



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
25 July 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Andantino

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

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 46:1-3a, 10-11

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore, we will not fear,
though the earth should change;**

Leader: though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roam and foam,

People: **be still and know that I am God.**

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

People: **Come; let us worship the One whose love is stronger
than our fear!**

***Processional Hymn 667**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God, you uphold those who are falling and raise up all who are bowed down. Therefore, we confess our sins—both things we have done and things we have left undone—in every confidence that you will open your heart to us in an embrace of forgiveness. As we sail into the ebb and flow of an ever-changing world, may faith in Christ be our anchor, and the light of your love be our guide. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon**

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.**
All: **Thanks be to God. 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-2 will go to Summer Sunday School
class following the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

Pew Bible, NT page 193

Music

Meditation

Second Scripture Reading

John 6:1-21

Pew Bible, NT pages 97-98

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Ebb and Flow

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "...they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the
boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I, do not be
afraid.'" John 6:19a-20*

***Hymn 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

*Affirmation of Faith

Romans 8

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**

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

Pastor: Let us pray.

The Presentation of Our Gifts

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

Offertory

Landslide

Stevie Nicks

I took my love, I took it down
I climbed a mountain and I turned around
And I saw my reflection in the snow-covered hills
'Til the landslide brought me down
Oh, mirror in the sky What is love?
Can the child within my heart rise above?
Can I sail through the changin' ocean tides?
Can I handle the seasons of my life?
Well, I've been afraid of changin'
'Cause I've built my life around you

But time makes you bolder
Even children get older
And I'm getting older too
Well, I've been afraid of changin'
'Cause I've built my life around you
Oh-oh, take my love, take it down
Oh-oh, climb a mountain and you turn around
And if you see my reflection in the snow-covered hills
Well, the landslide bring it down..

Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

Triune God, Creator of the mountains and snow-covered hills we climb, you provide for us far more than we expect or imagine possible. Calm our fears; speak peace to us; lead us beyond ourselves that we may honor the child within, sail through the changing ocean tides, and know your steadfast embrace through the seasons of our lives. Gather us with all the saints in the church to glorify you for your love which is stronger than our fear. We rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received. Multiply these gifts that we give so that the world may more deeply know the fullness of life in you. Amen.

***Hymn 8**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Melita

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response

Be Not Afraid

John L. Bell

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
And I have promised to be always near

***Voluntary**

Menuet Gothique

Léon Boëllmann

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Jessica Borland
- **Greeters:** Mary Ray and youth
- **Ushers:** Bruce Strom (Captain), Jessica Borland, Erin Ekstedt, Tara Fritsch, Bob Leffler, Mary Peura, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel, Ushers
- **Safety Team:** Julie James and Mary Ray
- **Music:** David Tell, Native American Flute, Lyle VanDeventer, Bass, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano, Dale Rogers, organist
-

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: *I Can Help!* Caregivers: *Ella Kurman and Dr. Andy Sherrick*
- **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: *The Parable of the Farmer and the Seeds.* Teacher: *Karen Sherrick, Christy Pound*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us 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 pew. If you are interested in joining, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Choi.

2021 VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ADVENTURE ISLAND: QUEST FOR GOD’S GREAT LIGHT

We are excited to serve 10 families and 17 children this summer with our at-home vacation Bible school. At the end of June, families picked up a kit with materials to create the daily crafts and a science experiment to accompany the weekly, virtual, day of VBS. Families will share Bible stories, skits, snacks, music, crafts, and experiments to help “shine God’s great light into our world.” Lesson Four was emailed to participating families on Thursday, July 22. Lesson Five will be emailed Thursday, July 29. **The VBS Presentation and Celebration will be Sunday, August 22.**



CORN PICKING AT GRIGSBY FARMS



As in years past, thanks to the Hale and Pound families for devoting land to growing sweet corn for area hunger ministries. This year the corn is expected to be ready for harvest as early as next week. **Watch for an email from the church in the next several days inviting you to help pick this corn!** This is a great opportunity to help the Central Illinois Food Bank and other area hunger programs provide people with good, fresh vegetables.

