

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
4 September 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

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 139

Leader: We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

People: **Even before we speak, God knows us completely.**

Leader: The Holy One knows us and sustains us,
even in our moments of confusion and doubt

People: **Who can count the thoughts of God?**

They are more than all the sands of the desert.

Leader: Like clay in the hand of the potter,
we are shaped into vessels of our Lord.

People: **We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.**

*Hymn 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden Zart

*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

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 Jeremiah 18:1-11 Pew Bible, OT page 720

Second Scripture Reading Luke 14:25-33 Pew Bible, NT pages 78
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon What God Wants from Us Part II Rev. Christian K. Choi
*Text: "Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter
has done?... Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my
hand, O house of Israel."* Jeremiah 18:6

Solo Fantasy in D Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
K. 397

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.
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 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Lloyd Larson, arr.

Offertory Response Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** 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 719** Come, Labor On *Ora Labora*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Heroic Postlude Alec Rowley
(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **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
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Jerry Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Linda and Ed Caupert
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Julie McDonough, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** Matt Nall, piano, 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: Jesus Calls Disciples. Caregivers: *Leigh Milward, Caroline Haynor*
- **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 this week is: Disciples and Followers. *Teacher: Karen Sherrick*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us is in on our website 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.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes **Thursday, September 8 at 8:00 a.m.** Ky Ajayi of Straight Up Solar will give a presentation on solar projects in residential solar, the process, the costs, environmental impacts, and what to expect with a solar installation. Jay Kennerly will give the devotion and Rich Canady will provide breakfast. Men are encouraged to join this fellowship. RSVP to the church office or online.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on **Thursday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m.** and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 10 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. Following the retreat, the choir is invited to share dinner at the home of Meg and Jim Kontio. If you have considered joining the choir, now is a great time.



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins **Sunday, September 11 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning September 11. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall for dinner and fellowship/games during the first hour, followed by discussion on current topics from Christian perspective, based on PC(USA) resource "Faith Questions." Mentors: Susan Day, Michael Morthland, Mary Ray, Rev. Choi.

COMPASS FOR KIDS – Westminster will host Compass for Kids site for students at Graham Elementary School again this year beginning **Tuesday, September 13, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Along with tutoring and providing life skills training, a hot, healthy dinner, and opportunities to take part in fun activities with their peers and adult mentors will be provided. Additional mentors are welcome to join members Cathy Allen, Cathy and Emily Brower, Kris Gates, Mia Marcy and Bryce Pound. Contact Jennie Alt, or sign up on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. New Compass Site Coordinator is Sam Lipp.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 11 as we begin the 2022-2023 Ministry Year!

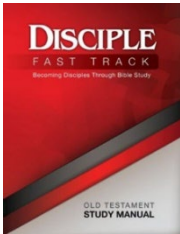
We will celebrate worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Westminster Choir back in the gallery, reinstate the Processional and Passing of the Peace, commission the 2022-2023 Education Leadership Team, and partake in Communion with bread lovingly prepared by a member of the newly formed WPC Bread Guild.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2021-2022 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service.

Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION will be on **Sunday, September 18** as we honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1972, 1967, 1962, 1957, and 1950. We are grateful for all the ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship to express our congratulations and appreciation.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP for Grades 3-5 resumes **Wednesday, September 14**. 4:00 –5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission projects and interfaith gatherings. This after-school program precedes Westminster Choristers which begins October 5 from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Leaders are Karen Sherrick and Pat Roller.



DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY will resume **Thursday, September 15**, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. This year's curriculum *Disciple's Fast Track Study of the Old Testament and New Testament* provides 12 sessions studying the Old Testament and 12 sessions on the New Testament. The study includes daily scripture readings and a brief DVD presentation each week featuring a theologian. The curriculum is written by Susan Wilke Furquay and Richard Byrd Wilkey. Members and friends are welcome to sign up on Homecoming Sunday when the curriculum will be available for purchase.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) welcomes Dr. Andy Sherrick for a program called "Sea of Grass; A Prairie Restoration" on **Friday, September 16**. The meal starts at 6:30 p.m. and the program follows at 7:15 p.m. Bring a side dish to share. If you are unable to attend the potluck, please join us for the program. RSVPs are not required but encouraged. You can call/email the church office or RSVP through our website at www.wpcspi.org.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, **September 17**, at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Rogers leads Church Mice.

