



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

August 2023

## WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

### FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery Children Birth – Age 3

10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School following Children's Sermon Children Pre-K - Grade 3

11:15 a.m. Adult Education Summer Forum

August 6

### TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21  
The Rev. Christian K. Choi  
The Power of Magnetic Love

August 13

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Romans 10:5-15  
The Rev. Christian K. Choi  
New Lease on Life

August 20

### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 15:21-28  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
A Momentous Encounter

August 27

### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 1:8 – 2:10; Matthew 16:13-20  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
The Irony of Power

Sermon manuscripts are located in the West Narthex and online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

## ANNUAL MISSION TRIP REUNION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 6, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., participants of the 2023 Mission Trip will gather for a reunion and a potluck dinner at the home of Christy and Carl Pound (100 Pinehurst Drive 62704). We look forward to sharing memories, photos, youth will share how their experience changed them. Remember to bring a dish to share. Freshman and sophomores are invited to bring dessert, juniors and seniors to bring a salad or side dish, and adult leaders to bring chips and a drink. We will serve hot dogs and burgers.



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE



On Sunday, August 20, the children and youth of Westminster are invited to bring their backpacks to the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the blessing of backpacks as our children and youth begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.

## SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR!

### ANNUAL YOUTH KICK OFF SWIM PARTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 FROM 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 20, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., incoming Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a swim party at the Batterman Home (1620 Outer Park Dr.) as we kick off a new year together. Friends are always welcome and encouraged. Please bring a towel!



## YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING

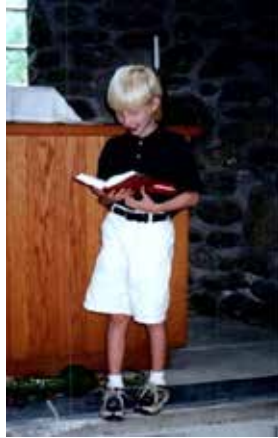
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 FROM 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 27, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a swim party at the Kieffer home (26 Island Bay Lane) as we splash into a new year together, celebrate the ministry of Karen Sherrick and welcome the ministry of Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz. Please bring a towel and snack to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

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

For everything there is a season and a time for everything under the heavens. Ecclesiastes 3:1

When our son Paul was a little guy, we learned from his pediatrician, Dr. Walter Benoist, that he was born with a bicuspid aortic valve which would need to be replaced in time. Paul has been under the care of his cardiologist, Dr. Alan Braverman, who recently recommended it was time. Paul's valve function has declined while technology has improved. On Monday, August 7, Paul will undergo open heart surgery for a valve repair (rather than replacement) by heart surgeon, Dr. Joseph Bavaria at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.



Paul reading scripture at the Stowe Mountain



The Kieffers at the 40<sup>th</sup> Dedication Celebration of the Chapel July 9, 2023.

We are grateful for the loving support and prayers of our faith community during this time in Paul's life. We anticipate a successful surgery and full recovery.

Paul is currently an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom practicing capital markets in the Houston Office. He was recently elected to serve on the Stowe Mountain Chapel Board.

## SUE SCAIFE GIFTS PASTEL PAINTINGS TO WESTMINSTER

Please take a moment to view the new pastel paintings above the serving counter. They feature landscape paintings during each season: spring, summer, fall, winter, and were a gift from Sue Scaife. Sue also gifted the Capler family with two of her paintings and donated the painting presented to Mary Ray as a gift from the congregation on Sunday, July 2. Thank you, Sue!



## JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Income through June 2023 continues to be higher than budgeted income. Expenses are over budget by nearly \$16,000. The year-to-date net total is \$65,396 income exceeding expenses.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 613,865	\$ 532,602	\$ 81,263
Expenses	\$-548,469	\$- 532,602	\$ 15,867
Net Total	\$ 65,396	\$ 0	

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD AND THE GREATER SPRINGFIELD INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION will present a program of music, dance, readings, and prayers at Westminster Presbyterian on Friday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m. This program is a satellite event leading up to the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering of the Parliament of World Religions, an organization started in Chicago in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exhibition. The Springfield program will include Native American Flute, readings and prayers in the Muslim tradition, Diane Dietz singing a solo from the Celtic Christian tradition, a Native American drum circle, Kurdish flute, hymns from the Sikh and Hindu traditions, the Westminster Choir singing Mendelssohn, dancers from the Table of Life Church, and a closing blessing from the Hebrew tradition. A reception will follow in Westminster's Parish Hall.

