



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

October 2024

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 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

October 6

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Mark 10:2-16  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Time to Persist*

October 13

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Mark 10:17-31  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Time to Lament*

October 20

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Mark 10:35-45  
APNC Candidate  
Not For God

October 27

REFORMATION SUNDAY  
HARVEST FEST

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Mark 10:46-52  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Time to See*

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

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAMILY MINISTRY CANDIDATE PREACHES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

On Sunday, October 20 we welcome the candidate selected by the APNC following a three-year search. As a part of the Presbyterian Polity and to maintain confidentiality for the candidate, professional and personal information will not be shared until Sunday, October 20.

During the search, the APNC created two profiles with Church Leadership Connection, reviewed 121 candidates, initiated contact with 40, interviewed 14 on Zoom, and welcomed three at Westminster. They believe they have found the most qualified candidate who will bring wisdom, experience, authenticity and warmth to our congregation. Following an affirmative vote by the congregation at the called meeting, she will begin Sunday, December 1, 2024.

Thank you to the APNC Committee: Krista Steller, Chair, Dr. Craig Batterman, Meleah Berkowitz, Emily Brower (through summer of 2023) Meridith Bryans, Kristianna Eastvold (since summer of 2023), Adam Ekstedt, and Tom Owen.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWS WORSHIP To Call Associate Pastor and Elect Church Officers

On Sunday, October 20, the congregation will gather immediately following worship. Along with extending a call to the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry candidate, the following church officers will be elected.

**Elders Class of 2027:** Brownie Anderson, Dr. Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Joe Fierstos, Vonnie Hinesley, Julie McDonough, Pat Moore, Marilyn Rigney, and Lyle VanDeventer **Youth Elder:** Sam Batterman

**Board of Deacons Class of 2027:** Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Linda Caupert, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Christian Kennerly, Claudia Nash, Brad Steller, and Cathy Yokley **Class of 2025:** Dr. Debra Parker **Youth Deacon:** Maria Lafrenz

**Strategic Planning Committee Class of 2027:** Sandy Bellatti, Dr. Richard Leary  
**2025 Nominating Committee:** Mal Hildebrand, Julie Sundquist, Carolyn Swanson, Brad Steller

## STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.  
**1 Corinthians 13:13**



**Faithful, Hopeful, Loving** is the 2025 Stewardship theme. Members received the Stewardship Brochure containing information on Westminster and the proposed budget along with a pledge card. Please complete the pledge card and return it to the church

office or place it in the offering plate by Stewardship Dedication Sunday, October 27, 2024.

Pledges can also be made online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org) or by using the QR Code printed here.

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



Congregational Meeting



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

Among the many opportunities to grow in our faith at Westminster is the Adult Education Forum which meets Sunday mornings, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall. Below is a list of courses for the 2024-2025 church year.

### Faith, Art, Advocacy Part 1: Refugee Ministry

**September 15, 22**

In 1849, we welcomed Presbyterian refugees from Madeira, Portugal who made Springfield their home. Led by Archivist Sue Cull, Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer and Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

### Church & the Custody Battle over Public Schools

**September 29, October 6**

We will review the history of education in the U.S. and the role the “church” has played. Led by Dr. Vena Long

### Rise of Nazism & Dietrich Bonhoeffer October 13, 20

We will explore the religious environment in Germany with a particular emphasis on the role of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in organizing the Confessing Church movement. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

### Modern History of Israel November 10, 17

We will review the modern history of Israel, with a particular emphasis on the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Dr. Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold

### Journey to a Holy Place: Pilgrimage in a Globalizing World November 24, December 1

This class introduces pilgrimages as a common feature in many world religions, including Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Led by Dr. Debra Parker

### Faith, Art, Advocacy Part II: Civil Rights January 5, 12

The impact of musicians on the progress of civil rights in the twentieth century. Led by Dr. Peter Kieffer

### Martin Luther King Presentation January 19

We welcome the Rev. Godfrey (Bobby) Musengwa as our guest preacher and MLK presenter.

