



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Member Recognition
15 October 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment 2024 Stewardship Campaign Rebecca Huston

Voluntary Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow J. Pachelbel

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

*Call to Worship Psalm 19:1-4

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God!
People: **The skies proclaim God's handiwork.**
Leader: The day pronounces God's glory without a sound,
People: **the night expounds God's knowledge without a word,**
Leader: and yet their voice goes out through all the earth.
People: **We join our voices with the voice of creation
in declaring God's glory!**
Leader: Let us worship with reverence and joy!

*Processional Hymn 402 How Lovely, Lord *Merle's Tune*

*Prayer of Confession Holy and loving God, you lived for us, yet we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us, yet we have not forgiven others. You have loved us, yet we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another. Have mercy upon us. Teach us the spiritual discipline of Holy indifference in our lives that we may move beyond ourselves. 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.**

Children in grades Pre-K-5 will go to Sunday School and grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation Prep following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Pew Bible, OT page 66

Second Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Pew Bible, NT pages 198-199

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

TMI

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:13b

Anthem

Tender Mercy

Lee Dengler

Tender is the Savior's mercy, like the sunset's golden glow,
like the gentle rain in springtime, like the softly falling snow.
Yet, within that depth of mercy, lies a strength that has no end;
like a rock that never crumbles, like a rod that will not bend.
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Tender mercy flowing gently, covers the world with love and grace.
Jesus, let us learn this mercy, taking on your truth and grace,
showing justice to each other, folding all in love's embrace.
Grant us hearts to free your children from their cages of despair.
Show us how to end divisions. Teach us, Lord, to love and dare.
Kyrie eleison. Christ eleison.
Tender mercy, flowing gently, covers the world with love & grace.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS
AND SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***Prayer of Welcome**

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn**

We All Are One in Mission *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

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

These are Thy Holy Ten Commandments

J. S. Bach

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

**We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for all your good gifts, and above all,
for the gift of knowing Christ our Savior.
Accept the offering of our lives and our labor as
we seek to be your servant. Amen.**

***Hymn 727**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Servant Song

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response

Amen

William Smith

Congregational Meeting

***Voluntary**

Concerto in a-minor: Allegro

J. S. Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in celebration of the 70th wedding anniversary of Nancy and Lon Scott
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeters:** Angie and Todd Lafrenz
- **Worship Leader:** Carter Magalis
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte and William Affrunti
- **Ushers:** Julie McDonough (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Sabrina Holmes, Kathy Kenyon, Camille Massey, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney, Todd Knox
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Michael Morthland, bassoonist, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 – 12:00 noon Nursery (Lower Level)** Infants and toddlers begin in the Nursery. Preschoolers begin in worship with their families and leave during the Congregational Response. Today's Bible Story: "Jesus Feeds a Crowd". *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Sara Eldridge*
- **9:30 a.m. Special Session Meeting (Library)** to receive new members.
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children K – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during Congregational Response Today's Lesson: "Come to the Party" (Matt. 22:1-4). *Teachers: Kate Morthland, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)** to elect Kate Morthland as Deacon.
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall).** This Adult Education Forum will explore the doctrine of justification that was at the heart of the Protestant Reformation and the ecumenical work of the Presbyterian Church to overcome the divisions between Christian churches and denominations. *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Church Officer Orientation (Second Floor Classroom)** Newly elected elders and deacons will meet with Dr. Kieffer for orientation. Spuds will be provided.

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 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.

NEW MEMBERS were received this morning at a Special Session meeting. We welcome:

Paris and James Capler, and their older daughters **Ciearra Davis, Laparriona Collins**. *James will be received by Affirmation of Faith. Paris, Ciearra, and Laparriona will be received by Profession of Faith and the Sacrament of Baptism. Paris and James' younger daughters are Aaleeviah Collins and Jami'ona Capler and son Jamo Capler. Their sponsors are Ellen and Rance Carpenter and Mary Ray.*

Laura and Eric O'Reilly by Letter of Transfer from Grace Lutheran Church of LaGrange, Illinois. *Their children are Maeven, Emmett, Holland and Rowan. Their sponsors are Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt.*

Barbara Stewart by Letter of Transfer from Clarendon Hills Community Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills, Illinois. *Her sponsor is Joyce King.*

Carol Volle by letter of transfer from Central Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois. *Her sponsor is her son Darren Volle.*

Kelly Zohfonyi by Reaffirmation of Faith. *She was a member of Our Lady of Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Douala, Cameroon. Her sponsor is her husband, Edison Zohfonyi.*

THE ANNUAL SPUD BAKE IS TODAY! - Junior and senior high youth are preparing loaded baked potatoes to raise funds for the Contact Ministries Christmas gift distribution. Members are invited to buy a spud to help our youth share God's love. Order in the West Narthex before worship and pick up your spud following worship. **Minimum donation \$5.00 per potato.**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING today to elect Kate Morthland as a Deacon, Class of 2026.

FAIR TRADE items will be available today in the West Narthex.