SUMMER CHOIR WILL SING SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 at the 10:00 a.m. service, with a rehearsal on Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Sunday, August 6. If you have contemplated joining the choir, this is a great time to give it a try.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR AUGUST will be Kelly Robertson on August 13, Lyle VanDeventer on August 20, and Katie and Pat Moore on August 27. Linda Andrews, Professor of Organ at Western Illinois University, will be the guest organist on August 20 and August 27.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 7. Choir will now meet from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 9 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. A choir dinner will follow the retreat, where we look at music for the months ahead as well as Christmas.

## ADULT EDUCATION SUMMER FORUM SUNDAYS, AUGUST 6 & 13, 11:15 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

On Sunday, August 6, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present a forum on **BIDENOMICS**: This term describes the new economic policies that President Biden and his administration are employing. This is a sea change from the fully free market policies of the last several decades for both parties. The new policies are fashioned to account for the changed nature of the world and rise of China. The emphasis is on using government to manage markets where necessary such as controlling foreign trade when needed to protect our security. Roy's short briefing on Bidenomics will explain why this change from the former Reaganomics has been chosen, how it is supposed to work, and the intended results.

On Sunday, August 13, Dr. Roy Wehrle will present a forum on **BIG DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA**: Looking at contemporary Chinese policies will give members a view of several paths forward into the future based on current China policies and a taste of some of the ramifications for us and the rest of the world related to China's policies. The reason for suggesting such a topic now is because Xi has recently taken major domestic and foreign policy steps while faced with evolving domestic problems including lower growth, excessive debt levels, and a declining labor force.



## APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, August 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Miracle at the Higher Grounds Cafe by Max Lucado. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



## YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

### SPECIAL THANKS TO MISSION MINISTRY PARTNERS

Thank you, Westminster, for supporting this year's youth mission through your generosity and prayers. It could not have been as successful, life-changing, and spiritually nurturing without the dedicated individuals who became ministry partners on this journey. Thank you to:



**Tad Allen**, for jumping in with both feet to serve others and for joyfully being "my personal valet" while my light duty restrictions held me back a bit, for allowing your deepest feelings to be shared for Liam, the residents of Selma, and your adult leadership team. Your presence added "laughter and liquid love."

**Cathy Brower**, for being the resident nurse and for caring for the injured youth, binding up their wounds, both physical and emotional, for your calm spirit and soothing demeanor. Your motherly protective manner was a divine gift.

**Susan Day**, for being a partner in ministry through all the ups and downs, for believing in my ability to lead this trip even when I doubted myself. Your experience in building porches and being the tool lady extraordinaire was invaluable and you shared love and laughter from beginning to end.

**Kyle Duffy**, for always being ready with a helping hand, a smile, and a hug. You brought a breath of fresh air and youthful vitality to the team. Your gifts are many. Thank you for graciously sharing with all of us. Keep it coming, Kyle. We need you!

**Dave Leonatti**, for being my right arm, "my brother Dave," for coming out of mission trip retirement to share your talents with us. You are a true leader, a "Mufasa" of people with your quick wit, creative song composing, and so much love to share. Serving at your side is one of my greatest joys in life.

**Nichole Magalis**, for nourishing us to do the Lord's work...your culinary skills are awesome, but you also served each of us with love, a smile, and great compassion so all were completely satisfied. The gifts you provide are filled with pure delight.

**Kevin Simonson**, for your creative, intelligent, and thoughtful service, for showing unconditional love and true compassion for Sam, the residents of Selma, and your leadership team. Your exceptional guitar playing soothed our souls and uplifted our hearts.

**Bill Deemer**, for thinking of absolutely everything and getting it organized and in place before the rest of us even had a fleeting thought, for always putting others first, and for encouraging all of us to serve as one— "Team effort!"

**Thanks to all** on this exceptional leadership team, for following your heart and me to Selma. You are creative, courageous, thoughtful, compassionate, fun, and led by the Spirit. My heart is full of gratitude for this amazing opportunity to go out into this world, to be the hands, feet, heart, and voice of our Lord, and to be the love of Christ in action with you.

### YOUTH MINISTRY PARTNER ORIENTATION

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Youth Ministry Partners (Junior and Senior High) will meet **Sunday, August 28, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** for orientation.

**Confirmation Teachers: 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Meridith Bryans, Cara Barnett, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer, Mary Ray**

**Senior High Mentors: Tad Allen, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Dave Leonatti, Nichole Magalis, Mary Ray, and Kevin Simonson**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick

### AUGUST AND LABOR DAY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

August 6: The Parable of The Mustard Seed

August 13: The Parable of The Great Banquet

August 20: The Sacrament of Communion

August 27: The Sacrament of Baptism

September 4: Called by Name Exod.3:1-15

### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Flyers, emails, and registration forms outlining opportunities for the 2023-2024 ministry year will be sent to families this month. Parents are asked to register their children through **KidCheck** on or before Homecoming Sunday, September 10. The following classes begin Sunday, September 10.

**CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH AGE 3** will gather in the **Nursery** following the children's sermon for a lesson from the **Frolic Preschool Sunday School** curriculum, which is play-based and helps our youngest children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful ways. Our Nursery, located on the lower level, is staffed by New Nursery Coordinators, Erin Winn and Millie McNutt, Nursery Worker, Maria Lafrenz, and members of the Nursery Guild.

**PREKINDERGARTNERS - GRADE 5** will gather in the **Third Floor Chapel** following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the **Feasting on the Word** curriculum. This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week, which makes it easier for families to live out their faith together. The curriculum invites learners from children through adults into the rhythm of the church year. Children grade 3-5 are welcome to stay in the service on Communion Sunday.

### WELCOME NURSERY COORDINATORS

We are excited to welcome Millie McNutt and Erin Winn as Nursery Coordinators.



**Millie McNutt** joined Westminster in 2019. She and her husband, John McNutt, III, have three children, Luke, Jennifer, and James. Millie was born in India. She attended a Catholic high school, earned her first degree in dentistry and a master's degree in hospitality management at a school in France.

**Erin Winn** joined Westminster in 2018 and has been a dedicated children's Sunday School teacher. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a master's degree in social work and currently works as an administrative secretary with the 4th District Appellate Court.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ORIENTATION AUGUST 27

Sunday School teachers for Pre-K through Grade 5 will meet Sunday, August 27, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. for orientation. Thank you to the following teachers who will nurture our children's faith in 2023-2024:

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Kate Morthland, Linda Purves, Julie Robbs, Karen Sherrick**



### BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 13, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes mission projects and interfaith gatherings. **Leaders: Meleah Berkowitz and Pat Roller**



## Youth Mission Trip 2023



The Youth Mission Team of 28 traveled the road to Selma for a life-changing week June 24-July 1 as they assisted members of the community rebuild following a devastating tornado, walked the Selma Bridge, and visited Civil Rights Museums and Memorials in Birmingham and Montgomery. Following a meaningful worship service led by the team on July 2, Mary Ray was presented a gift from the congregation for her remarkable leadership. The service may be viewed on our website. Mary has expressed her appreciation to each adult leader on page 3.



# STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT HOUSE DEDICATION



On Thursday, June 29, the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat House was dedicated with Dr. Todd Knox handing the keys of their new home to Paris and James Capler. Along with being the primary sponsor of this Habitat home, Westminster members bought numerous gifts as a part of the "Sprinkling" hosted by Presbyterian Women.

Dear friends,  
Your generosity to our family is overwhelming. Please know how thankful we are for all you have done to make our home a reality. Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and joy. We look forward to hosting a barbeque once our landscaping is complete.  
Paris and James Capler



## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to the following ministry partners who provided this community service for two weeks in July: Jennie, Isaac, and Ethan Alt, Janie Bahlow, Sandy Bellatti, Cathy Brower, Cathy Cragoe, Sally Godbey, Von Hinesley, Roy Wehrle, Mary Ray, Sue Scaife, Krista Steller, Carolyn Swanson, and Gayle Wilson.



**HELPING HANDS** - Thank you to Melanie Green and Krista Steller who prepared the July 14 meal. The August 11 meal will be prepared by Julie McDonough, Jeanne Pittman, and Mary Ray. There are opportunities for members or groups to sign up from September to December.

**SALVATION ARMY CENTER MONTHLY MEAL** - Westminster Hunger Action Team members will prepare bagged meals for the Cooling Center

on Wednesday, August 23 at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Krista Steller to participate.

#### STEADFAST NEIGHBOR LITTLE PANTRY

Graham Elementary began their new school year on Wednesday, July 19. There are reports from our ministry partners that this pantry is in frequent use, sometimes having people wait on us to restock it. It is being filled multiple times a day through various people, including others in the neighborhood. Help us keep this pantry full and restocked to serve those who are in need. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here or contact Jennie Alt for details.



#### GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH AUGUST MENU



**Beef Stew, Applesauce, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Fruit in juice or water**

**High-Demand Items:** personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank (CIFB). Thank you to Ed Caupert, Jim Rigney, Mike Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman for delivering the food to the CIFB.

