



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
20 August 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Blessed Jesus, We Are Here J. S. Bach

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: It is like the precious oil on the head running down upon the beard of Aaron.

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the Mountains of Zion.

People: For there the Lord God ordained a blessing, life evermore.

Leader: Come, let us worship God and live together in harmony.

***Processional Hymn 754** Help Us Accept Each Other Baronita

***Prayer of Confession** Holy and loving God, we cannot comprehend the scope of your forgiveness; nor fully appreciate the depth of your care for us. We confess that too often we close ourselves off from your loving presence. Forgive us for the times we withhold forgiveness from one another because of our inability to get past our own feelings. Help us to recognize the biases and prejudices we have learned over the years. Give us ears to listen and hearts that understand what you expect from each of us within our relationships. 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

Blessing of Backpacks

Congregational Response

**Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**

Children in grades Pre-K-3 will go to Summer Sunday School following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:1-15

Pew Bible, OT page 42

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Pew Bible, NT page 17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Momentous Encounter

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The text: Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."
Genesis 45:4

Solo

Any Dream Will Do

Andrew Lloyd Webber

I closed my eyes, drew back the curtain, to see for certain what I thought I knew. Far far away, someone was weeping, but the world was sleeping, any dream will do. I wore my coat with golden lining, bright colors shining, wonderful and new. And in the east the dawn was breaking, the world was waking, any dream will do. Give me my coloured coat, my amazing colored coat.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and
neighbor, and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives. Amen.

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 Adagio in g-minor

George Frederick Handel

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

Compassionate and all-merciful God, we thank you that in your love you sent Jesus Christ to share our humanity. Accept these offerings dedicated in his name and give us grace to show one another the mercy we have received from you. Amen.

***Hymn 436**

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O Quanta Qualia

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary**

We Believe in One True God

Johann Sebastian Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Margery Winter Koch Dodds 10/28/1931– 08/13/2023
United with Westminster 12/21/1997

In the Reformed Tradition, the Exchange of Peace follows the Declaration of Pardon and is a response to God's forgiveness. This exchange of signs and words of unity and of Christ's peace is an ancient greeting. This is a time when we extend to one another what we ourselves have received from God in Christ. You may shake hands and say "The peace of Christ be with you" or simply "Peace be with you," the greeting of Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. By exchanging the Peace of Christ to one another, we witness to God's reconciling love.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeters:** Becky Martin
- **Worship Leader:** Carter Magalis
- **Acolytes:** Sam Batterman and Maria DeJong
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), George Botanga, Kristianna Eastvold, Melanie Green, Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Coleman Moore, Jim Rigney
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady, Brad Steller
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, bass and saxophone, Linda Andrews, guest organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

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: "God Made Us All" Caregivers: Erin Winn, Millie McNutt
- **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: "Communion" Teacher: Karen Sherrick
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)**
- **11:15 a.m. Session Coordinating Committee (Pastor's Study)** Committee chairs gather to finalize the August Session Agenda. Moderator: Dr. Kieffer

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on refugees, immigrant people and children in other lands, and back-to-school books from our Adult and Children's libraries 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. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

THANK YOU to all who donated backpacks for Contact Ministries. We collected 192 this year! We are grateful to the team of Sue Baker, Nancy and Rich Canady, Camille Degner, Kathy Meriwether, Judi Mier, Sue Scaife, and D.L. Stanfield who gathered last Sunday following worship to attach a Bible verse to each backpack.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS During today's worship service the children and youth of Westminster will gather for the blessing of backpacks as our children and youth begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.

FAIR TRADE SALE will be today, following worship. Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold in the West Narthex to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers. Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson oversee this ministry.

SESSION COORDINATING COMMITTEE meets today at 11:15 a.m. in Dr. Kieffer's study in preparation for the August Session meeting this Wednesday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall.

SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR YOUTH SWIM PARTY! Today, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., incoming Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a swim party at the Batterman Home (1620 Outer Park Dr.) as we kick off a new year together. Friends are always welcome and encouraged. Please bring a towel!

THE APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, August 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Miracle at the Higher Grounds Cafe by Max Lucado. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER COOKOUT is Saturday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. Men of the congregation and their spouses/partners are invited to a summer cookout at the Grigsby/Hale Farm (15594 Rogge St, Tallula 62688). Please RSVP to Jennie Alt and let her know whether you will bring a side dish, dessert, or drink. Members are welcome to come early to fish!

