



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Advent
5 December 2021 +10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Christmas Eve Dinner Tara Fritch

Voluntary People, Look East French Carol

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

***Lighting of the
Second Advent Candle**

Megan, Greg and Lily Swanson

Leader: People of God, come,
for the light of peace calls us together.

People: **The Lord has spoken through
the mouth of the holy prophets of old.**

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us.

*Solo While we are waiting, Come!
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, Come!*

Leader: Come, people of God, let us follow this new light.

People: **Let us listen to the voice crying out preparing the way, inviting us to travel the
journey of this Advent season.**

Leader: God will use the lights of hope and peace
to show us the way.

(The First and Second Advent Candles are lit.)

***Hymn 82** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus *Hyfrydol*

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Loving God, we gather in reverence and awe,
seeking to prepare our hearts for your coming. On our journey to the Christ
child, give us the courage to enter the broken places of our lives to find healing
and forgiveness. On our journey to the Christ child, give us that sense of
wholeness and well-being, that inner confidence of knowing who we are and to
whom we belong, 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

Hanging of the Greens

How Shall We Prepare This House?

O Come, O Come Immanuel

God's Son is Born for Us

Sing Noel

Advent, Advent, a Candle Burns

Dance and Sing

Huddle Close

Somebody's Talkin' 'bout Jesus

Angels, We Have Heard on High

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Westminster Choristers

Westminster Children's Choir

Children (Pre-K-Grade 5) are invited to Sunday School following the Hanging of the Greens Musical Presentation.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:68-79

Pew Bible, NT page 58

Second Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

Pew Bible, NT page 196

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Confident of This

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: I am confident of this...

Philippians 1:6

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and
release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from
death to life eternal.

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**
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 Mary, Did You Know? Lowry/Greene
Pat Moore, arr.

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy and loving God, you shower us with many favors, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend good things for us. Guide our feet in the way of peace and use these gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need. Amen

***Hymn 105** People, Look East *Besançon*

*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary Wake, Awake! For Night is Fleeting Paul Manz
(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

In Memoriam
Kyle G. Schultz 10/28/1942 – 11/29/2021
United with Westminster 10/06/1974

In Memoriam
Elder Don F. Harmon 11/05/1932 – 12/02/2021
United with Westminster 10/17/2010

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in honor of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. William Cross by his son, John Cross.
- **Sunday Liturgists:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Megan, Greg and Lily Swanson
- **Children's Choir:** Sadie Berkowitz, Diana Choi, August Ekstedt, Roscoe Ekstedt, Charlotte Moore, Eva Volle
- **Choristers:** Lucy Bassett, Cara Bryans, Harper Huston, Reese Huston, Lily Swanson
- **Greeters:** Carol and Jay Kennerly
- **Ushers:** Julie McDonough (Head Usher), Rich Canady, Tara Fritsch, Alyssa Haaker, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** Charlie King
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, bass, Katie Moore, flute, Pat Moore, Euphonium, Sue Cull, assisting the Children's Choir and Choristers, Dale Rogers, organist

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: Creation. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Karen 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) First Sunday of Advent Teachers: Chelsea Ekstedt (lead), Tamika Hill
 - **Grades 3-5 Foundation** (Tower Room Classroom) First Sunday of Advent Teachers: Cathy Brower (lead), Meredith Bryans
- **11:15 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**
 - **ADVENT CELEBRATION – A reception in Parish Hall** will follow worship and include a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, the creating of ornaments and the decorating of Christmas cookies. Children who were not in Sunday School on November 28 will have the opportunity to create an advent wreath for home.
 - **MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE** will meet in the Youth Room to sort the gifts purchased for the nine families in transitional housing at Contact Ministries. Thanks to all who contributed!
- **12:30 P.M. YOUTH SHOP FOR CONTACT MINISTRIES** The money raised at the Spud Bake provide funds to purchase gifts for Springfield youth which will be distributed at the Christmas Distribution on December 15.
- **No Junior High Confirmation or Adult Education Forum following worship**
- **No Senior High Youth Group tonight.**

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is on our website at www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak to Rev. Choi or Dr. Kieffer. *Our next New Member Class is January 9 and 23 with new members received on January 30.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISMON BOOKLETS, which outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree located in the Chancel, can be found in the pew pockets.

PC(USA) GIVING TUESDAY raised over \$150,000! Thanks to all who gave. Dr. Kieffer serves as Honorary Co-chair as a member of COGA (Committee of the Office of the General Assembly).

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - As of Thursday, December 2, we have received **213 pledges** for a total **\$755,377**. This is **94.8%** toward our dollar amount goal of \$797,000. If you have not yet pledged and intend to, please do so online or contact Lisa Runkle (lrunkle@wpcspi.org).



