



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

May 2025

## WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and  
Livestream Worship Service  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

### FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery  
Children Birth – Age 3  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
following Children’s Sermon  
Children Pre-K - Grade 5  
11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum

May 4

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Isa. 61:1-3; Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)  
Rev. Sarah A. Bishop  
*God is Capable*

May 11

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION  
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION  
SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Psalm 23, John 13:31-35  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Jolly, Lovely, Always on Time*

May 18

FOUNDERS’ SUNDAY  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Faith, Art, and Advocacy*

May 25

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 16:9-15; Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5  
The Rev. Sarah Bishop  
*Puzzling God’s Way*

Westminster Presbyterian Church

# 190 YEARS

Celebrating Faith, Art & Advocacy

## Founders’ Sunday, May 18

Join us on Founders’ Sunday, May 18 for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a dinner reception in Parish Hall as we celebrate our 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Westminster’s Timeline, created by Susan Day, is being extended through 2025 to highlight events in the last 15 years and will be presented Founders’ Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming former pastors to our celebration: Senior Minister Dr. Lonnie H. Lee (1995-2012), and Associate Pastors Dr. Shelly White Wood (2001-2006), Rev. Mark Merrill (2002-2010), Rev. Tasha Blackburn (2007-2012), Rev. Hannah Dreitcer Zyla (2014-2017), and Rev. Trajan Iliff McGill (2015-2021).

This year also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Westminster’s Support and Endowment Plan. Ten years ago, in 2015, the Building a Legacy of Faith Anniversary Endowment Campaign was initiated, increasing our endowment from \$1.9 million to \$8.1 million in 2020. Today, the endowment’s market value is nearly \$9 million, thanks to the generosity of this congregation. This year, as Dr. Kieffer nears the end of her tenure, we welcome gifts to the Endowment in honor of her ministry.

Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 14 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 18 and in the June Reporter.

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



THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO  
A GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 17 AT 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

AT THE HOME OF SUE CULL

111 LINDEN LANE, 62712

HOSTED BY ELIZABETH CIRCLE

BIRTHDAY OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED.

RSVP at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) or with [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org)



Sermon manuscripts are located in the West Narthex and online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

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

Perhaps the greatest challenge and reward of my tenure as your pastor has been to serve during the successful 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary endowment campaign from 2015 to 2020 which grew our endowment's market value from \$1.9 million to \$8.1 million.

When I became the 18<sup>th</sup> Senior Minister in 2013, I was excited to learn Westminster had an endowment in place which was initiated in 1995 with foresight and a solid legal and theological foundation. In addition to supporting several successful capital campaigns over the years, Westminster had raised and wisely invested a substantial endowment.

Upon my arrival, Randy Germeraad, who chaired the committee at the time, approached me about organizing an anniversary endowment campaign. I was excited about the challenge and knew how to organize a campaign having served as chair for the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Capital Campaign from 2003-2006 which raised nearly \$1 million to remodel the Presbytery Center located across the street from the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

In 2014, the committee hosted receptions at the Kieffers' (May 29), Marty Sumner's (June 23), and the Germeraads' (August 26) to plant the seed for the campaign. In January of 2015, on the twentieth anniversary of the endowment, we initiated the 20-year anniversary campaign and introduced the Albert Hale Giving Circle, which is published annually each Founders' Sunday and includes the names of all donors. Because of the generosity of so many, and with the unexpected generous \$2.4 million gift from Betty Smith, in 2020 we surpassed our \$5 million goal by over \$3 million having reached \$8.1 million.

Over the past decade, we have celebrated our founders annually with themes that reflect our investment in Westminster and our legacy of faith, art, and advocacy:

- 2015 "Building a Legacy of Faith" introducing the campaign
- 2016 "Hale and Dale" celebrating Dale's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 2017 "Albert and Art" featuring Westminster's artists
- 2018 "Hail! Abiah Hale" recognizing Albert's wife
- 2019 "Steadfast Neighbor" introducing the initiative
- 2020 "Steadfast Neighbor Celebration" gathering for outdoor worship during the pandemic to recognize leadership following the completion of the site and landscape plan and the first service week
- 2021 "Sure Foundation" recognizing the campaign success
- 2022 "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Westminster Coop Preschool"
- 2023 "Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build" celebrating a new home for the Capler Family
- 2024 "Welcome to the Neighborhood" honoring the Velásquez-Alonso Family

This month, as we "Celebrate 190 years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy" during a milestone anniversary year, members and friends are invited to consider a donation to the endowment in honor of my ministry. Thank you for the privilege of being a part of Westminster's Legacy of Faith. Serving this congregation has been the honor of a lifetime!

