

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

May 2021

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and
Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

Nursery Newsletter
emailed each Friday to Families with
Children Birth – Age 3

WPCConnections Newsletter
emailed each Friday to Families with
Children Pre-K - Grade 5

May 2

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Staying Connected

May 9

MOTHER'S DAY

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Psalm 98; I John 5:1-6

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Strength is Unity

May 16

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER THIRD GRADER BIBLE PRESENTATION

Acts 1:21-26; John 17:6-19

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Bridge Builders

May 23

PENTECOST AND FOUNDERS' SUNDAY SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Romans 8:22-27; Acts 2:1-21

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Sure Foundation

May 30

TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-7

The Rev. Trajan I. McGill
Seeing the Kingdom



PENTECOST AND FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 23 THEME: "SURE FOUNDATION"

Join us on Pentecost and Founders' Sunday, May 23 for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a picnic reception as we commemorate the birth of the Church and the founding of our congregation.

This year's theme "Sure Foundation" is a celebration of the completion of the "Building a Legacy of Faith" Twenty-Year Anniversary Endowment Campaign initiated in 2015 on the anniversary of the formation of Westminister's Support and Endowment Plan in 1995 with a goal to grow our endowment from \$1.7 million to \$5 million.

The current market value of Westminister's Endowment is \$8.3 million and continues to grow. **This year we celebrate our sure foundation and welcome the Rev. Dr. Lonnie and Mrs. Barbara Lee.** Highlights of the day include presenting "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" by fully vaccinated members of the Westminister Choir, **introducing the Photo Gallery of Westminister's installed pastors**, and enjoying a meal on the newly renovated grounds.

Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites those who would like to become a part of The Albert Hale Circle. This circle of donors will be published in the May 23 bulletin and June Reporter.



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

This is the second year Westminister will participate in the Pentecost denominational offering which unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith.

Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminister and our portion will support the 2021 Youth Mission Trip as the pandemic has prohibited in-person fundraisers. This year's mission (July 11-17, 2021) to Little Rock, AR will be safe and include work with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at the Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center. An educational component includes visiting the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN and other historic places in Little Rock. Among those places will be Heifer International (which our youth have supported with their Sunday School offerings for many years).



FOUNDERS' SUNDAY PICNIC RECEPTION YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

In keeping with the CDC guidelines and in support of our youth, the Founders' picnic lunch will be a Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser provided by Nelson's Catering. The picnic lunch will include ½ grilled chicken, potato salad, green beans, roll and butter. The cost of the meal is \$12 (additional donations are welcome).

Those who join us for the picnic can pick up their meal in the West Narthex and find a seat at socially distanced tables in Parish Hall and around the church grounds. Other members and friends are invited to pick up their dinner at the drive-through in the parking lot. RSVP on Sign-Up Genius or call Jennie Alt (217-552-4415). Payment will be received on the day of the event.

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

Christ is made our sure foundation.

Those who drafted the Westminster Support and Endowment Plan in 1995 directed the earnings from the General Endowment to be equally divided between the (1) Mission and Benevolence Fund and the (2) Special Church Support Fund, believing both are equally important elements of Westminster's "sure foundation." Over the years, restricted gifts have created an imbalance between the two with 60% going to mission and 40% to the fund that supports our facilities and ministries. This month Session will vote to revise the plan and rebalance the general endowment earnings to support both elements equally, thereby honoring the foresight and vision of those who came before us.

Little did we know in 2015 when we initiated the Twenty-Year Anniversary Endowment Campaign that the market value of our endowment would grow to \$8.3 million. Although we were unable to gather in 2020 (because of the pandemic) to celebrate the completion of the campaign and to kickoff the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor (SNE), this year we will gather (still socially distanced) for a meal on the beautiful grounds made possible by the SNE and contemplate all the mission we will do together because of the generosity of the members of the Albert Hale Circle. We gather this Founders' Sunday with joy and gratitude.



Randy Germeraad introducing campaign with Bill Lienemann, Steve Arbuthnot, Jeff Wilday and Diane Rutledge in Chancel.

