



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

April 2023

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5 and
Grade 6 -7 Confirmation
11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation
and Adult Ed Forum
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

April 2

PALM SUNDAY

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Branch Extended

April 9

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
EASTER SUNDAY

John 20:1-18
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Outside the Box

April 16

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Mercy that Begets New Beginnings

April 23

YOUTH SUNDAY

Luke 24:12-29, 30-35
Seniors Emily Brower,
Aerwyna Eastvold, Louisa Eldridge,
Mia Marcy, Bryce Pound
Road to Emmaus

April 30

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Psalm 23; John 10:1-10
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Hooks and Gates



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children’s Choir and Choristers will sing, and the Westminster Choir will sing “O Divine Redeemer” and the “Sanctus” of Gounod. New church members will be received.

We conclude the Adult Ed Forum: **Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall** with Dale Rogers’ presentation of a series of churches designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY
April 2-9 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ’s entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster’s Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall beginning Wednesday of Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 6
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing “Lamb of God” by Twila Paris, and “They Crucified My Lord,” a spiritual with Michael Morthland, bassoon. This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the “Adagio for Strings” of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” and “Alleluia! For Christ the Lord is Risen” of Bach and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.



DEACONS BRING LILIES to members who are shut-in and who have lost loved ones since Christmas as we find comfort and strength in our Risen Lord.

FROM THE PASTOR by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Following Bill Stein's Organ Recital on March 26, Peter and I hosted a dinner party for two women clergy friends, the Rev. Drs. Julie Allen Berger and Karen Blanchard, and their husbands who traveled to Springfield to hear Bill and to meet Dale.



The impetus for the organ recital began July 17, 2021, when I co-officiated with Dr. Berger for the wedding of Dr. Blanchard's daughter at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. Bill Stein was the organist, and when I mentioned I worked with Dale Rogers at Westminster in Springfield, Bill spoke highly of Dale as a musician and as one of his mentors.

The recital was inspiring with Bill's selection of contemporary women composers in honor of Women's History Month in preparation for Holy Week. Listening to the music in the company of two dear friends and fellow women clergy with whom I have journeyed through the vicissitudes of ministry was especially meaningful. Julie, Karen, and I began a friendship when I moved to the St. Louis metropolitan area in 1982 to begin ministry. We met for lunch in the Central West End with women clergy hosted by the Rev. Evlyn Wehling Fulton, Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, who made a special effort to take young clergywomen under her wings. When the three of us were asked to give eulogies at her memorial service, I reflected on Deuteronomy 32:11: *As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young, as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions, so does the Lord guide Israel.*

In my mind's eye, this picture of leadership: an eagle nurturing and teaching its young to fly described the life and ministry of Evlyn who had the strength and vision of an eagle, stirring up the nest, hovering (in the best sense of the word), bearing up those she loved, empowering them to fly, and when one faltered, being there to catch, to encourage and to guide the next flight.

I am grateful for the gift of Evlyn, whose nurture made a difference in my life and ministry, and for those "Evlyns" in each of our lives who take us under their wings with affection and joy, reflecting the loving God whom we honor this Holy Week.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your support! Donations have been very strong in the first two months of 2023 in part because a number of families gave their annual pledge in a lump sum. Expenses are less than budgeted for the same period, so we have income exceeding expenses by \$43,796.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 210,631	\$ 177,534	\$ 33,097
Expenses	\$-166,836	\$- 177,534	\$ 10,699
Net Total	\$ 43,796	\$ 0	

REACHING FOR OUR PER CAPITA GOAL

Thank you to the 96 members who have given Per Capita donations through February totaling \$3,495. This is almost 50% of our \$7,000 goal. This year Westminster will pay \$36.25 per member to support the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearses each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room to prepare for Holy Week, Easter, and the Bless This House benefit concert.

THE ST. ANDREWS SISTERS will sing on Maundy Thursday and join the Westminster Choir in the Bless This House Benefit concert for the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

BLESS THIS HOUSE BENEFIT CONCERT SUNDAY, MAY 7 AT 4:00 P.M.

