



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

December 2021

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*

11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum

December 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Confident of This

December 12

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Straight Talk

December 19

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Believe the Fulfillment

December 26

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Luke 2:41-52

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Turning Point

*Sermon manuscripts are located in the West
Narthex and online at www.wpcspi.org.*

ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

THE ADVENT WREATH

We began the Season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing, on November 28 with the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Thank you to new members Debbie, Jim, and Benjamin Parker, Megan, Greg, and Lily Swanson, Judy and Harvey Stephens, and Linda and Tom Purves for leading us in this Westminster Tradition in 2021.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 5

HANGING OF THE GREENS MUSICAL PRESENTATION - The morning includes a special musical presentation of the "Hanging of the Greens" by Westminster Choristers (Grades 3-5) and the Children's Choir (Grades K-2) during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

ADVENT CELEBRATION - A reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, the creating of ornaments and the decorating of Christmas cookies. Children who were not in Sunday School on November 28 will have the opportunity to create an advent wreath for home.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 12

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION will be celebrated during worship as we continue our Advent journey. Elders and Deacons resume Home Communion.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 19

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

Following the Children's Sermon, the Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull's and Meridith Bryan's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will then join us in worship as they process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

CHRISTMAS VESPERS

4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

On Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Westminster's Christmas Vespers program will include choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters. Featured in the program will be harpist, Ellie Kirk and oboist, Lucy Yockey. Deb Watts Elliott will accompany the Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers will play organ works based on Christmas carols.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS

Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias. You may go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate. Donations of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund are accepted at this time and through the year for pipers and drummers for St. Andrew's Sunday and the Millikin Brass for Easter. Please submit your donations with your desired wording and dedications by Monday, December 13. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Dear Friends,

On All Saints Remembrance Sunday (November 7) we welcomed Madelynn Hickman into our faith community in the



Sacrament of Baptism. She is pictured with me dressed as Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Reformation Sunday. I am dressed as Katherina Luther (wife and partner in ministry to Martin Luther). Two former colleagues of Katherina and Martin also joined us October 31 with Dale Rogers dressed as John Calvin and Rev. Choi dressed as John Knox. (See photo on page 4.)

November was filled with joyous and meaningful gatherings as "pictured" on pages 4 and 5. Our theme for Children of Abraham (November 10) was "Be the Light." Karen Sherrick highlighted Amanda Gorman's

Inauguration poem and the children illustrated times they were brave enough to be the light. The older youth (grades 6-12) gathered in the Youth Room for discussion. Following a mac and cheese dinner prepared by Pat Hymans, our friends from the Mosque expressed their condolences to me with the gift of the children's book "Mom's Sweater" by Jayde Perkin. They also donated three books to our children's library.

The Bay Weekend (November 13-14) began with thirty-eight at the welcome reception at the Sherrick's including four former students of Chad and Katie Carlson-Eastvold's from Lee University whom Sue Cull hosted at her home. Seventy-five attended the Adult Ed Presentation following worship. Our afternoon concluded with a delicious English themed dinner.

St. Andrew's Sunday was a festive culmination of the Christian calendar year for the Westminster family as 225 members and friends gathered for in person worship. The bagpipers and dancers brought us back to our Scottish roots and the choir wore their tartans as we celebrated Christ the King Sunday.

APNC UPDATE

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee met on November 18 to begin their work together. Krista Steller will chair the committee and Tom Owen will serve as secretary. The APNC will meet December 9 to review the Ministry Information Form and to select leadership competencies. The committee's goal is to be actively engaged on the Church Leadership Connection call system of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by the beginning of February 2022 and begin receiving PIFs (Personal Information Forms) from perspective candidates.

Please keep the committee in your prayers: *Krista Steller, Chair, Tom Owen, Secretary, Dr. Craig Batterman, Meleah Berkowitz, Meridith Bryans, Adam Ekstedt and Youth Representative Emily Brower.*

NEW MEMBER CLASS

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 9 AND 23



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on **Sundays, January 9 and 23, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon** in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on January 30 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR present the Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 5 during worship with explanations of the meaning of Christmas evergreens interspersed with Carols.

