



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
25 June 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Scherzo

Eric Thiman

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 84

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
People: **My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord.**
Leader: My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
People: **Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest
for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars.**
Leader: Happy are those whose strength is in you,
People: **as they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;**
Leader: the early rain also covers the valley with pools.
They go from strength to strength.
People: **O Lord God, hear our prayer; give ear to us. Amen.**

***Processional Hymn 435**

There is a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful and just God, we confess that we have broken covenant with you and one another. We draw lines of distinction among ourselves rather than celebrating our common humanity. When our faith is too zealous, sometimes we trample on others rather than affirming each of us as a child of God. 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

**Steadfast Neighbor
Service Team Report**

Dr. Todd Knox

Light the Fire

Verse 1:

I stand to praise you, but I fall on my knees.
My spirit is willing, but my flesh is so weak.

Chorus:

So Light the Fire (light the fire)
In my soul (in my weary soul),
Fan the Flame (fan the flame),
Make me whole (make my spirit whole).
Lord you know (Lord you know)
Where I've been (where I've been)
So Light the Fire in my heart again.

Verse 2:

I feel your arms around me
as the power of your healing begins.
Your spirit moves through me like a mighty rushing wind.

Chorus: Repeat chorus twice more.

Musical Interlude It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Fred Rogers

Students in grades Pre-K – 3 will go to Summer Sunday school class during the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Genesis 21:8-21 Pew Bible, OT page 17

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 10:26-31, 37-39

Pew Bible, NT page 10-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Children of Abraham

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is." Genesis 21:17

Solo

Meditation

Jules Massanet

*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.

Prayers of the People

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

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

J. S. Bach

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

God of the sparrow, you have given us land in which to grow and thrive, food for survival and pleasure, and mercy beyond our comprehension. May we become creatures who say awe and joy and thanks. May we become children who find our home in you. Amen.

*Hymn 22

God of the Sparrow

Roeder

*Charge and Benediction

*Voluntary

March

John Ireland

(*) 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:** Marty and Alan Stutz
- **Worship Leader:** Matthew Knox
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Brad Steller
- **Music:** Lucy Yockey, bassoon, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story. This week's lesson: "Clap, Sing, Dance" *Caregivers: Christy Pound, Julie Sundquist*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children in Pre-K – Grade 2 begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school (Third Floor Chapel) following the Congregational Response. This week's lesson: "The Pearl" (Matthew 13:45-46) Teacher: *Karen Sherrick*
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)**
- **11:00 a.m. Steadfast Neighbor Service Week Reception (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 to tie into VBS, 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. 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.

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.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Youth Mission Trip Car Wash/Bake Sale Fundraiser last Sunday. The youth raised **\$2,082** toward their mission trip.

2023 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK – JUNE 19 - 23

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 14:58



The steadfast team of ministry partners will report to the congregation during worship. Join us for cookies and a PowerPoint presentation in Parish Hall following worship. During the work week, the team gathered each morning at 8:30 a.m. for a devotion to begin the day before arriving at our neighborhood sites. Projects included power washing, repairing and painting front porches, replacing a cellar door, constructing a walkway and creating flowerpots for the front porch of participating neighbors. Lunches were prepared by Pat Hymans' Hospitality Team. Participating members are listed below.

Ministry Partners

Ed Caupert
Dick Cordier
Scott Day
Barry Denham
Bud Green
Anne Haaker
Eric Hostetter
Melissa Hostetter
Christie Hovey
Georgina Hudspeth
Nancy Huston
Elliot Huston
Mary King
Charlie King
Peter Kieffer
Tim Kluge
Todd Knox

Matthew Knox

Richard Leary
Todd Lafrenz
Maria Lafrenz
Camille Massey
Tom Owen
Mary Ray
Jim Rigney
Julie Robbs
Diane Rutledge
Bill Schlosser
Brad Steller
Mike Sundquist
Jeanne VanGieson
Pete VanGieson
Becky Denham Wernlund
Rev. Paul Wernlund

Neighborhood Partners

Mario Berg
Bill Steele
Sarah Ingersoll
Hospitality Team
Melanie Green
Priscilla Kluge
Al Hymans
Pat Hymans
Kelly Robertson
Lucy Bassett
Staff Partners
Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Rev. Christian K. Choi
Jennie Alt
Krista Steller
Gary Warnick



MEALS ON WHEELS JULY 10-14 AND JULY 17-21.