Members and friends are invited to this benefit concert on Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All proceeds will support Westminster's Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS meet weekly on Wednesdays, at 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively in the Music Room with Mrs. Moore. The Choristers and Children's Choir will sing Palm Sunday, April 2.

LANDSCAPE GUILD

Spring cleanup has begun as teams work within their designated zones. Thank you to team captains: Sue Cull (Front Terrace), Peter Kieffer (North of Sanctuary), Andy Sherrick (Parking Lot Islands), Jeanne Pittman (West Terrace), Dale Rogers (South Entry), and Scott Day (Memorial Garden). A workday is scheduled for **Friday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m.**

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS:

SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

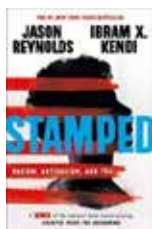
SUNDAYS, APRIL 16 AND 23, 11:15 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

The Adult Ed Forum presents **SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE: AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION** on Sundays, April 16 and 23. At the first session participants will engage in an interactive presentation led by Andy Panelli who will show how each suggested action will impact climate change on a MIT/Sloan simulator that will model their proposed solution instantly in real-time. The second session will be a follow up led by Dr. Werhle.

Andrew Panelli is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (BA, MBA) and has spent 3 decades with Fortune 500 companies in product development and marketing, with an emphasis on how to produce products that generate less waste, higher performance, and reduced landfill impact. Panelli is a group leader for Citizens' Climate Education, which is a non-profit and non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to educating the public on smart climate solutions. Andy is a longtime friend of the Kieffers, and we are excited to welcome him back to Westminster.



Dr. Roy Werhle earned a Ph.D. in economics in 1959 from Yale University, served the U.S. State Department and on President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors before he worked for the Agency for International Development in Laos. In 1964 he was sent to Vietnam and served as an economic advisor to three U.S. ambassadors until 1967, while also serving as the Assistant Director of the aid mission. He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield where he taught globalization & international governance for 49 years.



APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles Read Library Book Group will meet Tuesday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. The group moved their March book to April. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION

Sixth and Seventh Graders will not meet during the month of April because of special worship experiences and will resume class on Sunday, May 7.

Confirmation Class of 2023 meet Sundays, April 2 and 16 from 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in the Conference Room with Dr. Kieffer as they prepare for their presentation to the Session on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:15 p.m. A **Confirmation Dinner** celebrating our confirmands will be held on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall, following the 6:15 p.m. presentation to Session. Confirmands, their families, and mentors are invited to enjoy a wonderful meal provided by the Membership Committee. **Confirmation Sunday is April 30.** See details on page 8 of this Reporter.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

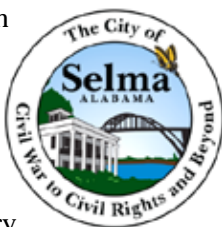
SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Senior High Youth meet Sunday, April 16 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for dinner and Youth Sunday preparation. Dinner will be provided by Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold.

MISSION TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AT 11:15 A.M.

Calling all potential 2023 Summer mission participants. Please plan to attend the Information Meeting on Sunday, April 23 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will review details of the mission trip to Selma, AL where we will assist in clean up and rebuilding following the devastating tornadoes in January. Additionally, we will visit historic Civil Rights Museums. The Intent to Participate Form and deposit are due on Sunday, April 23. Any questions, text or call Mary at 217-494-3810. Because of timing to visit civil rights museums and to allow for meaningful workdays, the Mission Trip will depart one day earlier on Saturday **JUNE 24 – JULY 1, 2023**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2 AT 9:45 A.M.

