



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Reformation Day  
Harvest Fest  
31 October 2021 + 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.

\***Hymn 624** I Greet Thee, Who My Great Redeemer Art *Toulon*

\***Prayer of Confession** Holy God, in your loving presence we fall silent, aware of our human frailty and need for forgiveness. Who are we to speak your word of love or spread your gospel of truth? Yet only speak your word of forgiveness, only touch us with your healing hand, and we will humbly respond to your call. Give us the grace to persist in loyalty. 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 God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

**God's love is strong and it never ends.**

*Children in grades Pre-K-5 go to Sunday School class following the Congregational Response.* [javascript:void\(0\);](javascript:void(0);)

**First Scripture Reading** Ruth 1:1-18 Pew Bible, OT pages 241

**Second Scripture Reading** Mark 12:28-34 Pew Bible, NT page 49

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Persisting in Loyalty Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go...your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Ruth 1:16*

**Anthem** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Phillip Ledger  
The text for the anthem is 662 in the hymnal.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*from 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.**

**Choir:** 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 God is in this place.

**Pastor:** 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 in the pew racks.*

**Offertory**     A Mighty Fortress is Our God     Johann Hanff

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**     Holy and loving God, bless our offerings with healing that comes from your work  
and our hands. Because of your steadfast and loyal kindnesses in each of our lives  
we have the courage to change as our knowledge and understanding grow through  
the years. We give with joy and gratitude for the gift of who you are and who  
you call us to become.     Amen.

**\*Hymn 275**     A Mighty Fortress is Our God     *Ein Feste Burg*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Closing Voluntary**     Toccata in d-minor     Johann Sebastian Bach

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Betty Jellema Denham 12/19/1926 – 10/25/2021  
United with Westminster 06/10/2018

## SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship leader:** Carolyn Haynor
- **Greeter:** Betsy Ruklick
- **Ushers:** Nathaniel Brower (Head Usher), Jessica Borland, Erin Ekstedt, Tara Fritsch, Bob Leffler, Mary Peura, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney and Pete VanGieson
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, bass, the Westminster Choir, and 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: The Good Shepherd. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Andy Sherrick*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
  - **Pre-Kind - Grade 2** (Third Floor Chapel) Story: The Pumpkin Patch Parable  
*Teachers: Erin Winn (lead), Sophia Choi*
  - **Grades 3-5** (Tower Room Classroom) Story: The Pumpkin Patch Parable  
*Teachers: Sarah Eldridge (lead), Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. Junior High Confirmation** will not meet.
- **11:15 a.m. Harvest Fest** (Parish Hall) Westminster families gather in Parish Hall for a festive gathering. Highlights and activities: A delicious lunch will be served and Pumpkin Crafts, story-telling and face painting will be available for the children. The fun continues with a harvest maze in the Youth Room and treat bags will be sent home.
- **5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** will not meet.

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about Westminster can be found 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 learning more about membership, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Choi.

**STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION** - This year's stewardship theme, **I Have Called You Friends**, is based on John 15:15b. Each offering of gratitude opens the doors of Westminster to become a way to serve friends beyond our faith community and to welcome friends into the joy of the life we share in Christ. As of Thursday, October 28, we received **151** pledges for a total of **\$639,847**. This is **80%** toward our dollar amount goal. If you have not made a pledge and intend to, please do so soon. The Stewardship Committee will be making follow up calls in November.

**SPUD BAKE THANK YOU** – Our Youth raised \$1,350 last Sunday to purchase youth gifts for the Contact Ministries Christmas Distribution on Wednesday, December 15. Special thank you to Mary Ray and her helpers Suzanne Borland, Bill Deemer, Amanda Kurmann, Nichole Magalis and the many youth who lent a helping hand. Thanks also to all for your generous support.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** – Children in grades K-2 gather on Tuesdays at 4:45 in the choir room.

**BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP** - Children grades 3-5 gather on Wednesday from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. in the Tower Classroom. **CHORISTERS** follows from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in the choir room.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet **Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Meg Kontio, 508 Briana Dr. (62711.) for lesson two "Tamar." Please RSVP to Meg at 217-670-2052.

**DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY** meets **Thursday, November 4 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Members are invited to join Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study for **WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION?** led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Assistant Professor of English at Lee University. In preparation for the Bay Weekend, this two-session presentation will examine the question of creativity through the works of nineteenth-- and twentieth century voices with an overview of C.S. Lewis. **The first session will be during Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study on Thursday, November 4, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.** followed by a presentation on **Sunday, November 7, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon.**

**PW LUNCHEON** is **Friday, November 5 at 12 noon** in Parish Hall. Please R.S.V.P. on our website or by calling the church office at 217-522-4415. The program highlights Jubilee Farms in Clinton, IL by the Rev. Cyndy Ash. Jeanne Pittman, Julie McDonough, and Mary Ray will prepare the meal.

**FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD** Members are invited to attend the FCCG Virtual Fall Banquet on **Saturday, November 6**. The theme is “Building Power to Transform Power.” Meal pick-up is from 4-6 p.m. at the Local 137 Plumbers and Steamfitters (2880 E. Cook Street). Enjoy the meal at home while viewing the program on Zoom from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Guest speakers include Senator Elgie Sims, Rep. Justin Slaughter, Rep. Sonya Harper, and County Clerk Don Grey. The Mission and Community Service Committee designated funds to support this event. Please contact Jennie Alt for tickets.

**FALL BACK!** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Saturday, November 6.

**ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** will be **November 7**, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Westminster will honor the members of our church family who have died. The litany includes the reading of our loved one's name, the tolling of our historic bell and silence.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets **Monday, November 8 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The lesson is on “Rahab.” Call Sue Baker (217-299-5216) for details.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** meets **Thursday, November 11 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Brad Swanson will speak to us on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Public Radio. Harvey Stephens will provide breakfast and devotions. Please RSVP via the weekly email link, our website, or by calling Jennie.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on **Tuesday, November 16 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Third Floor classroom. The lesson is on “Rahab.” Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)** meets **Friday, November 19 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (Provided by WPC) & 7:00 p.m. Program** DMA welcomes a musical program “Songs All About Love” by Diane Dietz and Friends. Please RSVP via the weekly email link, our website, or by calling the church office.

**ST, ANDREW'S SUNDAY** will be held on Sunday, November 21 at the 10:00 a.m. service. Westminster will continue the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE HOSTS A CHRISTMAS GATHERING** All women of Westminster are invited **Wednesday, December 15 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM.** to the Village Tea Room (3301 Robbins Rd) to enjoy tea and a musical program by the St. Andrew Sisters. The cost is **\$12**. To ensure there are enough participants (30 required), preregistration is required. Guests are welcome! Please R.S.V.P. to Jennie Alt in the church office



**THE 2021 BAY WEEKEND,  
NOVEMBER 13-14  
WELCOMES DR. CHAD SCHROCK  
Associate Professor of English  
at Lee University  
Presentation: Knowing God in Paradise: C. S. Lewis's  
Perelandra**

*Description:* There's a cliché that bad characters are more interesting than good characters, pain and conflict more interesting than happiness, and the roster of fantastic literature and film bears that out these days: stories from Game of Thrones to the Hunger Games strongly feature dystopia and grim violence. Yet in the second novel of his space trilogy, C. S. Lewis uses a Christian imagination to conceive of a perfect (and also interesting) world, the planet Venus. His protagonist, a Christian from Earth named Elwin Ransom, meets God on Venus. How might we learn to relate to God from Ransom's strange encounters with the Golden Voice in the Garden?

**Saturday, November 13**

**Welcome Reception** 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Members are invited to a welcome reception at the home of Dr. Andrew and Karen Sherrick hosted by the Adult Education Committee.

**Sunday, November 14**

**Worship Service** 10:00 a.m. Dr. Schrock will preach.

**Education Forum** 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Presentation

**All Church Lunch** 12:30 P.M. The Westminster family will share a community meal.

*Chad Schrock is Associate Professor of English at Lee University in Cleveland, TN and secretary of the Conference on Christianity and Literature. His academic interest, the relationship between the Bible and English literature (especially from 1350-1650), has produced a book (Consolation in Medieval Narrative) and numerous articles on topics ranging from Beowulf to C. S. Lewis and twenty-first-century mysteries and science fiction. He is a graduate of Pensacola Christian College (B. A. English major, history minor), Eastern Mennonite Seminary (M.Div.), James Madison University (M.A. English) and The Pennsylvania State University (Ph.D. English, medieval literature). He and his wife of twenty-two years, Rachel, have two children, Toby (12) and Lucy (will turn 6 the Tuesday after Westminster's Bay Weekend).*

Friends and members are invited to rsvp on the website at [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) or call Jennie Alt who will make a reservation for you.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, November 1

9:00 AM Garden Club (Parish Hall)

### Tuesday, November 2

9:30 AM Staff Meeting (Second Floor Classroom)

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)

3:00 PM Compass for Kids

5:00 PM Children's Choir (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor .

Classroom)

7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Offsite)

### Wednesday, November 3

9:30 AM Pastor's Pray in the Chancel

10:00 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

12:30 PM Reporter Folding (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Room)

4:45 PM Choristers (Music Room)

5:30 PM Mission & Community Service (2<sup>nd</sup> Fl Classroom)

6:00 PM Ruth & Naomi (Kontio Home)

### Thursday, November 4

6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

7:30 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, November 5

11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

12:00 PM PW Luncheon (Parish Hall)

### Saturday, November 6

Daylight Savings Time – Move Back One Hour

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

### Sunday, November 7– All Saints' Sunday

Parish Nurse – Blood Pressures Taken

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre K-5)

11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

11:15 PM Confirmation (Tower Classroom)

11:15 AM Church Officer Orientation (Parish Hall)

5:00 PM Sr. High Dinner and Youth Group (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Springfield, IL 62704

Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465

## 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*

**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*

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