THE BRANDYWINE MAPLE TREE in our sanctuary will be planted at Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Home of Paris and James Capler this Tuesday, October 17 by the children attending our Compass for Kids site. The tree is a gift from First Presbyterian Church's Earth Care Team. Kristianna and Juliana Eastvold, who are ministry partners with the program have coordinated the tree planting. Members are welcome to join in this event, this Tuesday from 4:25 to 5:15 pm.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on **Tuesday, October 17** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler library. Sharon Turner will host and lead Lesson 2 "The Exorcism of Gerasa" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

COMPASS FOR KIDS meets on **Tuesday, October 17** to plant a tree at the Capler's Habitat home in a collaborative effort with First Presbyterian Church and their Earth Care Team.

LIBRARY GUILD meets **Thursday, October 19, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** with Dr. Aaron Berkowitz. New members are welcome.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet **Friday, October 20** at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Dena Gilly, owner of Gilly's Organizing, will speak to us on "Organizing for Everyone." RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.

FAMILY MATTERS meets **Saturday, October 21, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.** (right after Church Mice) in the Third Floor Chapel for board games designed for multiple age groups. Bring your lunch along!

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AT SHEEDY SHORES WINEGARDEN (10300 Johns Creek Rd, Loami, IL 6266) on **Sunday, October 22** from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share with others in the beauty of fall as we enjoy the cooler weather as well as live music. The WineGarden sells a variety of wines as well as some beers. RSVP at <https://rb.gy/8zf3r> or use the QR code. More info is available from Melanie Green.



REFORMATION AND HARVEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Westminster will continue the tradition of dressing in costume on Reformation Sunday. This provides an opportunity to highlight the origins of the Hallowed Eve in our faith tradition. Members are invited to **wear costumes to worship** and join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) for a festive gathering. Highlights and activities will include:

A DELICIOUS LUNCH will be provided by the Membership Committee and treat bags sent home with the children.

PUMPKIN CRAFTS with Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz in Parish Hall.

FACE PAINTING in the Parish Hall.

STORYTELLING with Sue Baker in the West Narthex.

A HARVEST MAZE created by Al Hymans in the Youth Room.

DONATIONS to support **UNICEF** will be collected to assist families in developing countries.

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION



Dear Friends,

Our Westminster Stewardship theme, “Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith,” is one to which we can relate. I have been a member of our church since 1969 when our family moved to Springfield. We have become “deeply rooted” here through the years. Our family has had baptisms, weddings and my husband Glen is at home in the Memorial Garden. How many times have I looked at the beautiful Transfiguration window, centered with Christ and the Holy Spirit dove descending? Perhaps you too have that image etched in your memory.

A few months ago, an extra-large group of young people with their colorful t-shirts stretched across the chancel. They were home from the mission trip where they served with joy and hard work. They shared their faith experiences – a very inspiring morning for me. A few weeks ago, another large group graced the chancel. These were our 2023-24 adult leaders, commissioned to lead and teach our infants, children, youth, and adults. Each Sunday morning on those same chancel steps, I am filled with joy and I marvel at the energy of our Sunday School group of children. So much good happens here in our church and here too, so many help make it happen.

Very important is our Westminster Church staff. I feel the love of each one for me, helping me to fulfill the Westminster mission. For years, there have been “saints” that have gone before us. They built these walls and put the bell in the tower. They looked forward to helping us with our mission inside our building and out in the world. I hope that you will think on all that is meaningful here at Westminster for you.

I hope you will give generously as you dig deep down to your roots that help nourish, steady, and strengthen this church we love. The 1908 Westminster dedication service bulletin stated, “We are in the world for ministry.” Today, together you and I will help continue the Westminster Presbyterian Church tradition.

-Jeanne Pittman

As of Thursday, October 12, we have received 93 pledges totaling \$444,662 which is 52% of the \$850,000 goal. 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.

THE 2023 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 11-12

THE REV. DR. DEBORAH KRAUSE, PRESIDENT OF EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PRESENTATION:

THE BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Sunday, November 11

Welcome Reception

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Members are invited to the home of Drs. Todd and Judy Knox for a gathering hosted by the Adult Education Committee.

Sunday, November 12

Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Dr. Krause will preach.

Education Forum

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Presentation

All Church Lunch

12:30 p.m. We will share a community meal.

Biography: Dr. Deborah Krause teaches courses in the gospels, early Jewish exegesis, the Deutero-Pauline and pastoral epistles, and feminist-womanist, post-colonial, and postmodern biblical interpretation.

Dr. Krause joined Eden’s teaching staff in 1992, served as Academic Dean from 2005-2018, and began as Eden Seminary’s president in July 2020. An ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Dr. Krause serves the church through social justice advocacy work, teaching, preaching and scholarship. Her academic resume includes Amherst College, B.A., 1984, Eden Theological Seminary, M.Div., 1988, Emory University, Ph.D., 1996.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 16

6:00 PM Sgt. Caleb Hopkins DAR Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

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

4:30 PM Support and Endowment (Pastor's Study)

4:45 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)

5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)

7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 18

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)

5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)

Thursday, October 19

1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)

2:30 PM Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)

7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, October 20

5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)

6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, October 21

8:00 AM PEO Food Drive (Parking Lot)

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

12:00 PM Family Matters (3rd Floor Chapel)

Sunday, October 22

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

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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