All children and youth are invited to meet in Parish Hall at 9:45 a.m. with their **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES.** We will prepare for the processional and presentation of our fish boxes. Thank you to all for filling their fish boxes with donations throughout Lent as we remember those in need and support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hunger and disaster assistance programs.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9 AFTER THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

Families with children (birth-grade 5) are invited to Parish Hall for an Easter Egg Hunt.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

April 2	Heading to Easter	Matthew 26:14-27:66
April 9	Easter Joy	Matthew 28:1-10
April 16	Peace Be With You	John 20:19-31
April 23	On the Road	Luke 24:13-35
April 30	The Good Shepherd	Psalms. 23

BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)

April 5	Holy Week gathering with guests: Psalm 23
April 12	Kind words are like Honey
April 19	Stained Glass Windows
April 26	Make Mother's Day Gifts

LIBRARY GUILD MEETING APRIL 18, 1:00-3:00 PM

We are excited to continue our monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 18 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. to keep our beautiful libraries stocked and maintained. Please join us or contact Karen Sherrick if you have any special requests or suggestions.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATE!! JUNE 5-9

Food Truck Party

June 5-9 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children age 4 to age 11 are invited to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! This street party helps children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs - and also to serve as the hands of God for ensuring that the needs of others are met. Register by scanning the QR Code or use the link <https://westminster.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

DATE: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

TIME: 4:30-6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Temple Israel (1140 W. Governor St.)

WHO: Children & Youth Grades K-12

Join us for our last gathering in the 2022-2023 program year as we participate in a service project honoring our theme "Caring for the Earth."



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL We have had a noisy and enjoyable time in the preschool during March! We studied music and explored rhythm, melody, different types of music, and how music makes us feel. The church kindly allowed us to borrow a riser that became a stage in our dramatic play center and resulted in many interesting performances! We finished our study with a special evening of exploring the classroom and musical activities called Dessert with Someone Special. Each child brought one special adult for some one-on-one time at the preschool. We also attended Todd Parr's "It's Okay to Be Different" at Sangamon Auditorium. On April 26th, we will have our Spring Fun Fair from 10:30-12 on the playground and lawn outside (weather permitting!). Families interested in our preschool are welcome to join us for crafts and activities!

We still have openings available for our next school year (2023-2024) in our two day class (for 2 ½ - 3 year olds which meets Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00-11:30) and our four day class (for 4 year olds which meets Monday – Thursday from 12:30-3:00). If you know any families looking for a preschool, please send them our way! – **Emily Rowley, Director**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM CELEBRATED SUNDAY, MARCH 5



The month of March began with the baptism of Arthur James Pinke, son of Maggie and Josh Pinke and grandson of Dr. Scott and Susan Day. March also included a delightful gathering for our children and youth as Grace United Presbyterian Church hosted the Children of Abraham. Their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cary Beckwith, led all in a puppet show highlighting that because “God’s Got the Whole World in God’s Hands” we need to take care for the earth. March ended with an inspiring organ recital presented by Bill Stein, organist at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood and former student of Dale Rogers.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM HOSTED BY GRACE UNITED METHODIST ON MARCH 8



BILL STEIN ORGAN RECITAL ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26



STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD KICK-OFF AND BLITZ WEEK – MARCH 27 – APRIL 1



On Tuesday, March 21 the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build Kickoff was held in Parish Hall. Dr. Todd Knox welcomed 80 members and friends of the community. The service began with Dale Rogers playing “It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” and closed with the hymn “Let Us Build a House.” Paris and James Capler expressed appreciation to Habitat, Westminster, and all the generous partners and sponsors who are making their home a reality.

The decking was completed on March 24 and 25 and the Blitz Build Week began Monday, March 27 under sunny skies. Dr. Kieffer signed the Bible presented to the Caplers by their Family Nurturer, Cheryl McKnelly. The Monday afternoon crew is pictured below standing in front of the newly raised walls. A video of the raising of the walls can be found on our website (thank you, Todd Knox) along with other photos.



Following the Blitz Week, professionals will install roofing, siding, soffit, fascia, and mechanical during the first two weeks of April. Following the City Inspection on April 19, insulation will be installed by professionals. **The next scheduled work opportunity for ministry partners are April 21-22, 28-29, and May 5-6 to hang drywall on-site and paint exterior doors and baseboards at Habitat.**

Thanks to WPC Presbyterian Women, First Presbyterian Church, and Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church who are providing lunches each day in our kitchen.