### Life in the Kennedy Administration February 2

Led by one who was a part of it: Dr. Roy Wehrle

### Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality February 9, 16, 23

We will explore the historical perspectives and biblical passages that have influenced discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation. Led by Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer

### Women in Space March 2, 9

This course illuminates the ways female astronauts overcame gender oppression to transform American space exploration. Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold

### Social and Medical History of Reproductive Health Care March 16, 23

A history of medical procedures and social perspectives will be presented. Led by Dr. Peter Kieffer

### History of SIU School of Medicine March 30

Led by a founding faculty member Dr. Roland Folse

### American Revolution April 6, 13

On the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War, we will explore how Presbyterian Polity influenced American Democracy. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

### Faith, Art, Advocacy Part III: Abolitionism April 27, May 4, 11

As Westminster celebrates 190 years on Founders' Sunday, the nineteenth century abolition movement will be highlighted. Led by Dale Rogers, Dr. Peter Kieffer and Archivist Sue Cull

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

WESTMINSTER CHOIR had its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on September 14. By the time this picture was taken at the end of the day, quite a few singers had taken off for other commitments.



For World Communion Sunday, the choir will sing Ubuntu, a song about the inter-connectedness of all humanity.

On October 13, Scott and Susan Day will host a wiener roast for the choir at their home at 4:00 p.m. The Day's will supply the wieners and the location, choir members supply the rest.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) meets on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Rogers leads Church Mice.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Kindergarten - Grade 5) will begin Wednesday, October 2 led by Katie Moore, our Director for Children's Music, and meet weekly from 5:00 until 5:45 p.m.

### WESTMINSTER ANNIVERSARY RETREAT CELEBRATING 190 YEARS OF FAITH, ART, AND ADVOCACY THURSDAY - SATURDAY, MAY 1-3, 2025

Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center  
Grafton, IL

This retreat will trace the journeys of our founding abolitionists and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parrish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminster's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy.

Mark your spring calendar Details will follow!



### THE 2024 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 2-3

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 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

**All Church Lunch**

**12:30 p.m.** We will share a community meal.

**Biography:** The Rev. Jihyun Oh is the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Oh's first name is pronounced "Jee-hun." 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.

## YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 1:15 P.M.

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD



Youth will meet at Third Presbyterian Church at 1:15 p.m. to begin the walk at 1:30 p.m. joining other fellow CROP walkers in the

Springfield area to walk in solidarity with those who are hungry around the globe. Please wear your Westminster or youth mission trip T-shirts.

## THE ANNUAL SPUD BAKE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

On Sunday, October 13, Junior and Senior High Youth will gather in the kitchen from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon to prepare loaded baked and sweet potatoes to raise funds for the Contact Ministries Christmas Gift Distribution.



**SAVE THE DATE:** We will shop on Sunday, December 8 to share God's love with other youth in need using the donations received from the Spud Bake Sale.

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 5:00-6:30 P.M. PARISH HALL



Senior High youth gather Sunday, October 20, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for fellowship/games and dinner followed by Bible Study. The meal will be provided by Angie and Todd Lafrenz. Mentors: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy

## DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS FAITH BASED OPPORTUNITY



Dr. Berkowitz will host an organizational meeting Sunday, October 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library for anyone interested in being a part of a Dungeons and Dragons campaign set in the world of the New Testament, between 26 and 30 AD/CE. The campaign will parallel the events in the New Testament, allowing the players to tell a unique story of their own while

encountering biblical figures including Jesus.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

BRIDGES CHILDREN PROCESS WITH BREADS OF THE WORLD

Bridges Children (Grades 3-5) will process during the 10:00 a.m. voluntary Siyahamba, "a Zulu Melody," with the breads of the world as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and lead the Call to Worship. The Communion table will be adorned with African textiles, a gift of the late Andrea Butler.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Every year on Homecoming Sunday, the children of the congregation vote on which mission their Sunday School offering will support. Last year, the children purchased cows for people in need through Heifer International. That donation, for \$370, has been made.

This year, the children selected **GOATS** and we will support the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. This is a new outreach through the PC(USA) denomination that offers similar services to Heifer International, providing people in need around the world with access to livestock, agricultural supplies, clean water and education.



## BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

2024-2025 THEME: FAITH, ART, AND ADVOCACY



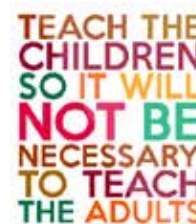
Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission projects and interfaith gatherings. This

year, Bridges will be using the *Living the Word* curriculum from Spirit & Truth Publishing. This curriculum will take our Bridges children through the Bible from Genesis through the New Testament over the course of the school year. Leaders: Meleah Berkowitz and Pat Roller

## CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

GATHERS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on Wednesday, October 16, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield (3000 Stanton Street). This year's theme is "Celebrate." Join us as we explore the celebrations within each of our faiths.



