



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

September 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
11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation
and Adult Ed Forum
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

September 1

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 9:1-6; Mark 7:1-8,14-15
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Table Manners

September 8

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 32:22-33:11, Luke 15:1-3, 11-33
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Coming Home

September 15

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 31:10-31, Mark 9:30-37
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Wisdom of Welcome

September 22

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

James 3:13-4:1, Mark 9:30-37
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Time to Ask

September 29

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22, Mark 9:38-43
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Time to Speak

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

HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. LUNCH RECEPTION AT 11:15 A.M.



Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 8 as we explore a story of homecoming in Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11-33. Rembrandt’s painting of “The Return of the Prodigal Son,” which can be found at the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia was created at the end of Rembrandt’s life, in the late seventeenth century. In the painting, Rembrandt captures the nature of God’s compassion in the hands that embrace and welcome their son home.

We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., share the Sacrament of Communion, welcome the Westminster Choir and commission the Education Leadership Team. A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children’s activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2023-2024 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service.

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

INTRODUCED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving is the 2025 Stewardship theme based on I Corinthians 13:13, selected by Jim Dolan who is chairing this year’s committee.



People of faith are hopeful because God’s steadfast and reliable love sustains us through the vicissitudes life presents. Our stewardship—what we do with what has been given to us—comes from hope. Let us give generously.

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

The campaign will be introduced on Sunday, September 22 and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 27. The Stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 23 following the Session’s approval of the 2025 budget.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

On Sunday, September 29 we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954 during worship.

Fifty-year Members:

Ginny Baker	Jim Baker
Bob Blythe	Julia Dirksen
Mal Hildebrand	Sally Hildebrand
Peter Noonan	Bob Pyle
Dr. Bill Schultz	Cheryl White
Charles Wilkin	Sharon Zook

Fifty-Five-year Members:

Mary Barringer	Chas Blythe
Carol Cordier	Richard Cordier
Earl Henderson, III	Marilyn Rigney
Jim Rigney	

Sixty-Year Members:

Sandy Hill

Sixty-Five Year Members:

Cress Maddox Bill Parr

Seventy-Year Members:

Charles Adams

Seventy-Three Year Member: Betsy Ruklick

We are grateful for all the ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship to express our congratulations and appreciation.

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

On Sunday, August 18 Peter and I worshiped at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Funchal, Madeira. I had the privilege to bring greetings on behalf of Westminster who welcomed Presbyterian refugees from Madeira in 1849. St. Andrew's was founded in the 1860's



and grew out of the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Robert Kalley, Scottish Presbyterian Minister and physician, who built a hospital and 17 schools on the Island of Madeira in the 1830's and 40's transforming thousands of lives by teaching them to read from imported Portuguese Bibles before he and his followers were driven from the island by the Roman Catholic Church. The greeting I brought is as follows:

Good afternoon! I bring greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois. Our congregation was founded in 1835 by abolitionists. Our Founding Pastor, The Rev. Albert Hale, was a friend and counselor to President Abraham Lincoln.

In 1849, one of our members Erastus Wright, received a letter from the American and Foreign Christian Union asking if Springfield would welcome Portuguese refugees who arrived in New York following a stay in Trinidad.

On November 13, 1849, 150 refugees from Madeira were welcomed into Springfield. Rev. Hale's wife, Abiah, organized women in the Dorcas Society to provide gifts and resources to our new Presbyterian friends. They settled in a part of town which became known as "Madeira."

By 1853 more than 1000 Portuguese refugees settled in Springfield, Waverly, and Jacksonville. The First Presbyterian Portuguese Church was founded in the early 1850's. There was a split in 1858 over baptism and the Second Presbyterian Portuguese Church was founded. The site of this church is now St. John's Hospital where my husband Peter works as a pediatrician. In 1897, the two congregations were reunited and became the Fourth Presbyterian Church in 1908.

Thirty years after their arrival, the Illinois State Register reflected on the Springfield Portuguese community, saying:

They are industrious, frugal, upright, peaceful, law-abiding citizens, rich in determination ...cultivating the land they acquired in Illinois with all the care and diligence they formerly bestowed upon the little patches of earth between the rocks and hills of their rugged native island.



