



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sacrament of Baptism

Blessing of the Backpacks

22 August 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Sonata in C

Domenico Scarlatti

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Adapted from Psalm 84

Leader:

How lovely is God's dwelling place.

People:

Our spirits long for the courts of the Lord.

Leader:

Our hearts sing for joy to the Living God.

People:

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest
for herself where she may lay her young in God's house,**

Leader:

Happy are those who strength is in God.

Come, let us worship and sing praises! Amen.

***Processional Hymn 12**

Immortal, Invisible God only Wise

St. Denio

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and uncontainable God, for trying to contain you,
forgive us. Loving and limitless God, for trying to limit
you, forgive us. Gracious and boundless God, for trying to
bind you, forgive us. Sometimes we are foolish enough to
believe that it is to our advantage to reduce you to
something we can comprehend. 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

Blessing of the Backpacks *Children and youth are invited to come forward for a blessing as a new school year begins. Children will remain in front of the chancel for the Sacrament of Baptism.*

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal Response *Waterlife*

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
When you hear the wonder of the Word,
I'll be there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

Children in grades Pre-K-2 will go to Summer Sunday School class following the Baptismal Response.

First Scripture Reading I Kings 8:22-30 and 41-43. Pew Bible, OT page 312

Solo As the Deer *As the Deer*

Second Scripture Reading John 6:56-69 Pew Bible, NT page 98-99

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

Sermon How Lovely

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*The Text: But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven
and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house...”
1 Kings 8:27*

Solo **Lord of the Small**

Dan Forrest

Praise to the Lord of the small, broken things,
Who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing,
Who loves the lame child, and the wretch on the street,
Who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.

Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid,
Who girds them with courage and lends them his aid;
Who pours our his Spirit on vessels so weak
That the timid can serve and the silent can speak.

Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill,
Who heals their afflictions, or carries them till
They leave this tired frame and to paradise fly.
To never be sick, and never to die.

Praise God, O praise God, all ye who yet live,
Who've been given so much as can so little give,
Our frail, lisping praise God will never despise:
God sees the dear children through mercy-filled eyes.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Psalm 84:1-5

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for
herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your
praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Leader: 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.

Leader: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

The Presentation and Dedication of Our Gifts

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

Offertory The King of Love My Shepherd Is Dan Forrest, arr.
The text for the solo is 802 in the hymnal.

Offertory Response Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** Living God, we are grateful that the highest heaven cannot contain you, yet you dwell in our midst and within our hearts. Accept these gifts which we offer in gratitude and humility. Endow them with your power, that they may express your steadfast love and impart your sustaining strength to those we serve in Christ's name. Amen.

***Hymn 22** God of the Sparrow *Roeder*

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Postlude in g-minor Denis Bédard

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF
MARCI AND BILL IRVINE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Karen Sherrick
- **Greeter:** Maribeth Norton
- **Ushers:** Alyssa Haaker (Captain), Erin Ekstedt, Bud Green, Gregg Humphrey, Nancy Huston, Richard Leary, and Mike Sundquist
- **Safety Team:** Mary Ray and Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** Diane Dietz, Soprano, Lyle VanDeventer, bass, 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: Ava and the Skimpy Picnic. *Caregivers: Ella Kurmann, Emily Brower*
- **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: The Parable of the Generous Landowner. *Teachers: Karen and Andy Sherrick*
- **Children completing grades 3-5 will remain in the service.** Special children's bulletins are available at the Tower Door entrance to Sanctuary (near stairway).
- **11:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School Presentation (West Narthex)** Stop by and see some of the crafts created by the 17 children from 10 families who participated in this year's Virtual VBS: Adventure Island: Quest for God's Great Light. Each week in July they listened to Bible stories, made snacks, created art, sang and moved to music. The stories they learned from the Bible taught them how to Shine with Love, Trust, Faith, Joy and Hope!
- **5:00 –7:00 p.m. Annual Youth Kick Off Swim Party (The Batterman Home)** Incoming Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a swim party at the Batterman Home (1620 Outer Park Drive) as we kick off a new year together. Friends are always welcome. Please bring a towel and a side dish!



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.

SESSION CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, October 10 for the purpose of adjusting the terms of call to the Rev. Christian K. Choi which include the title change to Associate Pastor for Parish Life, to elect an APNC for the position of Associate Pastor for Family Ministry, and to elect the Church Officers presented by the Nominating Committee.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS - God's Got Your Back! The children and youth of Westminster will participate in the Blessing of the Backpacks this morning as we begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is celebrated in today's worship service as Kirsten Duffy presents her son Brooks Jameson. Brooks' grandparents are Dee Dee and Rick Duffy who will also serve as assisting elders. The child representing the congregation is Sadie Berkowitz.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION - Youth Ministry Partners (Junior and Senior High) will meet Sunday, August 29, from 11:15 – 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for orientation and lunch. Thank you to ministry partners: Jim Kincaid, Anna Koeppel (Junior High) and Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Mary Ray (Senior High).

