



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

November 2024

WORSHIP & EDUCATION

CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 4
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Kindergarten - Grade 5 and
Grade 6 -7 Confirmation Prep
11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation
and Adult Ed Forum
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

November 3

ALL SAINTS’ REMEMBRANCE BAY WEEKEND

Isaiah 25:6-9; John 11:32-44
The Rev. Jihyun Oh
The Lord for Whom We Have Waited

November 10

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Mark 12:38-44
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Resilience, Risk, and Respect

November 17

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

1 Samuel 2:1-10, Hebrews 10:11-14
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Holding Fast to Hope

November 24

CHRIST THE KING AND ST. ANDREW’S SUNDAY

2 Samuel 23:1-7; John 18:33-37
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
What is Truth?

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

THE REVEREND SARAH ANNE BISHOP

BEGINS DECEMBER 1 AS ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

On Sunday, November 20, Westminster elected the Rev. Sarah Anne Bishop to serve as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry.

Rev. Bishop comes to us from First Presbyterian Church in Winter Haven, FL, where she served as Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Family Ministries from 2018-2024. Her previous calls were at First Presbyterian Church in South Bend, IN as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Education from 2013-2018 and First Presbyterian Church of Frankfort, KY where she served as Director of Christian Education from 2010-2013. Rev. Bishop received her Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and has a B.A. in Christian Education and Political Science from Muskingum University.



We anticipate her ministry among us with great joy. She begins December 1, 2024.

ALL SAINTS’ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

On Sunday, November 3, Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints’ Remembrance in 2023. A bouquet with one white rose for each member whose life we commemorate will be placed in the Chancel. The litany, which includes the reading of our loved ones’ names, the tolling of our historic bell, and silence, will be a part of the worship service. Those members who will be remembered are:

Donna M. Foster	11/12/23	Francis Ben Foster	01/13/24
Sandra D. Bauer	01/19/24	Patricia A. Shafer	01/30/24
Linda R. Dillard	02/08/24	Betty J. Dawkins	02/25/24
Robyn E. Newton	05/10/24	Eric L. Rinehart	06/19/24
Mary Lynne Cleverdon	07/10/24	Kevin G. Proctor	08/05/24
Mary P. Perkins	09/19/24	Penny E. Rinehart	09/21/24
Carolyn S. Dungan	10/06/24	Mary L. Norton	10/17/24

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 TO CELEBRATE REV. CHOI’S MINISTRY



On Sunday, November 17, the congregation will gather at 11:00 a.m. immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to concur with the Presbytery of Great Rivers dissolution of Rev. Christian K. Choi’s call to serve Westminster Presbyterian Church as Associate Pastor for Parish Life. Rev. Choi has been approved for long-term disability by the Board of Pensions. Additionally, the congregation will be asked to direct the Personnel Committee to outline a process and

timeline to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

A reception will follow in Parish Hall to celebrate Rev. Choi’s ministry, which began December 1, 2018, and to honor the contributions he has made during his tenure. We are grateful for all Rev. Choi has done so well and for the gift of his beautiful family, Sophia, Diana, and Zachariah, who are very much a part of our community.

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

*Westminster's doors are open, welcoming,
and a way to service.*

The October Reporter included an article from me about Session's consideration of a recommendation from the Family Ministry Committee to become a "More Light" congregation. Upon further reflection, Session voted unanimously at their October 16 meeting, that: *"In lieu of joining the "More Light" Presbyterians, we add comprehensive statements of inclusivity to Westminster's website."*

These comprehensive statements, which I am writing, will be reviewed by Session in November and included on our website before Thanksgiving.

October 16 marked the anniversary of the first Session meeting I moderated as Westminster's 18th Senior Pastor in 2013. It was also the eleventh anniversary of my father's death two weeks after my call here began. As I witnessed Session coming together at our October Session meeting to affirm and celebrate the spirit of inclusivity which makes us who we are, I felt a deep joy and gratification for the privilege of leading this generous, intelligent, thoughtful, and welcoming faith community.