K2P4 KNITTERS annual Christmas luncheon will be at Illini Country Club on **Tuesday, December 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Contact Mary Jo Jenkins for details and 217 622-8657.

BROWN BAG CONCERT AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN on **Wednesday, December 8 at 12:15 p.m.** will feature bass soloist, Logan Campbell and Dale Rogers, pianist, presenting Christmas Carols and Art Songs. Brown bag lunches are available at the church.

BRIDGES AND CHORISTERS will meet **Wednesday, December 8** for caroling and hot chocolate.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will meet **Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall for a breakfast gathering. Jeff Fafoglia of Go Get Lost Worldwide Adventures will speak on their small Springfield based company and their private group tours led throughout Europe. Please RSVP via the weekly email link, our website, or by calling the church office.

HELPING HANDS – Carolyn and Brad Swanson will prepare and deliver the **December 10** meal.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE All women of Westminster are invited to the Village Tea Room (3301 Robbins Rd) to enjoy tea and a musical program by the St. Andrew Sisters on **Monday, December 13 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** The cost is \$12. Please R.S.V.P. to Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org).

HOME COMMUNION will resume on Sunday, December 12, 2021.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S NATIVITY Following the Children's Sermon on Sunday, December 19 the Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull's and Meridith Bryan's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will return to worship as they process during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

ADULT ED FORUM - The third session of Twentieth Century Presbyterian Creeds will be presented on **Sunday, December 19, 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon** by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz

A RECYCLING CORNER is located in the West Narthex near the Church Officer mailboxes. Beginning in December, Westminster will recycle toothbrushes, toothbrush packages, toothpaste caps and tubes, and dental floss containers (empty and not dripping but no need to clean). We will continue to recycle Christmas lights, batteries, and ink cartridges. Look for the appropriate bin or box in the southwest corner of our West Narthex. Remember to recycle all paper, glass, metal, and plastic at the curb through your residential waste hauler.

ONLINE GIVING: NEW LOOK AND PHONE TEXTING OPTION began December 1, 2021, Westminster's online giving link has a new format which provides options to transfer a donation directly from your bank or to pay by credit or debit card one time or set up recurring donations. The new phone texting option connects members to online giving by texting the keyword "GIVE2WPC" to the number 73256. You'll receive a return message with a link which will take you to the new online giving page for your donation.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias. You may go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate. Donations of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund are accepted at this time and through the year for pipers and drummers for St. Andrew's Sunday and the Millikin Brass for Easter. **Please submit your donations with your desired wording and dedications by Monday, December 13.**

THE MITTEN TREE for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. Please donate **by Tuesday, December 14** so items can be included in the Contact Ministries distribution.

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION will be hosted by Westminster on **Wednesday, December 15.** If you can volunteer at this event, please call Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939.

JOINT SESSION AND DEACON MEETING will be Wednesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All new elders and deacons are invited. A Holiday Party will follow at the Kieffers.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex **until December 19.** Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age. This is a program of the Marine Corps Reserve.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please look for the offering envelopes to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church. **A GIFT OPENS DOORS** is this year's theme

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class will read the Christmas story and lead the children as they participate as shepherds, angels, and magi. Rachael, Chris, and Madelynn Hickman will be the Holy Family.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Do not miss this special event that includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. **Adults are \$20, children 6-12 are \$13 and children ages 5 and under are no charge.** Please go to our website or send your payment and number attending to the church. Sign-up forms will be in the December 5th and 12th bulletins. This year we are limiting the gathering to 100. **Reservations and payment required no later than Friday, December 17.**

7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our high school seniors and juniors will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation.

In ancient times, church bells did not ring during Advent; however, on Christmas at the singing of the angel's song "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells rang out. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

***CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES!
CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.***

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 6

- 9:00 AM Garden Club of Springfield
4:00 PM Lawrence Ave. Public Information Meeting
(Parish Hall)

Tuesday, December 7

- 11:00 PM K2P4 annual Christmas Luncheon
(Illini Country Club)
3:00 PM COMPASS
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Offsite)

Wednesday, December 8

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
2:00 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Chorister's & Bridges Christmas Party
5:30 PM Session Coordinating (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Board of Deacons (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Congregational Care (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, December 9

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
4:00 PM Personnel Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:30 PM Choir
7:30 PM APNC (Pastor's Study)

Friday, December 10

- 10:00 AM IPH Board Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Meal Delivered to Helping Hands Shelter

Saturday, December 11

Sunday, December 12

Holy Communion

- 10:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K to Grade 2)
11:15 AM Confirmation Christmas Eve Practice
(Sanctuary)

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 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

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