Thank you to those serving on the Support and Endowment Committee: Chair Todd Wise, Secretary Jim Bryans, Christy Pound, Dr. Diane Rutledge, Lucy Stafford, Dale Smith, Treasurer Steve Arbuthnot, and to Advisory Council members Randy Germeraad (who chaired the campaign) and Jeff Wilday (who drafted the revisions to the plan).

PHOTO GALLERY OF WESTMINSTER'S INSTALLED PASTORS



On Founders' Sunday, a "Photo Gallery" of Westminster's 18 installed pastors will be introduced on the wall above the wooden pew near the Tower Door. Thank you to the Archives Team of Sue Cull, Carol Bloemer, and Dale Rogers who created this gallery of our former pastors. A pamphlet with a brief history of each will accompany the framed black and white photos.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your response to our Per Capita giving goal. We received Per Capita gifts from 168 members bringing the total to \$5,900 of our \$6,000 goal. Operating Fund income is \$34,300 more than our budget for the first 3 months of 2021, and expenses are under budget by \$8,750. The quarterly building insurance premium is due in May, so expenses will soon catch up. The net total remains in the black by \$39,329.

2021 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 282,209	\$ 247,888	\$ 34,321
Expenses	\$-242,880	\$-251,638	\$ 8,758
Net Total	\$ 39,329	\$ -3,750	

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

WESTMINSTER'S CROSS OF LILIES was assembled by members of the Worship, Music & the Arts Committee after a thorough cleaning of the chancel on the Saturday before Easter.



Standing in front of the skeleton of the flower risers before we add the magic of the lilies, palms and ferns are Lyle VanDeventer, Linda Chronister, Julie McDonough, Dale Rogers, Elizabeth Marcy, Jim Kontio, Eleanor VanDeventer, and Carol Bloemer.

MUSICIANS FOR MAY SUNDAYS are Kelly Robertson, Jay Kennerly, Diane Dietz, the Westminister Choir, and Adam Miller.

CHOIR REHEARSAL THURSDAY, MAY 20 AT 7:00 P.M. Vaccinated members of the Westminister Choir are invited to attend a masked and socially distanced rehearsal in the sanctuary in preparation for singing *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* as a part of Pentecost and Founders' Sunday on May 23.

CHOIR RECITAL ON SUNDAY, MAY 23 AT 4:00 P.M. Members of the choir are invited to a recital of music by Ellie Kirk, harpist with the Illinois Symphony in Parish Hall. A reception of Italian Sodas on the West Terrace will follow. This is a gift from David and Mary Caroline Mitchell, who acquired the recital at last year's Illinois Symphony Gala.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS: MEMORIAL GARDEN



Our Memorial Garden is a place of peace and repose for the ashes of those interred within its walls. 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. Recent additions include a south wall in 2018, a brick trim to complement the southside landscape designed by the late Bill Donels.

The cost of an individual inurnment in the South wall is \$1,000 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 and on our website. In 2016, a webpage was added to the Church website with pertinent information about those inurned in the garden.

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

MILITARY PLAQUE

Each Memorial Sunday, the Military Plaque in the East Narthex is highlighted. A slide show of the Military Plaque is posted on our website. We are grateful for the sacrifices and years of service to our country by each person listed. *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.*

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi **CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS**

SUNDAY, MAY 16

11:15 a.m. - Confirmation will come together on zoom to share our summer plans and have a time of fellowship.

5:00 p.m. - Sr. High Youth will look back at 2020-2021 school year, and share some of the highs and lows. We will have a day of fellowship with a small cookout in the church parking lot.



Confirmation/Youth Group Zoom information

Meeting ID: 856 0948 4055

Passcode: 956992

<https://bit.ly/39EZ6UC>

2021 YOUTH MISSION

MAY TEAM MEETING ON SUNDAY, MAY 2 AT 4:00 P.M.

All participants are asked to be at our first team meeting for 2021 youth mission trip on Sunday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m. via zoom.



We will finalize details of our trip such as lodging and transportation, and we will also discuss plans for fundraisers for the mission trip that will take place on Sunday, July 11 through Saturday, July 17.

