



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
17 September 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment CROP Hunger Walk Krista Steller

Voluntary Aria Paul Manz

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

*Call to Worship Psalm 105:1-4

Leader: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: **We have gathered to hear the story of God
and God's people.**

Leader: It is a story of God's mercy and steadfast love.
It is our story, for we are God's people.

People: **Inspire us on our journey, dear God, to faithfulness,
to mercy, and to steadfast love.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Hymn 722 Lord, Speak to Me *Canonbury*

*Prayer of Confession O God who is our strength, you have protected us from those who would seek to oppress us. You have shielded us from those who would seek to destroy the good gifts you have put in us. Your love and power never fail. Forgive us for uncertainty and self-absorption along the way of our journeys despite your faithfulness. Give us courage, resilience, and hope to follow the ways you make possible which form our character. 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	God welcomes all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong, and it never ends.	
	<i>Children in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 go to Sunday School following the Congregational Response.</i>	
First Scripture Reading	Exodus 14:19-31	Pew Bible, OT page 61
Second Scripture Reading	Matthew 18:21-35	Pew Bible, NT page 20
	Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.	
	People: Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	Parting Ways	Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
	<i>The Text: "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea... the waters were divided." Exodus 14:21</i>	
Anthem	O God, Beyond All Praising	Gustav Holst
	O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay. For we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.	

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God 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 our God 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

Organ Sonata in C

Domenico Scarlatti

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, you have led us through troubled waters
and formed us on this journey. Continue to guide our
feet as we share the good news of who you are on the
roads we travel. Accept these offerings which we
dedicate in Christ's name, Amen.**

*Hymn 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

*Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

Amen

William Smith

*Voluntary

Grand Choeur

Theodore Salomé

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given by Pat and Alan Hymans praising the Glory of God.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeters:** Linda and Bill Schlosser
- **Worship Leader:** Liam Kiszely
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Ushers:** Julie McDonough (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Sophia Choi, Kristianna Eastvold, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Kathy Kenyon, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady, Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox. Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story: “Jesus Blesses Children” *Caregivers: Millie McNutt, Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Children Pre-K – Grade 5 (Third Floor Classroom)** begin in worship with their families & go to class following the Children’s Sermon. Lesson: “Forgive Again and Again (Matt. 18:21-35).” *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children’s Sermon for Lesson One: “Creation” of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation (Grade 8)** meet in the Conference Room following worship for Lesson One: “Christian History” from Church History, Polity and Beliefs of the PC(USA). *Led by Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer*
 - **Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)** Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea will be available following the 10:00 worship service to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. Coordinators: Jeanne VanGieson and Becky Martin
 - **Ninth Biennial Health Fair (Parish Hall)** Come learn about good health practices at interactive stations in Parish Hall following worship. Stations will include:
 - Flu Vaccines (Tamika Hill, Phar.D.)
 - Advance Directives (Michael Nenaber, MD)
 - Cancer Education (Tia Rapps, RN)
 - Skin Care (Judy Knox, MD)
 - Blood Glucose Screening (Kathy Bacon, RN)
 - Dental Care (Allison Long, DMD)
 - Blood Pressure Screening (Marilyn Rigney, RN, Camille Proud, RN)
 - Illinois Assistive Technology Program (Angela Schneider)
 - Computer Health Assessment (Krista Steller)
 - Adult Vaccines and Safety in the Home (Janet Winkler, Sang. County Public Health)
 - Bone Density Screening (Kathy Bacon, RN)
 - Senior Services Programs (Tessa French)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website at www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, please speak to one of the pastors. Our next New Member Classes will be Sundays, October 1 and 8.

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, earing 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 that includes books on autumn, school transitions in family life, prayer, and additional topics from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the cart.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9** This year, we are joining PC(USA)'s 40th annual commitment to peacemaking. Each September and October WPC receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION begins today, **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.

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on **Tuesday, September 19** at 9:30 a.m. in the library. The circle will study the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir this year. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

WOODEN IT BE HELPFUL - The Mission and Community Service Committee unanimously voted to support Coleman Moore's vision of making furniture for Wooden It Be Lovely (WIBL) This ministry opportunity will begin **Wednesday, September 20 at 9:00 a.m.** and will meet weekly at Habitat for Humanity Restore. For additional information, contact Coleman Moore (csmoore56@yahoo.com or 414-617-0477). Coleman is looking for ministry partners of any skill level of woodworking to join in this mission. He has made a career of teaching novices to build beautiful pieces of furniture.