Celebrating 190 Years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy

On Founders' Sunday, May 18, 2025, Westminster will celebrate the 190th milestone anniversary of our founding by ardent abolitionists in 1835. The selected theme is "Celebrating 190 Years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy." Former pastors and associate pastors have been invited to join us as we commemorate this anniversary with meaningful worship followed by a festive reception.

In September, the Adult Education Forum introduced the year with a presentation entitled "Faith, Art, and Advocacy Part I: Refugee Ministry" as we explored our welcome and advocacy of Portugal Refugees in 1849. "Faith, Art, and Advocacy Part II: Civil Rights" will be presented in January and "Faith, Art, and Advocacy Part III: Abolitionism" will be presented in April-May.

Additionally, a Westminster Anniversary Retreat to Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center in Alton, Illinois is scheduled for May 1-3, 2025 as we celebrate Westminster's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy by tracing the journeys of our founding abolitionists and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parrish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century.

Other plans include creating anniversary signage with the theme, adding to our 175th timeline to include the years from 2010 to 2025, and hosting an art display to highlight the many gifted artists in the Westminster faith community.

FAITHFUL, HOPEFUL, LOVING STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Stewardship Dedication was Sunday, October 27, 2024.

As of Tuesday, October 29, we have received **159 pledges** toward our 2025 annual budget totaling **\$684,174** which is **76%** of the **\$902,870 goal**. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org or using the QR code.

2025 Stewardship Committee: Jim Dolan, Chair, Marc Anderson, Ellen Carpenter, Dr. Tanya DeSanto, Tara Fritsch, Harold Hale, Jay Kennerly, and Julie Robbs

faithful
hopeful
loving



MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

DALE ROGERS ORGAN CONCERT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 4:00 P.M.



PLAYING FAVORITES is the theme of the organ concert presented by Dale Rogers on Sunday, November 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program is made up of organ pieces that call up auto-biographical memories of people and places. Among those pieces are compositions by Chuckerbutty, Scarlatti, Buxtehude, Reger, Rinck, Wright, Ogden, and Vierne.

SING BY HEART CHORAL PRESENTATION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 11:00 A.M.

On Wednesday, November 20, at 11:00 a.m. there will be a small performance for family, friends, and the public by this new Springfield-area choral group, **SING BY HEART**, which was initiated by the Springfield Choral Society this fall in collaboration with Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine. The goal of the initiative is to create a supportive and joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia. This collaboration is funded by the Westminster Mission & Benevolence and Worship, Music and Arts Endowment Funds.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS GO UP - On Monday, November 25, members will decorate Westminster in anticipation of the first Sunday in Advent on December 1. We begin at 10:00 a.m. If you are able to help, call Dale Rogers at 217-522-4415.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATIONS FUND Members and friends are invited to donate \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to Westminster's Decoration Fund. Submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication by Monday, December 9. The poinsettias will be in the Chancel from December 15 to January 5.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

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

RISE OF NAZISM & DIETRICH BONHOEFFER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz will lead us in the second session exploring the religious environment in Germany during the 1930s and 40s, with a particular emphasis on the role of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in organizing the Confessing Church movement.

**JOURNEY TO A HOLY PLACE:
PILGRIMAGE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD**
Sundays, November 24, December 1

This two-part series introduces pilgrimages as a common feature in many world religions, including Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. The first session provides a brief historical comparison of religious pilgrimages and their contemporary manifestations, noting how religious traditions have built a foundation on stories of travel. The second session focuses on the contemporary pilgrim in a globalizing world and the popularity of the pilgrim tourist. This session also includes a personal account of my recent and second pilgrimage on the Camino del Norte in Northern Spain. Led by Dr. Debra Parker

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group will meet Tuesday, November 26 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss The Ballot and the Bible by Kaitlyn Scheiss. New members are always welcome! The discussion is led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz. Our next meeting will be in January.



YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

SPECIAL THANKS FROM SPUD BAKE FUNDRAISER



Thank you, Westminster, for your amazing support of our youth and their Spud Bake Fundraiser. Thanks to the donations from members and friends and the enthusiastic work of our youth, we have raised \$1,254 to share the gift of love with other youth this Christmas.

SAVE THE DATE: We will go shopping for Christmas gifts on Sunday, December 8 at 12:00 noon. (following the Advent Celebration) to share God's love with other youth in need using the donations received from the Spud Bake Sale.

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION

Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep meet Sundays, November 3, (Miracles), November 17, (Kingdom Ways), and November 24 (Parables) during worship. Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meredith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray

Grade 8 Confirmation meets Sundays, November 10 (Roman Persecution/Scripture and Creeds) and November 24 (The Dark Ages) at 11:15 a.m. Teachers: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, and Mary Ray.

Thank you to the mentors of the Confirmation Class of 2025. Charlotte Affrunti/Cathy Brower, Taryn Barnett/ Krista Steller, Kate Bryans/Susan Day, Charlie Graham/Cress Maddox.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 5:00-6:30 P.M. PARISH HALL

Senior High youth gather Sunday, November 10, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for fellowship/games and dinner. We will complete the college student care package project. The meal will be provided by Katie and Toshi Maeda. Mentors: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, and Kyle Duffy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

COLLEGE-AGE BRUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Please join Westminster college-age friends, the Rev. Sarah Bishop, and Mary Ray at Boones following the worship service on December 29.

2025 MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS AND DATES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

Annual Meeting Eggastic Breakfast Fundraiser at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

Trivia Night Fundraiser in Parish Hall at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025

Car Wash & Bake Sale Fundraiser at 9:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

GATHER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Westminster will host Children of Abraham **Wednesday, November 13, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to join us as we welcome our friends from other faith communities. The 2024-25 theme is "Celebration!" We will share the celebration of Christ's birth!

Our service projects will be twofold: creating (1) "Bundles of Joy," which are distributed to new moms experiencing poverty and include 3 onesies, a 3-piece outfit, sleeper, hat, socks, a blanket, two books, and a diaper bag, (This nonprofit was initiated by Dr. Meredith Volle in honor of her grandmother.) and (2) "birthday boxes" for our little pantry at Graham. These boxes are kits that include everything a family needs to throw a birthday party, with decorations and supplies for a cake. Please join us for fun, songs, crafts, music, and a vegetarian meal.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS MAILED HOME WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18

Advent, the season of waiting, is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of baby Jesus. Children will make Advent wreaths on Sunday, November 24 and December 1 to take home for their family to light during the four weeks of Advent which begins Sunday, December 1. An Advent devotional will be mailed to your home as a guide in the lighting of the wreath.

FAMILY MATTERS GYMNASTICS/NINJA NIGHT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 4:30 P.M.



All families with children age birth through Grade 5 (plus any older siblings) are invited to join us on the evening of Saturday, November 23, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. for a Family Matters Gymnastics/Ninja Night at the Springfield Gymnastics Center! The Springfield

Gymnastics Center is temporarily located at 1755 Wabash Ave. Please RSVP to berkowitz@wpcspi.org!

ADVENT CELEBRATION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:00 a.m. Worship

Children's Choir will present Special Music.

11:15 a.m. Fellowship in Parish Hall

Members and friends gather to create ornaments, sing carols, and enjoy festive refreshments.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS by Emily Rowley



Our October study involved growing things! We tried propagating several seeds from Pumpkin Creek Farms to see how pumpkins grow. We watched ladybug larva turn into ladybugs and started a "Pumpkin Jack" experiment where a small pumpkin in a container will hopefully grow new pumpkin plants.

Our Macaroni Fest was an amazing success; thank you to everyone who supported us! The evening was a wonderful time for our school family and the donations will help the preschool so much. We are looking forward to two special events in November. Our grandparents are coming to experience a day of preschool with us, and we'll gather our whole school family for our Friendship Feast.