Visit www.wpcspi.org/2021mission for more information about this year's youth mission trip.



2021 Youth Mission 1st Team Meeting

Meeting ID: 847 3269 1742

Passcode: 526551

<https://bit.ly/3t2fvJ7>

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

TEACH THE CHILDREN SO IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO TEACH THE ADULTS
-Abraham Lincoln

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

4:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Westminster will host 2020-2021 Children of Abraham gathering on Wednesday, June 2 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

This gathering will be an opportunity to reconnect and reunite our friends from three other faith communities: Grace United Methodist Church, The Islamic Society of Greater Springfield, and Springfield Board of Jewish Education.

Our activity and cooperative project will be decorating bookplates for donated books for the Boys and Girls Club library, and to prepare meal kits for their little pantry, which will serve the needs of Pioneer Park neighborhood.

Because most of the gathering will take place outdoors, **Rain Day is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** at Westminster.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN MAY

During May in-person Sunday school meets as Mrs. Sherrick leads the lesson emailed in the WPCconnections. The lesson also includes the Young Children and Worship Bible Story. We respect each family's decision about when they are comfortable gathering in person as we begin to open. May lessons are:

May 2: Mary Finds Her Friend

May 9: Phillip Baptizes a Traveller

May 16: Tabitha Rejoins Her Friend

May 23: Pentecost

May 30: Living Together

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINS SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Summer Sunday School will explore Jesus' Parables and begins June 6 for our younger children (preschool age thru those finishing second grade).

MINISTRY TO INFANTS AND TODDLERS NURSERY REOPENS SUNDAY, JUNE 6

In preparation for our infants and toddlers to return on Sunday mornings, our nursery is being reconfigured with a new check-in system and a fresh coat of paint. The nursery will open on June 6, the first day of Summer Sunday School.



THANK YOU NURSERY WORKERS!

Jaymie Hale Ngoupa and Tori Hollinshead joined the nursery staff in August 2018. Kimerly Hollinshead began in March of 2019. We are grateful for their thoughtful nurture of our youngest members during their tenure and wish them well in their future endeavors.

We look forward to welcoming a new team when we reopen the nursery on June 6.

2021 VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ADVENTURE ISLAND: QUEST FOR GOD'S GREAT LIGHT

VBS will be virtual again this year during the month of July. Look for details about registration and pick-up times for at-home kits in the Reporter.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

March and April have been full of fun with a study on pets. This included an animal clinic in our dramatic play center where the children worked as animal rescuers and veterinarians, we had lots of visits from pets (including fiddler crabs and a ferret), and a visit from APL. We learned about the needs of animals, how we can care for them, and show kindness to them. A big highlight of April was our Spring Fling. Parents and students spent our class day outside enjoying crafts, activities and bubbles together.

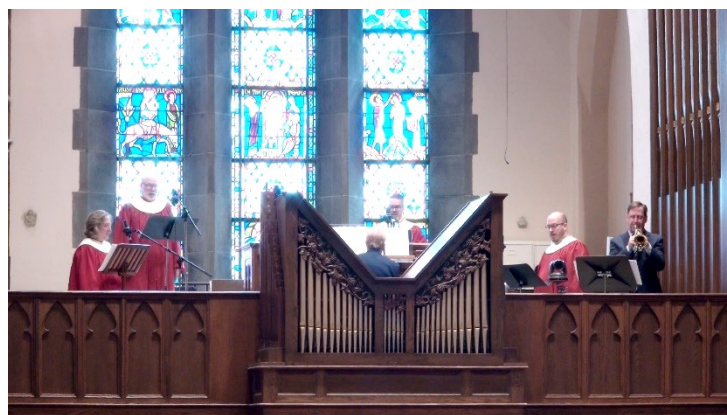


MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021



In keeping with the culture of the pandemic, Westminster's Maundy Thursday Service was hybrid on a couple of levels. We welcomed 48 in person as well as many who joined us on the live stream from their homes. The service began with a communion meditation and Holy Communion. The Deacons then led us in the Stripping of the Chancel with Dale Rogers playing Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings." The service concluded with the Seven Last Words of Christ interwoven with liturgy, musical reflections from the quartet of Adam Miller, Jamie Greenwald, Bob Blythe and Lyle VanDeventer, and artwork from the Holy Week Art Display. This service was meaningful and filled with wonder and beauty.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021