On Wednesday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. the Choristers and Bridges will meet at the church for a Christmas party with carol singing, cookie decorating, and hot chocolate.

BROWN BAG CONCERT AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN on Wednesday, December 8 at 12:15 p.m. will feature bass soloist, Logan Campbell and Dale Rogers, pianist, presenting Christmas Carols and Art Songs. Brown bag lunches are available at the church.

WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS VESPERS will be on Sunday,



December 19 at 4:00 p.m. The program will include choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters. Featured in the program will be harpist, Ellie Kirk, and oboist, Lucy Yockey. Ellie Kirk is the principal harpist with the Illinois Symphony and also

plays with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Deb Watts Elliott will accompany the Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers will play organ works based on Christmas carols.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT WESTMINSTER went up following the St. Andrew's Celebration in anticipation of the first Sunday in Advent on November 28. Thanks to Marc Anderson, Jim Bryans, and Keith Hamilton for putting up the tree, and to Brownie Anderson, Marc Anderson, Sandy Bellatti, Carol Bloemer, Linda Chronister, Sue Cull, Priscilla & Tim Kluge, Jim Kontio, Julie McDonough, Pat McNutt, Jeanne Pittman, Dale Rogers, Jan Schuermann, and Bill Ward for readying the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT ED FORUM: TWENTIETH CENTURY PRESBYTERIAN CREEDS

The third session led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz will be presented on **Sunday, December 19, 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.**

ADULT ED FORUM: DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS

This six-session study features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's reflections on the difficult teachings of Jesus. Lyle VanDeventer will lead the discussion on **Sundays, January 9, 23, February 27, March 6, April 24, May 1, 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.**



DR. KIEFFER'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study concludes The Ten Commandment study in December. On Thursday, January 13, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. we begin the new year exploring the parables of Christ in Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book and DVD Series entitled Short Stories by Jesus.

APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

The Adult Education Committee is introducing a new book group called "Apostles Read" which will gather in our newly renovated Ziegler Library on the Fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. beginning in January. The group will be led by Aaron Berkowitz. Participants may sign up on the church website and are responsible for purchasing their own books.

Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers by Michael Long is the book selected for the first discussion on Tuesday, January 25.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

NO SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GATHERINGS IN DECEMBER!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration: Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the youth are invited to Parish Hall for cookie-decorating, ornament-making, holiday brunch, and caroling!

12:30 p.m. Contact Ministries Christmas Shopping: Following the Advent Celebration, join us to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary) The Confirmation Class will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary) The Confirmation Class will gather after worship for a second rehearsal, this time with the children's participation.

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seniors and Juniors rehearse for the Service of Lessons and Carols (Youth Room and Sanctuary) Our seniors and juniors will gather in the Youth Room at 11:15 a.m. to review readings and move to the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. Confirmands meet for Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary) Junior High Youth will lead the children in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service. Please arrive by 4:00 p.m. and gather in the Chancel for a final rehearsal and sound check.



7:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols (East Narthex)

High school seniors and juniors gather in the East Narthex to robe and prepare to lead the Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. **Bring your bells to ring for the final hymn!**

WCP FRIENDSHIP FEAST

Each year in November at our Friendship Feast, we act out the story of Stone Soup for our parents because it contains an important lesson exemplified by our co-op preschool. "When everyone works together, wonderful things happen!"--*Emily Rowley*



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick



BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5) Sue Cull created an opportunity for our Bridges children to reinforce our church's mission that we are in the world for service. Sixty beautiful autumn-themed cards were created and mailed to our shut-in members.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, December 1 - 4:00-5:30

Choristers rehearse.

Wednesday, December 8 - 4:00-5:30

Christmas party with carol singing, cookie decorating, and hot chocolate.

Wednesdays, December 15-January 5 -

No Fellowship!