SPUD BAKE FUNDRAISER FOR CONTACT MINISTRIES



Youth raise \$1,254 at the annual Spud Bake.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK



THANK YOU TO CROP HUNGER WALKERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS! Westminster was well represented with 30 walkers and organizers including 13 youth and children. A total of 65 walkers together put one foot in front of the other and led with love.

To date **Westminster contributed \$15,069** with \$5,069 from members and \$10,000 from the Betty Smith Mission Fund. The total raised by the walk to date is **\$22,579**. Checks are still welcome as we continue to work together to eliminate hunger.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR enjoy a beautiful afternoon at Susan and Scott Day's Home with good food and fellowship.

CHOIR WEINER ROAST



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM



October was a time to celebrate! Children and youth gathered at the Mosque to learn about the Muslim holiday of Ramadan. A presentation from Central Illinois Food Bank was made and Mr. Rogers led the group in singing "Father Abraham."

We welcomed candidate Rev. Sarah Bishop who was unanimously elected to serve as our Associate Pastor for Family Ministry beginning December 1.

Reformation Sunday and Harvest Fest was a joyous day of remembering our tradition, enjoying a delicious lunch, story time, face painting, crafts and the incredible maze lovingly created each year by Mr. Hymans.



WELCOME TO THE REVEREND SARAH A. BISHOP



REFORMATION SUNDAY AND HARVEST FEST



PARISH LIFE NEWS BY REV. DR. BLYTHE D. KIEFFER MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

BREADLESS BREADLINE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

For decades, each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, churches in Springfield have sold bread donated by a local grocery store to raise money for St. John's Breadline, which serves hot food 365 days a year to underserved. Although bread is no longer sold, WPC members are encouraged to provide additional donations on Sunday, November 24 marked for St. John's Breadline.



HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER



HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Pat Hymans, Judy Prillaman, Sue Sawers, Sue Scaife, and Jeanne VanGieson who prepared the October 11 bagged lunches for 70. The October 23 hot meal for 70 was prepared by Pat and Al Hymans.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH NOVEMBER MENU

Beef-a-Roni or Canned Pasta Meal, Rice (Instant, Bagged, or Mixes) and 100% juice or water canned fruit Items in High Demand: *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap*

FAIR TRADE MINISTRY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea are sold to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. This month's sales will be Sunday, November 17.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Thank you to those who contributed **\$2,070** toward the Peace and Global Witness Offering.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE



Thank you to those who contributed to the PDA which supports those who are impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and to the PW for \$1,000 from their endowment fund to bring the total to **\$3,450**. If you would like to give towards any of PDA's response, contact Lisa Runkle (lrunkle@wpcspi.org) or place it in an offering with PDA as its designation.

ENDOWMENT MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Mission and Community Service Committee will review 2024 grant applications for funding from Westminster's Mission Endowment at its December 4 meeting. The deadline for submission is December 1. Applications are available under Congregational Life on our website on the bottom of the Mission and Service page. Please contact Jeanne VanGieson, 217-341-9255 for more information.

REFUGEE MINISTRY TUTORING

Tutoring English as a Second Language for the Velásquez Alonso Family began in May under the direction of Lynn McMenamín. Thank you to the following members who are a part of this outreach: *Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Carolyn Beatty, Ann Caparros, Ellen Carpenter, Georgina Hudspeth, Mary King, Judy Knox, Katy Maeda, Becky Martin, Lynn McMenamín, Coleman Moore, Claudia Nash, Marilyn Rigney, Eleanor VanDeventer, Randy Wiseman*

Everyone enjoys giving and taking the lessons and we have dedicated, positive students.

CONTACT MINISTRIES ADOPT-A-FAMILY

This year, Westminster will again sponsor the nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, providing Christmas gifts as they work their way toward independence.