## WESTMINSTER INVESTS IN NEW SOUND SYSTEM

We are excited to announce that a new sound system for both the Sanctuary and Parish Hall has been approved by the Property Committee and Worship, Music, & Arts Committee. Following interviews conducted by Dale Rogers and Krista Steller, we received two bids and selected Thompson Electronics of Peoria. This company installed our current sound system (thirty years ago) as well as the system for the Illinois State House of Representatives. The cost of approximately \$92,000 will be covered by Special Church Support endowment earnings with \$10,000 from the Worship, Music, & Arts endowment earnings. Installation is scheduled to begin the week of May 27.

## MUSIC NOTES BY DALE T. ROGERS

**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room with regular work on anthems and special music for the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The final rehearsal of the spring semester will be May 22, but the choir will sing on both May 25 and June 1.

**WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR** rehearses at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays following Bridges. They will sing at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on May 11, Mother's Day.

**THE ANNUAL CHOIR BRUNCH** will be Sunday, May 25 at the home of Meg and Jim Kontio following the 10:00 a.m. service as we celebrate the close of the season. Summer Choir will meet on July 17 to prepare for Sunday, July 20 and rehearse on August 21 to sing on Sunday, August 24.

**THANK YOU** to the Worship, Music & Arts Committee for cleaning and decorating our chancel for Easter.



## ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER

### WESTMINSTER 190TH ANNIVERSARY RETREAT

Thursday - Saturday, May 1-3

Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers will lead a group of sixteen to trace the journeys of our founding abolitionists and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminster's legacy of faith, art, and advocacy.

### ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

#### FAITH, ART, ADVOCACY PART III: ABOLITIONISM

Sunday, May 11

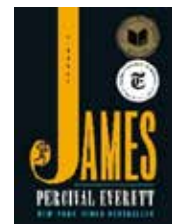
Dale Rogers will shed light on the rich history of Mercy, James, and Clinton L. Conkling, significant characters in Westminster's living out the three-fold commitment to faith, art and advocacy. This forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall.

### DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY POTLUCK MAY 22

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study meets May 8 and 15 and concludes their 2024-2025 journey through the Prophets and Letters of Paul on Thursday, May 22 with communion and a potluck dinner at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer.

### APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, May 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss James by Percival Everett. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



### NEW MEMBER CLASS

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



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, June 8 and 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be recognized on Sunday, June 22, following a Special Session meeting.

## FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

### YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

#### JUNIOR AND SENIOR END-OF-YEAR GATHERING

Junior and Senior High will gather on Sunday, May 18 at 5:00 p.m. for an end-of-the-year party. Details will follow.

Thank you to this year's ministry partners, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, and Kyle Duffy for their leadership.

#### BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 1

On Baccalaureate Sunday, June 1, 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 1 bulletin and the June Newsletter. Please contact Jennie Alt ([jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org)) with information by Friday, May 23.

#### 2025 YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEETING

The Youth Mission Team will meet Sunday, June 1 at 9:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for an update in preparation for our journey to Asheville, the week of July 12-19. To date, we have thirteen youth and twelve adult leaders who will serve on the team led by Rev. Sarah Bishop. Please contact Rev. Sarah to confirm all paperwork and payments have been completed.

The team will join Asheville Youth Mission in their theme, Re(New)ed Creation by serving in a homeless vet's shelter, cleaning up from Hurricane Helene, and other services. The team will stay at First Presbyterian Church of Asheville. For the travel down, they will worship with First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN and enjoy the Nashville area. **The final fundraising event is Sunday, June 15 with a car wash and bake sale.**

#### THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

**DATE: Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

**TIME: 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

**PLACE: Grace United Methodist  
(1612 E. Capital Ave.)**

**WHO: Children & Youth Grades K-12**

Join us for our last gathering in the 2024-2025 program year as we participate in a service project honoring our theme "Celebration."

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

### BRIDGES CULMINATES YEAR

On **Wednesday, May 7**, Bridges activities include Bible scavenger hunts, getting familiar with the "extras" included in many Bibles like maps and study aids, and creating custom bookmarks to go inside the new Spark Bibles, which they will receive on Mother's Day.

On **Wednesday, May 14** Bridges will host second graders who will be joining Bridges next year and other guests.

On **Wednesday, May 21** Bridges will have a special sendoff.

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS MAY 25!

