



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
3 September 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Fanfare for the Common Man Aaron Copeland

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Call to Worship** Psalm 105:1-4

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make God's deeds known among the peoples.

People: **Sing praises to the Lord;
tell of all God's wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in God's holy name;
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: **Seek the Lord and marvel at God's strength;
Seek God's presence continually.**

Leader: Remembering the wonderful works God has done,
let us praise and worship the Lord together.

***Hymn 1** Holy, Holy, Holy *Nicaea*

***Prayer of Confession** Holy and loving God, in every moment you call us to you. Yet so often we refuse to turn aside from our path to respond. We forget that we stand on holy ground wherever we may be and we presume we know what is best for us. Help us live into your love and give us the courage to trust you and fully live out our call. Grant us open and attentive hearts, so that we may always hear your voice when you call. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon**

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace. Amen.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.
*Children in grades Pre-K-3 will go to Summer Sunday School
class following the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading Exodus 3:1-15 Pew Bible, OT page 50

Second Scripture Reading Romans 12:9-21 Pew Bible, NT page 162
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Being Second Rev. Christian K. Choi
*The text: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the
Israelites out of Egypt?"... "What is his name?" what
shall I say to them?"* Exodus 3:11, 13b

Special Music

Moses

Ken Medema

Old Moses, 'way back there in the wilderness, saw some smoke, came to the bush, and the bush was burnin'. God said, "Take off your shoes, Moses, you're on holy ground. Moses, I've chosen you to be my man, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land. Moses, I've chosen you to work for me, Moses, I've chosen you to set my people free!"

(Moses) Not me, Lord! Don't you know I can't talk so good; I stutter all the time. Do you know my brother, Aaron? He can Sing like an angel, talk like a preacher. Not me, Lord! I can't talk so good. And another thing, how will they know that I've been here with you? How will they know what you've sent me to do? Don't you know in Egypt, they want little Moses' head? Don't you know in Egypt, they want little Moses dead? Don't you know they'll never hear a single word I'll say! Maybe you'd better get your dirty work done another way! Not me, Lord!

(God) What's that in your hand?

(Moses) It's just a rod.

(God) Throw it down, Moses.

(Moses) Do you mean, like, on the ground?

(God) Yes, I said, throw it down, Moses.

(Moses) Lord, don't take my rod away from me. Don't you know it's my only security? Don't you know when you live here all alone, a man's gotta have something he can call his own: Not Me, Lord!

(God) Throw it down, Moses.

(Moses) But, Lord, I

(God) Throw it down Moses!

(Narrator) Moses threw the rod on the ground and the rod became a hissing snake! Well, Moses started runnin' Well, maybe you'd run.

(Moses) You'd run!

(Narrator) He was runnin' from a hot rod! Runnin' from a hissing snake! runnin' scared of what God's gonna do. Runnin' scared God'll get hold of you.

And the Lord said, "Stop, pick it up, Moses, by the tail."

(Moses) Lord, you have not lived here very long! Lord, you've got the whole thing wrong! Don't you know that you never pick up a hissing snake by his...

(God) Pick it up, Moses!

(Moses) Oh God, it's a rod again!

(God) Do you know what it means, Moses? Do you know what I'm trying to say, Moses?

(Narrator) The rod on Moses became the rod of God! With the rod of God, strike the rock and the water will come: With the rod of God, part the waters of the sea: With the rod of God, you can strike old Pharaoh dead; With the rod of God, you can set the people free. What do you hold in your hand today? To what or to whom are you bound? Are you willing to give it to God right now? Give it up, let it go, throw it down.

The Church at Prayer

Solo: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Presentation of our Gifts

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory

Morning Song

Ken Medema

Good morning, Lord. The night is gone, we bring to you a
morning song. Now chase the shades of night away and turn
the darkness into day. Lord, grant that in the morning light we
see things clearly and aright.

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

**God of holy ground, bless these offerings that, through
them, we may do your will and hold your people in our
heart. Amen.**

*Hymn 69

Here I am Lord

Here I Am

*Charge and Benediction

*Voluntary

Trumpet Tune in D

John Stanley

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
- **Greeters:** Linda and Bill Schlosser
- **Worship Leader:** Kristianna Eastvold
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and William Affrunti
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Sophia Choi, Terry Haynor, Sabrina Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** Adam Miller, tenor, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 – 11:15 a.m. Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's lesson: "Uri and the Busy Day" *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Linda Caupert*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children Pre-K – Grade 2** begin in worship with their families & go to the Third Floor Classroom following the Children's Sermon for Summer Sunday school. The story this week is: "Called By Name." *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on refugees, immigrant people and children in other lands, and back-to-school books from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards, and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 10
as we begin the 2023-2024 Ministry Year!

We will celebrate worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Westminster Choir,
commission the 2023-2024 Education Leadership Team,
and partake in Communion with bread prepared by the Bread Guild.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and includes
ministry displays, children's activities,
a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2022-2023 ministry year,
and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service.

Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pw. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE - Westminster members are invited to make a donation to PDA in the wake of the Maui fires and Idalia Hurricane. Please include PDA in the memo line of the check you write. So far, members have given \$2,125.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL classes begin Tuesday, **September 5th**. There are a couple of openings in each of our classes. An application is available on the WCP website.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on **Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m.** and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 9 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. Following the retreat, the choir is invited to share dinner at the home of Meg and Jim Kontio. If you have considered joining the choir, now is a great time.

NURSERY GUILD MEMBERS will participate in Mandatory Reporting Training on Homecoming Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. The training will be led by Meleah Berkowitz.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING - Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on Homecoming Sunday, September 10 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 2023-2024 schedule and expectations.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL begins Homecoming Sunday, September 10. Parents are asked to register their children through [KidCheck](#) on or before Homecoming Sunday. Join us at the reception in Parish Hall to select the animal for this year's Sunday School Offerings which support Heifer International. Envelopes will also be distributed. The following classes begin Sunday, September 10:

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION begins Sunday, September 17 Grades Six and Seven meet Sunday mornings from 10:15 – 11: 00 a.m. during worship (except) Communion Sundays in the Conference Room. They will study the Old Testament during these preparatory years and utilize "Echo, The Story" curriculum. Grades Eight meets Sunday mornings from 11:15 – 12 noon in the Conference Room following worship in the Conference Room. The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins **Sunday, September 10 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning September 10. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall for dinner and fellowship/games, followed by discussion on current topics from Christian perspective, based on PC(USA) resource "Faith Questions."

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP - Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning **September 13, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** beginning in the Children's Library. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes service opportunities, art projects, and interfaith gatherings. This year's theme is "Created in God's Image."

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes **Thursday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m.** The program will be "Westminster Refugee Ministry" presented by co-chairs Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel. Dr. Roy Wehrle will give the devotion and breakfast is TBD. Men are encouraged to join this fellowship. RSVP to the church office or online.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, **September 16**, 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.

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY will resume **Thursday, September 21**, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will explore two Short-Term Disciple Studies: Invitation to Genesis and Invitation to John and view a video series: The Holy Land Revealed. Members and friends are welcome to sign up on Homecoming Sunday when the curriculum will be available for purchase.

THE NINTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR will be Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come learn about good health practices at interactive stations in Parish Hall following worship **and receive your Flu Vaccine**. Information on many topics will be presented, and several personal screenings and assessments will be available. We are grateful to Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter who is coordinating the fair and the many other health professionals from our congregation and elsewhere for contributing their time and expertise. **Stations will include:**



- Flu Vaccines (Tamika Hill, Phar.D.)
- Advance Directives (Michael Nenaber, MD)
- Cancer Education (Tia Rapps, RN)
- Skin Care (Judy Knox, MD)
- Blood Glucose Screening (Kathy Bacon, RN)
- Dental Care (Allison Long, DMD)
- Blood Pressure Screening (Marilyn Rigney, RN, Camille Proud, RN)
- Illinois Assistive Technology Program (Angela Schneider)
- Computer Health Assessment (Krista Steller)
- Adult Vaccines and Safety in the Home (Janet Winkler, Sang. County Public Health)
- Bone Density Screening (Erin Ekstedt, RN, BSN)
- Senior Services Programs (Tessa French)

WOODEN IT BE HELPFUL - In March, the Mission and Community Service Committee unanimously voted to support Coleman Moore's vision of making furniture for Wooden It Be Lovely (WIBL). He is looking for ministry partners of any skill level of woodworking to join in this mission. This ministry opportunity will begin Tuesday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m. and will meet weekly at Habitat for Humanity Restore. For additional information, contact Coleman Moore (csmoore56@yahoo.com or 414-617-0477).

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING This year, we are joining PC(USA)'s 40th annual commitment to peacemaking. 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 in our own communities and across the world.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION - On Sunday, September 24 we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1973, 1968, 1963, 1953 during worship. 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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 4

Labor Day – Church Offices Closed

6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Tuesday, September 5

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

3:00 PM Compass for Kids

6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Wednesday, September 6

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conference Room)

4:30 PM Nominating Committee (Library)

4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)

5:30 PM Mission & Community Service
(2nd Floor Classroom)

5:30 PM Membership Committee (Pastor's Study)

6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Thursday, September 7

11:30 AM PEO Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)

2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)

4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)

6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 8

5:00 PM Meal Delivered to Helping Hands Shelter

6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Saturday, September 9

1:30 PM Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian

5:30 PM Choir Potluck (Off-site)

Sunday, September 10

Holy Communion

Homecoming Sunday

9:00 AM Mandatory Reporting Training
for Nursery Guild (Parish Hall)

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K – 5

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Springfield, Illinois 62704

Phone (217) 522-4415

<http://www.wpcspi.org>

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Mary Ray
Interim Director for Youth

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

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians