



# HOMECOMING SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

“We are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64:8b

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
of Springfield  
Homecoming Sunday  
Service of Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Psalm XIX Benedetto Marcello

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: As we gather to begin a new year together  
we affirm God as the potter.

People: **All creation is God's handiwork and we are the work of God's hands,  
fearfully and wonderfully made.**

Leader: It is God who shapes and forms each of us, by the breath of God's Spirit and  
the touch of God's grace.

People: **May God fashion and form our hearts and minds as we  
gather to proclaim the love of Christ.**

**\*Hymn 826** Lift High the Cross *Crucife*

**\*Prayer of Confession** Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your pardon,  
your sanction of the way we live. Merciful potter, you created us for better  
use; remake us now. Where we have distorted your justice and kindness, re-  
center and reshape us. Fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find  
our place in your purpose. In your steadfast and loving kindness, 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

Educational Leadership

## Commissioning

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

*Children in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 will go to Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.*

### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 19

Responsive Reading

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

**<sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,

**<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,** and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**<sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit  
to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

**<sup>8</sup>the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the  
commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup>the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

**Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

### Second Scripture Reading

Mark 7:24-37

Pew Bible, NT pages 42-43

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation

Empty Yet Full

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. Mark 8:35*

**Anthem**                      Jubilate Deo                      Charles Villiers Stanford  
 O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.                      Psalm 100

**Acknowledgement of September 11 Anniversary**

**The Presentation of Our Gifts**                      *At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew.*

**Offertory**                      Rondeau                      Henry Purcell

**\*Offertory Response**                      Doxology                      Hymnal, 606

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Great Prayer of**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Potter be with you.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

**And also with you.**

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

People of God, Lift up your  
**We lift our hearts to the One**

People of God, give thanks to God.

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**We praise the One who has shaped us for love & service.**

**Pastor:** With joy we praise you, Creating God, You stooped down and took the clay lying on earth's floor...Therefore, we lift our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*The people sing:*

**Leader:** You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

**People:** **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Thanksgiving**

**Pastor:** The

**People:**

**Pastor:** hearts.

**People:** who forms us.

**Pastor:** the Lord our

**People:**

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, renew us with this bread and cup which have been set aside for the reshaping of our lives. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...Merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe and all our acts are prayer; and so we pray as Jesus taught us, saying: **The Lord's Prayer**

### Words of Institution

**Music at Communion** You are My All and All Dennis Jerigan  
*The text for this anthem is in the hymnal #519.*

**Distribution of Elements** *The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*  
*Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.*

**\*Prayer after Communion** Eternal God our potter, thank you for creating us and setting a table before us where our lives and spirits can be reshaped by your grace. May we become expressions of your steadfast love in the compassion and tenderness we show one another through Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn 401** Here in This Place *Gather Us In*

### \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Voluntary** Toccata David Hegarty  
(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

**FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY  
OF THE HONORABLE J. DAVID JONES AND MARJORIE JONES,  
BY GALE FIXMER AND DAVE JONES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

**FLOWERS IN THE WEST NARTHEX ARE IN HONOR  
OF LYNNE CLEVERDON'S 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
GIVEN BY HER LOVING FAMILY.**

### SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Bible and Cross Carriers:** Jessica Borland, Caroline Haynor
- **Greeters:** Julie and Mike Sundquist **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Ushers:** Pat Moore (Head Usher), Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Rachael Hickman, Becky McDonald, Julie McDonough, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Communion Prep:** Carol Bloemer, Ann Collins, Bill Deemer, Priscilla & Tim Kluge, Mary Ray
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Jim Kontio (Lead), Norma Adams-Johnson, Aaron Berkowitz, Mal Hildebrand, Becky Huston, Todd Knox, Lynn McMenamin, Mary Ray, John Stafford, Krista Steller, Carolyn Swanson, Bill Ward
- **Music:** Westminster Choir; Jessica Borland, 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: Little Ewe -The Good Shepherd. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Ella Kurmann*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children Pre-K – Grade 2 will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is “How God Made Everything” Genesis 1:1-2:4a Teachers: Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt.
- **Grades 3-5** will stay in the sanctuary and participate in communion.
- **11:15 a.m. Homecoming Sunday Reception (Parish Hall)** As we begin the year together, a brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship, including pottery, ministry displays, children’s activities and a slide presentation looking back on the 2020-2021 program year.
- **5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Youth Group Fellowship and Dinner (Parish Hall, Youth Room) *Dinner: Mary Ray and Bill Deemer. Ministry Partners: Rev. Choi, Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Mary Ray*

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about us is 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 Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Choi.

## EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONING

We are grateful for the following members who have agreed to serve as ministry partners on the education leadership team for 2021-22.

*Nursery Coordinator: Leigh Milward, Nursery worker: Ella Kurmann*

**Curriculum: Frolic Sunday School** is a play-based curriculum that helps young children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful, memorable ways.

*Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 2: Cara Barnett, Aaron and Meleah Berkowitz, Sopia Choi, Tamika and Jake Hill, and Erin Winn*

**Curriculum: 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 provides intergenerational and at-home ideas to equip families to re-enforce Bible lessons.

*Grades 3-5: Cathy Brower, Meridith Bryans, Sue Cull, Marc DeJong, Sara Eldridge, Linda Purves, and Mary Ray*

**Curriculum: 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. Children grades 3-5 will stay in worship Communion Sundays.

