

***Prayer of Confession** Redeemer God, you have given us a new life in Christ; you have graciously chosen us and saved us. Yet, we confess, we often forget our joyful calling; we foolishly place confidence in the flesh, as though we had reason to boast of a righteousness of our own. Forgive us, O God, for every failure of living out our faith and for every forgetful moment when we lose sight of Christ. Resurrect us with Christ and restore us to your image. Hear us now in 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.**

***Passing of the Peace**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response Create in Me a Clean Heart *John Carter*
**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.**
Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class and Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14 Pew Bible, OT page 259-260

Second Scripture Reading John 11:1-45 Pew Bible, NT page 103
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Believing Despite Understanding Rev. Christian K. Choi

Text: Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:41b-42

Anthem Dry Bones Traditional Spiritual

Ezekiel cried, "dem dry bones!" Now hear the word of the Lord!
Well, the toe bone connected to the foot bone,
the foot bone connected to the ankle bone:
the ankle bone connected to the shin bone; the shin bone
connected to the knee bone; Toe bone, foot bone, ankle bone.
Hear the word of the Lord! Them bones, them bones gonna
walk around! Now hear the word of the Lord!

***Affirmation of Faith**

Philippians 2:5-11

We believe in Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

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

The Prayers I Make

Jane Marshall

The prayers I make will then be sweet indeed, if thou the spirit
give by which I pray; my unassisted heart is barren clay, which
of its native self can nothing feed; of good and pious works
thou art the seed which quickens where thou say'st it may;
unless thou show us then thine own true way, no one can find it!
Father thou must lead! Do thou, then, breathe those thoughts into
my mind by which such virtue may in me be bred that in thy holy
footsteps I may tread; the fetters of my tongue do thou unbind, that I
may have the power to sing of thee and sound thy praises
everlastingly.

Text: Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and
joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and
bone in the body of Christ. Use these offerings and our
lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

***Hymn 215**

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue:
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
In all I think, or speak, or do.

***Voluntary**

Baroques: Overture

Seth Bingham

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** The Rev. Christian Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** M. Brownell Anderson & Carolyn Beatty from Presbyterian Women
- **Acolytes:** Macklin Metzger and Abigail Eldridge
- **Greeters:** Betsy Ruklick and Bob Bradford
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Committee (Second Floor Classroom)**
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: “Man Through a Roof” (Luke 5:17-26) *Caregivers: Leigh Milward and Meg Kontio*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children Kindergarten – Grade 7** begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response for:
 - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel) Kindergarten – Grade 5** The story is “Lazarus, Come Out!” (John 11:1-45) *Teachers: Kate Morthland and Julie Robbs*
 - **6th & 7th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** The lesson is “Persecution and Growth” from the *Echo the Story* curriculum. *Teacher: Joe Fierstos and Mary Ray*
 - **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** “Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places.” Drs. Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold present Lindisfarne Cathedral and Glastonbury Abby in England.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart including books on Women’s History as well as books on Lent and Easter from both our Adult and Children’s libraries in the West Narthex which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards, and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, April 2, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

BILL STEIN ORGAN RECITAL SUNDAY, MARCH 26

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Bill Stein will present an Organ Recital in the Sanctuary featuring organ music of four young women composers in addition to music of Bach, Creston, Peeters, and Locklair. Bill is the Director of Music Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Missouri and a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and Northwestern Universities.



STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD

THE BLITZ WEEK: MARCH 27–APRIL 1 AT 626 S. GLENWOOD,



This past Tuesday the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build Kickoff was held in Parish Hall. We welcomed 80 members and friends as we gathered to “It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” and closed the service with “Let Us Build a House.” The decking was completed on Friday and Saturday and the Blitz Build begins tomorrow, March 27. Ministry Partners and volunteers will be on site everyday this week weather permitting. Thanks to Presbyterian Women, First Presbyterian, and Buffalo Hart Presbyterian who are providing lunches each day in our kitchen.

EARTH AWARENESS FAIR is **Saturday, April 22** at Henson Robinson Zoo. Westminster is collecting clean used T-shirts and socks until mid-April so children can repurpose them into dog toys and puppets at our “Toys from Trash” exhibit. Bin is near South Door in West Narthex.

YOUTH SUNDAY is **April 23!** Join us for worship as our youth lead us in liturgy, special music, and presenting the sermon.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING will be held **Sunday, April 23** at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. All participants need to attend to hear the details of our adventure to Selma, AL as we assist in rebuilding following the January tornadas and visit historic civil rights museums in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is **April 30**. The Confirmation Class of 2023 will be commissioned during this meaningful service. A reception in their honor will be hosted by the Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons. The bulletin will include their Statements of Faith.



TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER on **Sunday, April 30** Each year, Westminster members support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. This year Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell will return as Co-MC’s. Sign-up yourself or your team online at our website or at <https://bit.ly/3IxTdYv>.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 5-9, 9:15 a.m. – 12 noon

Children ages 4 –11 invited to participate and Youth age 14 and older serve on VBS Leadership Team. VBS meets the week of JUNE 5-9 and is for children ages 4-11. Youth age 14 and older are invited to serve on the leadership team. Any child in our Springfield community ages 4-11 is invited. Bring your friends to enjoy Bible stories, arts and crafts, music, games, and delicious snacks. Register online: at <https://westminster.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



LENTEN GIVING - The One Great Hour of Sharing denominational offering collected during Lent provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment the poor and oppressed. The Lenten Coat Drive Box is located in the West Narthex for our annual collection of new or gently used coats. The Easter Music and Decoration Funds provide resources for seasonal guest musicians, the palms and lilies used during Holy Week, and Easter decorations. A list of donors and those whom they honor are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks payable to WPC or by credit card on our website with the wording for the bulletin by Palm Sunday, April 2.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2
10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children’s Choir and Choristers and will sing.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY
APRIL 2-9 IN PARISH HALL

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ’s entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster’s Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall beginning Wednesday of Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
APRIL 6 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing with Michael Morthland, bassoon. This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the “Adagio for Strings” of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9
10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” and “Alleluia! For Christ the Lord is Risen” of Bach and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.



WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 27

- 8:00 AM Habitat Blitz Week (Off site)
- 9:30 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 28

- 8:00 AM Habitat Blitz Week (Off site)
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Music Room)

Wednesday, March 29

- 8:00 AM Habitat Blitz Week (Off site)
- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 12:30 PM Reporter (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 2:00 PM Warming Center Meal (Kitchen)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Kitchen)
- 4:15 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:00 PM Choristers (Music Room)

Thursday, March 30

- Holy Week Display (Parish Hall)
- 8:00 AM Habitat Blitz Week (Off site)
- 6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:30 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 31

- Holy Week Display (Parish Hall)
- 8:00 AM Habitat Blitz Week (Off site)

Saturday, April 1

- 8:00 AM Habitat Blitz Week (Off site)
- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Symphony Guild (Parish Hall)

Sunday, April 2

- Palm Sunday
- Holy Week Display (Parish Hall)
- Parish Nurse (Church Office)
- 9:30 AM Session Receives New Members (Library)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation for 6 & 7th Grades (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class for 8th Grade (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

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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

Mary Ray
Interim Director for Youth

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

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
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians