



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
22 October 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

**Ministry Moment**      2024 Stewardship Campaign      Becky Martin

**Voluntary**      Pavanne      Robert Elmore

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

**\*Call to Worship**      based on Psalm 99:1-9

Leader: As we gather to worship and praise your great and awesome name,

**People: Show us your presence, O Lord.**

Leader: Mighty God, lover of justice, as we seek your face,

**People: may you establish your equity, execute your justice.**

Leader: Holy God, as we pray at your footstool,

**People: Show us and guide us to follow your ways.**

Leader: Let us worship with reverence and joy!

**\*Processional Hymn 81**      Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken      *Austrian Hymn*

**\*Prayer of Confession**      Creator God, we are created in your image, yet we fail to see your face in each other. We are called to be your ambassadors of your gospel, yet we cannot see your fingerprints in our lives. Forgive us as our doubts and insecurities prevent us to seek after you and emulate your love to be displayed for the world to see. Help us live into our calling by guiding us to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with you in our words and deeds. 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 33:12-23 Pew Bible, OT page 80

**Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 22:15-22 Pew Bible, NT pages 24-25  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Return to Sender

Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text: "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this is nation is your people." Exodus 12:13*

**Anthem** Lord, At All Times

Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, at all times I will bless thee, and then in songs of praise address thee, yea, my soul shall boast in thee. Let the humble gladly hear me, let the godly gather near me and exalt thy name with me. When the poor man wept and craved, when in trouble he was saved, when he cried, he was heard. Come ye children, bow in duty: radiant everlasting beauty crowneth them that fear the Lord. Taste and see, the Lord is gracious, bounteous as the heavens are spacious. Taste and see the Lord is good. Lord, at all times I will bless thee and in songs of praise I'll sing to thee.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Selection from the Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God  
and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## 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

Retrospection

Florence B. Price

### \*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, we all belong to you. Who we are, our worldly possessions, and all the countless blessings, they are a gracious gift from you. As we return a portion back to you, may it be used to bring healing and reconciliation to all your creation, especially to those who are seeking hope. Amen.**

### \*Hymn 438

Rock of Ages

*Toplady*

### \*Charge and Benediction

### Closing Response

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

### \*Voluntary

Nachspiel

Felix Mendelssohn

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 – 12 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 Wants Us to Share with Others". *Caregivers: Millie McNutt, Maria Lafrenz, Dee Dee Duffy*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
  - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response Today's Lesson: "Paul Gives Thanks" (1 Thess. 1:1-10). *Teachers: Cathy Brower, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Five: "Jacob and Esau" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meredith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
  - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Grade 8 meet for Lesson Five: "Scripture and Creeds" from Church History, *Led by Dr. Peter Kieffer and Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall).** This Adult Education Forum is the second in a two-part series. It 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*

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in loving memory of Dr. Glen D. Pittman from his family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Jerry Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Virginia and Jim Dolan
- **Worship Leader:** Maria DeJong
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Lilly Swanson
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Erin Ekstedt, Kathy Kenyon, Julie McDonough, Susan Shaw, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

**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.

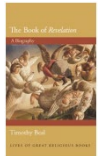
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](http://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.

**SPUD BAKE THANK YOU!** - Junior and senior high youth appreciate the support of the congregation at their Annual Spud Bake organized by Mary Ray. The fundraiser brought in \$2,000 which will purchase gifts for youth on behalf of Contact Ministries Christmas Give-A-Way.

**CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AT SHEEDY SHORES WINEGARDEN** (10300 Johns Creek Rd, Loami, IL 62666) **today, 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>. More info is available from Melanie Green.

**APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24** meets Tuesday, October 24 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss The Book of Revelation: A Biography by Timothy Beal. This book replaces the title listed in the October Reporter. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



**EVENING MARKET on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1**, All are invited to the Evening Market from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for shopping, fellowship, and some fun snacks. The PW Evening Market is a chance to find unique items and support local and international mission work. The Market will feature food items and treasures from Fair Trade, Simply Fair, and Wooden It Be Lovely. Plan to start your holiday shopping early and support important global missions.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** gathers **Wednesday, November 1**, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christy Pound (100 Pinehurst Dr, 62704). Marilyn Rigney will lead the devotional by Evelyn Underhill entitled "A Simple Regimen of Private Prayer" (pgs. 87-94) from the book, Devotional Classics, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith. Call Christy Pound (217-971-3082) for details.



### **REFORMATION AND HARVEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

Westminster will continue the tradition we began in 2021 when Reformation Sunday fell on Halloween. We will celebrate the Harvest Festival in the morning. 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 and treat bags sent home with the children, **PUMPKIN CRAFTS AND TREATS, STORYTELLING AND FACE PAINTING** in the Parish Hall, **A HARVEST MAZE** in the Youth Room. This event provides an opportunity to highlight the origins of Hallowed Eve in our faith tradition. Don't miss this time of creative and meaningful worship.

**ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** is **November 5**. Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2022. A bouquet with one white rose for each member whose life we commemorate will be placed in the chancel. The litany, which includes the reading of our loved ones' names, the tolling of our historic bell, and silence will be a part of the worship service.

**DR. KIEFFER CELEBRATES FORTIETH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY** on **Sunday, November 5**. Join us for a festive reception in Parish Hall following worship to mark the occasion.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** meets on **Thursday, November 9** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Gregg Humphrey, Executive Director, will speak on the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District. Brad Swanson will provide breakfast and Jay Kennerly will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.



**THE 2023 BAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 11-12 PRESENTS:** The Bible in the Public Square: Lifting Voices of Lament, Prophecy, and Praise in a Time of Christian Nationalism and Religious Extremism

**Guest Speaker:** The Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause, President of Eden Theological Seminary

**Saturday, November 11** **Welcome Reception from 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** Dr. Krause will preach during worship followed by the Bay Weekend presentation in Parish Hall. A community meal will complete the weekend.

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTION

Westminster Presbyterian Church holds so many positive memories for Virginia, me, and our family. Raising our two sons, Ryan and Kelby, in an encouraging environment made a world of difference in their formative years. The youth mission trips, opportunities to reflect on Christian values, relationship building, and lasting friendships (particularly for Kelby and Chelsea Rank) make them who they are today. Virginia and I have enjoyed our relationships, friendships, and memories here at the church. We look forward to making memories and being a part of our church community in this chapter of our lives. Westminster's Mission Statement affirms we are a congregation that "shows the love and compassion of Jesus Christ toward each other." Virginia and I are grateful for the love and compassion we have received during challenging times in our lives.

We respectfully ask you to provide our church with your financial support so that we may continue to show God's love during these complex times.

**-Jim Dolan**

**As of Thursday, October 19, we received 123 pledges totaling \$582,732 which is 69% 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](http://www.wpcspi.org)

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, October 23

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

### Tuesday, October 24

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM Compass for Kids  
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)  
7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters Rehearsal (Music Room)

### Wednesday, October 25

9:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)  
5:15 PM Membership Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)

### Thursday, October 26

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, October 27

### Saturday, October 28

11:00 AM Church Mice (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Sunday, October 29

Stewardship Dedication Sunday  
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K – 5  
11:15 AM Harvest Fest and Lunch (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