STEERING COMMITTEE: Dr. Todd Knox, Chair, M. Brownell Anderson, Paris and James Capler, Ellen Carpenter, Rev. Christian Choi, Susan Day, Don Ecklund, Robert Fair, Bud Harrison, Ann Hughes, Gregg Humphrey, Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Tim Kluge, Coleman Moore, Cameron O’Brien, Tom Owen, Cheryl McKnelly, Dr. Diane Rutledge, Mike Ryan, Dr. Susan Shea, Colleen Stone, Pastor Nick Sutton, Pete VanGieson, Gary Warnick



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

FOURTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH



The Strategic Planning Committee and Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force continue to address the mandate to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood within the decade.

SERVICE WEEK: JUNE 19 - 23, 2023

The dates for this year's neighborhood outreach are **June 19 - 23**. Please consider joining us for one or more days of the third week of June as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood!

MATCHING GRANTS

Local homeowners have been invited to apply for matching grants up to \$1,500 toward simple property improvements, especially addressing certain needs such as safety, security, and energy efficiency upgrades.

CONTACT MINISTRIES PROM

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Contact Ministries annual prom will be held Friday, April 28 6:00 p.m. at Illini Country Club. This year's theme is "Pretty in Pink." Westminster is sponsoring the event with \$1,500 from the Support & Endowment Fund. WPC is one of the founding congregations of this faith-based organization working to meet the needs of homeless families, with Dr. Kieffer serving on their Board.



MONTHLY MEALS

HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Pat Hymans who prepared the March 10 meal. The April meal will be prepared by Westminster Cooperative Preschool Board. There are opportunities for members or groups to sign-up for the remainder of 2023. You will find a link on our website to sign-up -www.wpcspi.org or you can call the church office.



SALVATION ARMY WARMING CENTER - Thank you to the Bridges children led by Karen Sherrick who prepared the March 29 meal. Westminster Hunger Action Team members will prepare bagged meals for the Warming Center on April 19. Please contact Krista Steller at ksteller@wpcspi.org to participate.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary. If you are interested in helping, please scan QR code, use the link (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>). or contact Jennie Alt for details.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH APRIL MENU

Canned Chicken/Tuna, Canned Fruit in 100% Juice, and Baked Beans or Veggies (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.



Fair Trade On Sunday, April 16, following worship, Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold in the West Narthex to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers. Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson oversee this ministry.



EARTH CARE UPDATE

Westminster has been recertified for the eighth year by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an **EARTH CARE CONGREGATION**.

ADOPT-A-STREET - On Thursday, March 16, Peter Kieffer collected trash on the designated blocks of Walnut for WPC.

SPRINGFIELD EARTH AWARENESS FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

The Earth Care Team will host a table again this year at the annual Springfield Earth Awareness Fair, taking place on Saturday, April 22, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Henson Robinson Zoo (1100 E Lake Shore Drive on Lake Springfield). Earth Day began over 50 years ago, on April 22, 1970.

FREE shuttle service offered by SMTD. Shuttle will leave from the downtown Transfer Center to the Henson Robinson Zoo and will run only on Saturday, April 22, 2023, for the Earth Awareness Fair. The route runs every 30 minutes starting at 10:30 AM at the Transfer Center, and with the last bus leaving the zoo at 4:30 PM.

TOYS FROM TRASH EXHIBIT

This year's exhibit is "Toys from Trash." We are collecting clean used T-shirts and socks through mid-April near the South Door in the West Narthex. We will display ways to repurpose them into dog toys and puppets.

CRAYON INITIATIVE

Westminster is collecting used crayons for the Crayon Initiative which prevents a waxy mess in landfills by melting them down and creating new crayons for donations to children's hospitals. Just drop them off in the bin near the South Door in the West Narthex. Thank you to Carolyn Berning who is organizing this initiative.



