



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
5 September 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

## Welcome and Announcements

**Ministry Moment** CROP walk Krista Steller

**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 146

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, all you saints, praise the Lord.

**People:** Let us praise the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth and the sea.

**Leader:** The Lord gives sight to the blind and sets the prisoners free

**People:** The Lord reigns forever, for all generations.

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the One who prepares us for service.

**People:** Let us sing our songs of praise  
to the One who has healed us.

**\*Processional Hymn 372** O for a World *Azmon*

**\*Prayer of Confession** God of compassion, you have called us to share your love in the world. Yet, we confess to you and one other that we have not always spoken the truth in love; we have placed our desires and wants before you and the needs of others. Forgive us, and by your grace, renew us in body and spirit that we will be able to walk in the way you intend for us. 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** Isaiah 35:4-7a Pew Bible, OT page 663

**Solo** Rejoice, O My Spirit Johann Ludwig Bach

Rejoice, O my spirit, be comforted, know  
Your Savior redeemed you from life's dreaded woe.  
Yea, hell is defeated, and Satan laid low.  
Grim death and destruction, no longer my foe.  
They cannot my spirit and life overthrow.

**Second Scripture Reading** Mark 7:31-37 Pew Bible, NT pages 42-43

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

**Sermon** One Praise Away Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text: "Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; our God will come... God will come to save you." Isaiah 35:4*

**Solo** Maya Angelou's Prayer Tom Trenney

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days, for then, we have you to lean upon. Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days, for then we can share that which we have with those who have less. Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the holy days, for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends. Father, Mother, God, thank you for those who have no voice, we ask you to speak. For those who feel unworthy, we ask you to pour out your love in waterfalls of tenderness. For those who live in pain, we ask you to bathe them in your river of healing. For those who are lonely, we ask you to keep them company. For those who are depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope. Father, Mother, God, we ask you to give all the world that which we need the most: peace.

**Affirmation of Faith**

*A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.**

**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 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

#### Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

Receive our thanks, O God, for your gifts of life, means, and time. We treasure your offerings and, small as our return giving may be, welcome it for the sake of those in need and for the furtherance of your witness in this world. Make us daily more grateful for all we have been given, in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### \*Hymn 719

Come, Labor On

*Ora Labora*

#### \*Charge and Benediction

#### \*Voluntary

Trumpet Tune in C

David N. Johnson

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF GERRY HALE  
BY HER LOVING FAMILY.**

### 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 includes  
ministry displays and children's activities, and the opportunity to sign up for  
Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission and Service.

Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Worship Leader:** Karen Sherrick
- **Greeters:** Jeanne and Pete VanGieson
- **Ushers:** Pat Moore (Captain), Rich Canady, Alyssa Haaker, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Becky McDonald, Julie McDonough, and Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Mary Ray
- **Music:** Adam Miller, tenor, 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's story: Uri and the Busy Day. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward and Ella Kurmann*
- **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 is: *The Parable of the Persistent Widow*. *Teachers: Karen and Andy Sherrick*
- **11:00 a.m. – Parish Nurse Ministry (Church Office) – Ellen Carpenter**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about us is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website [www.wpcspi.org](http://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 Rev. Choi.

**WESTMINSTER WELCOMES OUR NEW NURSERY COORDINATOR, LEIGH MILWARD.** Leigh and her husband, Kevin, joined Westminster in 2005 with their daughters, Kara and Jenna. From 1999-2005 Leigh served on our staff working in the Nursery before returning to full-time work at Molina Health Care where she serves as a Social Work Case Manager. Leigh has a B.S. degree from Illinois State University in Child Development and Family Relations and has served as a ministry partner teaching preschool Sunday school since 2005.

Leigh will create, implement, and lead the Frolic preschool curriculum for our toddlers in collaboration with Karen Sherrick, Westminster's Director for Children's Ministry. She will serve as supervisor to the nursery workers who join her. We look forward to the parents of our youngest children meeting Leigh as they entrust her with their children on Sunday mornings. Leigh begins Sunday, September 5.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** - On August 14, Haiti was hit with a catastrophic 7.2 earthquake. PDA is providing relief and short-term recovery for the impacted areas of Haiti through its local partners and established partnerships throughout the entire recovery process. PDA is responding to the need of people that have been affected by Hurricane Ida. Please consider donating to these efforts through Westminster by noting Haiti and/or Hurricane on the memo line on your check or on the giving tab of our website.

**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.

## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 2 (THIRD FLOOR CHAPEL):** **Growing in God's Love** is a multi-age, companion curriculum for Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum. It studies each story in greater depth and also provides intergenerational and at-home ideas to equip families to re-enforce Bible lessons.

**GRADE 3-5 (THIRD FLOOR CLASSROOM):** **Growing in God's Love** is a multi-age, companion curriculum for Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum. Our older students will follow the curriculum, focusing on Bible literacy, activities, and faith formation practices that are appropriate for their grade level.

**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.

**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.

**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 Practice 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.

**CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22** - Children in Kindergarten through High School are invited to join us for the first gathering of The Children of Abraham. We will be hosted by the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield on **Wednesday, September 22 from 4:30-6:00. Masks will be required for this gathering.**

### **MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**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://bit.ly/3zF538P>

**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: baby wipes, personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

**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. Orientation is scheduled for **Thursday, September 30 at 5:00 p.m.**

**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](mailto:brummans@sps186.org) or call the school at 217-525-3220.

### **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**KNIT 2 PURL 4** – Knit 2 Purl 4 meets in person on **Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.** Our luncheon speaker for September had to be rescheduled for Tuesday, October 7. Sharon Brown, Director of Kumler Outreach Ministries, will explain how our knitted donations are used among the community. Thank you to our “secret knitters” in the congregation. Your contributions are appreciated, and you too are all welcome to join us.

**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.

**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** will resume on Thursday, **September 9 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Join us for devotions, Rich Canady will provide breakfast, and Michael Phelon, founder and CEO of the Outlet, will be the speaker. Call Pete VanGieson (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. We will read and listen to the DVD presentations on The Ten Commandments by Joan Chittister. Books are \$15 each and available next Sunday.

**DMA** - The September DMA will not have a speaker. It will be an evening of fellowship, catching up, and laughter. For the remainder of 2021, the meal will be provided for you at no cost. For this reason, it is important that we have an idea of how many people will attend. Please RSVP online or by calling the church office. Upcoming Programs are October 15 with Dr. Todd Knox and November 19 will be Songs All about Love by Diane Dietz and friends.

**RUTH AND NAOMI** will resume on **Wednesday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Linda Chronister. Call Christy Pound (217-971-3082) or Marilyn Rigney (217-494-8039) for information.

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

**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 a potluck at Jim and Meg Kontio.

**ORGAN CONCERT** - On **Sunday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m.** Trevor Good, an extraordinary youth organist, from Chatham will play his debut organ concert in the Westminster sanctuary. All are welcome.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, September 6

Labor Day – Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, September 7

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

12:00 PM Knitter's Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Wednesday, September 8

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

5:30 PM Board of Deacons (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Thursday, September 9

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)

10:00 AM Pastor's Pray in the Chancel

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

5:15 AM Nominating Committee

6:00 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Office)

7:00 PM Choir (Sanctuary)

### Friday, September 10

5:00 PM Helping Hands Meal Delivered

### Saturday, September 11

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

1:30 PM Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian

### Sunday, September 12

#### *Homecoming Sunday*

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Brunch, Activities, and Ministry Display

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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[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 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*

**Leigh Milward**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**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*