



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
27 August 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Recognition of Karen Sherrick

Voluntary O Waly Waly Janet Linker

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

\***Call to Worship** Psalm 92:1-2, 4

Leader: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord,  
to sing praises to you, O God Most High,  
People: **to declare your steadfast love in the morning  
and your faithfulness by night.**  
Leader: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;  
People: **at the work of your hands we sing for joy.**  
Leader: Let us sing the mighty power of our God.

\***Processional Hymn 32** I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Ellacombe*

\***Prayer of Confession** O Christ, if we carry the name Christian, we are signs of your presence. Yet we confess that we sometimes hurt people through the misuse of power, rather than empowering others with your life-giving spirit. When we are discouraged ourselves, we are unable to be signs of joy or hope. Give us the courage and grace to move beyond the circumstances of our lives and to live with power and integrity. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon**

**\*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

**Children's Sermon**

**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**

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Pew Bible, OT page 49

**Second Scripture Reading**

Romans 12:1-8

Pew Bible, NT pages 161-162

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

The Irony of Power

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of  
Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live." -Exodus 1:18*

**Anthem**

Amazing Grace

arr. Moore

**\*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** Simple Gifts

Kenneth Kosche

**\*Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication**      Almighty God, you took a baby from the Nile  
and used him to lead your people to the promised land.  
Take our offerings and use them for your people in this  
land and throughout your world. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn 693**      Though I May Speak      *Gift of Love*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Voluntary**      To God Be the Glory      Michael Burkhardt

(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

*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:** Julie Barton
- **Worship Leader:** Sam Simonson
- **Acolytes:** Abigail Eldridge and Maria Lafrenz
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), George Botanga, Kristianna Eastvold, Melanie Green, Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Coleman Moore, Jim Rigney
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson, Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** Katie Moore, flute, Pat Moore, euphonium, Linda Andrews, guest organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Krista Steller

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Teachers and Youth Ministry Partner Orientation (Parish Hall)** Led by Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Ray. Dr. Kieffer
- **9:00 – 11:15 a.m. Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's lesson: "Uri and the Busy Day" *Caregivers: Sara Eldridge, Nancy Huston*
- **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: "On the Day You Were Baptized." *Teacher: Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. noon Refugee Family Mission Sub-Committee (Library)**
- **2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Young Families Swim Party (Kieffer Home)**  
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!



**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.

**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](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.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE** - Fires have devastated Maui and Hawai'i (The Big Island). Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is collaborating with UCC and other **National VOAD** members to respond. Westminster members can help by writing a check to Westminster and noting PDA in the memo line. So far, members have given \$1,625.

**KAREN SHERRICK HONORED** today 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. We are honored to have such an intelligent, gifted team to lead our children. They have been working with Karen during August to become acclimated to the responsibilities and resources.

**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.

**WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL** classes begin September 5th. There are a couple of openings in each of our classes. If you know anyone looking for a play-based preschool with a wonderful cooperative family, please spread the word! An application is available on the WCP website. Parent Orientation is Tuesday, August 29th, and a meet your teacher open house is Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WESTMINSTER CHOIR** resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 9 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.

**FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins Homecoming Sunday, September 10. Parents are asked to register their children through [KidCheck](#) on or before Homecoming Sunday. Join us at the reception in Parish Hall to select the animal for this year's Sunday School Offerings which support Heifer International. Envelopes will also be distributed. The following classes begin Sunday, September 10:

**CHILDREN BIRTH-AGE 3** begin in the Nursery, located on the lower level. Following the children's sermon **Preschoolers** join them 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.

**KINDERGARTENERS - GRADE 5** will gather in the Third Floor Chapel following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the Feasting on the Word curriculum, which is a lectionary-based, multi-aged curriculum. This resource is designed to encourage cooperative learning across a wide age range. Children will experience Scripture through storytelling, drama, and a variety of activities that appeal to various learning styles.