SHOE COLLECTION FOR CREATIVE REUSE MARKETPLACE

Westminster is a host site to collect used, worn out, old, and/or discarded athletic shoes to support Creative Reuse Marketplace as a part of Earth Care Initiative. Shoes will be collected throughout the month of April, and the box is located in the West Narthex.



EARTH CARE TEAM: Peter Kieffer, Chair, Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Becky McDonald, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION - Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited 10 members on March 12. If you are unable to attend worship on **Sunday, April 16** and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.



MARILYN RIGNEY will be available for blood pressure checks and consultation the first Sunday of the month, April 2.

SECOND HELPINGS MEAL MINISTRY

Congregational Care Committee and Second Helpings Meal ministry partners would love to provide a meal for anyone or family that could use a casserole. Please contact either Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter or Hospitality Coordinator Pat Hymans if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry. This ministry is made possible by the generosity of this congregation.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon on the second Tuesday, April 11. Beverages and dessert will be provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

LAYETTES FOR KUMLER

Join the women of Westminster in donating layette items during March and April in the box in the West Narthex. Items will be donated to Kumler Outreach Ministries in early May. If you would like to shop online, you can have them shipped directly to the church.



Attention Knitters: If you are donating knitted items, please let Sue Cull know what and how many items you have donated.

PW LUNCHEON will be **Friday, April 14 at 12 noon.** The program will be given by Sue Sawers on the "The Connections between PW and the Presbytery of Great Rivers." Carolyn Beatty will be the kitchen chair and chair of the day. Please R.S.V.P. on our website or by calling the church office.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet not meet in April. Their next meeting is Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Anne Haaker (313 Thames River Dr, 62711). Christy Pound will lead Lesson Seven: Sabbath and Self-Care and Linda Folsie will lead Lesson Eight: Sabbath and Justice.



ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, April 10 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead devotions and Sue Baker will lead Lesson Eight: Sabbath and Justice.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Nancy Scott will be the hostess and Sharon Zook will lead Lesson Eight: Sabbath and Justice.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, APRIL 14 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet **Friday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and Program at 6:15 p.m. Brian Dickerson from BLH Computers will speak about their Recycling program and BLH Museum. RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST THURSDAY, APRIL 13 AT 8:00 A.M.



Presbyterian Men gather on **Thursday, April 13 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Robert Stuart, Jr., attorney and member of WPC, will speak on "The Basics of Trusts." Tim Kluge will provide breakfast and Jim Dolan will give devotions. RSVP with the weekly email link, on our website, or by calling the church office. John Stremsterfer of Community Foundation is pictured visiting with members.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Andy Smith celebrates 97 years on April 5.
Dr. Bill Lienemann celebrates 91 years on April 6.
Kathy & Gary Brown celebrate 50 years on April 14.
Dr. Naomi Lynn celebrates 90 years on April 16.

WEDDING

Max Xanders and Mary Frazier Hutchison were married December 10, 2022 at St. James Episcopal Church in Fairhope, Alabama. Max's parents are Amy and Sam Xanders and his great-grandmother is Pat Picchi.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald H. Funk died on March 2 in Springfield. A memorial celebrating his life will be held this summer. The prayers and sympathies of the congregation are extended to his wife Deanna, their children Anne Funk, Dean (wife Layna) Funk, and granddaughters Ayden and Ella Funk.

Alice "Joanne" Roderick died on March 10 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her son, Blake (wife Betsy) Roderick, daughter, Pam Roderick, and daughter-in-law, Mary Beth (Hansen) Roderick and their families. In 2014 her son, the Very Reverend Keith Roderick, Provost of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Springfield preceded her in death. Rev. Gerald Boutelle officiated at her funeral on March 18.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

New member Katie Black on the death of her husband, and to Lucy and Elizabeth Black on the death of their father, Benjamin R. Black, on February 21.

Julie and Randy Robbs on the death of Julie's mom and to Amber and Austin Robbs on the death of their grandmother, Ruby Jewel Klein, on February 27 in Springfield, IL.