#### FAIR TRADE MINISTRY

##### SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea are sold to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. This month's sales will be **Sunday, August 20** following the 10:00 a.m. worship.



## CORN PICKING AT GRIGSBY FARMS

THURSDAY, JULY 27

The annual sweet corn harvest for area food pantries and homeless shelters was picked on Thursday, July 27 in the early morning due to the heat index. Thank you to Westminster Day Laborers: **Jim Bryans, Scott Day, Bill Deemer, Harold Hale, Jay Kennerly, Mary and Charlie King, Richard Leary, Tom Owen, Christy Pound, Mike Sundquist, Pete VanGieson, Rev. Christian Choi, and Gary Warnick.**



This corn is planted each year by Grigsby Farms (thanks to the Hale and Pound families). Eighteen hundred pounds of sweet corn was delivered to Central Illinois Food Bank.

#### 2023 CONTACT MINISTRY BACKPACK COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Once again WPC is partnering with Contact Ministries. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries and at a special vaccine event hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield in late August. We will collect backpacks for elementary to high school age children through Sunday, August 13. Last year, we collected 190 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex. At the time of this printing, we have collected **111** backpacks. We will collect backpacks **through Sunday, August 13. The basket is in the West Narthex. Online orders may be sent directly to Westminster.**



#### COMPASS FOR KIDS RECRUITING MINISTRY PARTNERS

On Sunday, August 6, Compass Site Coordinator Sam Lipp will present a ministry moment during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

He will be joined by Vyvyan Wesley (School year program manager) following the worship to answer questions and have people sign up for the 2023-2024 school year in the West Narthex. Compass for Kids begins Tuesday, August 29 at 3:00 p.m. Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after-school program for the Graham Elementary School site.

#### EARTH CARE AT WESTMINSTER

##### AUGUST EARTH CARE TIP

You can reduce the environmental impact (and often expense) of a summer vacation by giving your home AC a rest at 84 degrees, by considering a road trip or train ride rather than air travel, by walking or biking at your destination, by reusing bedding and towels during longer hotel stays, by avoiding stores and restaurants which peddle single-use plastic, and by saving dinner leftovers for lunch the next day.



-Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

## 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, August 8. 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.

**PW SALAD SUPPER** will be held Wednesday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** resumes on Monday, September 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032).

**LYDIA CIRCLE** resumes on Tuesday, September 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

**RUTH AND NAOMI** will resume on Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dr. Diane Rutledge (3925 Surry Place Lane, 62711). Call Christy Pound (217-971-3082) for details.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER COOKOUT SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, AT 5:30 P.M.

Men of the congregation and their spouses/partners are invited to a summer cookout at the Grigsby/Hale Farm (15594 Rogge St, Tallula 62688) on Saturday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Jennie Alt and let her know whether you will bring a side dish, dessert or drink. Those who want to come early to fish are welcome.



## DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 5:30 P.M.



DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, August 18 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Raymond Bruzan, will speak on his book Have Violin Will Travel, which is about life of American violinist Louise Persinger. Books available for purchase, which include a children's book. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.

## WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 11:30 AM

Members and friends of Westminster will gather Thursday, August 31, at 11:30 a.m. with the pastors and the director of music and the arts, for communion followed by lunch.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** - Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited 13 members on July 9. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday, August 13 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION** will be available on the **second Sunday of the month, August 13**, by our Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

**TRANSPORTATION GUILD** is being created to meet the growing need of members for a ride to worship on Sunday mornings. If you are able to be a part of a rotation to provide transportation for a member, please contact Rev. Choi.

## NINTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Ninth Biennial Health Fair will be Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Along with B/P screening, glucose screening, and other health related tables, flu vaccinations will be provided. Details will be forthcoming.



## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Al Hibbert celebrates 93 years on August 11.

Sharon and Matt Gilmour celebrate 62 years on August 12.

Dorothy and Bob Wire celebrate 57 years on August 15.

Carolyn and Brad Swanson celebrate 55 years on August 17.

Anne Smith celebrates 92 years on August 17.

Carolyn & Keith Beatty celebrate 60 years on August 31.

### NEW ARRIVAL

Egan Jane Wilday was born July 4 in Chicago, IL. Egan's parents are Anne and Matt Wilday and big brother is Kruse. Her proud grandparents are Marty and Jeff Wilday.

Robin Lu Pinke was born on July 17 in Elkhorn, WI. Robin's parents are Maggie and Joshe Pinke. Her big brother is Arthur and her grandparents are Dr. Scott and Susan Day.

### IN MEMORIAM

Charlotte B. Brown died on June 11 in Waterloo, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children Wesley Brown, Jr., Courtney McRoberts, and their families.

