



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
30 July 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Refugee Ministry Rachael Hickman

Voluntary Praise to the Lord, the Almighty J. S. Bach

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

***Call to Worship** from Psalm 105

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's Holy name.

People: Sing praises and tell of God's wonderful works.

Leader: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: Remember the wonderful works God has done:

Leader: Celebrate God's mysterious and empowering ways.

People: Come, children of Jacob, let us worship God.

***Processional Hymn 645** Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above *Mit Freuden Zart*

***Prayer of Confession** God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden is all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes. Gracious God, hidden and manifold, transform our scant imaginations until we yield the judgements we trust to a love we cannot comprehend. 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
class following the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Pew Bible, OT page 26

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 46-52

Pew Bible, NT page 14-15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rising to the Occasion

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*The Text: And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have
done to me? ... Why then have you deceived me?"*

Genesis 29:25

Solo Wayfaring Stranger

Appalachian Folk Hymn

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger traveling through this world of woe. Yet, there's no sickness, toil, nor danger in that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my father; I'm going there no more to roam; I'm going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather over me, I know my way is rough and steep; yet beautiful fields lie just before me, where God's redeemed their vigils keep.

I want to wear a crown of glory, when I get home to that good land; I want to shout salvation's story in concert with that freedom band. I'm going there to meet my Savior, to sing his praises forevermore; I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

*Affirmation of Faith

Selected verses from Romans 8

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 Fairest Lord Jesus Richard DeLong
(The text for the solo is 630 in the hymnal.)

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives.
Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity,
and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make
your purposes known, that our lives might show forth your
glory. Amen.

***Hymn 250** In the Bulb There is a Flower *Promise*

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Paul Manz
(*) 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:** Vonnie Hinesly and Roy Wehrle
- **Worship Leader:** Sam Simonson
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and William Affrunti
- **Ushers:** Julie McDonough (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Chris Hickman, Sabrina Holmes, Kathy Kenyon, Camille Massey, Jim Rigney, and Susan Shaw,
- **Safety Team:** Todd Knox and Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** Amelia Tungett, soprano, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Sam Simonson, 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: "Rufus and His Angry Tail" *Caregivers: Sara Eldridge, 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: "Widow and the Judge" (Luke 18:2-5) *Teacher: Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Refugee Ministry Presentation (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). Leaders: Rachael Hickman and Rev. Choi
- **11:30 a.m. College Age Brunch at Boone's** Westminster will host a brunch for all our college age youth with Mary Ray.

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 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.

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.

YOUNG ADULT AND COLLEGE AGE BRUNCH TODAY! Westminster will host a brunch at Boone's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. today. Meet Mary Ray in the West Narthex following worship.

HISTORIC WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION hosts the **2023 National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Westminster.** Head West sub sandwiches, ice cream treats, chips, and beverages provided. Join in this annual neighborhood gathering, meet our Neighborhood Police Officer Timara Pflug, and say hi to the Aldermen who stop by.

WESTMINSTER SUMMER CHOIR will meet on Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Sunday, August 6. If you have contemplated joining the choir, this is a great time to give it a try. The regular season of the choir will begin on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. and will hold its annual retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 9.

THE LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD and the **GREATER SPRINGFIELD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION** will present a program on Friday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian. The service includes music, dance, readings, and prayers and is a satellite event leading up to the 130th anniversary gathering of the Parliament of World Religions, an organization started in Chicago in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exhibition. The Springfield program will include Native American Flute, readings and prayers in the Muslim tradition, Diane Dietz singing a solo from the Celtic Christian tradition, a Native American drum circle, Kurdish flute, the Westminster Choir singing Mendelssohn, dancers from the Table of Life Church, and a closing blessing from the Hebrew tradition. A reception will follow in Westminster's Parish Hall.

ADULT EDUCATION SUMMER FORUM SUNDAYS, AUGUST 6 & 13, 11:15 A.M. IN PARISH HALL
On Sunday, August 6, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present a forum on **Bidenomics**: This term describes the new economic policies that President Biden and his administration are employing. This is a sea change from the fully free market policies of the last several decades for both parties. The new policies are fashioned to account for the changed nature of the world and rise of China.

On Sunday, August 13, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present a forum on **Big Developments in China**: Looking at contemporary Chinese policies will give members a view of several paths forward into the future based on current China policies and a taste of some of the ramifications for us and the rest of the world related to China's policies.

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. As of Thursday, we have received 79 and last year, we collected 190 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.

ANNUAL MISSION TRIP REUNION - On Sunday, August 6, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., participants of the 2023 Mission Trip will gather for a reunion and a potluck dinner at the Home of Christy and Carl Pound (100 Pinehurst Drive 62704). We look forward to sharing memories, photos, youth will share how their experience changed them.

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 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

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

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

Your Name (optional) _____

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, July 31

Tuesday, August 1

- 9:00 AM Worship Team Planning (Dale's front porch)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 4:30 PM Support & Endowment (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM National Night Out Historic Westside Assn
(Parish Hall and Parking Lot)

Wednesday, August 2

- 9:00 AM Worship Team Planning (Dale's front porch)
- 12:30 PM Reporter Folding (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Mission & Community Service
(2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, August 3

- 9:00 AM Worship Team Planning (Dale's front porch)
- 3:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, August 4

- 7:00 PM Parliament of World Religions (Sanctuary)
Liturgical Arts Festival

Saturday, August 5

Sunday, August 6

- Parish Nurse Ministries (Church Office)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service – Summer Choir (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Summer Sunday School Pre K – 2
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 5:00 PM Mission Trip Reunion (Off Site)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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