



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
First Sunday after Christmas Day  
26 December 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Noël

Louis Claude Daquin

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower bell.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader:

Let our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,  
who has done great things for us, and for all people.

All:

**God scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts,  
and raises up those who humble themselves.**

Leader:

God fills the hungry with good things  
and satisfies those who thirst for goodness.

All:

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,  
peace and goodwill to all.**

Leader:

Come! Let us worship the God who saves.

**\*Hymn 140**

One in Royal David's City

*Irby*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God, we confess the times we have  
tried to silence questions and been afraid of the  
consequences of asking. Often our fear prevents us from  
providing space for wonder, and exploration and  
discovery. Forgive us and empower us to trust  
you enough to dare to wonder, to question, to change,  
and to grow. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response**

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Page

## \*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

## 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.

### First Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Pew Bible, OT page 246

### Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:41-52

Pew Bible, NT page 59

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

### Sermon

Turning Point

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. Luke 2:49*

**Anthem****What is This Lovely Fragrance?**

French Carol

What is this lovely fragrance wafting  
like to the scents of flowers in spring!  
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty,  
hear you not heavenly caroling?  
What is this light so fair, so tender,  
breaking upon our wondering eyes?  
Never the Morning Star so radiant  
followed his course o'er eastern skies.  
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps,  
seek the Saviour, born today.  
Low at his feet we lay our treasure,  
heart's adoration, love for aye.  
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps,  
seek the Saviour, born today.

**\*Affirmation of Faith***A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God,  
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.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of the Lord 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 the Lord is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

### The Presentation and Dedication of Our Gifts

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

### Offertory

Noël

Louis Claude Daquin

### \*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy and loving God, we are a part of a rich tapestry of tradition and yet the world is ever changing. Open our ears to new voices around us and open our eyes to new perspectives as we mark the turning points on our life's journeys. Accept these gifts of gratitude for the privilege of belonging to you. This we pray in the name of the Christ Child. Amen.

### \*Hymn 145

What Child is This?

*Greensleaves*

### \*Charge and Benediction

### \*Voluntary

Swiss Noël

Louis Claude Daquin

*(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.*

### IN MEMORIAM

Elder Jon R. Hockenyos  
05/12/1937 – 12/18/2021

United with Westminster 06/04/1967

### IN MEMORIAM

Charles Marshall Kenney, II M.D.  
11/15/1931 – 12/16/2021

United with Westminster 04/10/1949

### SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Linda & Ed Caupert
- **Ushers** Pat Moore (Head Usher), Nathaniel Brower, Rich Canady, Tara Fritsch, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Julie McDonough, Mary Ray
- **Safety Team:** Mary Ray and Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Lyle VanDeventer, bass, and Dale Rogers, organist

### EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story. This week: Rufus and the Very Special Baby. *Caregivers: Caroline Haynor, Andy Sherrick, Annie 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) Surprise Visitors Teachers: Chelsea Ekstedt (lead), Adam Ekstedt
  - **Grades 3-5 Foundation** (Tower Room Classroom) Surprise Visitors Teachers: Karen Sherrick (lead), Jack Sherrick

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is on our website at [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 Westminster, speak to Rev. Choi or Dr. Kieffer.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** Friends and visitors are invited on **Sundays, January 9 and 23, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon** in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on January 30 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** is celebrated in today's worship service as Morgan and Scott Durko present their daughter Madison Jean for the sacrament. The assisting elder is Dr. Diane Rutledge and representing the children is Lily Swanson.

**2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN** - As of **Wednesday, December 22**, we have received **222 pledges** for a **total \$772,477**. This is **97%** 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](mailto:lrunkle@wpcspi.org)).

**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.

**KRISTA STELLER EXPANDS HER ROLE** on Westminster's staff beginning January 1, 2022. Krista's new title is Communications Coordinator, and she will work 10 hours a week on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Her workstation is in the area outside the Pastors' Studies.

**WE WELCOME CAROLINE HAYNOR** to our nursery staff. Caroline is a junior at Springfield High School and active in youth group. She will be supervised by Nursery Coordinator Leigh Milward.