**Sunday School ministry partners and members of the Nursery Guild will meet Sunday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall to reflect on the year and sign up for the summer.** Summer Sunday school begins on May 25! Our children will continue to learn in their respective classrooms with the Frolic Preschool and Feasting on the Word Curriculum. Grades 3-5 will also participate in a study of *A Brief Statement of Faith* from the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions*.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

#### COMPASSION CAMP: WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS JUNE 9-13, 2025

Monday – Friday, June 9-13 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will explore timeless Bible stories, create beautiful crafts, play fun games, and enjoy delicious snacks. Our leadership includes: Rev. Bishop and youth-Bible Stories, Meleah Berkowitz-crafts, Pat Hymans-snacks, Katie Moore-music, and Isaac Alt-outdoor games.

Registration for children and ministry partner sign-up are open on the Westminster website.

### LIBRARY WISH-LIST

The Library Guild has created two Amazon Wish-Lists for our church libraries that will allow anyone to donate books and other items to either the Ziegler Adult Library or the Children's Library. There are signs on the tables in both libraries that have QR codes leading to the wish-lists, and we encourage you to visit the libraries and choose books or items to donate! If you are interested in volunteering with the Library Guild to help reorganize, catalog, and process new books, contact Dr. Aaron Berkowitz ([berkowitz@wpcspi.org](mailto:berkowitz@wpcspi.org)).3



### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

April was a busy and fun month in the preschool with an animal study and our annual spring fun fair for all families. Our younger classes studied animals by location (farm, ocean, zoo, etc.), while our older class explored and compared animals by type (mammals, reptiles, fish, birds, etc.). All the classes enjoyed an animal clinic in the dramatic play center. It was also a sad month in the preschool as we lost one of our beloved guinea pigs, Panda. She and Ginger have been with us since the fall of 2020. It is a valuable experience for the students to start processing death and its implications, but it's definitely a sad one! We have a lead on a new friend for Ginger and look forward to getting to know a new guinea pig friend.

May will be a sweet closing month at WCP. It's always a special time as we celebrate our wonderful moms with our Mother's Day Teas and our students going on to kindergarten with our Celebration of Stars. Our yearbook parents are putting together a special book for each class to highlight the memories from the year.

Our teacher search continues with interviews, and we hope to be able to announce my replacement very soon. Our enrollment for next year looks excellent with a few openings left in our two- and three-day classes.

It has been a wonderful decade working with the students and families at WCP, and I will miss being part of this community very much. I am encouraged to see the commitment of the membership and the love for the cooperative model of preschool. As we always say at WCP, I wish you well! Thank you for the part you have played in making this a wonderful place for students and their families to begin their educational experience. - **Emily Rowley, Director**

## TRIVIA NIGHT IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH MISSION TRIP



On Sunday, March 30, the youth mission trip participants hosted their Trivia Night Fundraiser with Aaron Berkowitz, and Mark Luttrell presenting seven rounds of challenging trivia questions. Over 100 people helped to raise \$6,676 towards this year's trip. Judy and Todd Knox, Neva Knox, Christy and Karl Pound, Debbie and Jim Parker, Barb, Pete, and Luke Sherman at Table Six won the night

On Tuesday, April 8, members gathered at the Kieffer's for a Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception hosted by the Endowment Committee. Following delicious appetizers prepared by Pat Hymans, Dr. Kieffer and Jeff Wilday spoke and Dale Rogers and Diane Dietz presented music.

## LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION



## HOLY WEEK AT WESTMINSTER



On Palm Sunday, Westminster Children and Youth processed with their OGHs Fish Boxes and the Children's Choir sang Hosannas.

The Maundy Thursday Communion Service included the Stripping of the Chancel and Seven Last Words of Christ interwoven with musical selections and artwork from the Holy Week Art Display created by Elder and Artist Lynne Davis from Webster Groves Presbyterian Church and gifted to Westminster by Dr. Kieffer in 2016.

Julie McDonough processed with the butterfly during our opening Easter Hymn and children gather in front of the Easter Lily Cross for the children's sermon.

Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold and son Everard walked the labyrinth in Parish Hall during Holy Week.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SIXTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH



Westminster is in its sixth year of fulfilling the congregation's commitment to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood over the course of the decade. Letters were sent to neighbors on behalf of the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force with extended boundaries. As of April 15, we have received applications for 28 matching grants and 20 service week projects.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR TEAM MEETING will be Tuesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK - JUNE 23-27

Mark your calendars and sign up online for this year's neighborhood outreach, **June 23-27**. We invite you to join us for one or more days during the fourth week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood.

