

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Mission Sunday  
4 February 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

**Ministry Moment**      Compass for Kids      Sam Lipp

**Introit**      O Praise Ye the Lord      Noel Dexter

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

**\*Call to Worship**      Psalm 111

**Leader:** Praise the Lord!  
Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts.

**People:** **Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

**Leader:** The Lord is gracious and merciful.  
Holy and awesome is God's name.

**People:** **All God's precepts are trustworthy,  
for the works of God's hands are faithful and just.**

**Leader:** Come, redeemed people of God;  
God has commanded God's covenant forever.

**People:** **Let us worship and praise the Lord, forever.**

**\*Processional Hymn 12**      Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise      *St. Denio*

**\*Prayer of Confession**      Holy and loving God, through your gentle Spirit, mold our lives each day to grow more firmly into the image of Christ. We confess we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. Forgive us and help us to find a more inclusive way of living, that the doors of our hearts and Westminster's are welcoming, open, and a way to service. May we love your people in all we say and do. Hear now our silent prayers of confession. Amen.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon  
and 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.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

**Children's Sermon**

**Congregational Response** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *Houston*

**I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class and Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation following the Congregational Response.*

**First Scripture Reading** Mark 1:21-28 Pew Bible, NT page 35

**Second Scripture Reading** 1 Corinthians 8:1-6 Pew Bible, NT page 171

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Liberating Spirit Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text: "for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."*

*1 Corinthians 8:6*

## **Anthem**

### **Praise God in All Holiness**

Geoffrey Shaw

Praise God in all holiness: praise God in the firmament of power.  
Praise God in noble acts; praise according to God's excellent  
greatness. Praise God in the sound of the trumpet. Praise God  
upon the lute and harp. Praise God in the cymbals and dances.  
Praise God upon the strings and pipe. Praise god in all holiness;  
Praise God in the firmament of power. Praise God upon the well-  
tuned cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

from A 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.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of 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.**

## **The Church at Prayer**

**Choir:** Surely the presence of our God is in this place,  
I can feel God's mighty power and his 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

Allegro Moderato

Cuthbert Harris

\*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

\*Mission and Community  
Service Litany of Dedication

Leader: Holy and loving God, you have loved us beyond measure.

People: **You have called us as the body of Christ to work together  
for the common good and to reach beyond ourselves in  
mission and community service.**

Leader: Generous God, you have endowed us with your holy  
spirit and with a variety of gifts to fulfill a variety of  
services with love and common purpose.

People: **We bring to you all the gifts you have given us;  
our treasure, our talents, and our very selves.**

Leader: Make us, with all that we are and all that we have, into  
steadfast and tender-hearted disciples, members of Christ's  
body and the church of Westminster whose doors are a  
way to service.

People: **We ask this in the name of the Holy Trinity, grateful for  
the liberating spirit which fill us with joy and love of the  
Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*Beecher*

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

\*Voluntary

Grand Choeur

Théodore Solomé

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## IN MEMORIAM

Elder Patricia Shafer 10/03/1934– 01/30/2024  
United with Westminster 08/13/2000

### SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of our mother, Faye Hildebrand, by her children Pat Hildebrand-Culler and Mal Hildebrand.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
- **Worship Leader:** Ben Bassett
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Juliana Eastvold
- **Greeter:** Dr. Diane Rutledge
- **Music:** Choral Society Quartet: Eleanor VanDeventer, Gailyn Draper, Adam Miller, Lyle VanDeventer; The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Erin Ekstedt (Head Usher) Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Camille Massey, Coleman Moore, Jim Parker, Jim Rigney, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

### EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Blood pressure checks (Church Office)** by Ellen Carpenter, Parish Nurse
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God's Promises are True! (Abraham and Sarah)" *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Priscilla Kluge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
  - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Caring Acts" (Mark 1:29-39). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Kate Morthland*
  - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Caring Acts" (Mark 1:29-39). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower*
  - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Fourteen: "King David" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
  - **Confirmation Grade 8 (Conference Room)** meet for Lesson Ten: "John Knox in Scotland" from Church History, *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Education Forum presents The Regulation of Guns in USA (Parish Hall)** The second session in this forum provides an overview of the regulatory oversight of guns and its societal and political implications. Led by Kate and Michael Morthland
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)** Youth will meet to enjoy games, dinner, and Bible Study. A meal prepared by Sara and David Eldridge will be served.

## 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](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. The next New Member Class will meet Sundays, March 3 and 10 with new members received Sunday, March 17. If you are interested, speak to a pastor.