NEW NURSERY GUILD

We are forming a Nursery Guild to create an intergenerational space in our church nursery. We would like to provide this unique opportunity for older members of our congregation to get to know our young families and our babies as we walk beside our children and nurture their faith throughout their lives at Westminster. Please prayerfully consider signing up as a Ministry partner in the nursery on Sundays from 9:55-11:00 and contact Karen Sherrick (ksherrick@wpcspi.org). Our plan is that the rotation would be once every six or eight weeks beginning in January 2022.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 P.M.

All our children are invited to participate in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as the confirmands read the Christmas story. Children will be shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated junior high leader. Children ages three and under are invited to be lambs.

Children are invited to a walk through rehearsal on Sunday, December 19, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in the Sanctuary.

Children need to arrive on Friday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. and gather in the Second Floor Classroom, where they will receive a costume and be given instructions if they missed the rehearsal on December 19.

Please complete and return the postcard included in the Advent mailing to Karen Sherrick no later than Sunday, December 12 to let us know if your children are joining us and their preferred parts. We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating this Holy Season! If you have questions, contact Karen Sherrick (ksherrick@wpcspi.org).

REFORMATION SUNDAY AND HARVEST FEST, OCTOBER 31



WPC HOSTS CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



BAY WEEKEND WELCOMES DR. CHAD SCHROCK NOVEMBER 13-14



ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21



MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2021

This year, Westminster will again sponsor the nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, helping supply Christmas gifts for people working their way toward independence. **Please visit our website for a link to each family and to the Shelter and Playroom wish list.**

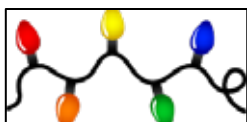
For assistance signing up for a gift(s), please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Gifts can be dropped off or ordered for direct delivery to Westminster (make sure to notify Jennie Alt to expect a package!), and all gifts need to be at the church by December 5.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex **until Dec. 19.** Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age. This is a program sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve.

THE MITTEN TREE for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. Please donate **by Tuesday, December 14** so items can be included in the Contact Ministries distribution. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION will be hosted by Westminster on **Wednesday, December 15.** Recipients were asked to pre-register. If you can volunteer at this event, please call Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Text GIVE2WPC to 73256, give online or by check to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.



DECEMBER EARTH CARE TIP CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING

Beginning in December, Westminster will recycle toothbrushes, toothbrush packages, toothpaste caps and tubes, and dental floss containers (empty and not dripping but no need to clean). We will continue to recycle Christmas lights, batteries, and ink cartridges. Look for the appropriate bin or box in the southwest corner of our West Narthex. Remember to recycle all paper, glass, metal, and plastic at the curb through your residential waste hauler. *-Dr. Peter Kieffer*

MOTHERLAND GARDENS COMMUNITY PROJECT RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT

In November the Mission and Community Service Committee approved a \$1,000 grant to support the work of Motherland Gardens Community Project to produce and supply low-income families with fresh vegetables and fruits. Located at 815 S. 15th Street, Yves Doumen, the founder of this non-profit organization, dreams of using urban community gardens to address the hunger and accessibility of vegetables in the most dire parts of Springfield. Yves, a native of Cameroon, is grateful for the generosity and support of Westminster, and is looking forward to a lasting partnership.



HUNGER AND HOMELESS OUTREACH

HELPING HANDS MEAL

Thank you to Ann Collins and Sue Sawers for collaborating on the November 12 meal. Carolyn and Brad Swanson will prepare the December 10 meal. The Helping Hands meal is prepared and served by ministry partners on the Second Friday of each month and serves 50 homeless men. **Additionally, a \$4,000 grant from the Mission Endowment was sent in November.**



HUNGER ACTION TEAM UPDATE

Dale Smith will chair the Hunger Action Team in 2022 and Jeanne VanGieson will serve as vice-chair. The team will continue to prepare a monthly meal for the Springfield Warming Center on Wednesday, December 29. **Additionally, Central Illinois Food Bank's request for a \$5000 grant to from the Mission Endowment was honored by the Mission and Community Service Committee.**



ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE SUNDAY raised **\$1,199** on November 21. St. John's Breadline in Springfield serves a hot, nutritious, and free meal in a clean, positive environment daily. The St. John's Breadline serves approximately 175,000 meals annually. Thank you!