It is a joy and privilege to be with you today as we marvel together at the strength and dignity of those who have come before us and how our stories are united in the body of Christ through the grace of God. May we continue to live in God's grace today in our respective lands:

*Loving one another with mutual affection,
Rejoicing in hope, Being patient in affliction,
Persevering in prayer, Contributing to the need of saints,
And pursuing hospitality to strangers. (Romans 12)
Thank you for your gracious hospitality.*

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 14 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. Following the retreat, the choir and spouses are invited to share dinner following the retreat. If you have considered joining the choir, now is a great time.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet on Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, September 21 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 9 led by Katie Moore, our Director for Children's Music, and meet weekly from 5:00 until 5:45 p.m. This is a choir combining the full range of singers from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and welcomes all young singers to join in the fun.

ADULT EDUCATION

DR. KIEFFER'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS, 5:30 – 6:45 P.M.

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study resumes **Thursday, September 19**, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. This year's curriculum will be the Disciple Study "Remember Who You Are: A Study of the Prophets and Letters of Paul." Books will be available Homecoming Sunday and in the Church Office. New members are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

FAITH, ART AND ADVOCACY PART 1: REFUGEE MINISTRY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AND 22

Join us Sundays, September 15 and 22 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall to learn about Westminster's Refugee ministry which began in 1849 when we welcomed Presbyterian refugees from Madeira, Portugal who made Springfield their home. Presented by Rev. Dr. Kieffer, Archivists Carol Bloemer, Sue Cull, and Dr. Berkowitz.

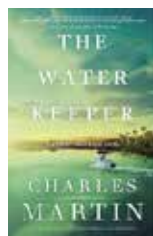
THE CHURCH AND THE CUSTODY BATTLE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, OCTOBER 6

Join us Sundays, September 29 and October 6 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, as we review the history of education in the United States, the role the "church" has played, and consider today's situation and project into the future. Presented by Dr. Vena M. Long, 4th generation teacher on both sides of the family.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, September 24 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! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



NEW MEMBER CLASS, OCTOBER 6 & 13

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on **Sundays, October 6 and 13, 9:00 – 9:45 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. **New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on October 20** following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.



YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION

BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Confirmation is the process through which youth affirm the vows made at their Baptism and become active members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Three-year Confirmation Class provides a comprehensive review of our faith based on the Scripture.

GRADES SIX AND SEVEN meet Sunday mornings 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room during worship (except) Communion Sundays. They will study the New Testament during these preparatory years and utilize “Echo, The Story” curriculum. Teachers: [Tara Barnett](#), [Meridith Bryans](#), [Joe Fierstos](#), [Mary Ray](#)



GRADE EIGHT meets Sunday mornings from 11:15 – 12 noon in the Conference Room following worship. The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs. Teachers: [Dr. Aaron Berkowitz](#), [Dr. Peter](#) and the [Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer](#), [Mary Ray](#)

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on Homecoming Sunday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary with Dr. Kieffer. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another, the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2024-2025 schedule and expectations.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 5:00-6:30 P.M. PARISH HALL

Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning September 8. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall for fellowship/games and dinner followed by Bible Study. Parents are asked to prepare the meal on a rotation basis. Mary Ray will reach out to schedule the meals. Mentors: [Cathy Brower](#), [Susan Day](#), [Kyle Duffy](#), [Mary Ray](#)

YOUTH WORSHIP LEADERSHIP: The participation of youth enriches our worship service and heightens their sense of belonging. Junior High serve as acolytes each Sunday. Senior High serve as worship leader most Sundays and Bible/Cross carriers on Communion Sundays. Mary Ray will reach out to schedule youth participation.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS FAITH BASED OPPORTUNITY

Dungeons & Dragons is the world's most popular tabletop roleplaying game. In *D&D*, the players take on the roles of adventurers in a fantastic world and use their imagination and storytelling skill (and their luck at rolling dice) to tell a collaborative tale. Dr. Aaron Berkowitz has offered to lead a faith-based Dungeons and Dragons inter-generational group. No previous experience necessary. If you are interested in participating, Contact Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

COLLEGE STUDENTS GATHER FOR BRUNCH

On Sunday, August 18, several college students gathered for brunch at Boone's with Mary Ray and Bill Deemer before heading off to their respective schools.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Flyers, emails, and registration forms outlining opportunities for the 2024-2025 ministry year were sent to families in August. The following classes begin Homecoming Sunday, September 8.

CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH AGE 4 will gather in the **Nursery** before or following the children's sermon for a lesson from the **Frolic Preschool Sunday School** curriculum, which is play-based and helps our youngest children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful ways. Our Nursery, located on the lower level, is staffed by Nursery Coordinators, Kara Milward and Erin Winn, Nursery Worker, Maria Lafrenz, and members of the Nursery Guild.

KINDERGARTNERS - GRADE 5 will gather on the **Third Floor** following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the **Feasting on the Word** curriculum. This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week, which makes it easier for families to live out their faith together. The curriculum invites learners into the rhythm of the church year.

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 meet in the **Third Floor Chapel** with Meleah Berkowitz and Ministry Partners.

Children in Grades 3-5 meet in the **Tower Classroom** with Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Ministry Partners.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 11, 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. **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

Our new school year begins September 3rd and 4th. We have a wonderful bunch of returning families and new families and are starting the year with only a few openings in our 2 day class for 2 1/2-3 year olds. Our grant from the American Business Club of Springfield has provided numerous new outdoor materials. We can't wait for the students to arrive and enjoy them!

Our annual Macaronifest will be held **Monday, September 30**. Let us do the cooking for your dinner that evening and enjoy a macaroni craft and music with us outdoors on the lawn. Hope you can join us! More information and ticket purchasing will be available on our Facebook page.

518 S. GLENWOOD HOME FOR SALE FOLLOWING WORKDAY AND OPEN HOUSE



Thank you to the following members who attended the Steadfast Neighbor Workday on Saturday, August 3 at our 518 S. Glenwood property: *Linda Andrews & Claudia Nash, James Capler, Susan & Scott Day, Bud Green, Blythe & Peter Kieffer, Priscilla & Tim Kluge, Judy & Todd Knox, Richard Leary, Tom Owen, Mary Ray, Julie Robbs, Pete VanGieson, Phil Wheat, and Bernie Wiseman.*

Forty-five members attended an Open House on Sunday, August 11.

On Labor Day, September 2, 518 S. Glenwood will officially be on the market and listed for \$199,900 with Rick Duffy, Broker, Owner, and Partner of the Real Estate Group. If you know anyone looking for a home, contact Rick at 217-341-1268. Income from the sale will repay the loan from Support and Endowment to purchase the home in 2018.



MEN'S ANNUAL SUMMER COOKOUT – AUGUST 10



Presbyterian Men and their significant others enjoyed a summer cookout at the Grigsby Farm, hosted by Harold Hale.

MEALS ON WHEELS



Mary Caroline Mitchell and Sam Simonson deliver meals before Sam went to college—an intergenerational family tradition.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – SUNDAY, AUGUST 25



On Sunday, August 25, children and youth gathered in the Chancel for the Blessing of their backpacks by Dr. Kieffer and Directors Mary Ray, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz as we begin a new school year together.

That afternoon and evening were filled with fun, food, and fellowship as we “splashed into the new year” with two swim parties. Children gathered at the Kieffer Home and Youth were hosted by the Battermans.

SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR YOUNG FAMILIES SWIM PARTY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 25



YOUTH SWIM PARTY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 25



PARISH LIFE NEWS MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

ANNUAL CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6



Join the Springfield community addressing hunger in our world and community. The walk begins at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh) at 1:30 p.m. Krista Steller is an event coordinator, with Becky Martin organizing the Westminster walkers.

HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER

HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Pat Hymans, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Judy Prillaman, Sue Sawers, and Sue Scaife who prepared the August 9 bagged lunches for 70.