**NURSERY GUILD MEMBERS** will participate in Mandatory Reporting Training on Homecoming Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. The training will be led by Meleah Berkowitz.

**CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING** - Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on Homecoming Sunday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary with Dr. Kieffer. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another, the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2023-2024 schedule and expectations.

## **HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

**Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 10  
as we begin the 2023-2024 Ministry Year!**

**We will celebrate worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Westminster Choir,  
commission the 2023-2024 Education Leadership Team, and partake in Communion with  
bread lovingly prepared by Mary Leffler**

**A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and includes  
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.**

**Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!**

**JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION** begins Sunday, September 17 Grades Six and Seven meet Sunday mornings from 10:15 – 11: 00 a.m. during worship (except) Communion Sundays in the Conference Room. They will study the Old Testament during these preparatory years and utilize “Echo, The Story” curriculum. Grades Eight meets Sunday mornings from 11:15 – 12 noon in the Conference Room following worship in the Conference Room. The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** begins **Sunday, September 10 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning September 10. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall for dinner and fellowship/games, followed by discussion on current topics from Christian perspective, based on PC(USA) resource “Faith Questions.”

**BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP** - Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 13, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. beginning in the Children’s Library. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes service opportunities, art projects, and interfaith gatherings. This year’s theme is “Created in God’s Image.”

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S BREAKFAST** resumes **Thursday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m.** The program will be “Westminster Refugee Ministry” presented by co-chairs Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel. Dr. Roy Wehrle will give the devotion and breakfast is TBD. Men are encouraged to join this fellowship. RSVP to the church office or online.

**CHURCH MICE** (infants through age 4) will meet Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, **September 16**, 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.

**DR. KIEFFER’S BIBLE STUDY** will resume **Thursday, September 21, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. We will explore two Short-Term Disciple Studies: Invitation to Genesis and Invitation to John and view a video series: The Holy Land Revealed. Members and friends are welcome to sign up on Homecoming Sunday when the curriculum will be available for purchase.

**THE NINTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR** will be Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come learn about good health practices at interactive stations in Parish Hall following worship **and receive your Flu Vaccine.** Information on many topics will be presented, and several personal screenings and assessments will be available. We are grateful to Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter who is coordinating the fair and the many other health professionals from our congregation and elsewhere for contributing their time and expertise. **Stations will include:**



- Flu Vaccines (Tamika Hill, Pharm.D)
- Advance Directives (Michael Nenaber, MD)
- Cancer Education (Tia Rapps, RN)
- Skin Care (Judy Knox, MD)
- Blood Glucose Screening (Marilyn Rigney, RN)
- Dental Care (Allison Long, DMD)
- Blood Pressure Screening (Camille Proud, RN)
- Computer Health Assessment (Krista Steller)
- Adult Vaccines and Safety in the home (Janet Withers, RN)
- Senior Services Programs (Tessa Franch)

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, August 28

- 9:30 AM King's Daughter's Board Meeting  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
6:00 PM Play practice (Youth Room)

### Tuesday, August 29

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM Compass for Kids  
6:00 PM WCP Parent Orientation (Parish Hall)  
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

### Wednesday, August 30

- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)  
12:30 PM Reporter Folding (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support  
(Conference Room)  
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
4:00 PM CROP Walk Recruiters (West Narthex)  
5:15 PM Nominating Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)  
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

### Thursday, August 31

- 11:30 AM Concordia Worship Service (Off Site)  
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

### Friday, September 1

- 12:00 PM WCP Popsicles on the Playground (Playground)  
11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)  
6:00 PM Play Practice (Youth Room)

### Saturday, September 2

### Sunday, September 3

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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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

**Millie McNutt, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

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

**Ellen Carpenter**  
Parish Nurse

**Pat Hymans**  
Hospitality Coordinator

**Lisa Runkle**  
Financial Administrator

**Jennie Alt**  
Church Administrative Assistant

**Krista Steller**  
Communications Coordinator

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

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