

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

November 2025

Come Join Us!

Sundays At 10:00 a.m.
In-person or Livestream

www.wpcspi.org

Watch us on our
YouTube Channel -
Westminster Presbyterian
Church Springfield IL

November 2

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Luke 10:1-10

Rev. Gray Marshall

November 9

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Isaiah 65:17-25

Rev. Sarah Bishop

New Key to Old Songs

November 16

BAY WEEKEND

Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 17:11-19

Rev. Nanette Sawyer

Testify to Love

November 23

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY

Colossians 1:11-20

Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall

Living God's Kingdom

We begin our
Advent Worship Series
Daring Dreams: Advent with
the Prophet Isaiah

November 30

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

Rev. Sarah Bishop

Dreaming Up Hope

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

On Sunday, November 2, Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2024. 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:

Christopher G. Caupert	11/02/24	Charlaine T. Barker	11/07/24
Ruth Robert Roland	11/14/24	Phyllis J. Lowrey	11/30/24
Vincent Keith Huston	11/30/24	Dorothy H. Wire	12/15/24
Dr. James Singleton	12/19/24	John W. Kirk	12/20/24
John L. Jaech	01/03/25	A. Dale Huston	01/20/25
Deanna D. Funk	01/25/25	Bobby G. McCormick	02/15/25
Louise M. Cragoe	06/19/25	Theodore S. Proud	06/28/25
Matthew A. Gilmour	09/05/25	Henry Dale Smith, Jr.	09/08/25
Roger L. Fenstermaker, Jr.	10/02/25	Elizabeth "Elsie" Unglaub	10/05/25

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION GIVEN BY DR. TODD KNOX

Dr. Todd Knox led the Charge to the Congregation at Dr. Marshall's installation. WPC members were encouraged to do the following to strengthen our partnership with Dr. Marshall.

Let's be patient - We are in the midst of an unusual transition — not the traditional model with an interim pastor, but instead an overlapping season of co-pastors as we welcomed Anne and prepared for this moment. In a typical interim period, the congregation takes time to reflect and discern its mission before a new pastor arrives. That process is now unfolding under Anne's leadership, not under an interim, and we must give her space and time to listen, to learn, and to lead us into what's next. Let's trust the Spirit's timing — and hers.

Let's be flexible - Our two most recent pastors have each served long, productive tenures — a true gift. But that also means we haven't experienced much change in three decades. When the PNC began its search, we looked for a pastor who would: (1) be collaborative, (2) challenge us to greater heights in ministry and service, and (3) deepen our spiritual life together.

That means empowering Session, trying new ministries, and, as we said often during the search, hearing "more Jesus." There will be experiments, adjustments, and even a few speedbumps — but that's how healthy growth happens. Let's receive each step with open minds and long-term hope.

Let's be supportive - We were blessed by Dr. Kieffer's tireless work ethic and devotion. But Anne's situation is different — she's balancing the joyful, demanding call of motherhood alongside her ministry. We need to honor that balance by giving her the space and grace to rest and to nurture her family.

Encourage her when she succeeds. Listen when she casts new visions. And when redirection is needed, offer it with love, gentleness, and trust. Above all, let's pray for Anne and for one another, that our life together may reflect the love of Christ.

Let's be the church we are meant to be - Perhaps the best gift we can offer Dr. Marshall is our full, faithful participation in the life of this church. Let her leadership inspire us to recommit ourselves to Westminster's mission — to use our gifts, to volunteer, to show up, to support one another, and to be ambassadors of Christ's love in the community. If we do this, we won't just be supporting our new pastor — we'll be partnering with her in ministry, creating a congregation that is even more vibrant, more joyful, and more deeply rooted in faith.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Beloved Community of Westminster,

It is an honor and joy to recognize that over four years ago, October 10, 2021 this congregation elected their APNC for the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. Their commitment, dedication, and continual work of discernment with God on who was to be called led to the celebration, a year ago, November 20, 2024 with my election to this joyful call. I have been continually humbled and amazed that in this first year I have experienced the Holy Spirit's presence in so many ways.

From the joy of the Christmas season, seeing our youth serve others by purchasing gifts for teens at Contact Ministry to the special but complicated ritual of Christmas Eve candelabra lighting. And of course, the special gift of sharing the Christmas story through the eyes of children with the Christmas pageant. It was magical and such a celebration of the Christ child.

And in this first year we have done so much more, I just need to flip to a month and see unwavering support of our Youth through their mission trip fundraisers, the Bridges children leading us at Ash Wednesday worship, worshipping weekly with you all and our extended community at Illinois Presbyterian Home and Concordia. I am so thankful to be in ministry with so many valuable gifted leaders in our Board of Deacons, Family Ministry and Session that I've moderated or attended meetings. My calendar includes so many little notes of how this congregation has invited me to join them for meals, wine and care.

So, thank you and may we continue to be this community that cares for and with one another. I am excited to see what God has in store for us all next. I can only imagine and join in the Daring Dreams, as our Advent worship series tantalizing teases.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Sarah Bishop, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

BUILDING AND PROPERTY NEWS

Property Committee received word that the new dishwasher was shipped in the middle of October. It arrived and the installation was completed Tuesday, October 28. Pulliam Masonry has begun work to tuckpoint and seal areas of the south wall of the Education Wing.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are anticipating increased donations in November and December. As of September 30, expenses exceed income by \$115,260. Income from donations is nearly \$48,000 less than we received last year at this time. Compared to our budget, total income is lower than budgeted by \$57,430. Expenses are overbudget by \$57,830 in part because of some unbudgeted expenses of our new pastors moving expenses, the purchase of a lawn tractor, and the replacement of a failed computer projector and internet firewall.

2025 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 804,995	\$ 862,425	\$ -57,430
Expenses	\$-920,255	\$- 862,425	\$ -57,830
Net Total	\$-115,260	\$ 0	

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

MUSIC SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

For All Saints Sunday, November 2, violinist Mu-Chi Hsieh provide music of Massenet and Bach in addition to the choir's Pie Jesu of Malcolm Archer. Mu-Chi is a violin teacher for our Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra. **On Thursday, October 30,** Westminster will rehearse with the Choir of Christ the King at 6:30 p.m. as we prepare for the service celebrating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Hospital Sisters of the Franciscan order. A second rehearsal for this event will be on **Thursday, November 6** at 6:30 p.m. The Festival Service will be at the Franciscan Mother House in Riverton on Saturday, **November 8** at 10:30 a.m. Sisters from all over the globe will be present for this occasion at the Mother House Chapel. **On Sunday, November 16,** the St. Andrew's Sisters will sing Thankful in addition to the choir's singing of O All Ye Works Praise the Lord. Our annual St. Andrew's Sunday, which celebrates the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church with pipes and drums will be on **Sunday, November 23.** Following the service, we will put up the Christmas tree in preparation for decorating the following day.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS GO UP – On Monday, November 24, beginning at 10:00 a.m. members will decorate Westminster in anticipation of the first **Sunday in Advent on November 30.**

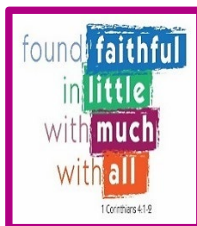
CHURCH MICE, our musical program for infants through age 4 meets in the Second Floor Classroom on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese to music and fun.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR will meet on Wednesdays, November 5 and 19 at 5:00 p.m. On November 12, there will be a break for Children of Abraham and on November 26 for Thanksgiving. The choir meets on December 3 in preparation for their presentation during the Advent Celebration on December 7.

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 21 to January 5.

SING BY HEART our choir for members of the community with Alzheimer's sponsored by Westminster, the Springfield Choral Society and under the care of the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Institute of the SIU School of Medicine meets on Wednesdays in Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. **On Wednesday, November 19,** the choir will have an open rehearsal for members of the church and community.

FOUND FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



As of Tuesday, October 28, we have received **159 pledges** toward our 2026 Found Faithful Stewardship Campaign totaling **\$679,153** which is **78%** of the **\$871,000 goal.** Thank you to all who have 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 here.

Serving on the 2026 Stewardship Campaign Committee: Julie Robbs, Chair, Linda Andrews, Adam Ekstedt, Joe Fierstos, Claudia Nash, Linda Purves, Jeanne Van Gieson, and Sarah Zerfas.

FAMILY MINISTRY by the Rev. Sarah Bishop

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 \$2,814 to share the gift of love with other youth this Christmas.

SAVE THE DATE: We will shop on Sunday, December 7 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 2 (Moses Sees God), November 16 (God's Law), November 23 (God's People) and November 30 (God's Community) during worship. Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meredith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, Marc DeJong, and Mary Ray.