Norma Adams-Johnson on the death of her nephew, Robert Rawlins, on March 1 in Lincoln, IL.

Mary Gail and Steve Romack on the death of his mother, to Megan Romack and Lee Romack on the death of their grandmother, and to Kayla Romack on the death of her great-grandmother, Frances Romack on March 27 in Decatur IL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Bill Deemer who received January Colleague of the month for Memorial System Resources.

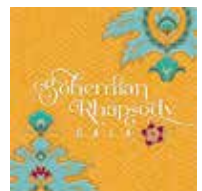
Amelia Tungett who has been cast in the Springfield Muni's production of Beauty and the Beast.

NEW ADDRESS

Pat Shafer, Mill Creek, 3319 Ginger Creek Dr., Springfield, IL 62711

PRESBYTERY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra will host the Bohemian Rhapsody Gala on Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel as they celebrate 30 years of inspiring performances in the Springfield area. Dale Rogers is the chair of the event.



Westminster will host the Presbytery of Great Rivers meeting on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

During the month of April, pastors will lead worship at the Illinois Presbyterian Home on Thursdays, April 13, 20, and 27 at 4:00 p.m.

YOUTH SUNDAY, APRIL 23



On Sunday, April 23 our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year's theme is **The Road to Emmaus** based on Luke 24:13-35. Seniors Emily Brower, Aerwyna Eastvold, Louisa Eldridge, Mia Marcy, and Bryce Pound will present meditations.

The Scripture reading of the day will be presented as a skit by Kristianna Eastvold, Matthew Scott, and Sam Simonson. Junior and Senior High youth will serve as liturgists and ushers. Special music to nourish our spirits will be provided by Aerwyna Eastvold, and Amelia Tungett, accompanied by Dale Rogers.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 30

The Class of 2023 will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, April 30 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth:

Samuel Robert Batterman

Maria Grace DeJong

Abigail Elizabeth Eldridge

Maria Elizabeth Lafrenz

James Jaewon Maeda

Macklin Donelan Metzger

Each youth will receive a NRSV Student Bible, which is a gift from Westminster. The Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons will host a reception honoring the Confirmands following worship. Thank you to those who served as mentors to our confirmands: Brad Steller, Dr. Judy Knox, Jeanne Van Gieson, Jen DeJong, Dr. Peter Kieffer, and Marilyn Rigney.



TRIVIA NIGHT RETURNS SUNDAY, APRIL 30

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M. Each year, members support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. Questions begin at 5:30 p.m.

This year we are excited to welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions. Sign-up yourself or your team online by scanning the QR code or using the link at <https://bit.ly/3lxTdYv>. Childcare is available in the nursery.



TICKETS ARE \$20.00 and can be purchased on our website, from a youth or in the West Narthex this Sunday.

DINNER IS \$5.00 and available for purchase at 5:00 p.m. thanks to Mary Ray, Pat Hymans, and their kitchen team. Participants are welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

SPONSORSHIP IS \$100 - This year you or your business can sponsor a round. Your business will be featured on the screen between rounds. Contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org for details.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED AND RECOGNIZED

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

On Palm Sunday, April 2, the following new members will be received at a 9:30 a.m. Special Session meeting and recognized during worship. Their photos and bios will be included in the May Reporter.

Kathryn Moore Black by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Joyce A. King by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Mary Offutt Halley by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Melissa M. and Eric S. Hostetter by Letter of Transfer from Laurel United Methodist Church.

Angela and Todd Lafrenz by Letter of Transfer from Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church.

Mary H. Maddox by Letter of Transfer from First Pres Church, Springfield.

Joyce A. Matthews by Letter of Transfer from First Pres Church of Witt, IL.

The Rev. Frank Gready, an ordained Presbyterian Minister and member of Wabash Valley Presbytery, is making Westminster his worshipping community and will be recognized.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
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Katie L. Moore
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Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
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Parish Nurse
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Church Administrative Assistant
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Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
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Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians

May Reporter deadline is Sunday, April 30.
Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, May 3.