



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Reformation Sunday and  
Stewardship Dedication  
29 October 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

William Faulkes

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 90:1-6

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

People: **Before the mountains were born,  
before you delivered the whole world,**

Leader: from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

People: **In you, we dwell and are at home –we dream, we  
flourish, we reform, and we are always reforming.**

Leader: You greet us each morning, all the days of our lives.

**\*Processional Hymn 624**

I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art

*Toulon*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Loving God in whom we live and move and have our being, your Spirit calls each of us, yet we are often reluctant to heed the call. We cling to fragile familiarities, to securities, and to safety. Give us the capacity to stretch, to bend, to grow, and to risk that we may become all you intend. When the journey gets long, help us remember we are loved, there is light up above, and the joy is always enough. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon and  
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.

**\*Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

**Children's Sermon**

**Congregational Response**

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends  
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

*Children in grades Pre-K-5 will go to Sunday School and grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation Prep following the Congregational Response.*

**First Scripture Reading**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Pew Bible, OT pages 191-192

**Second Scripture Reading**

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

Pew Bible, NT page 203

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Bubbles Up

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab...Deuteronomy 34:5*

**Anthem**

Bubbles Up

Jimmy Buffett

When this world starts a-reelin, from that pressure drop feelin'  
We're just treading water each day. There's a way to feel better,  
Be well set to weather. The storms 'til the sun shines again  
When your compass is spinnin', And you're lost on the way  
Like a leaf in the wind, friend, Bubbles up. They will point you  
towards home, No matter how deep or how far you roam. They  
will show you the surface, The plot and the purpose.

*Refrain: So, when the journey gets long, Just know that you are  
loved. There is light up above, And the joy is always enough.  
Bubbles up*

To my friends who are jolly, When melancholy knocks  
Sometimes they let her in, To sit and share stories  
Of flops and of glories, Hear me when I say” It ain't half as bad as  
the bends. Sometimes living's a struggle, Multiplied double  
But they love it too much for the party to end  
Bubbles up. They will point you towards home, No matter how  
deep or how far you roam. They will show you the surface, The  
plot and the purpose. *Refrain.*

Let's pop a cork to the rough and the right, To the bright blazing  
days and the sweet starry nights. Bubbles up. They will point us  
towards home. No matter how deep or how far we roam. They will  
show you the surface The plot and the purpose. *Refrain.*

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

*A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life...  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives. Amen.**

### **The Church at Prayer**

Response:

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.

Leader:

The Lord be with you.

People:

**And with your spirit.**

Leader:

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 found in the pew racks.*

**Offertory** Sing to God Our Great Protection W. A. Mozart  
Sing to God, our great protection, sing with joy to Jacob's king.  
Sing a psalm, and sound the timbrel, bring the harp and psaltery.  
Sound the trumpet in the new moon, in the season of our feast.  
Sing to God, our great protection, sing with joy to Jacob's king.

**Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

**\*Litany of Thanksgiving and Dedication** *2024 pledges are presented in the baptismal font brass bowl as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community.*

**Leader:** Holy and Loving God, as a tree is planted by water sending out its roots by the stream, may our generosity reflect a deeply rooted faith.

**People:** **Accept our 2024 pledges which we present on this Stewardship Dedication Sunday.**

**Leader:** Thank you for the privilege of belonging to this church family which is made resilient through the generosity and faith of its members.

**People:** **Thank you for the gift of children and our baptismal vows which affirm we will nourish and sustain their lives .**

**Leader:** Thank you for the richness of our journey together,

**People:** **and for the joy of continuing the work of Westminster, strengthened by the deep and elaborate root system that has grown strong through the years.**

**Leader:** Help us remember that our church family stands tall when we grow in stewardship

**People:** **and our individual lives are enriched when we reach beyond ourselves. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 36** For the Fruit of All Creation Ar Hyd y Nos

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Response** Day By Day Harold Friedell  
Day by day, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly day by day.

**Voluntary** Gothic Suite: Toccata Leon Boelmann  
(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

## IN MEMORIAM

Clifton R. Baxter 12/20/1942 – 10/17/2023  
United with Westminster 02/02/1969

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** James Maeda
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Greeter:** Judy and Todd Knox
- **Ushers** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Sabrina Holmes, Kathy Kenyon, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Music:** Westminster Choir, Todd Knox, Vocals and Guitar, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano, Lyle VanDeventer, Bass, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann, Peter Van Gieson
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:45 – 12 noon Nursery (lower level)** Infants and toddlers begin in the Nursery. Preschoolers begin in worship with their families and leave during the Congregational Response. Today's Bible Story: "God's Love Shining Through Me". *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
  - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response Today's Lesson: "The Greatest Commandment" (Matt. 22:34-46). *Teachers: Cathy Brower, Julie Robbs*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Five: "Jacob and Esau" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
  - **Harvest Fest (Parish Hall)** Join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service for a festive gathering. Children will receive a passport book to stamp each activity after completion. Those who have participated in all the activities receive a special treat.



**Special** activities include:

**A DELICIOUS LUNCH** provided by Pat Hymans and the Membership Committee,

**PUMPKIN CRAFTS** with Aaron Berkowitz and Julianna Eastvold in Parish Hall.

**FACE PAINTING** Meleah Berkowitz, Kristianna Eastvold, Sam Simonson in Parish Hall.

**STORYTELLING** with Sue Baker in the West Narthex.

**A HARVEST MAZE** created by Al Hymans in the Youth Room.

**DONATIONS** to support **UNICEF** to assist families in developing countries.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew during the offertory and pass to your neighbor in the pew.