Grade 8 Confirmation meets Sundays, November 2 (Roman Persecution) November 9 (Scripture and Creeds), November 23 (The Dark Ages) and November 30 (Corruption and Division) at 11:15 a.m.. Teachers: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Rev. Dr. Anne Marshall, and Mary Ray.

Thank you to the mentors of the Confirmation Class of 2026. Lucy Bassett/Melanie Green, Harper Huston/Christy Pound, Reese Huston/Dee Dee Duffy, and Lily Swanson/Katie Carlson-Eastvold.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AND 23 5:00-6:30 P.M. YOUTH ROOM

Senior High youth gather Sundays November 9 and 23, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall and Youth Room for fellowship and dinner followed by Bible study. The meal on November 9 will be provided by Lisa Metzger. The meal on November 23 will be provided by Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold. Mentors: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray, and Jack Sherrick.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS



We've had a wonderful time at preschool this October! Our students have learned about trees, enjoyed a nature walk on the playground, and explored different types of pumpkins and gourds. We took our fall field trip to Pumpkin Creek Farms and enjoyed a tractor ride, a lesson about how pumpkins grow, and some delicious apple cider and donuts! In the classroom, we have been exploring our new light table, which was purchased with grant funds from SBDC. The lead parents for each classroom planned a super fun Halloween party for the students, and the students loved coming to class in costumes and parading through the church. Thank you to the church staff who helped to make the celebration extra special!

SUNDAY YOUTH SCHEDULE

10:15 a.m. Grade 6 -7 Confirmation – Conference Room
11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation – Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group – Bi-monthly

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah Berkowitz

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

GATHER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Westminster will host Children of Abraham **Wednesday, November 12, 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 2025-26 theme is "Strength in Diversity" We explore the diversity of houses of worship, including a walk through Westminster's sanctuary.

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

You can support our mission collection for Heartland HOUSED by bringing: bath towels, wash cloths, shower curtain/liner, hygiene items, toilet paper, broom/dustpan, trash bags, and/or cleaning chemicals for their Welcome Home Basket Initiative. Please join us for fun, songs, crafts, music, and a vegetarian meal.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS MAILED HOME WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17

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 23 and November 30 to take home for their family to light during the four weeks of Advent which begins Sunday, November 30. An Advent devotional will be mailed to your home as a guide in the lighting of the wreath.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP 2025-2026 THEME: VOICES OF HOPE



Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission projects and interfaith gatherings. This year's theme, "Voices of Hope" will continue to unfold with stories from the Old Testament. Bridges continues to meet on Wednesdays, November 5, and 19 in the Third Floor Tower Classroom. Advocates: Krista Steller, Julie Robbs, Pete VanGieson, Cathy Brower, Lyle Vandeventer, Todd Knox, Ellen Carpenter, Steve Wright, George Botanga.

Leaders: Meleah Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, and Pat Roller

ADVENT CELEBRATION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

10:00 a.m. Worship

Children's Choir will present Special Music.

11:15 a.m. Fellowship in Parish Hall

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

SUNDAY CHILDREN SCHEDULE

9:45 a.m. Nursery for Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Sunday School follows the Children's Sermon for ages Preschool - Grade 5

SPUD BAKE FUNDRAISER FOR CONTACT MINISTRIES



Youth raise \$2,814 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 16 walkers and 10 organizers including our bagpiper, Steve Scaife. A total of 65 community walkers together put one foot in front of the other and led with love.

To date Westminster contributed \$9,610 with \$4,610 from members and \$5,000 from the Betty Smith Mission Fund. The total raised by the walk to date is \$22,730.74. Donations are still welcome as we continue to work together to eliminate hunger.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM



October was a time to celebrate! Children and youth gathered at the Mosque to learn about all the ways that diversity makes our group stronger. We heard from Veronica Espina about the ways the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN) supports our community, and donated food supplies for SIAN's weekly grocery deliveries.

REFORMATION SUNDAY AND HARVEST FEST



Reformation Sunday and Harvest Fest was a joyous day of remembering our tradition, enjoying a delicious lunch, story time, face painting, crafts, and games.



PARISH LIFE NEWS

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

BREADLINE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

For decades, each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, churches in Springfield 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 Springfield's underserved. The program stopped selling bread during Covid, however, this year a sponsor is providing bread to be given to donors. The congregation is encouraged to donate on Sunday, November 23 for St. John's Breadline on our website, in the offering plate, or in the West Narthex, and receive a loaf of bread!



HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER HELPING HANDS LUNCH PREPARED

Members of Westminster's Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission and Fellowship met sans needles and yarn on October 10 to prepare bagged lunches that were delivered to Helping Hands Shelter. Knitters included Teena Archer, Kay Smith, Mary Jo Jenkins, and Cheryl White. Pat Hymans supervised and Judy Huston and Judy Prillaman delivered the lunches.

On Wednesday, October 22, Marci Irvine and Deb Coontz prepared 70 hot meals for Helping Hands Shelter. Thanks to these hunger fighters of Westminster!

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*

ENDOWMENT MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWED WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

The Mission and Community Service Committee will review grant applications for funding from Westminster's Mission Endowment at its November 5 meeting. Applications are available under the Congregational Life menu on our website at the bottom of the Mission and Service page. Please contact Rachael Hickman for more information.

CROP HUNGER WALK THANK YOU!!



Thank you to all who participated in Springfield's CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 5.

Westminster walkers, volunteers, and donors joined 65 community members on a beautiful Sunday afternoon Walk to raise money for local food pantries and disaster

assistance throughout the world. Walkers included Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Jessamy Carruthers, Adam, August, Roscoe, and Teddy Ekstedt, Caroline Haynor, Connor and Lily Hill, Christian, Nora, and Liliana Kennerly, Richard Leary, Lynn McMenamin, and Alan Stutz. Assisting the walkers were: Bill Deemer, Melanie and Bud Green, Becky Martin, Sue and Steve Scaife, Krista and Brad Steller, and Jess Weitzel.

Walk treasurer, Bill Deemer has reported a Walk total of \$22,731. Of that amount, Westminster has contributed \$9,610 which includes \$5,000 from the Betty Smith International Fund. Thanks to Westminster members for your strong focus on helping to fight food insecurity. There is strength in our numbers.

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 signup links will be available at wpcspi.org on Saturday, November 1.

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 **Sunday, December 7.**

NOVEMBER EARTH CARE TIP

It's just about time to get out the Christmas lights and start decorating indoors and out. If you find that a string of lights doesn't work any more, don't toss it in the trash. Valuable copper, plastic, and glass can be reclaimed by recycling. There is a bin for nonfunctioning Christmas lights (without bags or boxes) in the southwest corner of the West Narthex near the elevator. Last year, Westminster recycled about 120 pounds of lights. And, when you purchase replacement lights, consider LED lights. Although the initial cost is higher than incandescent bulbs, they use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer. Susan Shaw, Earth Care Committee



FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD

ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18



Westminster is delighted to host Faith Coalition for the Common Good's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. in Parish Hall. Admission is free, however, attendees are invited to invest in the Coalition's future work.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Thank you to those who contributed \$665 toward the Peace and Global Witness Offering. The amount the church retains is \$166.25 (25% of the collection). We contribute this to Frontiers International on the occasion of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast event to fund scholarships for minority students.

Our denomination annually promotes a "Peace & Global Witness Offering," in the fall which "enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world", advocating at local, regional, and worldwide levels for people in places of cultural violence.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive Communion at home on November 9, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to those who made visits to eight shut-in members on October 5.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, November 2 with Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters are encouraged to knit cold weather items (warm hats, mittens, and scarves) for our fall and winter donations. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are invited to attend the Hope for the Holidays Market on November 1 & 2 from 10:00 – 4:00 at Hope Presbyterian. The PW monthly luncheon will be held on Friday, November 7 at noon. Please RSVP to the church office.

RUTH AND NAOMI will meet on Wednesday, November 5, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Dr, 62711). Meg Kontio will lead the discussion of Chapter 3 in Becoming Spiritually Intelligent: Nine Paths toward Your Most Loving Self by Paul M. Burns. RSVP directly to Meg at 330-472-4135.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, November 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 3, from the Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, November 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library and will study Lesson 3, from Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 5:30 P.M. POTLUCK & 6:15 P.M. PROGRAM



DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, November 21. The St. Andrews' Sisters will perform a musical program with Dale Rogers accompanying them. RSVP to the church office or on our website is welcomed but not required.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST meets Thursday, November 13 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come join the best hour of your day and fellowship with the men at WPC. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church office. All ages of friends and church goers are welcome to join the group.

ADULT EDUCATION

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer on **Thursdays from 5:45-6:45 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The book, A is for Alabaster, New members are welcome! Books are available.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

Join us following worship at 11:15 in Parish Hall for a variety of programs and speakers. All are welcome!

