



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Sacrament of Baptism  
16 July 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Concerto in F: Allegro

G. F. Handel

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 119

Leader: How sweet are your words to our taste,

People: **sweeter than honey to our mouths.**

Leader: Through your precepts we gain understanding.

People: **Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

Leader: Accept our offerings of praise, O Lord,

People: **and teach us your ordinances.**

Leader: Your word is our heritage forever, the joy of our hearts.

People: **Let us worship with humility and joy.**

**\*Processional Hymn 667**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*Laudes Domini*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

We confess, Loving God, that it is so easy to blame others for the scarcity of our harvest. We say we got in with the wrong crowd – the thistles around us. We blame it on the poor example of our parents – the ground beneath us. We attribute it to the circumstances within our lives – the sun above us. Help us, God of holiness, to take full responsibility for our own actions, and then to take positive initiation within our lives to be better than we are. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon  
and Passing of the Peace**

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.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace. 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.

*During the response Students in preschool – Grade 3 will go to  
Summer Sunday school.*

**First Scripture Reading**

Psalms 119:105-112

Pew Bible, OT page 569

**Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Pew Bible, NT page 9-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      Personal Accountability      Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Text: Let anyone with ears listen!" Matthew 13:9*

**Anthem**      Keep Your Lamps      Traditional Spiritual  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Soon this journey will be over, the time is drawing nigh.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*from The Confession of 1967*

**Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.**

**The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to those in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.**

**The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity. Amen.**

**The Church at Prayer**

**Sisters:**      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  
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**

Song of Being

John Leavitt

God be in my head and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart and in my thinking.  
God be at my end and in my departing.

**\*Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Holy and loving God, may we live productive and kind lives  
that abound and grow in your mercy. May the seed of your  
Word find good soil in each of us who has ears to listen.  
Accept the gifts of our lives and our labors as we seek to sow  
the wonders, the truth, and the love of your kingdom in our  
world today. These things we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

**\*Hymn 36**

For the Fruit of All Creation

*Ar Hyd y Nos*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Voluntary**

Allegro Maestoso in D-Flat

David Johnson

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Charlotte B. Brown 09/01/1931 – 07/11/2023  
United with Westminster 12/07/1975

**IN MEMORIAM**

Emma M. Shafer 04/13/1999 – 07/11/2023  
United with Westminster 04/27/2014

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in loving memory of Lyle and Grace Cooley by their family, the Cooley, Bloemer, and Marcy families.
- **West Narthex Flowers** are given in honor of Linda and Bill Schlosser's 60th Wedding Anniversary.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Coleman Moore
- **Acolytes:** Kate Bryans and Taryn Barnett
- **Worship Leader:** Aerwyna Eastvold
- **Greeter:** Bruce Strom
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Kristianna Eastvold, Kathy Kenyon, Keith Hamilton, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady, Julie James
- **Music:** The St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Bill Deemer, Sam Simonson,

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 – 11:15 a.m. Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's lesson: "I Can Help" (Matthew 25:34-40) *Caregivers: Lynn McMenemy, Caroline Haynor*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 2** begin in worship with their families & go to Summer Sunday school (Third Floor Chapel) following the Congregational Response. Today's lesson: "Ten Coins" (Luke 15:8-10) Teacher: Karen Sherrick
- **11:00 a.m. Anniversary Reception for Linda and Bill Schlosser** (Parish Hall)

**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.

**The Library Committee** has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on food, garden and hunger mission, as well as patriotic and Fathers /families books from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout.  
Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

## 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](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** is celebrated today as Adreinne (Ranck) and Kyle Newman present their son Hudson Wayne. *The assisting elder is Dr. Virginia Dolan and representing our children is Sam Berkowitz.*

**LINDA AND BILL SCHLOSSER ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION** - Please join Linda and Bill today immediately following the worship service in Parish Hall to celebrate 60 years of marriage.

**DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY** will gather Thursday, July 20, 6:00 p.m. for a potluck and communion at the Kieffer Home (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). We will review and select our 2023-2024 curriculum as we begin the ninth year of our journey studying scripture together. Spouses are invited to the July 20 gathering. New members are always welcome.