Westminster's Easter Service welcomed 134 in person along with many who joined us online in the joyful celebration of our Risen Christ. The Rev. Gerald Boutelle joined us as a worship leader and Mia Marcy gracefully processed with the butterfly. Special thanks to Dale Rogers for the festive and inspiring music with Quartet Eleanor VanDeventer, Jamie Greenwald, Adam Miller, Lyle VanDeventer, and Trumpeter Dennis Jones.

WESTMINSTER CHILDREN ENJOY HOLY WEEK ART DISPLAY AND EASTER



EARTH CARE AWARENESS FAIR AT HENSON ROBINSON ZOO ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17



Westminster participated in the Earth Awareness Fair again this year on April 17 with a **Green Transportation** theme. Thanks to Peter Kieffer, Andy Sherrick, Sue and Mike Shaw who shared their vehicles and bicycles.

Westminster's children participated in an Earth Care Sunday School lesson on April 18. The Choi children made earth cookies together (one of the recommended crafts) and shared them with staff. Thank you, Sophia, Diana and Zachariah!!



PARISH LIFE by Rev. Trajan McGill MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CREATIVE REUSE MARKET PLACE OPENS SATURDAY, MAY 22

Adena Revas (pictured in photo) expressed deep appreciation for the grant Creative Reuse Market Place received from Westminster when she greeted us at the Earth Awareness Fair. Stop by (122 S. 4th Street) for their opening and to see this good work in downtown Springfield. Thank you, Susan Shaw, for writing the grant proposal.



WOODEN IT BE LOVELY

MOTHER'S DAY FURNITURE SHOWCASE SALE

On Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Wooden It Be Lovely will host a Furniture Showcase Sale at Douglas Avenue UMC, 501 S. Douglas Avenue with over 200 pieces of beautiful furniture hand painted by women helping women. For safety, 30 shoppers allowed at a time. Westminster members serving on this board are Cindy Davis, Jen DeJong, Kathy Germeraad, and Dr. Diane Rutledge.

HELPING HANDS MEAL

SERVED ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH



Thanks to Jess and Kayla Weitzel, who provided the Helping Hands shelter dinner on April 9 (and to Marc Anderson who provides the milk each month). Pat and Al Hymans will provide the May 14 meal.

Providers are still needed for October, November, and December. Reimbursement is available. Signup on the church web site, or contact Rev. Trajan McGill or Jennie Alt.

LITTLE PANTRY STORAGE WELCOMES NEW SHELVES

In April, new shelves replaced the tables outside the elevator on the lower level where food is stored for the ministry partners who replenish our Little Pantry on a daily basis. WPC's Little Pantry, located at Graham



Elementary School, has become an important means of support for many area families. Special thanks to Mary Caroline Mitchell, Ann Hamilton, Jeanne & Pete VanGieson, and Bill Ward for organizing the supplies on these shelves!

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MAY MENU *Peanut butter, jam/jelly, canned soup with pop tops, granola/breakfast Bars, & dry cereal* Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.



Thank you to **Kevin Proctor** for delivering the meal-a-month donations to the Central IL Foodbank for over a decade and to **Jess Werner** for continuing our mission and deliveries.

2021 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE WEEK: AUGUST 2-6

As of April 28, we have received 11 applications for Matching Grants and three applications for the Service Week. We are beginning to recruit for this year's neighborhood outreach **the week of August 2-6**. Please consider joining us for one or more days during the first week of August.



MAY EARTH CARE TIP



Aluminum cans are the best choice for earth-friendly beverage drinkers. Aluminum's light weight allows for less wasteful transportation, from factory to table, from table to recycler, and from recycler to factory. It cools faster in the fridge. We can recycle the aluminum in a can hundreds of times without degrading its quality. Since we have already mined most of the bauxite out our fifty states, recycling aluminum cans discourages exploitative foreign mining, and promotes our own economy!

FAIR TRADE SALE SUNDAY, MAY 9

In recognition of Fair Trade Day on May 8, Westminster will host a table on Sunday, May 9. We offer coffee, tea, and chocolate for sale in the West Narthex after worship, sourced to support economically just, environmentally sound farming practices.



Thanks to Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson for leading this ongoing mission.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Thank you to the 15 deacons and two elders who delivered 57 lilies to members of the congregation on Easter.

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY by Ellen Carpenter

Resumes Sunday May 2: Blood pressures will be taken on the first Sunday of each month.

Now calling all good women and men!

We are looking for ministry partners to form a planning committee for the Eighth Biennial Health Fair, which is scheduled for **Sunday, September 26**.



There will be a sign-up for the following tables: B/P screening, glucose screening, and other health related tables. We are also trying to coordinate this with the flu vaccine, please let me know if you know of a pharmacy/pharmacist that would be interested in being involved.

We are in the beginning stages. If you would like to serve on this committee or host a table, **please contact Ellen at 217-793-3412**.

CHOOSE COMMUNITY AND GET VACCINATED

Just a friendly reminder to **sign up for your COVID vaccine as soon as you are able**. Register at www.scdph.org.

Memorial Hospital has also added a vaccine site. You can access their sign-up by going to vaccination.mhsl.com. This is at their drive through lab on S. 6th Street.

Call Westminster's Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter to sign you up or with questions (217-793-3412).



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE KITCHEN WITH THE KONTIOS FRIDAY, MAY 28 AT 6:30 P.M.



On Friday, May 28 beginning at 6:30 p.m. you are invited to share in a gourmet meal with the rest of the church from afar!

The WPC Congregational Fellowship Committee is excited to introduce a new opportunity for fun and fellowship, as Meg and Jim Kontio serve as “celebrity chefs” in an event for the whole congregation.

Meg and Jim will lead us, via Zoom, through making a simple but tasty gourmet meal in our own kitchens, all of us will prepare the same dinner simultaneously while we enjoy one another’s company. Lists of needed ingredients and preparations will be included within the May 21 Friday email and on our website, so everyone can be prepared as we walk through the steps under their skilled leadership. Watch our weekly May 21 email and website for a link to participate!

KNIT 2 PURL 4 meets in person on **Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom**. The knitter’s lunch will return on the first Tuesday of the month at noon starting May 4 in the same location.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet in person **Monday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.** at La Fiesta in Chatham for dinner and fellowship. Eleanor VanDeventer will host the event.

LYDIA CIRCLE INVITES ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN to meet **Tuesday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m.** for a hybrid meeting. Carolyn Beatty will lead Lesson 9, “The End of Lament,” based on Psalm 137 in the 2020-2021 PW Horizons Bible Study. **Contact Jennie Alt for the Zoom link.**

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+) or donate online.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S BREAKFAST RESUMES on **Thursday, May 13, at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. A speaker is not scheduled, instead this will be a chance to catch up with one another and discuss programming for the year as the group resumes activities after the COVID hiatus.



SEVENTH ANNUAL “ALL CHURCH COOKOUT” FRIDAY, JUNE 11 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE KIEFFERS’

Fully vaccinated members of the congregation are invited to the All Church Cookout at the Kieffers’.

Mark your calendar and look for details about this festive evening hosted by the Membership Committee.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Theresa Davison celebrates 96 years on May 21.

Betty Dawkins celebrates 91 years on May 28.

The Rev. Dr. Lonnie & Mrs. Barbara Lee celebrate 50 years on May 29.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Katrina and Doug Opperman present their infant daughter Sloan Louise, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, May 23.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Julie and Mike Sundquist on the death of Julie’s uncle, David Weible, on March 28 in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jan and Cliff Baxter on the death of Jan’s father, Albert Knous, on April 5 in Springfield.

Drs. Todd and Judy Knox on the death of Judy’s aunt and Gregg, Natalie, and Matthew Knox on the death of their great aunt, Helen Beatrice Limbaugh Brockman Gillespie on April 6 in St. Louis at the age of 99.