**PW EVENING MARKET** will be **Wednesday, November 1**, All are invited to the Evening Market from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for shopping, fellowship, and some fun snacks. The PW Evening Market is a chance to find unique items and support local and international mission work. The Market will feature food items and treasures from Fair Trade, Simply Fair, and Wooden It Be Lovely. Plan to start your holiday shopping early and support important global missions.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** gathers **Wednesday, November 1**, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christy Pound (100 Pinehurst Dr, 62704). Marilyn Rigney will lead the devotional by Evelyn Underhill entitled "A Simple Regimen of Private Prayer" (pgs. 87-94) from the book, Devotional Classics, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith. Call Christy Pound (217-971-3082) for details.

**ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** is **November 5**. Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2022. The litany includes the reading of our loved ones' names, the tolling of our historic bell, and silence.

**DR. KIEFFER CELEBRATES HER FORTIETH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY** next **Sunday, November 5**. Join us for a festive reception in Parish Hall following worship to mark the occasion.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** meets on **Thursday, November 9** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Gregg Humphrey, Executive Director, will speak on the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District. Brad Swanson will provide breakfast and Jay Kennerly will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

### THE 2023 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 11-12

THE REV. DR. DEBORAH KRAUSE, PRESIDENT OF EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

#### PRESENTATION:

THE BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE: LIFTING VOICES OF LAMENT, PROPHECY, AND PRAISE  
IN A TIME OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

#### Sunday, November 11

**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 12

**Worship Service** 10:00 a.m. Dr. Krause 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.

**Description:** While many imagine that faith is a matter of private belief, Christian faith and Biblical interpretation have long been at the center of North American public square debates about race, social diversity, struggles for human liberation, and other moral discourse. In these days of ascendant Christian nationalism and religious extremism, the Bible (and its authority) are often claimed as a tool for asserting dominance and control. This seminar explores how people of faith might engage the Bible not as a weapon, but as a resource for hearing and sharing voices of lament, prophecy, and praise that speak to God's presence and purpose in the public square. We will consider how to share a Biblical faith that resists domination and strengthens our capacity for joining God's redemptive work of justice, mercy, and love in the world.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** gathers **Monday, November 13**, 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom Mary King will lead lessons 3 & 4 “A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ” and “Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032) for details.

**CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM** meet **Wednesday, November 15** at 4:30 p.m. Westminster will host children and youth (Kindergarten through High School) from all faith communities as we build friendships, learn about one another, and share a vegetarian meal. The 2023-2024 theme is: **“Serving Our Community.”**

**DMA (Don’t Mention Age)** meets **Friday, November 17** at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Yves Doumen, garden founder and master gardener, will speak to us on “A Visit to the Motherland Gardens.”

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets **Tuesday, November 21** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler library. Carolyn Beatty will host and lead lesson 3 “A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION

Linda and I moved from Bloomington-Normal to Springfield in 1964. Linda was Methodist and I grew up Presbyterian, and we joined Westminster Presbyterian Church 57 years ago in 1966. The Rev. Dr. Edward Ziegler was Pastor and Head of Staff and lived in the parsonage behind the church. The Rev. James Barge was the associate pastor, and the choir director was John Thompson. Our three children were baptized here and two were married in this beautiful church. I sang in the choir for over ten years under the direction of David Mitchell. I have had the privilege of serving as Deacon in the class of 1990 and as Elder in the class of 1994.

There have been many changes throughout the years. A decision was made after much thought, by vote of the congregation to stay in our present location versus moving to the west side of Springfield. This resulted in building out the church, a new Parish Hall and kitchen, remodeled classrooms, staff offices, and an elevator was installed. Westminster has had a pre-school for over 50 years. Our Memorial Garden was constructed. In 2015, the highly successful Building a Legacy of Faith Campaign was introduced to increase mission and community outreach by growing Westminster’s Endowment Fund. Westminster prepares meals for Helping Hands and the Warming Center each month and supports Contact Ministries. Our church and its members support our youth fundraisers, which help fund the mission trip and purchase gifts for Contact Ministries Christmas distribution.

Through the Steadfast Neighbor program, we have met our friends and neighbors and have helped them make improvements to their homes and yards through the weeklong Steadfast Neighbor Service Week or through service grants. We have a little pantry located at Graham Elementary. Westminster purchased 626 S. Glenwood and then donated it to Habitat for Humanity for the Capler Family Steadfast Neighbor Build. The original house and garage were demolished, rebuilt by ministry partners and in-kind donation of services, and the keys presented to Paris and James Capler’s family on June 29, 2023 at the dedication.

All of these things and more would not occur without financial support from our members and friends who pledge on an annual basis. We ask you to prayerfully complete your 2024 pledge card and return it to the church today, Sunday, October 29. Pledges can also be made online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Together we can create and continue to grow and provide financial support for the many things we do now and will be able to accomplish in the future. - *Bill Schlosser*

**As of Thursday, October 26, Westminster has received 144 pledges totaling \$645,088 which is 76% of the \$850,000 goal.**

## **THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER**

### **Monday, October 30**

### **Tuesday, October 31**

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Music Room)

### **Wednesday, November 1**

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 12:30 PM Reporter (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Bridges grades 3-5(Tower Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:00 PM Mission & Community Service  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Night Market featuring Fair Trade Businesses  
(Parish Hall)
- 7:00 PM Ruth and Naomi Circle (Off-site)

### **Thursday, November 2**

- 2:00 PM Early Stage Memory Loss (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

### **Friday, November 3**

- 11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)

### **Saturday, November 4**

- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### **Sunday, November 5**

- 9:30 AM Parish Nurse (Church Office)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service – All Saints Remembrance
- 10:15 AM Sunday School K to Grade 5 (Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Dr. Kieffer Ordination Anniversary Reception  
(Parish Hall)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Senior High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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Phone (217) 522-4415  
[www.wpcspi.org](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,**  
Part-time Custodians