Each family will have multiple Wishlist items on SignUpGenius from which to select gifts. The signups will be available at wpcspi.org the week of November 10.

Gifts can be dropped off under the smaller Christmas tree in the elevator lobby or ordered for direct delivery to Westminster (make sure to notify Jennie Alt to expect a package!). **All gifts need to be at the church by Wednesday, December 11.**

BETTY SMITH MISSION FUND INVESTS IN WESTMINSTER SOLAR PANELS

The Mission and Community Service Committee approved utilizing the Betty Smith Mission Endowment Fund to invest in solar panels as a way for Westminster to do our small part in addressing climate change which disproportionately affects poor countries around the world. The solar panels will be placed on our new education wing roof.

The addition of solar panels will strengthen the footprint of our environmental stewardship as an Earth Care Congregation along with Westminster's LED lighting inside and outside, set back thermostats, and a new, more efficient HVAC System in the Sanctuary.

NOVEMBER EARTH CARE TIP

As we prepare for driving this winter, we need to check not only the battery, antifreeze, and wipers but also the tire pressure. Cold weather lowers tire pressure which leads to lower gas mileage and faster tire wear. Keeping pumped-up saves precious resources of gas and rubber and reduces pollution from both the tailpipe and tires.

- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19



Westminster is delighted to host Faith Coalition for the Common Good's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 19, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. in Parish Hall. Attendees are invited to invest in their future

work. This year's theme: Operation Build: Gathering in Unity for Democracy.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive Communion at home on November 10, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to the three teams of elders and deacons who made visits to six shut-in members on October 6.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, November 3 with Marilyn Rigney.



Adopt-A-Street pick up on Thursday, October 17.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP On Election Day November 5, we will knit at home. Join the knitters at 1:00 on Tuesdays in the Second Floor Classroom with a brown bag lunch on November 12.

Save The Date: Tuesday, December 3 (12 noon - 2:00 p.m.) for our annual get together in Parish Hall.

PW EVENING MARKET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

All women are invited to PW's evening market in Parish Hall. This gives everyone a chance to shop for local and fairly traded items. We look forward to shopping with: Simply Fair, Wooden It Be Lovely, Fair Trade, and other fair trade retailers with a focus on mission.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Dr, 62711). Meg will lead the devotional by Thomas à Kempis' "Dealing with Temptations" (pp. 150-156) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP directly to Meg at 330-472-4135.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, November 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 3 "Food Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the library and will study Lesson 3 "Food Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE HOSTS CHRISTMAS TEA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
in Parish Hall

All women of Westminster and their guests are invited to enjoy an afternoon of tea sandwiches, salads, and desserts with a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters, accompanied by Dale Rogers.



DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 5:30 P.M.



DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. The *Lei Abouts*, a Springfield ukelele band, will bring a night of music and fun. Feel free to wear a Hawaiian shirt or bright colors! RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website or by contacting the church office. In October, the program for the PB&J Initiative had 23 participants, collected \$80, and donated 18 jars of peanut butter and/or jelly!!

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 8:00 A.M. Join the men of Westminster on Thursday, November 14 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Gordon Gates, Board of Trustees Chair, will speak on non-baccalaureate and trade programs at Lincoln Land Community College. Alan Stutz will provide breakfast, and Todd Knox will share a devotion. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Char Barker celebrates 96 years on November 2.

Art Cochran celebrates 98 years on November 13

Ted Proud celebrates 90 years on November 14.

Gloria St. Lawrence celebrates 92 on November 19.

WEDDING

Amie Eden and Douglas Green were united in marriage on Thursday, October 10 in Champaign, IL. Doug is the son of Melanie and Bud Green.

Amanda Kurmann and Bryan Wenthe were united in marriage on Saturday, October 12 at the Maddox Farm.