**CONTACT MINISTRY BACKPACK COLLECTION** - Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries through a backpack collection. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries and at a special vaccine event hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield in late August. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 13. We have currently received 37 and last year, we collected 190 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.

**MEALS ON WHEELS JULY 17-21.** Thank You to those who delivered Meals on Wheels. Thank you to the following ministry partners who provided this community service the two weeks of July: Jennie, Isaac, and Ethan Alt, Janie Bahlow, Sandy Bellatti, Cathy Brower, Cathy Cragoe, Sally Godbey, Vonnie Hinesley and Roy Wehrle, Mary Ray, Krista Steller, Sue Scaife and Carolyn Swanson.



**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) ON FRIDAY, JUNE 21 AT 5:30 P.M.**

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Sergeants John Hensley, Sr. and John Hensley, Jr. from the Black Tiger Honor Guard will hold a flag folding ceremony, discuss the organization, and talk about a book being written about their organization. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.

**APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP ON TUESDAY, JULY 25**

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, July 25 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. (The group did not meet in June.) New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**SALVATION ARMY CENTER MONTHLY MEAL** – Westminster Hunger Action Team members will prepare bagged meals for the Cooling Center on Wednesday, July 26 at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Krista Steller to participate.

**LITTLE PANTRY NEEDS MINISTRY PARTNERS** - Thank you to the devoted ministry partners who regularly stock and clean Westminster's Little Pantry located at Graham Elementary School daily. Ministry Partners are needed to join the team of dedicated members in July. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here or contact Jennie Alt for details.



**REFUGEE MINISTRY PRESENTATION SUNDAY, JULY 30**

Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel, co-chairs of the Refugee Subcommittee, will present a Ministry Moment during worship on Sunday, July 30 followed by an informational meeting at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come and learn about Westminster's vision to host a refugee family who will call Springfield their new home. Session approved the framework of this subcommittee's plan in May to work through Welcome Corps, a government program initiated this year, ([www.welcomecorps.org](http://www.welcomecorps.org)). Desserts and refreshments will be provided at this informational meeting as we learn more about Welcome Corps, the anticipated timeline, additional resources needed, and next steps towards hosting a refugee family.

# NOMINATIONS WELCOME

THE 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

**DEACON (CLASS OF 2026)**

**ELDER (CLASS OF 2026)**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2024)**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2026)**

**Nominations may** be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer, at [ehuitt@yahoo.com](mailto:ehuitt@yahoo.com) or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete it by August 13, 2023. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

**2023 Nominating Committee members:** *Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Mary King, Michael Nenaber Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, Carolyn Swanson, and Julie Sundquist*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended for (check choice)

\_\_\_ Deacon      \_\_\_ Elder      \_\_\_ Nominating      \_\_\_ Strategic Planning

1. Qualities that would make this person a good church officer

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2. Past experience/current interests and activities in the church

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3. Helpful information: special skills, training, employment, community involvement, etc.

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Your Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, July 17

### Tuesday, July 18

- 10:30 AM Memorial Service for James Vasconcelles  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
1:00 PM Library Guild

### Wednesday, July 19

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

### Thursday, July 20

- 3:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support  
(Conference Room)  
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer Bible Study Potluck (Offsite)

### Friday, July 21

- 4:00 PM Committee Budget Deadline  
5:30 PM DMA Potluck  
6:15 PM DMA Program

### Saturday, July 22

### Sunday, July 23

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre K – 2

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
533 S. Walnut St.  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
Phone (217) 522-4415 <http://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*

**Mary Ray**  
*Interim Director for Youth*

**Karen Sherrick**  
*Director for Children's Ministry*

**Katie Moore**  
*Director for Children's Music*

**Caroline Haynor**  
*Nursery Worker*

**Ellen Carpenter**  
*Parish Nurse*

**Pat Hymans**  
*Hospitality Coordinator*

**Lisa Runkle**  
*Financial Administrator*

**Jennie Alt**  
*Church Administrative Assistant*

**Krista Steller**  
*Communications Coordinator*

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
*Cooperative Preschool Staff*

**Gary Warnick**  
*Building and Property Manager*

**James Capler, Terry Gietl,  
Bill Hibbert, Steve Stapleton**  
*Part-time Custodians*