BETTY SMITH MISSION ENDOWMENT

The \$1,625 remaining in the 2021 budget of the Betty Smith Mission Endowment was designated to CROP Walk with gratitude for their faithful journey to alleviate hunger in the world. **This donation in addition to the \$4,970 raised by members walking brings Westminster's CROP Walk total to \$6,595.** Additionally, we anticipate a \$1,000 corporate donation from LRS.



WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please check SignUpGenius for open dates in December. Items are located on shelves on the lower level by the elevator.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH DECEMBER MENU

Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Hash, Oatmeal Packets, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water. Thank you to those who place items in the West Narthex baskets for the Central Illinois Foodbank. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap (dish, bath, bar).*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEDICATION

Thank you to Ellen Carpenter who represented Westminster at the Dedication on Wednesday, November 10 and provided the Prayer of Thanksgiving on behalf of *Kendra Cutler and her daughter, Anijha*, who now reside at 2037 E. Cedar Street, Springfield, IL 62703.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 will not meet at WPC in the month of December. We encourage members to knit at home. There is still a need for hats, mittens and scarves. Please let Sue Cull know what you have placed in the basket. Knitting at Westminster will resume on Tuesday, January 4 with a brown bag lunch at noon. The annual Christmas luncheon will be at Illini Country Club on Tuesday, December 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins for details.



PW LUNCHEON will be **Friday, December 3 at 12 noon**. Franklin Middle School show choir, directed by Shelly Shaw, will perform "Music of the Season" promptly at 12:45. You won't want to miss this! Pat Hildebrand-Culler is the chair of the day. Carolyn and Keith Beatty will prepare the meal.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets **Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.** hosted by Alyssa Haaker at the home of Anne and David Haaker (313 Thames River Rd 62711). The lesson is on chapter three "Rahab." Please RSVP to Alyssa Haaker at 217-652-4026.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE HOSTS A CHRISTMAS GATHERING MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 FROM 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.



All women of Westminster are invited to the Village Tea Room (3301 Robbins Rd) to enjoy tea and a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters. The cost is \$12. To ensure there are enough participants (30 minimum), preregistration is required. Guests are welcome! Bring mitten tree items for donation or place them in the basket by the church office. Please R.S.V.P. to Jennie Alt.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, December 21 at 12:00 p.m.** in Parish Hall for a Christmas Luncheon. For more information, contact Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be **Thursday, December 9 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Alan Stutz will provide breakfast and Rich Canady will provide devotions. Jeff Fafoglia of Go Get Lost Worldwide Adventures will speak on their small Springfield based company and their private group tours led throughout Europe. Please RSVP via the weekly email link, our website, or by calling the church office.



DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will resume in March.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOME COMMUNION will resume on Sunday, December 12. A letter inviting members to partake was mailed November 15 by Dr. Kieffer and Rev. Choi. Thank you to elders *Aaron Berkowitz, Dee Dee Duffy, Becky Huston, Judy Knox, Lynn McMenamin, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Krista Steller, Mary Ray, Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer* and to *Deacons Erin Ekstedt, Sara Eldridge, Melanie and Bud Green, Mary Peura, Bruce Strom, Julie and Mike Sunquist* who agreed to serve home communion.

POINSETTIA DELIVERY will be Sunday, December 19 to shut-in members and those who have lost a loved one since Easter of 2021. The Board of Deacons oversees this ministry.

PASTORS BEGIN NINTH YEAR OF PRAYER MINISTRY

This Advent we began the ninth year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. As we enter a new cycle of the Christian year, we begin a new cycle of praying for one another. Throughout the year, your pastors gather weekly in the Chancel to pray for members and the world.

A letter is mailed three weeks prior to the week members are lifted in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

Louise Cragoe celebrates 97 years on December 5.
Dorothy Wire celebrates 92 years on December 11.
Edith Irwin celebrates 98 years on December 14.
Elsie & Bob Fox celebrate 60 years on December 23.