Thank you to those who have signed up to deliver meals. There are still a few slots open. This service of kindness is best done in pairs and the expected time commitment is about an hour to hour-and-a-half, starting at 9:30 a.m. For more information and to sign up, click/use the QR code.

HELPING HANDS MONTHLY MEAL

Westminster members prepare a meal for 50 homeless at the Helping Hands Shelter the second Friday of each month. Thank you to Nancy Canady and Cathy Allen who prepared the June meal. We have openings in July 'December. You can use/click our QR code to sign-up or contact Jennie Alt for details.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JUNE MENU

Canned tuna, boxed meals to use with tuna, canned fruit, canned vegetables, Granola Bars, Dry Cereal (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank (CIFB). Thank you to Ed Caupert, Jim Rigney, Mike Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman for delivering the food to the CIFB.



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 late June and July. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here or contact Jennie Alt for details.

THE 2023 YOUTH MISSION: JUNE 24-JULY 1. THEME: ROAD TO SELMA

Last Sunday, twenty youth were commissioned during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. They left yesterday morning for the week of June 24-July 1, joined by adult leaders **Tad Allen, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Dave Leonatti, Nichole Magalis, and Kevin Simonson** led by **Mary Ray** (Interim Director for Youth). The group travels to Selma, Alabama, where they will rebuild following the January 2023 tornadoes and visit civil rights museums and monuments. The WPC youth are grateful for the congregation's continued support and prayers and look forward to **leading worship next Sunday, July 2**. Please keep the youth and their leaders in your prayers this week. Youth participants include:



Braden Barton
Sam Batterman
Emily Brower
Maria DeJong
Aerwyna Eastvold
Kristianna Eastvold
Abigail Eldridge

Louisa Eldridge
Luke Elston
Caroline Haynor
Will Hovey
Liam Kiszely
Maria Lafrenz
James Maeda

Carter Magalis
Macklin Metzger
Sidney Miller
Bryce Pound
Matthew Scott
Sam Simonson

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, June 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Evicted by Matthew Desmond. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

THE STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT HOUSE DEDICATION
THURSDAY, JUNE 29 AT 5:00 P.M.

Members of the congregation are cordially invited! The dedication was delayed one week for final preparation and will take place Thursday, June 29, 5:00 p.m. at the new home located at 626 S. Glenwood.

Pastel Artwork, created by Sue Scaife, will be presented to the Capler Family along with other gifts from the community.

The Presbyterian Women invite the congregation to join them in a **"Housewarming Sprinkle"** by purchasing a gift from Target and bringing it to the dedication. Paris and James Capler have listed items on their Target Registry that would benefit them in their new home. If you are unable to attend the dedication, drop your gift in the Church Office.



THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, June 26

2023 Youth Mission Trip to Selma, AL
9:30 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, June 27

2023 Youth Mission Trip to Selma, AL
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club

Wednesday, June 28

2023 Youth Mission Trip to Selma, AL
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter mailing (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, June 29

2023 Youth Mission Trip to Selma, AL
3:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conference Room)
5:00 PM Habitat House Dedication (Off site)
5:00 PM PW Housewarming Sprinkle for Caplers

Friday, June 30

2023 Youth Mission Trip to Selma, AL

Saturday, July 1

2023 Youth Mission Trip to Selma, AL

Sunday, July 2

2023 Youth Mission Trip Report
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre K – 3

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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

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