NEW ADDRESS

Kathy Ecton & Carolyn Lowe, 561 Callie Ct., Gallatin, TN, 37066

THANK YOU TO

All who donated and/or knit baby layette items during March and April. There were **185** Items collected and delivered to Kumler Outreach Ministries in April.

Dale & Deborah Smith for their substantial gift to the renamed Dale & Deborah Smith Center for Alzheimer’s Research & Treatment at SIU School of Medicine.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Naomi Lynn, who received the Distinguished Service Award from UIS Alumni Association.

Will Hovey, who received one of five orchestral instrument scholarships provided by *The Illinois Symphony Guild of Springfield*. He played *Scaramouche - Movement III – Brasileira* on the alto saxophone and was accompanied by Ann Collins.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED SUNDAY, MAY 9

Session will meet Sunday, May 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall to receive new members who will be recognized and welcomed during the worship service. Photos and bios will be included in the June newsletter.

PASTORS LEAD WORSHIP AT ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME



Dr. Kieffer is pictured with Aggie Harmon, Joanne Roderick and Margie Dobson following worship at IPH on Thursday, April 22. The pastors lead worship each Thursday in April and September.



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM HIGHLIGHTS MINISTRIES TO SPRINGFIELD'S HOMELESS SUNDAYS, MAY 2 AND 16 FROM 11:15 A.M. TO 12 NOON

The Adult Education Forum will continue to focus on our Matthew 25 initiative which challenges congregations to work toward eradicating systemic poverty. In May, we will highlight current ministries for Springfield's homeless and their vision—a vision Westminster hopes to participate in! On Sundays, May 2 and 16 we will gather from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon in the Second Floor Classroom and provide a Zoom link for those who would like to join us online.

On Sunday, May 2, we welcome Erica Smith, Executive Director of Helping Hands, an organization Westminster was instrumental in founding. We provide monthly meals, annual funding of \$4,000, and we awarded an addition \$4,000 in Endowment Grants. Ms. Smith has led the organization since June 2017 and has been a leader in developing "Permanent Supportive Housing" for their clients which provides long-term housing and support. This has been identified as key in ending homelessness. Erica earned a Master of Public Health from East Tennessee State University with a focus in Community and Behavioral Health.



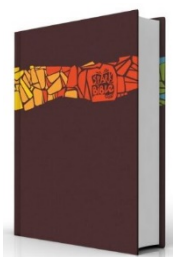
On Sunday, May 16 we welcome the Rev. Dr. Josh Sabo who is the Coordinator for the Heartland Continuum of Care. Dr. Sabo previously served as Pastor to Central Baptist Church and responded to the call to lead this endeavor in 2020. Heartland Continuum of Care is the primary HUD designated body authorized to develop, coordinate, and implement long-range plans meeting the needs of homeless persons within the Heartland of our beloved Springfield, Illinois community. Members include representatives from relevant organizations and agencies within Sangamon County, Illinois, as well as other individuals interested in the well-being of homeless and formerly homeless people.



We hope you will join us for these exciting presentations as we seek to join the efforts to make a positive difference in our beloved community.

THIRD GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES SUNDAY, MAY 16

Children in the third grade will receive Bibles on Sunday, May 16, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Each child will be given an NRSV Spark Bible with their name engraved on the cover. It is our hope and prayer that these scriptures will become a sure foundation and guiding light for our children as they grow in wisdom and stature through the years. The third graders on Westminster's roster are:



Lucy Elisabeth Bassett
Rollin Wilson Bird
Caleb Bond
Oscar Benjamin Cole
Reese Anne Huston
Harper Ryann Huston

Elle Caroline Milliman
Sophie Elizabeth Ngoupa
Abby Proctor
Lily Grace Swanson
Ryan Woodward

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 6



On Baccalaureate Sunday, June 6, we recognize our graduating high school seniors during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship.

All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 6 bulletin and the June Newsletter. **Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information by Friday, May 21.**

Yard signs will be distributed again this year to honor our graduates.

Westminster Staff

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

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
deb.watts@live.com

Karen H. Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
kacey@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hyman
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians

June Reporter deadline is Sunday, May 30. Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, June 2, 2021.