Elizabeth Woodruff and Walker Nelson were united in marriage on Saturday, October 5 in Chicago, IL. Walker is the son of Trudy and Doug Nelson.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Carolyn Schnirring Dungan died on October 6. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her husband, Dan, their children Colin Dungan and Caitlyn Simhauser (husband Mark), and granddaughters Nora and Anna Simhauser.

Mary L. Norton died on October 17 in Harrison, TN. The prayers and sympathies of the congregation are extended to her son, Donald Norton, Jr. (wife, Beth), and to her grandchildren, Dominic Greco, Joseph Greco, Katie Norton, Lauren Norton, and Madison Hamilton.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Dick Washburn on the death of his son, Val and Dave Leonatti on the death of Val's brother, Lauren Leonatti and Alena Leonatti-Quesada on the death of their uncle, Mike Washburn on October 4 in New Port Richey, FL.

Lynne and Paul O'Shea on the death of his brother, the Reverend Monsignor James O'Shea on October 8 in Springfield, IL.

The friends of Barbara Papp, who died on October 19 in Venice, FL.

Amy Lakin on the death of her father, and to Jake and Julia Lakin on the death of their grandfather, Floyd Rubin on October 14 in Decatur, IL.

Mary and Coleman Moore on the death of Mary's mother, Elizabeth Martin, on October 21 in Hendersonville, NC.

NEW ADDRESS

Nell & Jay VanSice, The Continental, 4604 S. Lamar Blvd, Apt. C-209, Austin, TX 78745

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful for the congregation's response to the 2025 Faithful, Hopeful, Loving Stewardship Campaign and for your continued support in 2024! At the end of September, our year-to-date net total is \$48,453 income over expenses. This is a function of the fact that income is under budget by \$17,004, and expenses are also under budget by \$65,457.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 825,134	\$ 842,138	\$ -17,004
Expenses	\$-776,681	\$-842,138	\$ 65,457
Net Total	\$ 48,453	\$ 0	

THE 2024 BAY WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 2 - 3

WELCOMES THE REV. JIHYUN OH
Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presentation: The Church as the Body of Christ



Saturday, November 2

Welcome Reception - 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Members are invited to the home of Drs. Todd and Judy Knox (2004 Maryknoll Place, 62704) for a gathering hosted by the Adult Education Committee.

Sunday, November 3

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Oh will preach.

Education Forum 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Presentation: The Church as the Body of Christ

All Church Lunch 12:30 p.m.

The Westminster family share in a community meal.

Description: Rev. Oh will reflect on her experiences as a chaplain at a large urban hospital and what those experiences teach us about the church as the body of Christ. We will consider how church as the body of Christ illumines how we are to be church today and into the future.

Biography: The Rev. Jihyun Oh is the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Jihyun, who was born in South Korea and raised in Kansas, is the first Korean American to serve in the PC(USA)'s highest ecclesial office, only the second woman, and the first woman of color. Rev. Oh earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and German Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master of Science in Finance from Florida International University, and a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Please RSVP at wpcspi.org by Friday, November 1
for the Saturday Welcome Reception and/or the Sunday All Church Lunch.

The Bay Weekend was established in 1974 by the family of Frances and Ed Bay with the formation of the Frances M. Bay Lay Education Fund. This fund has provided the Westminster congregation and community with educational weekends for over 40 years. We are grateful to the Bay Family whose generosity and legacy have nourished our faith for more than four decades, and for the Westminster Endowment Fund which has also contributed to these endeavors.

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. WITH PIPES AND DRUMS

Westminster will continue the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday on November 24 with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music. The Little Entry is the

opening procession of the service. Along with the pipers and drummers, the pastors and youth will enter with the Bible to underscore the importance of the Word of God in Reformed liturgy, and the cross to highlight its centrality in our faith. In Westminster's observance, elements include the bagpipes, the flag of Scotland, singing from the Scottish



Psalter, and the clergy tartan paraments presented to Westminster in 1985 in loving memory of Scott Hoff.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 IS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.
DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR.

Westminster Staff

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

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

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

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry
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