*Grades 3-5 Bridges Mid-week Fellowship: Rev. Choi and Karen Sherrick*

**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.

*Grades 6-8 Confirmation Teachers: Rev. Choi, Sally Godbey, Jim Kincaid, Anna Koeppel*

Three-year Confirmation class provides a comprehensive review of our faith based on the Scripture. We will integrate two curriculums, “Big God, Big Questions” and “Echo, The Story” to connect our confessional faith statements and the Scripture.

*Grades 9-12 Senior High Mentors: Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Mary Ray, Rev. Choi*

High School youth gather for fellowship/games and dinner during the first hour, followed by discussion on current topics from Christian perspective, based on PCUSA resource “Faith Questions.”

*Kindergarten – Grade 12 Children of Abraham Team: Rev. Choi, Dr. Kieffer, Dale Rogers, Karen Sherrick, Bob Fox, Pat and Al Hymans, Mary Ray*

This inter-faith fellowship meets quarterly for fellowship and a meal to build friendships.

*Library Committee: Melanie Green, Ann Hamilton, Pat Hymans, Val Leonatti, Mary Peura, Pat Roller*

*Adult Education Forum: Lyle VanDeventer, Ellen Carpenter, Becky Martin, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Peter Kieffer, Suzanne Borland, Carole Kennerly, Kelly Robertson, Dale Rogers, Dr. Andrew Sherrick*

A list of the 2021-2022 schedule can be found at the Adult Ed table in Parish Hall.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** 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.

**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/3zFS38P>

**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.

### EDUCATION AND 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.** On Tuesday, October 7, we welcome Sharon Brown, Director of Kumler Outreach Ministries, who will explain how our knitted donations enrich their community. Thank you to our “secret knitters” in the congregation. Your contributions are appreciated.

**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 in Parish Hall today.

**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.

**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.

**RUTH AND NAOMI** will resume **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.

**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 in Parish Hall today.

### ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: A HISTORY OF VACCINES: CLOTHED IN THE ARMOR OF GOD

The Adult Education Forum begins the 2020-2021 year on **Sunday, September 19 at 11:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. In addition to providing a brief overview of the history of vaccinations, the class will reflect on the biblical mandate to protect oneself, including the Ephesians 6 passage.

Led by Lyle VanDeventer, an Adjunct Health Instructor at Lincoln Land Community College.

### THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Come learn about good health practices at interactive stations in Parish **your Flu Vaccine.** Information on many topics will be presented, and screenings and assessments will be available. We are grateful to Parish Carpenter who is coordinating the fair and the many other health our congregation and elsewhere for contributing their time and keep in mind that all participants will need to wear a mask and be aware of social distancing as best as possible.



Health  
&  
Wellness

Hall and receive several personal Nurse Ellen professionals from expertise. Please

**DMA** will resume **Friday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall for an evening of fellowship, catching up, and laughter. For the remainder of 2021, the meal will be provided for you at no cost. Please RSVP today in Parish Hall.

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** (Grades 3-5) will begin Wednesday, September 15, at 4:45 p.m.

**CHURCH MICE** (infants - age 4) will meet Saturday mornings beginning September 18 at 11:00 a.m.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN’S CHOIR** (Kindergarten - Grade 2) begins October 5, at 4:45 p.m.

**ORGAN CONCERT** - On **Sunday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m.** Trevor Good, an extraordinary youth organist, from Chatham will play in the Westminster sanctuary. We are delighted to host this debut recital featuring works of Bach, Rheinberger, Gigout and the complete second symphony of Vienne. All are welcome.

### **2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

**I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS** is the 2022 Stewardship theme, selected by **Pete VanGieson** who is chairing this year's committee. It springs from an understanding of giving as a time to respond to God's grace. Stewardship is celebrated with joy and becomes the expression of a Christ-centered community that intends to be a compassionate, courageous witness to the world. The campaign will be introduced in worship **next Sunday, September 19** and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 24. The Stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 19 following the Session's approval of the 2022 budget. Serving on the 2022 Stewardship Campaign with Pete are **Meleah Berkowitz, Robyn Hovey, Tom Massey, Julie McDonough, Pat Moore, Bill Schlosser, Greg Swanson, Brinton Wilkey, and Bob Zervas.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF CALL TO THE REV. CHRISTIAN K. CHOI**

**WHO WILL SERVE AS THE 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.**



## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, September 13

### Tuesday, September 14

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:00 PM Congregational Fellowship (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:00 PM Congregational Care (Pastor's Study)  
6:00 PM Worship, Music & Arts (Pastor's Study)

### Wednesday, September 15

10:00 AM Pastor's Pray in the Chancel  
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)  
4:00 PM Bridges (Gr 3-5) (Youth Room)  
4:45 PM Choristers (Gr 3-5) (Music Room)  
5:30 PM Session (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Thursday, September 16

5:00 PM Macaroni Fest Fundraiser on the lawn  
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:30 PM Choir (in the Sanctuary)

### Friday, September 17

6:30 AM DMA Dinner (Parish Hall)  
7:15 PM Fellowship

### Saturday, September 18

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

### Sunday, September 19

10:00 AM Worship Service  
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre K-2)  
11:15 AM Adult Education Forum (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
11:15 AM Confirmation (Gr 6-8) (Conference Room)  
5:00 PM Youth Dinner & Group (Gr 9-12) (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
533 S. Walnut Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465  
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*