Mark your calendar for the quarterly Wednesday Gatherings: **November 13 at Westminster, February 12 at Grace United Methodist, and May 7 at Temple Israel.**

## WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS by Emily Rowley



We have many new families joining us! Each student has had a special day when we learn about them. They prepare a page to share with us and bring us three items to see in the mystery bag. We have an amazing bus in the dramatic play center and have been driven to school and all over town! The author we're studying this year is Lois Ehlert; she has so many neat books we've enjoyed. We closed September with Macaroni Fest. It was a special evening for our school family. In October we'll be studying plants & gardening. We're taking a field trip to Pumpkin Creek Farms, having a Farmer's Market in dramatic play, and celebrating Halloween with parties and trick-or-treating around the building.

## HOMECOMING SUNDAY INTRODUCES NEW MINISTRY YEAR



BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

YOUTH GROUP



September was the beginning of the 2024-2025 ministry year at Westminster. We commissioned our Education Leadership Team during worship on Homecoming Sunday and gathered in Parish Hall for a delicious brunch (thank you Pat Hymans and Membership Committee), informative ministry displays, and children's activities highlighting the theme of the parents who welcomes their son home with a tender embrace.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER



## MILESTONE MEMBERS RECOGNIZED



### HIGHLIGHTS IN SEPTEMBER INCLUDED:

**PW Salad Supper** hosted by Lydia Circle and welcoming 50 women for delicious food and an informative presentation by Sue Cull and Carol Bloemer about the Dorcas Society, Abiah Hale and Erastus Wright, all of whom were instrumental in welcoming the Portuguese Refugees from Madeira.

**Milestone Members** were recognized in worship. We are grateful for their faithful and resilient faith journeys among us.

**Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study** welcomed new members as we begin our study of the Prophets and the Letters of Paul.

**Stewardship Committee** gathered to collate the 2025 Stewardship mailing before Chair Jim Dolan introduced the theme in worship.

## DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE COLLATES MAILING



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

### ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

1:30 P.M. WALK AT THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The walk begins at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh). Check-in begins at 1:00 p.m. with a start time of 1:30. The 2.5-mile walk will take an average walker less than one hour to complete. Park in the Third Presbyterian parking lot at Bergen and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets.



25% of money raised goes to our local food pantries, the remainder fighting hunger worldwide. Food pantries receiving funds include Grace Lutheran, Kumler Outreach Ministries and local Little Pantries. Members are invited to support WPC youth walking or join this symbolic journey. Every walker will receive a T-shirt.

Contact Becky Martin or Krista Steller for more information. Donations can be made online at [Springfield CROP Hunger Walk](#) or use the QR code or make a check out to WPC with CROP Walk in the memo line. Every Westminster donation will be matched by a donation from the Betty Smith International Mission Fund.



### HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER

**HELPING HANDS** - Thank you to Pat Hymans, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Judy Prillaman, and Sue Scaife who prepared the September 13 bagged lunches for 70. The September 25 hot meal for 70 was prepared by Pat and Steve Jacobs.

### GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH OCTOBER MENU

**Canned chili or soup with pop tops, biscuit mix, 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

Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea are sold to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. This month's sales will be on **Sunday, October 20** following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

### CAFÉ MOXO PARTNERS WITH COMPASS FOR KIDS

During Graham Elementary School's three-week fall break, Café Moxo is partnering with Compass for Kids and utilizing Westminster's kitchen on Tuesdays, October 2, 9, & 15 to prepare meals for pickup by the families during their break.

### PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING



*Sowing the Seeds of peace. Zachariah 8:12.*

Each September and October WPC receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice. Our gifts are helping our neighbors in need – those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe. 25% of the offering stays with Westminster.

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

PDA is at work in the states affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene. If you would like to give towards PDA's response, donate by check designating for PDA or click Give Now on our website Giving Page. Scan this QR code with your phone to go to the webpage.



## REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATE



The family at 522 S. Glenwood is growing! On Friday, September 27, the Velásquez Alonso family members were thrilled to welcome Eva's brother Candido Javier Artola Alonso, his wife Nereyda Cruz, and 11-month-old baby girl Luciana Javiera Alonso Cruz to Springfield. The family was sponsored by Church World Service and arrived in New York on August 31. The Westminster refugee committee has worked closely with CWS to bring them to Springfield. They will live in the house with the Velásquez family. Westminster members and WPC members have already been generous in providing clothes and baby supplies for our new family.

Other exciting news is that Javier has been hired on a permanent basis by Bunn and will now qualify for benefits. We are hopeful that Javi Alonso Artola can move into the temporary position with Express/Bunn that Javier held.

### ENDOWMENT MISSION GRANTS AWARDED

At their September meeting, the Mission and Community Service Committee approved the following grants:

**SING BY HEART** The committee approved \$2,600 in collaboration with the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee who approved \$1,000 from their endowment. Details on this innovative outreach in partnership with the Springfield Choral Society and the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at the SIU School of Medicine can be found on pg. 8.

**ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME - BEYOND GREEN** The committee approved a \$10,000 grant to fund the Beyond Green Initiative at the Illinois Presbyterian Home. The goal of the project is the transition of the current food service program which includes processed and pre-cooked foods to a healthier homemade menu consisting of locally sourced whole foods.

**COMPASS FOR KIDS** The committee approved a \$5,000 grant to fund the 2024-2025 program year as evidence of our ongoing commitment to the good work of mentoring at-risk children within our community.

### OCTOBER EARTH CARE TIP

Leaves are falling! Instead of wasting the time and energy to bag and discard leaves during fall cleanup, let us consider reusing them to cover our gardens and pile around trees over the winter. A two-foot layer of leaves will decompose to a couple of inches over the winter, providing warmth, nutrients, and organic matter for underlying roots and soil. Falling leaves are nature's mulch!



-Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon on the second Tuesday, October 8. Beverages and dessert will be provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**PW LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM** will be Friday, October 4 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. Dr. Aaron Berkowitz will present "Portuguese Presbyterian Churches in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century". Jeanne VanGieson is the Kitchen Chair and Pat Hymans is the Chair of the Day. Please RSVP on the website or with Jennie Alt by Wednesday, October 2.

**RUTH AND NAOMI** will resume on Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Purves (6 N. Cotton Hill Lane, 62712). Linda will lead the devotional by Henri Nouwen entitled, "Bringing Solitude into Our Lives" (pp. 80-86) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP directly to Linda Purves at 409-651-4701.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on Monday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 2 "Land Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.



**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets Tuesday, October 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the library and will study Lesson 2 "Land Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

### DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 5:30 P.M.

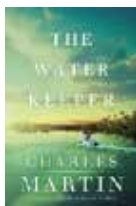
DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, October 18 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Kathy Smith will speak on the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Initiative: Helping Feed Those in Need" in Springfield. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by contacting the church office.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST TOUR OF SANGAMON COUNTY RECLAMATION PLANT THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 8:00 A.M.

All participants will meet at the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District's Spring Creek Plant on October 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Gregg Humphrey, Executive Director, will have a video presentation and then a driving tour of the facility. Please arrive at the Administrative Building located at 3000 N 8<sup>th</sup> Street (Northeast corner of 8th and Veterans Parkway where the tall pine trees are located). The group will then gather at Parkway Café (2715 N Dirksen Pkwy) for breakfast following the tour.

### APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, October 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Water Keeper (A Murphy Shepherd Novel) by Charles Martin.



New members are always welcome! The discussion is led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**THE NEW MEMBERS CLASS** scheduled in the month of October will gather at a later time. Those interested in becoming a member are invited to speak with Dr. Kieffer.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dee Tozer celebrates 95 years on October 1.  
Rich Canady will celebrate 90 years on October 6.  
Nancy & Lon Scott celebrates 71 years on October 10.  
Dr. Jim Singleton celebrates 94 years on October 14.  
Mary Ann Armstrong celebrates 93 years on October 22.

### WEDDING

Doris Melvin and Mal Hildebrand will be united in marriage on Saturday, October 12 in the Ziegler Library.

### NEW ARRIVAL

Killian Allen Douglas was born to Kylie and Levi Douglas on September 13 in Seattle. Killian's older sister is Stevie, and his uncle is Mark Allen. Killian's proud grandparents are Cathy and Bill Allen, and his great-grandparents are Nancy and Rich Canady.

