



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stewardship Sunday
Milestone Membership Recognition
24 September 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Growing in Generosity – Rooted in Love Jay Kennerly

Voluntary Come, Thou Almighty King Healey Willan

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: As the earth produces abundant harvest,
when the sun and rain nourish the seeds,
People: so our fruits bless others as we grow in trust and love.
Leader: Teach us, O Merciful One, to have generous hearts,
offering all we are in the name of love,
**People: as spring and summer follow the autumn and winter,
so our lives have their seasons.**
Leader: Help us to live in the eternal moment,
awaiting your perfect timing in all things.
People: Let us worship God.

***Processional Hymn 714** God of the Fertile Fields *Italian Hymn*

***Prayer of Confession** Powerful, Gentle God, you can take the desert and make it grow into a fruitful land. We come before you aware of the dry, empty places within our hearts that are in need of your healing. Rather than a new landscape, give us new eyes to see and embrace the wonder of your generosity and mercy. Open our hearts and minds to you, that our lives may be full and generous in living Christ's love in your kingdom. 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	Recognition of Rev. Choi	
Congregational Response	God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends. <i>Children in grades Pre-K-5 will go to Sunday School and grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation Prep following the Congregational Response.</i>	
First Scripture Reading	Jeremiah 17:5-8	Pew Bible, OT page719
Second Scripture Reading	Matthew 21:33-46 Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.	Pew Bible, NT page 24
Sermon	Growing in Generosity - Rooted in Faith Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer <i>The text: 7 Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream "</i>	
Anthem	Praise God with Song Praise God with song, you earthly throng, all nations praise with singing. God grace ordains, with mercy reigns, glad loving kindness bringing. What God has vowed, it withers not, God's word remains unceasing. So sing we aloud with joyful sound, with eternal anthems voicing. Alleluia, rejoicing, Alleluia.	Heinrich Schütz

*Affirmation of Faith

Ephesians 3:14-20

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Solo: Surely the presence of the Lord 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 the Lord 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

Lord, I Know I Been Changed

Spiritual
Larry Shackley, arr.

Lord, I know I been changed. Angels in heaven done signed my name. If you don't believe that I have been redeemed, just follow me down to that ol' Jordan stream. I went to the river and the water was cold. It chilled my body but not my soul. Lord, I know I been changed. Angels in heaven done signed my name.

***Offertory Response** **Doxology** Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** Lord, giver of all good gifts, thank you for your faithful generosity throughout the generations and the resources within this faith community. We rejoice in the gift of faith and the opportunity to grow in generosity. We dedicate these gifts with gratitude for the faith of the milestone members we honor today. Amen

**Recognition of
Milestone Members**

***Hymn 687** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past *St. Anne*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Amen William Smith

***Voluntary** Epilogue Healey Willan

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

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 cookie reception in the West Narthex following worship to express 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

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.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given to celebrate Rev. Christian K. Choi's tenth ordination anniversary by his loving family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeters:** Mary Gail and Steve Romack
- **Worship Leader:** Sam Simonson
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Kate Bryans
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Music:** Dale Rogers, organist, Westminster Choir
- **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: Dee Dee Duffy, Erin Winn*
- **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: "So Much Love" (Matt. 20:1-16). *Teachers: Sophia Choi, Julie Robbs*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Two: "Rebellion" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation (Grade 8)** meet in the Conference Room following worship for Lesson Two: "People of the Way" from Church History, Polity and Beliefs of the PC(USA). *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall) Camino de Santiago in Spain** Dr. Debbie Parker will share her recent experience hiking part of the Camino de Santiago, the ancient pilgrim pathway leading to the tomb of St. James.
- **5:00 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Fellowship and Dinner (Parish Hall)** will discuss ministries of serving "the least among us" based on a study of **Matthew 25**. *Dinner: Tanya DeSanto and Craig Batterman. Ministry Partners: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray, Dr. Kieffer*

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.

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 during the offertory and pass to your neighbor in the pew.

REVEREND CHRISTIAN K. CHOI celebrates his Tenth Ordination Anniversary and will be recognized today, 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.



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. During his tenure, Sophia and Christian welcomed their son Zachariah into the world to join their daughter Diana. We are grateful for Christian's charisma, warmth, resilience, leadership, and heart for mission. The gifts Christian shares so generously with our congregation enrich our life together. We celebrate Christian's life, family, and ministry!

Christian is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree (2008) and a Master of Theology degree (2009) with an emphasis on missions and ecumenics. Prior to seminary Christian earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2004).

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY PRESENTS THE 2024 THEME: GROWING IN GENEROSITY - ROOTED IN FAITH

This year's stewardship theme, **Growing in Generosity - Rooted in Faith**, is based on Jeremiah 17:7-8. Being rooted in faith and in Christ's love provides the foundation for growing in generosity. Your faithful support of Christ's mission enables Westminster to branch out in fulfilling our commitment to be in the world for ministry.



The stewardship letter, brochure, and pledge card will be mailed this week. The brochure includes the 2024 Operating Budget approved by Session which is a 3% increase from the 2023 budget. Please complete the pledge card and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate by Stewardship Dedication Sunday, October 29, 2023. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.

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

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN SPAIN - Join us at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall for our first session of the 2023-2024 Adult Ed Forum Series. 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.

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.

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. in the kitchen to prepare a meal for 50 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

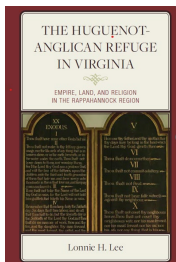
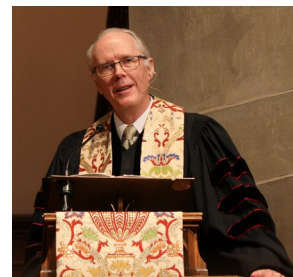
Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on Wednesday, September 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield (3000 Stanton Street). This year's theme is "Serving our Community." Mark your calendar for the quarterly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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL SALAD SUPPER is this Wednesday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. The program will be Westminster's Refugee Ministry presented by Rachael Hickman and Jesse Weitzel. Elizabeth Circle will host the gathering with the theme "Suppin' with my Gnomies. Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad. Elizabeth Circle will provide desserts, chicken, ham, and egg salad. Please bring a salad to share.

The PW Board is collecting Bibles not in use, Sunday school materials, devotionals, Christian magazines, etc. for Love Packages. You are invited to drop these materials off in the container in Parish Hall. The collection of material will go through the end of September.

NEW MEMBER CLASS -Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on Sundays, October 1 and 8, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on October 15 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

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.

Dr. Lee served as Westminster's Seventeen Senior Minister from 1995 – 2012. It is always a joy to welcome him home on Founders' Sundays and we are grateful for this opportunity to learn about his newly published book.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 25

9:30 AM King's Daughters' Board Meeting
(3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, September 26

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter Folding (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)8

Wednesday, September 27

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)
1:00 PM Warming/Cooling Center Meal (Kitchen)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conference Room)

4:00 PM Property Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:30 PM Children of Abraham (Off site)
4:30 PM Refugee Housing Sub-Committee
(3rd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Women's Salad Supper (Parish Hal

Thursday, September 28

1:00 PM PEO Book Club (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM WPC Pastor Service (IL Pres Home)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 29

9:00 AM Senior Services Training (Parish Hall)

Saturday, September 30

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday

9:00 AM New Members Class (Pastor's Study)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K – 5
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
1:00 PM CROP Hunger Walk (Off site)

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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

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