ANNUAL MISSION TRIP REUNION SWIM PARTY AND POTLUCK

FRIDAY, JULY 30, FROM 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

On Friday, July 30, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., participants of the 2021 Mission Trip will gather for a reunion and a potluck dinner at the Home of Susan and Scott Day (47 Fairview Lane 62712). Remember to bring a towel and a dish to share. Along with sharing memories and photos, youth will impart how their experience changed them and discuss types of local missions in which they would like to participate in the future.

2021 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK - AUGUST 2-6, 2021

The Second Annual Neighborhood Service Week will be August 2-6. Over 50 members (including our youth and a few neighbors) will paint, power wash, landscape, and do minor repairs and landscape projects in the neighborhood. Over the next ten years, Westminster plans to invest \$450,000 in the neighborhood which is one-third of the total cost of our Site and Landscape Plan. Next Sunday, August 1, the ministry partners will be commissioned, and a report will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, August 8.



NEW MEMBER CLASS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on Sundays, August 1 and 8, 11:15 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 August 15, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JULY MENU *Canned spaghetti or pasta meal, canned fruit in juice or water, rice bagged or boxed, disposable razors, hygiene products, and diapers (size 3 or above).* Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank and to Jess Werner for delivering the donations each month.

CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION - Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries as we collect backpacks to be distributed at their **Ready for Success Back to School Event on Thursday, August 19, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** We will collect backpacks through **Sunday, August 15.** We have collected **59 backpacks** as of Thursday, July 22. Around 250 school-aged children will receive a new backpack from Contact Ministries and a new pair of Payless shoes from Share the Spirit! Last year, we collected 185 backpacks! Now more than ever the kids in our community need the support. The basket is in the West Narthex.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Knit 2 Purl 4 – K2P4 invites members and non-members to join In-person knitting weekly on Tuesdays at 1:00 - 3:00 pm. The monthly knitter's lunch is on the first Tuesday of each month at Noon in the Second Floor Classroom. Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship with all who attend.

Westminster will host an **ILLINOIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Around the Town Concert on Thursday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. as a part of a Chamber Music Festival running four days that week and featuring musicians from the Illinois Symphony.

The Sound Celebration Chorus and Land of Lincoln Chorus is holding an outdoor concert at Sherman Village Park on **Sunday, August 29 at 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Bring your lawn chair and enjoy an evening of fun. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

NOMINATIONS WELCOME

THE 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster: **Deacon (Class of 2024), Elder (Class of 2024), Nominating Committee (Class of 2022), Strategic Planning Committee (Class of 2024), Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Jim Kincaid, at jbin@comcast.net or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete by August 15, 2021. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

2021 Nominating Committee members: *Jim Kincaid (Chair), Carolyn Swanson, Mary King, Bill Deemer, Camille Massey, Alan Stutz and Julie Sundquist*

Name of Nominee _____

Recommended for (check choice)

Deacon Elder Nominating Strategic Planning Ass. Pastor Nom.

1. Qualities that would make this person a good church officer

2. Past experience/current interests and activities in the church

3. Helpful information: special skills, training, employment, community involvement, etc.

Your Name (optional) _____

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, July 26

Tuesday, July 27

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Membership Committee (TBD)

Wednesday, July 28

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

Thursday, July 29

8:00 AM VBS Email Sent
12:30 PM Reporter (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)

Friday, July 30

5:30 PM Mission Trip Reunion at the Days

Saturday, July 31

1:00 PM Celebration of Life for Carolyn MacDonna

Sunday, August 1 - Sacrament of Baptism & Steadfast Neighbor Service Week Commissioning

9:30 AM Fair Trade (West Narthex)
9:30 AM Parish Nurse Ministries (Church Office)
10:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre K-2)
11:15 AM New Members Class (Pastor's Study)

WESTMINSTER STAFF

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

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Deb Watts Elliott
*Saturday Worship Pianist and
Music Coordinator*

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Ella Kurmann
Nursery Worker

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Terri Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians

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