KAREN SHERRICK HONORED next Sunday, August 27 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service for serving as Director for Children's Ministry since February 2018. We are beyond grateful for the experience, skill, initiative, organization, and warmth Karen has brought to this position which has enriched the lives of our children and their parents.

MELEAH AND AARON BERKOWITZ JOIN STAFF as Co-Directors for Children's Ministry. Meleah and Aaron joined Westminster in 2018 and have been active ministry partners in Children's Ministry from the beginning. They have three children: Sam (8), Junie (6), and Benji (3) Meleah is a Clinical Informatics Consultant at Springfield Memorial Hospital and earned her B.S.N. at Millikin University. She currently serves on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and Chairs the Westminster Cooperative Preschool Board. Aaron is a Professor of History at Lincoln Land Community College. He earned his B.A. in Classics and his Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Aaron teaches in our Adult Education Forum and chairs the Adult Education Committee. We are honored to have such an intelligent, gifted team to lead our children. They will work with Karen during August to become acclimated to the responsibilities and resources.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER/YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNERS ORIENTATION AUGUST 27 Sunday School teachers for Pre-K through Grade 5 and Youth Ministry Partners (Junior and Senior High) will meet Sunday, August 27, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. for orientation in Parish Hall.

Thank you to Sunday School Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Kate Morthland, Linda Purves, Julie Robbs, Karen Sherrick

Confirmation Teachers: 6th/7th Grade: Meridith Bryans, Cara Barnett, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. 8th Grade Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Mary Ray

Senior High Mentors: Tad Allen, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Dave Leonatti, Nichole Magalis, Mary Ray, and Kevin Simonson

YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING On Sunday, August 27, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a swim party at the Kieffer home (26 Island Bay Lane) as we splash into a new year together, celebrate the ministry of Karen Sherrick and welcome the ministry of Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz. Please bring a towel and snack to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA Members and friends of Westminster will gather Thursday, August 31, at 11:30 a.m. with the pastors and the director of music and the arts, for communion followed by lunch.

TRANSPORTATION GUILD is being created to meet the growing need of members for a ride to worship on Sunday mornings. If you are able to be a part of a rotation to provide transportation for a member, please contact Rev. Choi.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 10! We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., share the Sacrament of Communion, welcome the Westminster Choir and commission the Education Leadership Team. A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2022-2023 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS HOMECOMING SUNDAY - Flyers, emails, and registration forms outlining opportunities for the 2023-2024 ministry year have been sent to families this month. Parents are asked to register their children through [KidCheck](#) on or before Homecoming Sunday, September 10. The following classes begin Sunday, September 10.

CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH AGE 3 will gather in the Nursery following the children's sermon for a lesson from the Frolic Preschool Sunday School curriculum, which is play-based and helps our youngest children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful ways. Our Nursery, located on the lower level, is staffed by New Nursery Coordinators, Erin Winn and Millie McNutt, Nursery Worker, Maria Lafrenz, and members of the Nursery Guild.

PRE-KINDERGARTNERS - GRADE 5 will gather in the Third Floor Chapel following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the Feasting on the Word curriculum. This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week, which makes it easier for families to live out their faith together. The curriculum invites learners from children through adults into the rhythm of the church year.

WELCOME NURSERY COORDINATORS: **Millie McNutt** joined Westminster in 2019. She and her husband, John McNutt, III, have three children, Luke, Jennifer, and James. Millie was born in India. She attended a Catholic high school, earned her first degree in dentistry and a master's degree in hospitality management at a school in France.

Erin Winn joined Westminster in 2018 and has been a dedicated children's Sunday School teacher. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a master's degree in social work and currently works as an administrative secretary with the 4th District Appellate Court.



**Health
&
Wellness**

THE NINTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR will be Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Along with B/P screening, glucose screening, and other health related tables, flu vaccinations will be provided.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, August 21

- 1:00 PM Graveside Service for Jess Werner (Off-site)
6:00 PM Play practice (Youth Room)

Tuesday, August 22

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:15 PM Stewardship Committee (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
6:00 PM Family Ministry (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Wednesday, August 23

- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Cooling Center Meal (Kitchen)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conference Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Thursday, August 24

- 2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

Friday, August 25

- 12:00 PM WCP Luncheon for Staff (Parish Hall)

Saturday, August 26

- 5:30 PM Men's Fellowship Cookout (Hale Farm)

Sunday, August 27

- 9:00 AM Sunday School Teacher/Ministry Partner
Orientation (Parish Hall)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre K – 2
11:15 AM Refugee Family Mission Sub-Committee
(Library)
2:00 PM Young Families Swim Party (Off Site)

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