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL ORIENTATION is Tuesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. and the Preschool will be in full swing after Labor Day. Classes begin Tuesday, September 7 for children attending Tuesday and Thursday Classes. Classes begin Wednesday, September 8 for children attending classes Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins on Sunday, September 12. The youth will explore how our Christian faith is part of our identity: to discover who we are, what we believe, and how we can make a difference in the world. The schedule will go as follows: 5:00 p.m. Fellowship with games & activities in Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m. Youth dinner in Parish Hall, and 6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Group discussion in the youth room.

CONFIRMATION begins on Sunday, September 19 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in the conference room. Confirmation will utilize two curriculums; Sparkhouse's *Echo the Story* and PCUSA's *Big God, Big Questions* to study from baptism to becoming active members of the Presbyterian Church.

BRIDGES AND WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS return to Wednesday afternoons this year beginning September 15. Bridges, a mid-week fellowship for Grades 3-5 meets from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. The Choristers include children in Kindergarten - Grade 5 and meet from 4:45 until 5:30 p.m. The 2021-2022 theme is: Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living. We will examine what it looks like to live a life rooted in the two greatest commandments to love God and others.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION - THANK YOU – We were able to collect **195 BACKPACKS** for the Contact Ministries back to school event thanks to the thoughtful generosity of this congregation. Thank you also to Elizabeth Circle and friends who added Bible verses to the backpacks: *Sue Baker, Judy and Jerry Boutelle, Sophia Choi, Camille Degner, Kathy Moore, Gloria St. Lawrence.*

LITTLE PANTRY AT GRAHAM ELEMENTARY – The Little Pantry supplies are stocked regularly by our Mission & Community Service committee. Items are located on shelves on the lower level by the elevator. We encourage our ministry partners to use the supplies that are provided. Sign-up to stock the pantry is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b49a8ae22a3f85-little>.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH AUGUST MENU *Beef Stew, Applesauce, Pancake Mix, and Syrup, Dry Cereal, 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.

COMPASS FOR KIDS - During the 2021-2022 school year Compass 4 Kids will return to in-person gatherings at Westminster on Tuesday, October 19 at 3:00 p.m. Westminster hosts Compass for the students at Graham Elementary School. If you are interested in joining this meaningful and dynamic team of ministry partners, contact Ann Collins, Dr. Kieffer, or sign up on Sunday, September 12.

GRAHAM ELEMENTARY IS SEEKING MENTORS/TUTORS to work one-on-one with children and help them with the basics in reading and math. Graham is flexible on the amount of time you can give. Contact the parent educator, Brittany Rummans, with questions at brummans@sps186.org or call the school at 217-525-3220.

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.

ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2021-2022 CIRCLES have chosen the Horizon's Bible Study "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," based on the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus by Merryl Blair. The book cost is \$11 and can be purchased from Jennie Alt in the Church Office

PW CHURCH-LUNCHEON RESUMES on Friday, September 7 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to the church office by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Women of all faiths are welcome to join, so please feel free to invite a guest.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet, Monday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. If you would like information, call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes Thursday, September 9, at 8:00 a.m. Join us for devotions, breakfast, and great fellowship. Please RSVP on our website or by calling the church office. For more information or if you would like to schedule a program, contact Pete VanGieson at 217-652-1310.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. For information, please call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY will resume Thursday, September 16, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Details are coming!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

SOUND CELEBRATION AND LAND OF LINCOLN CHORUS' CONCERT - Join the Sound Celebration Chorus and Land of Lincoln Chorus for an outdoor concert held at Sherman Village Park on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 AT 5:00 P.M.** Bring your lawn chairs, drinks, snacks, and enjoy an hour of fun and upbeat acapella music. There will also be food vendors to purchase items to eat or drink.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 11 at 1:30 p.m. Following the retreat, the choir is invited to share dinner at the home of Jim and Meg Kontio.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 12
as we begin the 2021-2022 Ministry Year!

We will celebrate worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Westminster Choir,
and commission the 2021-2022 Education Leadership Team.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship
and include ministry displays and children's activities as we begin the year together.

Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, August 23

4:00 PM Symphony Guild Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, August 24

9:00-3:00 Presbytery Meeting

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

5:00 PM Hunger Action Team (2nd Floor Classroom)

Wednesday, August 25

11:00 AM Celebration of Life for Stan Papp (Sanctuary)

12:00 PM Celebration Reception (Parish Hall)

4:00 PM Property (2nd Floor Classroom)

5:00 PM Membership Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)

6:00 PM Adult Ed (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, August 26

Friday, August 27

4:00 PM Celebration of Life for Betty Smith (Sanctuary)

5:00 PM Celebration Reception (Parish Hall)

Saturday, August 28

11:00 AM Celebration of Life for Bill Donels (Sanctuary)

12:00 PM Celebration Reception (Parish Hall)

Sunday, August 29

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Summer Sunday School (Pre K-2)

11:15 AM Sunday School & Youth Mentor Orientation
(Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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