CONFIRMATION (Grades 6 - 8) begins **Sunday, September 18** 11:15 a.m.– 12:00 noon 2nd Floor Classroom. Confirmation is the process through which youth affirm the vows made at their Baptism and become active members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 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. Teachers: Rev. Choi, Sally Godbey, Jim Kincaid, Karen Sherrick

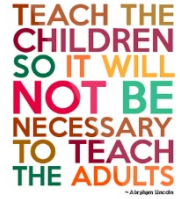


2022-2023 ADULT ED FORUM begins with "Bread of Life" course **September 18, 25, and October 2**. Over three Sundays, Dr. Peter Kieffer will present the microbiology, history, and theology of bread in advance of forming a WPC Bread Guild whose bakers will lovingly supply bread for communion. Peter will bake the bread for communion on Homecoming Sunday, September 11.



APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet Tuesday, September 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library. In September, the group will discuss Between the World and Me by Ta Nehesi-Coates. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM will meet Wednesday, September 28 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Springfield (3000 Stanton St.). Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 and Youth in Grade 6 through Grade 12 are invited to join children and youth from other faith communities to build friendships, learn about one another, and share a vegetarian meal. 2022-2023 theme is: “Caring for the Earth.”



THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN’S CHOIR (Kindergarten - Grade 2) will begin Wednesday, October 5 led by Katie Moore, our new Director for Children’s Music, and meet weekly 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (Grades 3-5) will begin their Wednesday rehearsals on October 5 led by Katie Moore, our new Director for Children’s Music, 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. following the Bridges after school fellowship.

REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP - Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston, IL welcomed a Burmese refugee family from Myanmar on August 11. They are a family of 7: 2 adults, 5 children (ages 7, 8, 14, 16, 18). Westminster is partnering with Northminster to host the family through RefugeeOne. We donated \$5,000 to RefugeeOne to sponsor the family and an additional \$2,000 for setting up their apartment of which \$1,500 has been sent.

LITTLE PANTRY NEEDS MINISTRY PARTNERS - Please contact Jeanne or Pete VanGieson at 217-652-1310 and they will arrange for you to be mentored and schedule a day for you to help. You may also sign up yourself on the church website www.wpcspi.org.

**THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE EIGHTH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN’S SALAD SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL**

**PROGRAM
A HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN GLOBALLY
Presented by Brownie Anderson
Co-Moderator of the Presbyterian Women**

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad.

Sign up on Homecoming Sunday or
RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 5

Labor Day – Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6

Westminster Coop Preschool first day of school

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

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

Wednesday, September 7

10:00 AM Pastors pray in the Chancel

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

Thursday, September 8

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

2:00 PM Early Stage Memory Loss Group
(2nd Floor Classroom)

4:00 PM IL Presbyterian Home Service (Off site)

4:00 PM Personnel Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)

Friday, September 9

5:00 PM Meal Delivered to Helping Hands Shelter

Saturday, September 10

1:30 PM Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian

Sunday, September 11

Holy Communion

Homecoming Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Brunch, Activities, and Ministry Displays

5:00 PM Senior High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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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 Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle

Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers

Director of Music and the Arts

Katie Moore

Director for Children's Music

Karen Sherrick

Director for Children's Ministry

Leigh Milward

Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor

Nursery Worker

Ellen Carpenter

Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans

Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate

Cooperative Preschool Director

Lisa Runkle

Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt

Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller

Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick

Building and Property Manager

Terry Gietl,

Bill Hibbert,

Eddie Hubbard

Part-time Custodians