Refugees and the Bible - November 2

The Bible presents a consistent message of God's love for and expectation of God's people to care for refugees and strangers. Led by Dr. Vena Long

The Innocence Project - November 9

The Illinois Innocence Project (IIP) is a legal organization affiliated with UIS that works to free innocent people from prison. Led by Stephanie Kamel, Executive Director

Heartland HOUSED - November 23

Heartland HOUSED is a Springfield nonprofit organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Springfield and Sangamon County. Led by Rev. Dr. Josh Sabo, Executive Director

Prisons and Prisoners in the Bible and Illinois - November 30

We will sketch a brief history of incarceration in the western world and its development specifically in Illinois. Led by Rev. Michael Long, Warden with IL Department of Corrections.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Art Cochran celebrates 99 years on November 13.

Gloria St. Lawrence celebrates 93 years on November 19.

Priscilla and Tim Kluge celebrate 50 years on November 29.

WEDDINGS

Caitlin Sims and Nick Surma were united in marriage on Saturday, October 4 in Metamora, IL. Caitlin is the daughter of Tammy and Doug Sims and sister to Chad and Cory Sims.

NEW ARRIVAL

Daryion Bailey was born on October 19 in Springfield. Daryion's proud mom is Anna Collins and proud grandparents are Paris and James Capler.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth "Elsie" Unglaub died on Friday, October 5 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her sons Robert and Ronald Unglaub.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Harl and Pam Ray on the death of his sister and to Mary Ray on the death of her cousin, Shirley Davis on September 5 in Urbana, IL.

NEW ADDRESSES

Mervice Alah Abung, 42 Royal Rd, Springfield, IL 62702

Sandy Dunn, 2315 Silver Stone Ct, Springfield, IL 62704

Tara Fritsch, 329 S. Durkin Dr, Springfield, IL 62704

Laura & Eric O'Reilly, 301 S. Edgewood, LaGrange, IL 62704

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, November 25 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss The Weekend Evening Club by Alex Wagner. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

WESTMINSTER'S 17, 18, & 19 PASTORS TOGETHER



Dr. Lonnie Lee and Dr. Blythe Kieffer joined Dr. Marshall in honoring Dale Smith's life at his memorial service on October 18.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

SOCK DROP IN THE WESTMINSTER PARKING LOT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

On Saturday, November 15 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., join the Springfield Women's Action Network for a Sock Hop aka Sock Drop in the Westminster parking lot. They are looking for adult sock sizes for teens, women, and men. Most youth are wearing adult-sized socks by elementary school.



SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT BLESSED SACRAMENT AT 7:30 P.M.

The Springfield Choral Society & Musicians of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra present highlights of the *Bach's Christmas Oratorio* and *Handel's Messiah: Part One* on Saturday, December 6 at Blessed Sacrament. Tickets are for sale at www.springfieldchoralsociety.org or contact one of the members of the choir. Several members and friends of WPC are in this group. This is a smaller venue, so tickets will go fast.

THE 2025 BAY WEEKEND NOVEMBER 15-16

WELCOMES THE REV. NANETTE SAWYER

Associate Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago and
author of *Hospitality -The Sacred Art*

Saturday, November 15



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 16

Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Sawyer will preach and lead the following Adult Education Forum.

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

All Church Lunch - 12:30 p.m.

The Westminster family will share in a community meal.

Education Forum: “Soul Force” - A Love to Counter Evil

In this class we will consider the persistence and power of God’s love, God’s truth, and how we can be rooted and grounded in that love. As Christians we have been given the difficult commandment by Jesus to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44). This love is an embodied, experiential love given to us by the grace of God. This love requires us to protect the most vulnerable and to live with dignity and self-respect ourselves. We will explore how we can claim and utilize our personal power without turning ourselves into enemies, especially in difficult and dangerous times.

Please RSVP at wpcspi.org by Friday, November 14
for the Saturday Welcome Reception and/or the Sunday All Church Lunch.

ST. ANDREW’S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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



Westminster will continue the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew’s Sunday on November 23 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 1 IS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.
DON’T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR.**

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
Pastor and Head of Staff
amarshall@wpcspi.org

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

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz
Education Coordinator
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

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

Meleah Berkowitz
Director for Children’s Ministry,
Westminster Cooperative Preschool
and Music Assistant
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Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, November 26
at 12:30 p.m.