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

HUNGER MINISTRIES

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary, which is also a part of our Steadfast Neighbor Outreach. If you are interested in helping, please scan the QR code or use the link (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>), or contact Jennie Alt for details.



MONTHLY HELPING HANDS MEALS

Thank you to Kris Gates, Jeanne Van Gieson, Judy Prillaman, Judy Huston, Becky Martin and Sue Scaife for preparing the April 11th 70 bagged lunches.



Nancy Canady and Ann Collins prepared the hot meal for 70 community members Wednesday, April 23.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MAY MENU

Peanut butter, jelly, canned soup with pop tops, granola bars, dry cereal (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex and

to the group of ministry partners who deliver them to the Central Illinois Foodbank.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you to all who contributed to our denomination offering which was dedicated on Palm Sunday. We received \$111.18 from our children and a total of \$2,886.18 from the congregation.



PENTECOST OFFERING

Westminster supports 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 will support the 2025 Youth Mission Trip.**



COMPASS FOR KIDS' APPRECIATION DINNER



Compass for Kids held their annual appreciation dinner at Westminster on Monday, April 28 in Parish Hall. Since September of 2014, Westminster has been the site for Graham Elementary School, providing safe space, ministry partners, and annual financial support. Westminster members who collaborated with Compass this year are Julianna Eastvold and Linda Cox. Additionally, Westminster provides \$5,000 annually from Mission Endowment earnings to support this meaningful ministry.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, MAY 4

Westminster sponsored a table at the IPH Anniversary Brunch Fundraiser on Sunday, May 4 at Ace Sign Co. located at 2540 S. 1st St., Springfield, IL. Doors open at noon and brunch is served at 1:00 PM. This is a Back in the Day Brunch Fundraiser, a retro-themed gathering that brings together our residents, families, and friends to honor our rich legacy and bright future. Poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and bow ties are encouraged. Those who would like to sit at Westminster's table, please contact Marci Irvine (217-553-0248).

EARTH CARE TIP

Through planned obsolescence manufacturers design products that wear out quickly or break often to boost sales. For example, a \$40-50 electric toothbrush usually fails after a couple of years, with both its motorized brush and inaccessible battery going straight to the landfill. Next time consider the cheaper and greener alternative of buying the Oral B Revolution toothbrush(\$10) and a couple of rechargeable AA cell batteries (with charger \$13). When the batteries wear out, you can easily recycle then replace them. If the motorized brush fails, you can keep the batteries and buy a new brush! - Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair



EARTH AWARENESS FAIR

Peter Kieffer, Brad Steller, and Susan Shaw, hosted the Westminster Earth Care table with a Green Garden theme on April 26 at Union Square Park downtown

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on May 11, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to Melanie & Bud Green, Val Leonatti, Mary Ray, Marilyn Rigney, Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer who made visits to four members on Sunday, April 13.

EASTER LILIES - Thank you to the Deacons who delivered lilies to 26 members on Easter Sunday.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, May 4 with Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

CONCORDIA COMMUNION SERVICE THURSDAY, MAY 22

Members of Westminster will gather at Concordia Thursday, May 22 with Dr. Kieffer, Rev. Bishop and Dale Rogers. Communion is at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 noon.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

### LAYETTES FOR KUMLER

Join the women of Westminster in donating layette items during May in the box in the West Narthex. Items will be given to Kumler Outreach Ministries. If you would like to shop online, you can have them shipped directly to the church. Attention Knitters: If you are donating knitted items, please let Sue Cull know what and how many items you have donated.

### 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 identify people with needs and secure resources to build a more viable future. Make checks payable to Westminster with Blankets+ in the memo line or give using the Giving page on our website. Choose the fund "Blankets +" on the dropdown menu.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Carpenter (2529 Wydown Ave, 62704). Julie Robbs will lead the devotional by Catherine of Genoa entitled "The Grace of Humility" (pp. 244-250) from the book, Devotional Classics.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on Friday, May 9 at noon for their spring luncheon at Island Bay Yacht Club. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady. Circle meetings will resume in September.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will host the PW Garden Party on Saturday, May 17 and will not meet in May for a circle gathering. Circle meetings will resume in September.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be Thursday, May 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Tim Schweizer, a long-time radio personality and sports broadcaster in Springfield and central Illinois, will speak on area sports. Roy Wehrle will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)** will meet **Friday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Gil Opferman will present "Musical Theatre Can Change Your Life - An Overview of the 2025 Muni Season." RSVP with the weekly email link, website, or call the church office.

## MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

As the summer months are fast approaching, please remember to continue to send your offering in support of Christ's work at Westminster. Income is above budget by a little more than \$23,000 since some donors have completed their annual pledge. Expenses are over budget by more than \$19,000 because in addition to the timing of utilities and quarterly insurance premiums, a new air conditioning unit was installed for the third floor rooms. The year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$3,906.

2025 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 309,257	\$ 286,225	\$ 23,032
Expenses	\$-305,351	\$- 286,225	\$ 19,126
Net Total	\$ 3,906	\$ 0	

## REACHING FOR OUR PER CAPITA GOAL

Thank you to the 102 members who have given Per Capita donations so far this year totaling \$3,906. We are 56% toward our \$7,000 goal. Westminster will pay \$38.50 for each confirmed member this year to support the mission and ministry of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Judy Dees celebrates 92 years on May 5.

Linda & Bill Schlosser celebrate 62 years on May 11.

### IN MEMORIAM

The family of Christopher Caupert gathered for a graveside service in Pinckneyville, IL on Saturday, April 26.

A private memorial service for Mary Pearson Perkins will be held on Friday, May 23 at Westminster.

### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Sabrina Holmes on the death of her father, Frank John Holmes on April 13 in Bel Air, MD.

Barb and Pete Sherman on the death of Barb's father, Eldon Wunn on April 17 in Jacksonville, IL.

Jeanie Hill on the death of her husband and to Conner and Lily Hill on the death their grandfather, James William "Bill" Hill on Monday, April 28 in Springfield.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Marc DeJong, Rachael Hickman, and Debbie Parker who completed the Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon on April 12.

### UPDATE FROM THE PNC

By Chair Todd Knox

The PNC has been working diligently to interview potential candidates during March and April.

### DR. KIEFFER'S RETIREMENT

By Chair Brad Swanson

A Celebratory Dinner will be held Friday, August 22, 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and include dinner, drinks, toasts, and dancing. Mark your summer calendar and plan to make your reservation. Dr. Kieffer's final sermon will be Sunday, August 24 with a festive reception following worship in Parish Hall.

## MEMORIAL GARDEN HIGHLIGHTED MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Twenty-five years ago this Spring, Session approved the Memorial Garden Policies and began plans for construction.

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, who also designed our Memorial Garden landscape plan. 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 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. Memorial Garden Committee: Chair *David Mitchell*, *Dr. Scott Day*, *Sue Donels*, *Marci Irvine*, *Jim McDonough*, *Jeanne Pittman*.

**MILITARY PLAQUE** 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.*

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, MAY 4 DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

The Class of 2025 will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, May 4, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth:



**Charlotte Claire Affrunti**  
**Taryn Marie Barnett**  
**Katherine Jane Bryans**  
**Charles Davis Graham**

These young people completed a two-year study of the Old and New Testament taught by Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray during their seventh and eighth grades and explored the beliefs, history, and practices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) during their eighth grade with Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, and Mary Ray. They have written personal statements of faith and memorized the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. They visited other worshipping communities and have thought critically about what it means to be a follower of Christ today.

Each youth will receive a Common English Bible Student Bible which is a gift from Westminster. The Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons will host a reception honoring the Confirmands following worship. *Thank you to those who served as mentors to our confirmands: Susan Day, Krista Steller, Cathy Brower, and Cress Maddox.*

## THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY, MAY 11

On Sunday, May 11, we will celebrate Mother's Day with the presentation of personalized Bibles to our third graders and the Children's Choir singing. The following children will receive a NRSV Spark Bible with an engraved name plate on the cover.

**Roscoe Thomas Ekstedt**  
**Becca May Hill**  
**Rosalind Lucille Huff**  
**Charlotte Anne Moore**  
**Emmett Michael O'Reilly**  
**Evangeline Anne Volle**

It is our hope and prayer that these scriptures become a guiding light for our children on their faith journey.



## CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY ALL-CHURCH COOKOUT ON SATURDAY, MAY 31



The Eleventh Annual All-Church Cookout to welcome new members and to recognize milestone members will be **Saturday, May 31, 4:00 p.m. at the Kieffer Home.**

**THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED!** Mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive evening hosted by the Membership Committee. Please RSVP on our website, using the QR Code, or by calling Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415 and let

us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

**NEW MEMBERS AND MILESTONE MEMBERS** will be recognized at the gathering and will be our guests. The evening will include a sing-along and boat rides.



## 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

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be on Wednesday, May 28*