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. The curriculum is available for purchase in the Church Office.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet **Friday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Julia Turchetti and Joe Coppick, owners of Aviatori Coffee House, will be here to tell us about their history as pilots, aviation facts, and their coffee/brunch business. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.



REVEREND CHRISTIAN K. CHOI Celebrates Tenth Ordination Anniversary and will be recognized **Sunday, September 24** during worship. Christian was ordained on September 28, 2013 by San Joaquin Presbytery at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA where he served from 2013-2018. Prior to his ordination, Rev. Choi served Lakeview Korean Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL from 2009 to 2013. Christian joined our staff in December of 2018 as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry and was called to become our Associate Pastor for Parish Life in October 2021.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION - On **Sunday, September 24** we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1973, 1968, 1963, 1953 during worship. We are grateful for all the ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship to express our congratulations and appreciation.

FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS:	Virginia Cooper Mary O’Keefe Jim Pinkerton	Dwight “Cap” O’Keefe Jan Pinkerton Sue Sawers
FIFTY-FIVE-YEAR MEMBERS:	Cathy Cragoe Jan Schuermann	David Mitchell Gloria St. Lawrence
SIXTY-YEAR MEMBERS:	Mary Ann Armstrong Marilyn Cohen Sharon Gilmour	Judith Barringer Matt Gilmour Carolyn Proctor
SEVENTY-YEAR MEMBERS:	Camille Degner Anne Smith	Dr. Tom Lewis

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith will be introduced on **Sunday, September 24** and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 29. The stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 24 following the Session’s approval of the 2024 budget.

Serving on the Committee: Susan and Scott Day, Bill Deemer, Jim Dolan, Becky Huston, Becky Martin, Jeanne Pittman, Bill Schlosser, Brad Steller, and Jay Kennerly, Chair.



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN SPAIN On **Sunday, September 24** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, Dr. Debbie Parker will share her recent experience hiking part of the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain. The Camino de Santiago is a network of ancient pilgrim pathways stretching across Europe and leading to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. Dr. Parker is a Senior Instructor at Western Governors University. She has a Ph.D. in English Studies from Illinois State University and lives in Springfield with her husband. They have two sons, Jacob (23), & Benjamin (20) who live in other cities.

APOSTLES’ READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 The Apostles’ Read Library Book Group meets **Tuesday, September 26** from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

SALVATION ARMY MONTHLY MEAL – Westminster Hunger Action Team members will gather again on **Wednesday, September 27** at 1:00 p.m. to prepare a meal for 75 homeless men and women within the Springfield community.

TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on Wednesday, September 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield (3000 Stanton Street). This year's theme is "Serving our Community." Mark your calendar for the quarterly Wednesday Gatherings: September 27 at the Mosque, November 15 at Westminster, February 21 at Grace United Methodist, and May 8 at Springfield Art Association.

THE REVEREND DR. LONNIE H. LEE will preach during worship and speak about his new book, *The Huguenot-Anglican Refuge in Virginia* during the Adult Education Forum on Sunday, October 1, at 11:15 am in Parish Hall. Hardback copies of the book may be purchased for \$60 and signed by Dr. Lee at the end of his presentation. Anyone who is unable to attend on October 1 and would like a copy of the book can place an order through the WPC church office.

ANNUAL CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK is World Communion Sunday, **October 1**. Join the Springfield community addressing hunger in our world and community. The walk begins at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh) at 1:00 p.m. Krista Steller is an event coordinator, with Becky Martin organizing the Westminster walkers.

Senior High Youth are walking this year and welcome your financial support.



THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE EIGHTH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

PROGRAM:

WESTMINSTER'S REFUGEE MINISTRY

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters
and bring your favorite salad.

Sign up Sunday, 9/17, 9/24 in the West Narthex
or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 18

Tuesday, September 19

- 9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 4:45 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, September 20

- 9:00 AM Wooden It Be Helpful (Habitat Restore)
- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support (Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Property Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)

Thursday, September 21

- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Pres Home (Off site)
- 5:00 PM WCP Macaroni Fest (Parish Hall/Playground)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 22

Saturday, September 23

- 10:30 AM IL Historical Society Sesquicentennial Churches (Parish Hall)
- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, September 24

Stewardship Sunday and Milestone Members

- 9:00 AM Stewardship Mailing (Youth Room)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service - (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K – 5
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class (Conference Room)
- 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

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

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors 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,**
Part-time Custodians