IN MEMORIAM

Judy A. Ridinger died on November 6, 2021. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her three children, Jeffrey (wife Karen) Ridinger, Michael (wife Dana) Ridinger, and Catherine (husband Dan) McLagan and their families. A service honoring her life will be Saturday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following the service.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Anneliese and Joe Fierstos on the death of Joe's father and to Nate and Abby Fierstos on the death of their grandfather, Robert H. Fierstos on November 11 in Lexington, KY.

Mary and Hal Perkins on the death of Mary's brother Dr. Edwin Forrest Pearson on November 10 in Acton, MA.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Contributions are increasing as members are fulfilling their pledges before the end of the year! Income is nearly equal to the budget, while expenses remain over budget by nearly

2021 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 826,078	\$ 826,294	\$ -216
Expenses	\$-868,427	\$-838,794	\$-29,633
Net Total	\$ -42,349	\$ -12,500	

\$30,000 as shown in the past few months. The net total shows expenses exceeding income by \$42,349.

ONLINE GIVING: NEW LOOK AND PHONE TEXTING OPTION

Beginning December 1, 2021, Westminster's online giving link has a new format which provides options to transfer a donation directly from your bank or to pay by credit or debit card one time or set up recurring donations. The new phone texting option connects members to online giving by texting the keyword "GIVE2WPC" to the number 73256. You'll receive a return message with a link which will take you to the new online giving page for your donation.

YEAR-END 2021 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2021 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. **Be sure any donations for the 2021 tax year are dated 2021 and received no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 4, 2022.**

STOCK DONATIONS Please contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, for instructions to make a stock donation and to alert us to watch for the transfer at our brokerage firm.

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION UPDATE

As of Monday, November 29 we have received 211 pledges totaling \$753,977. This is 94.6% of our \$797,000 goal. If you intend to pledge, please do so online or contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator at lrunkle@wpcspi.org. The generosity of this congregation enables us to serve friends beyond our faith community and to welcome friends into the joy of the life we share in Christ. - *Pete VanGieson*



CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class will read the Christmas story and lead the children as they participate as shepherds, angels, and magi. Rachael, Chris, and Madelynn Hickman will be the Holy Family.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Do not miss this special event that includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. **Adults are \$20, children 6-12 are \$13 and children ages 5 and under are no charge.** Please go to our website or send your payment and number attending to the church. Sign-up forms will be in the December 5th and 12th bulletins. This year we are limiting the gathering to 100. **Reservations and payment required no later than Friday, December 17.**

7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our high school seniors and juniors will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation.

In ancient times, church bells did not ring during Advent; however, on Christmas at the singing of the angel's song "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells rang out. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

SO BRING YOUR SILVER BELLS, BRASS BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS, AND EVEN COW BELLS
TO THIS SERVICE AND BE PREPARED TO RING OUT IN PEALS OF JOY!

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES!
CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.**

WORSHIP SPACE IN NEWLY RENOVATED ZIEGLER LIBRARY DEDICATED SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

On Sunday, November 28, we began Advent with the dedication of the worship space in the newly renovated Ziegler Library. During worship Clerk of Session, Tom Owen, presented certificates of appreciation to Sue Cull, Dr. Roland Folse, Bob Fox, Mal Hildebrand, Dave Leonatti, Gary Warnick and Dale Rogers for their gifts and leadership toward this endeavor. A litany of dedication was included in the service and members visited the library following worship.



The renovation project which began in March of 2021 was completed in October with a cost of approximately \$112,000. We are grateful to all who made the renovation of our Ziegler Library possible creating a lovely, intimate worship space which will enrich our faith community for years to come.

-Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
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The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
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Dale T. Rogers
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Krista Steller
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
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**Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians

*The Church Office will be closed
Friday, December 24 at noon, Monday,
December 27, Friday, December 31 at
noon and Monday, January 3.*

*Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, December 29.*