Emma Marie Shafer died on July 11 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her parents, Cathy Schwartz and John Shafer, her sisters Katie Cooper DeMarco and Shelley Brown, and her grandmother Pat Shafer.

### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Katie Black on the death of her sister, and to Lucy and Biz Black on the death of their aunt, Maggie Moore, on June 13 in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Dr. Cara and Mark Vasconcelles on the death of Mark's father, and to Ryan, Emily, and Adam Vasconcelles on the death of their grandfather, James Vasconcelles, on July 12 in Springfield.

Tom Owen and Deb Boeker on the death of Deb's daughter, Rachel Boeker, on July 14 in Springfield.

Jess and Kayla Weitzel on the death of her aunt, and to Ryan Weitzel on the death of her great aunt, Carol S. Wendling, on July 26 in Springfield, IL.

### NEW ADDRESS

Dee Funk, Harbor Chase Senior Living, 12446 S. VanDyke Rd. Apt. 22, Plainfield, IL 60585

Anne & Matthew Wilday, 185 Kenilworth, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

### THANK YOU TO

The PNC, Todd Knox, Dale Rogers, Jay Kennerly and the entire congregation for the surprise celebration of our 10th anniversary of your call for me to serve as your pastor. "It had to be you, my friends!" Thank you for 10 fabulous years! Blythe



The Sherrick Family for the gift of office furniture from Dr. Bill Sherrick's Estate.

## WCP PRESCHOOL NEWS by Emily Rowley



Our school year begins September 5th and 6th. We are so excited about being back together! We still have openings in our Tuesday/Thursday morning class for 2 1/2 - 3 year olds and our Monday-Thursday afternoon class for 4 year olds. Please contact us if you know anyone who might be interested in our play-based, co-op program. **We'll start the year with our parent orientation meeting on Tuesday, August 29th and our meet your teacher open house on Friday, September 1st.**



## KAREN SHERRICK HONORED SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

5 1/2 YEARS AS DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Westminster will honor and thank Karen Sherrick on Sunday, August 27 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service for serving as Director for Children's Ministry since February 2018. We are beyond grateful for the experience, skill, initiative, organization, and warmth Karen has brought to this position which has enriched the lives of our children and their parents.

## WELCOME TO MELEAH AND AARON BERKOWITZ

NEW CO-DIRECTORS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Westminster is delighted to welcome Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz as Co-Directors for Children's Ministry. This is a part-time position with the oversight of activities and ministries related to children (birth through Grade 5).

Meleah and Aaron joined Westminster in 2018 and have been active ministry partners in Children's Ministry from the beginning. They have three children:

Sam (8), Junie (6), and Benji (3)



Meleah is a Clinical Informatics Consultant at Springfield Memorial Hospital and earned her B.S.N. at Millikin University. She currently serves on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and Chairs the Westminster Cooperative Preschool Board.

Aaron is a Professor of History at Lincoln Land Community College. He earned his B.A. in Classics and his Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Aaron teaches in our Adult Education Forum and chairs the Adult Education Committee.

We are honored to have such an intelligent, gifted team to lead our children. They will work with Karen during

August to become acclimated to the responsibilities and resources.

## HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. BRUNCH RECEPTION AT 11:15 A.M.

Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 10! We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., share the Sacrament of Communion, welcome the Westminster Choir and commission the Education Leadership Team.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2022-2023 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service. Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!



### NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2023 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

**DEACON (CLASS OF 2026)**

**ELDER (CLASS OF 2026)**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2024)**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2026)**

Nominations may be completed online at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) or by emailing the committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer at [ehuitt@yahoo.com](mailto:ehuitt@yahoo.com). Please complete by August 20, 2023. Nominees will be presented at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

2023 Nominating Committee: Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Mary King, Mike Nenaber, Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, and Julie Sundquist.

### Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff  
[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
Associate Pastor for Parish Life  
[cchoi@wpcspi.org](mailto:cchoi@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
Parish Associate

**Dale T. Rogers**  
Director of Music and the Arts  
[drogers@wpcspi.org](mailto:drogers@wpcspi.org)

**Mary A. Ray**  
Interim Director for Youth  
[zkarmar.mr@gmail.com](mailto:zkarmar.mr@gmail.com)

**Karen H. Sherrick**  
Directors for Children's Ministry  
[ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org)

**Katie L. Moore**  
Director for Children's Music  
[kkilduski@gmail.com](mailto:kkilduski@gmail.com)

**Millie McNutt, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

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Reporter folding and mailing will be  
Wednesday, August 30.