**NEW NURSERY GUILD** is being formed to create an intergenerational space in our church nursery. Many members received a personal invitation. Please consider signing up as a Ministry partner in the nursery on Sundays from 9:55-11:00. Contact Karen Sherrick ([ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org)) and sign up at <https://bit.ly/3EyGOBD>. The rotation begins January 2022 and will include two ministry partners per week.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN** will be Wednesday, January 5 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Many thanks to those who assisted in decorating the church. We have enjoyed these adornments through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come help store things away for another year.

**ADULT ED FORUM: DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS** - This six-session study features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's reflections on the difficult teachings of Jesus. Lyle VanDeventer will lead the discussion on **Sundays, January 9, 23, February 27, March 6, April 24, May 1, 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.**

**DR. KIEFFER'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY** resumes Thursday, January 13, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. to begin exploring the parables of Christ in Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book and DVD Series entitled Short Stories by Jesus. Books are available in the church office for \$15.

**APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP BEGINNING IN JANUARY!** The Adult Education Committee is introducing a new book group called "Apostles Read" which will gather on the **Fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** in our newly renovated Ziegler Library beginning in January. The group will be led by Aaron Berkowitz. Participants may sign up on the church website and are responsible for purchasing their own books. Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers by Michael Long is the book selected for the first discussion on Tuesday, January 25.

### **NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

On Sunday, January 9, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on October 9, 2021. Their bios can soon be found on the church website ([www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)) under Church Leadership.



### **Session Class of 2024**

Jay Kennerly, Tim Kluge, Dave Leonatti, Michael Morthland, Christy Pound, Karen Sherrick, Eleanor VanDeventer, Sarah Zervas **Youth Elders** – Emily Brower and Bryce Pound **Elder Class of 2022:** Dr. Peter Kieffer who is serving in the position held by the late Judy Ridinger.

### **Board of Deacons Class of 2024**

Mervice Alah Abung, George Botanga, Sophia Choi, Melanie Green, Camille Massey, Jim Parker, James Rigney, Susan Shaw **Youth Deacons** – Braden Barton and Mia Marcy

**CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT** will be held this Saturday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Annual Church Officer Retreat. The APNC Committee will present the updated Ministry Information Form and Leadership Competencies to the Church Officers.

### **THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2021**

We are grateful to the following elders and deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

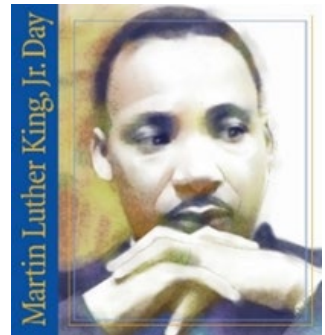
**Session:** Norma Adams-Johnson, Marc Anderson, Deb Coontz, John Cross, Dee Dee Duffy, Jim Kincaid, Todd Knox, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Sam Magalis (Youth)

**Board of Deacons:** Sarah Eldridge, Tara Fritsch, Nancy Huston, Mary Peura, Nathaniel Brower, Gregg Humphrey, Bob Leffler, Pat Moore, Jessica Borland (Youth)

### **THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST MONDAY, JANUARY 17**

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Breakfast will be held in person, with a mask and social distancing in place, on Monday, January 18, 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Hotel. This year's speaker is Dr. Charles Person who was the youngest of the original thirteen Freedom Riders sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He recently wrote a book about his experiences as the youngest CORE Freedom Rider entitled, *Buses Are a Comin': Memoir of a Freedom Rider*, published in April 2021.

Westminster continues our support as a Platinum Sponsor, donating \$1,500 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund. It is symbolic and meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). *Westminster is this year's recipient of the Community Service Award.*



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 30**

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

Members are invited to an incredible English breakfast served by youth attending the 2022 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship!

**10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

**11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORTS** from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are **due Thursday, January 13, 2022 by noon**. Please submit your reports to Jennie Alt [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). They will be included in the 2021 Annual Report.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

**Monday, December 27**

**Tuesday, December 28**

**Wednesday, December 29**

12:30 PM Reporter Folding

**Thursday, December 30**

**Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve**

Noon Church Offices Closed

**Saturday, January 1 - New Year's Day 2022**

**Sunday, January 2 – Communion Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM Sunday School (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)

**Monday, January 3**

Church Office Closed

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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wpcspi.org

## 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*