### IN MEMORIAM

Mary Pearson Perkins died September 19 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her husband, Hal, their son, Jeffrey Perkins (wife, Krista), their daughter, Mary Lynn Bertram (husband, James), and their families.

Penny Etson Rinehart died September 21 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her sons Jonathan (wife, Stefanie) and William (partner, Charlotte Dreizen), and granddaughters Claudette and Camille.

### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Sue Cull on death of her brother-in-law, Ed Welk in Fennville, MI on September 3.

Joe and Anneliese Fierstos on the death of Anneliese' mother, and to Abby and Nate Fierstos on the death of their grandmother, Carolyn Evans Barris, on September 5 in Springfield.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** will resume Sunday, October 6 for World Communion Day.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION** will be available this Sunday, October 6 by our Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

**COVID AND FLU VACCINES** were provided Sunday, September 29. Fourteen Covid and twenty-three Flu vaccines were administered by Pharmacist Kasey Crum.

## AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry at Westminster. At the end of August, our income exceeded expenses by \$47,577 largely because personnel expenses are under budget. Income is nearly the same as the budget year-to-date.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 749,833	\$ 748,567	\$ 1,266
Expenses	\$-702,256	\$-748,567	\$ 46,311
Net Total	\$ 47,577	\$ 0	

Look for your contribution statement at the beginning of October. We encourage each member to check your giving compared to the pledge amount, and if needed, catch up before the December rush.

## REFORMATION AND HARVEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Westminster will continue the tradition we began in 2021 when Reformation Sunday fell on Halloween. We will celebrate the Harvest Festival in the morning. Members are invited to **wear costumes to worship** and join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service (11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.) for a festive gathering. Highlights and activities will include:



**A DELICIOUS LUNCH** will be provided and treat bags sent home with the children.

**PUMPKIN CRAFTS AND TREATS, STORYTELLING AND FACE PAINTING** in the Parish Hall.

**A HARVEST MAZE** in the Youth Room.

This celebration provides an opportunity to highlight the origins of Hallows' Eve in our faith tradition. Don't miss this time of creative and meaningful worship.

## SING BY HEART CHOIR BEGINS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2



The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, is launching a new program to create a supportive and joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregiver, promoting social connection, creative expression, and overall well-being.

**SING BY HEART** is a new Springfield-area choral group for those with memory loss, their care givers and singers from the Springfield Choral Society who have been trained as specialized volunteers. Its goal is to minimize the impact of dementia and other forms of memory loss. Recent scientific research shows the portions of the brain linked to music are undamaged by diseases like Alzheimer's, and singing lowers cortisol levels and promotes senses of well-being, happiness, and trust.

The Sing by Heart choir will meet on Wednesdays beginning October 2 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall and continue for eight weeks. The final session on Wednesday, November 20 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public. This collaboration is funded by the Westminster Mission & Benevolence and Worship, Music and Arts Endowment Funds.

## BECOMING A "MORE LIGHT" CONGREGATION FROM THE PASTOR BY Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer



Westminster's Session is considering a recommendation from the Family Ministry Committee to become a "more light" congregation. Becoming a "More Light" congregation is another way to affirm who we are and to continue the rich tradition of advocacy forged by our abolitionist founders who sought dignity and respect for all humanity. More Light Presbyterians is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. A "More Light" Presbyterian Church is a congregation that creates a welcoming, open, and inclusive atmosphere for our entire community. By becoming a "More Light" congregation, Westminster affirms what we already believe, that our doors are open and welcoming to all.

Westminster has the following affiliations that underscore our Christian witness in the world per Session's decision:

- (1) Earth Care Congregation affirming our commitment to Environmental Stewardship.
- (2) Hunger Action Congregation affirming our commitment to addressing World Hunger.
- (3) Matthew 25 Congregation affirming our commitment to dismantling systemic racism, eradicating structural poverty, and building congregational vitality.

Becoming a "More Light" congregation involves two actions: (1) A logo would be placed on the home page of our website to identify us as a "More Light" congregation and (2) Westminster would be listed with other Presbyterian congregations on their website ([www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)) for persons who are looking for a church where they will find welcome and acceptance. Members who would like to discuss our proposed "More Light" affiliation are welcome to contact me.

The Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

## Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff  
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*Reporter folding and mailing will be on  
Wednesday, October 30 at 12:30 p.m.*