches them that making choices puts them in charge of their own behavior and they start to see the positive effect these choices have on how others see them and, most important, how they see themselves in the world.

Love by Matt de la Pena

Everything that can be called love -- from shared joy to comfort in the darkness -- is gathered in the pages of this reassuring, refreshingly honest children's picture book.

The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom by Bettye Shroud

An exciting story about a girl *and* her father who escape slavery with help from the coded symbols on a quilt. Shortly after Hannah's sister is sold to another plantation, Mama dies, but not before teaching Hannah how to sew, whispering to her, "...this quilt will show you everything you need to know to run to freedom." It is a story of courage, determination, and hope.

Call or email the church to have any of these titles mailed to your home.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Theresa Davison celebrates 95 years on May 21.

Betty Dawkins celebrates 90 years on May 28.

IN MEMORIAM

Rosalee Preckwinkle died on April 3, 2020. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, George Preckwinkle (wife, Lynda) and Lucy Preckwinkle Stafford (husband, John).

George Johnson died on April 6, 2020. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to George's companion Camille Degner, his children Christine Smith, Suzanne Jiacomin (husband Al), Timothy Johnson (wife Cheryl), Phillip Johnson (wife Melissa), and their families.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Mary and Bill Leffler on the death of Mary's brother, Theodore Moore, on March 28, 2020 in Savannah, Georgia.

Sue Baker on the death of her uncle, Myron Walling, on April 25 in Elmhurst, Illinois.

PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY

PW and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services collaborates with local communities to help identify people with critical needs and secure resources to help them build a more viable future. Items provided include blankets, tents, and food in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential. During May, checks payable to Westminster may be mailed to the church (memo: Blankets+).

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL



With Governor Pritzker's announcement that Illinois schools remain closed for the school year, we find ourselves with an empty preschool classroom for the first time since 1971! We are thankful for the wonderful families. For our graduates, we look forward to celebrating them this summer when it is safe to do so. *Emily Rowley, WCP Director*

THANK YOU, AMY BONANSINGA

Amy will be missed by the WCP family. She has taught since 2018 and announced she will not be returning to teach in the Fall. She has been a much loved teacher and wonderful colleague to Emily. We will miss you, Amy!



POSITION OPENING

Westminster Cooperative Preschool is seeking a part-time Teacher for its morning classes. We seek an individual to join a community-minded, play-based, parent-directed, early childhood education environment. We are looking for a candidate with a Bachelor's Degree in Education, Child Development or an equivalent and have experience in a classroom setting. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday, Labor Day to Memorial Day. Additional hours for classroom prep, special events, fundraisers, and Board meetings. Please send cover letter, resume, and references to the Attention of WCP Teacher Search Committee at director@westminster-preschool.org. Screening will begin May 26th until filled. For questions regarding the position, please contact the Westminster Preschool Board Chair Lindsey Selinger at (217) 502-2838.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS:

MILITARY PLAQUE

Each Memorial Sunday, the Military Plaque in the East Narthex is updated and highlighted in the worship bulletin. As we continue in online worship this month, a slide show of the Military Plaque has been created and will be posted Sunday, May 24 on our website. We are grateful for the sacrifices and years of service to our country by each person listed on our Military Plaque. *If you or a family member have served in the military and are not included, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org with name, rank, branch and years of service.*

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Our Memorial Garden is a place of peace and repose for the ashes of those interred within its walls. Paved paths and benches offer opportunity for private meditation. A traditional Celtic cross, donated by Mary Alice Davis in memory of her husband, depicts the post resurrection appearances of Christ when he appeared in the garden.



Each Memorial Sunday, Westminster's Memorial Garden is highlighted in the worship bulletin. This year we invite you to peruse the information on our website. Recent additions include a south wall in 2018, a brick trim to complement the southside landscape designed by the late Bill Donels, who also designed our memorial garden landscape plan.

No niches are left in the East Wall. The cost of an individual inurnment in the South wall is \$1000 for a member or their immediate family and \$2,000 for friends of Westminster. Persons desiring to reserve space may complete an application form located in the West Narthex. In 2016, the Memorial Garden Committee added a webpage to the Westminster

Presbyterian Church website with pertinent information about those inurned in the garden.

The Memorial Garden Committee: *Chris Elzea; Chair, Sue Donels, Gale Fixmer, Mary Jo Jenkins, David Mitchell, Jeanne Pittman, and Lionel Stirrett.*

BACCALAUREATE AND YOUTH SUNDAY

CELEBRATED THIS SUMMER

We anticipate the opportunity to celebrate our youth and to honor our graduates this summer. Our hope is that this will take place during the month of June and our youth will be a part of leading this celebratory gathering. We have received permission from Graham Elementary School to use their parking lot on Sundays.

Our graduating high school seniors will be recognized. 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 Prayer and a hand-knitted scarf.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

All Westminster graduates (high school, college and graduate school) will be listed in the June Reporter. Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with info.



SATURDAY WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER



Saturday worship at Westminster will resume with a 5:00 p.m. service in Parish Hall once it is deemed safe to gather again. Our spring, summer, and fall Saturday worship will begin with a reception hosted by members who provide leadership within this service.

We are grateful for the innovative music provided by Deb Watts and the Westminster Jazz Trio. Members are encouraged to join us for this

meaningful, seasonal worship experience!

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June Reporter deadline is Sunday, May 31. Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, June 3.