The August 28 hot meal for 70 was prepared by Christy Pound and Karen Sherrick.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH SEPTEMBER MENU

Spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned or bottled 100% juice, and 100% juice or water canned fruit. High-Demand Items: personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, 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 **Sunday, September 15** following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERED



Thank you to the following ministry partners who delivered food to eligible senior citizens as part of the Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program: for two weeks in August:

Cathy & Emily Brower, Ellen & Rance Carpenter, Bud Green, Vonnie Hinesley & Roy Wehrle, Marci Irvine, Judy & Todd Knox, Katy Maeda, Lindsay, Hazel, & Daisy McClendon, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Debbie Parker, Judy Pittman, Jeanne & Julie Pittman, Judy Prillaman, Mary Ray, Sue Scaife, Sam Simonson, D.L. Stanfield, Krista Steller, Alan Stutz, and Gayle Wilson.

ENDOWMENT MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Thank you to those who have submitted grant applications. The Mission and Community Service Committee will review grant applications for funding from Westminster's Mission Endowment at its September 4 meeting. The deadline for submission is September 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 UPDATE

Westminster received a Certificate of Recognition from Exodus World Services for resettling a Nicaraguan family through Welcome Corps.

English Tutoring continued over the summer. Javier began to work part-time on the custodial staff at Westminster. He also purchased a car for the family and obtained his driver's license.

Jonathan will begin all day preschool in September. Abi attends Graham Elementary School. Members of First Presbyterian, Springfield have asked for counsel from the committee on the process of hosting a family.

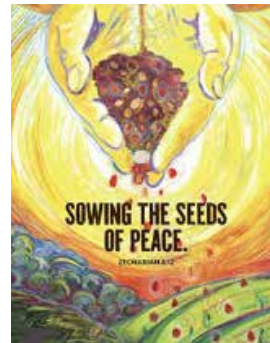


COMPASS FOR KIDS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3



Compass for Kids begins Tuesday, September 3 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after-school program for the Graham Elementary School site. We welcome Kieley Hendricker as our new Site Director. Kieley previously worked as a paraprofessional at Blackhawk Elementary School and is a mother of two.

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.

SEPTEMBER EARTH CARE TIP



Autumn is the perfect time to plant a new tree, thereby capturing more carbon dioxide and restoring the beauty of God's creation! Cool weather and steady rains will help roots grow even though leaves will fall. During the autumn, most nurseries offer deep discounts on trees and other perennials to reduce their winter inventory. Buy, dig, plant, and look forward to healthy new growth and green foliage next spring!

-Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION will resume Sunday, October 1 for World Communion Day. If you would like to volunteer to be on the home communion team or would like to receive it, please let the church office know.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on the **second Sunday of the month, September 8**, by our Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

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, September 10. 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 HANDBOOKS will be available at the Salad Supper on Tuesday, Sept. 17. They will be available in the church office beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 18 if you are unable to attend.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE resumes on Monday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 1 "Environmental 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 (217-341-4032).

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on Tuesday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Carolyn Beatty (244 Maple Grove, 62712) and will study Lesson 1 "Environmental 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 (217-899-9890).

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).

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Carolyn Moore will provide a program talking about the *Amazing Life and Accomplishments of Marjorie Merriweather Post*. Her family were the founders of the Post Cereal Company. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by contacting the church office.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes on Thursday, **September 12 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Lynne Slightom, Development Director for Solar Cookers International, will show us how solar cooking works and its positive global impact on low-income families and the environment. Jim Dolan will provide breakfast and devotions. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church office. All ages of friends and church goers are welcome to join us.

WELCOME BRADEN BARTON!

We are happy to welcome Braden Barton to our custodial staff. Braden is a sophomore at Lincoln Land Community College.

Braden served as a deacon during high school and continues to be active with Westminster's youth, attending the 2024 Mission Trip to NOLA.

Braden is a student of Tae Kwon Do which is a form of Korean Martial Arts.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Lon Scott celebrates 90 years on September 1.

Diana and Dale Hedrick celebrate 61 years on September 7.

Judy & Harvey Stephens celebrate 65 years on September 12.

Judy & Dan Dees celebrate 69 years on September 15.

Virginia & Neil Lee celebrate 64 years on September 16.

Pat & Al Hymans celebrate 55 years on September 20.

Sharon & Larry Reynolds celebrate 63 years on September 24.

Ann Lienemann celebrates 90 years on September 26.