**MISSION SUNDAY - Today**, mission will be highlighted during worship. This is the eighth Mission Sunday which began in 2016. Rev. Christian Choi, Associate Pastor for Parish Life, will preach. A booklet including a comprehensive list of the 2023 mission supported by Westminster and the members of the committees who serve will be distributed. The total Mission Giving for 2023 is **\$276,263**. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds and does not include the addition Organizations, Grants, and In-kind gifts of **\$107,395** enlisted by Westminster as the sponsoring congregation for the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

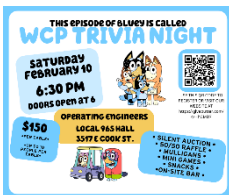
**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** Thank you to all who enjoyed the Egg-tastic Breakfast in support of the 2024 Youth Mission Trip. Prepared and donated by Pat Hymans and her team and served by the youth attending the mission trip, to date we raised \$1,550. Those who were unable to attend and who would like to make a donation to support our youth are welcome to do so.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets **Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Drive, 62711). Meg will lead the devotional by John Wesley entitled, "Loving one Another" (pp. 258-263) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP to Meg at 217-670-2052.

**THE CAPITAL BIG BAND** featuring music of the Big Band Era and more recent tunes will present a lively program in Westminster's Parish Hall on **Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** will meet on **Thursday, February 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall**. Joe McMenamin will reflect on his experiences serving as Alderman and serving on Springfield's City Council. Alan Stutz will provide breakfast and Dr. Roy Wehrle and Jay Kennerly will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church office.

**DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY** meets **Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.** We continue the Short-term Disciple Study: Invitation to John New Members are always welcome!



**WCP COOP PRESCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT!** On **Saturday, February 10** Be part of this fun evening! It's the preschool's biggest fundraiser of the year, and your support is appreciated. The theme this year is Bluey emceed by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz. Trivia begins at 6:30 (with doors opening at 6) at the Operating Engineers Local 695 Hall at 3517 E. Cook Street. There will be a wonderful Silent Auction as well. Visit this link to purchase a table! <https://givebutter.com/c/HhCMD7>

**THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** **Sunday, February 11** Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship on Sunday, February 11. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet on **Monday February 12 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary Peura will lead Lesson 6 “A Person with a Physical Disability” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters. Contact Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032).

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The monthly brown bag lunch will be held on **February 13 at noon** with drinks provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



**NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT Thursday - Saturday, May 2-4, 2024**  
New Harmony, Indiana is a Holy space where visitors meditate and celebrate the wonder and beauty of life and the God who created it. Along with award-winning architecture and sculpture, one can discover and explore labyrinths and a park dedicated to 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Paul Tillich.

Members and friends are invited to join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers on a journey to New Harmony for a Spring Retreat Thursday–Saturday, May 2-4. Participants are welcome to drive down Thursday morning to visit the historic city, shop, and enjoy lunch. The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and conclude at 12 noon on Saturday.

The cost of the two-day retreat is \$250 per person. This includes two nights of lodging and five meals. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for 40 participants. Sign up begins Sunday, February 4 in the West Narthex and applications are also available on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

The retreat will be based on John Philip Newell’s book A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul. Those planning to attend are also invited to the Adult Education Forum on Sundays, April 21 and 28 led by Blythe and Peter Kieffer. This two-week series entitled Paul Tillich: *The Courage to Be*, will be a review of the man and his writings in preparation for the New Harmony Retreat May 2-4, 2024.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**THEME: THE DESERT OF COMPASSION**

**5:30 P.M. CHICKEN AND STEAK FAJITA DINNER IN PARISH HALL**

**6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY**

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including:

- Liturgy and music presented by Bridges children and Children’s Choir
- Meditation by Rev. Choi
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

Small stone hearts will be given to each worshipper as a tangible reminder for the need to change one’s heart as we journey with Christ during this Holy Season.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, February 5

9:00 AM Garden Club of Springfield (Parish Hall)

### Tuesday, February 6

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)  
12:00 PM KDO Willing Circle ( Youth Room)  
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 Mission (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
3:00 PM Compass for Kids  
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off Site)

### Wednesday, February 7

9:30 AM Visitation for Pat Shafer (West Narthex)  
11:00 AM Memorial Service (Sanctuary)  
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group  
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)  
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)  
5:30 PM Mission and Community Service  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Capitol Big Band (Parish Hall)  
7:00 PM Ruth and Naomi Circle (Off Site)

### Thursday, February 8

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)  
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)  
7:00 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, February 9

### Saturday, February 10

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

### Sunday, February 11

10:00 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion  
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre K-5) (Third Floor Chapel  
and Tower Classroom)  
10:15 AM Confirmation (Gr 6-7) (Conference Room)  
11:15 AM Confirmation - Gr 8 (Conference Room)  
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (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**  
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**  
Part-time Custodians