WEDDING

Kayla Romack and Cody Thompson were married on August 10 in O'Fallon, MO. Her proud father is Lee Romack, and proud grandparents are Mary Gail and Steve Romack.

Shelby VanGieson and Michael Craig will be married on September 14 in Fairplay, CO. Shelby is the daughter of Jeanne and Pete VanGieson.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kathryn Black will present her daughters, Lucy Baker Black and Elizabeth (Biz) Birdie Black, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, September 15.

IN MEMORIAM

Kevin G. Proctor died August 5 in St. Louis, MO. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Carolyn, their son, Zach Proctor, and grandchildren Zachary and Abby Proctor.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Dr. Kevin and Mrs. Linda Dorsey on the death of Kevin's son, Michael Patrick Dorsey, on August 10 in Carbondale, IL.

THANK YOU TO

The Westminster family, for donating **200** backpacks to Contact Ministries. Your generous and thoughtful collaboration makes a difference in the lives of many youth within our community.



COMMUNITY EVENT



Join the Sound Celebration Chorus on Saturday, September 7, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. The chorus presents "Mousekevision" – an afternoon of Disney songs that your whole family can sing-along to. Tickets can be purchased at www.hcfta.org/tickets.

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful for the strong support received through the month of July. Income is \$22,814 higher than the budget to date. Expenses are under budget by \$42,534, so year-to-date the total income exceeds expenses by \$65,348. Thank you for continuing your financial support through these summer months.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 677,810	\$ 654,996	\$ 22,814
Expenses	\$-612,462	\$-654,996	\$ 42,534
Net Total	\$ 65,348	\$ 0	



WESTMINSTER'S WELCOME BROCHURE

The Welcome Brochure includes inserts offering introductory information about the history and architecture of WPC and outlining the church's ministries in Children and Youth, Adult Education, Worship and Music, Mission and Community Service and Congregational Life. It features photos of the Life of Christ stained-glass window located above the choir loft and contains a welcome letter from Dr. Kieffer. Look for the updated brochures on Homecoming Sunday in the pew pockets or at the Welcome Table.

GOOD NEWS FROM APNC

Dear Members of Westminster:

I am pleased to report that the applicant we welcomed to Springfield August 22 - 24 has accepted our invitation to candidate for the position of Associate Pastor for Family Ministry on Sunday, October 20. She will preach the sermon and following an affirmative vote by the congregation at a called meeting, she will begin Sunday, December 1, 2024.



As a part of the Presbyterian Polity and in order to maintain confidentiality as she begins the transition from the congregation she is currently serving to Westminster, professional and personal information will not be shared until October 20.

During our three-year search, we updated our profile with Church Leadership Connection, reviewed 121 candidates, initiated contact with 40, interviewed 14 on Zoom and welcomed three at Westminster.

On behalf of the APNC Committee: Dr. Craig Batterman, Meleah Berkowitz, Emily Brower (through summer of 2023) Meridith Bryans, Kristianna Eastvold (since summer of 2023), Adam Ekstedt, Tom Owen and me, we believe we have found the most qualified candidate who will bring wisdom, experience, authenticity and warmth to our congregation. She received accolades from the youth and staff with whom she met during her visit and the decision was unanimous. We look forward to introducing her to you and are filled with joy and gratitude for God's faithfulness on this journey together.

Respectfully, Krista Steller

UPDATE ON REV. CHOI

BY PERSONNEL CHAIR CHRISTY POUND

Rev. Choi has applied for long-term disability through the Board of Pensions. We hold Christian, Sophia, Diana, and Zachariah in our hearts and prayers during this time of uncertainty and continue to be grateful for the meaningful ministry Christian has provided Westminster since December of 2018.

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
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

Katie L. Moore
Director for Children's Music
kkilduski@gmail.com

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Co-Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
keri@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
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Gary Warnick
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**Braden Barton, James Capler,
Javier Velasquez**
Part-time Custodians

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE NINTH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

PROGRAM:

THE DORCAS, ABIAH, AND ERASTUS ROAD TRIP

PRESENTED BY

WESTMINSTER ARCHIVISTS – SUE CULL & CAROL BLOEMER

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad.

Sign up on 9/8 Homecoming Sunday and 9/15 in the West Narthex
or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

*Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m.*