



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February 2020

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

*Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.
Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Sunday School for Pre-K – Grade 5
Adult Ed Forum 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon
Junior High Youth 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Senior High Youth 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

February 2

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.
EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Just Mercy

February 9

KENYA MISSION TEAM PRESENTATION
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Matthew 5:13-20; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
You Are Responsible

February 16

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:21-37
The Rev. Trajan I. McGill
More than Rules

February 23

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Buena Vista

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

FOURTH ANNUAL EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST AND ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

10:00 A.M. ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

ANNUAL MEETING

Members are invited to the Fourth Annual Egg-Tastic Breakfast Fundraiser, an incredible English breakfast prepared by Becky and Vallery Huston. (Thank you Becky and Vallery!) You will be served by the youth planning to attend the 2020 Youth Appalachia Mission Trip to West Virginia. **Please reserve your seat online at www.wpcspi.org.**



Thank you also to Mary Jo and David Jenkins who donated 100

pounds of farm-raised pork sausage. Those who placed an order in January may pick up their sausage on Sunday, February 2 in the West Narthex.

Come support the 2020 Youth Mission Trip and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be available at the breakfast. This is the 184th Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

KENYA MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

On Sunday, February 9 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the Kenya Mission Team will tell the story of their life changing adventure through words, music and photos.

During their time in Kenya, the team completed the building of the PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa) Gathiriga Church. This is the tenth church built in the Iria-Ini Presbytery about four hours from Nairobi. It was celebrated at a three and a half hour worship service with 300 in attendance.



The second building campaign was the completion of 2 classrooms at the Canaan School. This was at a different location and because the floorplan was so similar to the church, the team was able to complete it at a faster pace and interact with the children. The school serves 150 students with eleven teachers who presented the team with gifts following a short dedication of the classrooms.

Additionally, the team visited the Rescue Center & Karai Orphanage (where they presented the soccer balls) and a Retirement Home (where they presented the reading glasses). Their adventure will culminate at Maasai Mara with a Safari.

Come, hear their story on Sunday, February 9 and enjoy the photos on page 4 and 5 of this Reporter.

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

The Sunday following Epiphany is the **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**. This year we gathered at the font to renew the baptismal covenant in a simple service which includes the prayer:



Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for nourishing and sustaining all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. Through the waters of the sea you led your people Israel out of bondage, into freedom in the land of your promise. You sent Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing and rebirth. We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism, calling us by name, and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to welcome and nourish the children in this faith community. Journey with us, in us, before us, through the river of life and into the world. Amen.

Following this prayer, water is poured into the font, transferred into silver bowls, and sprinkled upon the congregation as the pastors walk down the aisles and affirm:

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

It was especially joyful to renew our baptismal covenant on the same day we commissioned our Kenya Mission Team! Shells will be distributed on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of our baptisms as we prepare for Holy Week. What a joy it is to partner in ministry with each of you.

2019 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year with a positive net balance. The 2019 year-end has income exceeding expenses by \$4,140. While pledge giving was less than budgeted, total income as well as expenses were both more than budgeted largely because receipts and expenses of \$31,250 related to the Kenya mission trip were not budgeted.

2019 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,066,942	\$ 1,036,150	\$ 30,792
Expenses	\$-1,062,802	\$-1,036,150	\$ 26,652
Net Total	\$ 4,140	\$ 0	

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign reached 100% of its \$822,000 goal. We have received **260 pledges totaling of \$822,259**. This included pledges from 17 new or newly committed families. In January, the Session adopted the 2020 budget totaling \$1,040,985.

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$35 per member as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support the work of our denomination in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your special per capita contribution of \$35 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN gifts received toward pledges in 2019 totaled \$147,639, and 2019 non-pledge gifts were \$24,191. Toward the total pledges of \$1,650,950, we have received \$1,574,551 since the beginning of the campaign. Total campaign non-pledge gifts are \$2,561,775.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS rehearse each Wednesday at 4:45 p.m. following the Bridges program. The project for the coming months is the preparation of music for the Ash Wednesday service and the musical *Jonah and the Whale*.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR is to be commended for their perseverance during the past snowy and cold weeks. Many thanks to Sandy Bellatti, Carolyn Berning, Arlene Cooney, Leah Duling, Pat McNutt, Jeanne Pittman, and Pat Roller for their help in clearing out the choir folders from the fall semester and readying them for new music for the spring. Rehearsals of the choir are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants through age four has resumed its Saturday sessions at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese to the second floor classroom.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR, our choir for Kindergartners through second grade, will begin weekly rehearsals on Tuesday, February 4 at 4:45 p.m. This choir will be a part of the celebrations on Palm Sunday.

PIANO CONCERT - Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m. when Westminster presents **NIKOLAUS PINE**, pianist. Nik has performed throughout the US as well as Austria where he has performed in the Haydn'sall, and the Empiresaal within the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt. We are delighted to welcome this fine young pianist.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS:

CIVIL RIGHTS AND 20TH CENTURY MUSIC Sundays, February 9, 16, 23 AT 11:15 A.M.

During the 20th century, emerging technologies permitted musicians Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Jimi Hendrix and Bob Marley to develop new genres of Jazz, Rock and Reggae that would transform the music industry and lead this march of the civil rights movement. Dr. Peter Kieffer will lead the class.



SOWING TEARS, REAPING JOY:

THE BIBLE AND BRAHMS' REQUIEM SUNDAYS, MARCH 1, 8, 15 AT 11:15 A.M.



This course will provide a venue to hear Johannes Brahms' Requiem and to explore the tenderness and passion of grief and hope within the Bible. Led by Dale Rogers and Lyle VanDeventer.

The Adult Education Forum meets on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, MARCH 15 AND 22 AT 11:15 A.M.



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 15 and 22 at 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 29, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

ANNUAL MEETING BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2



All youth attending the 2020 Mission Trip are expected to work the fourth annual Mission Trip Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, February 2. **Plan to arrive by 8:00 a.m. and work through the morning!** The Mission participants will prepare and serve a delicious English Breakfast before worship at

10:00 a.m. Come support the Mission and be well nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship! The youth will travel to Cross Lanes July 25-Aug 1 where we will be working to repair homes and to build relationships in Kanawha County, West Virginia.

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Junior High youth (Confirmation & Confirmation Prep) meets on Sundays, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. for study, worship, fellowship, and dinner. Senior High youth meet on Sundays, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., for worship, fellowship/dinner, and Bible study.

Date	Confirmation Prep	Confirmation	Sr. High
Feb 2	Egg-Tastic Breakfast (gather at 8 a.m.) No PM Gathering (Super Bowl Party Cancelled)		
Feb. 9	Session 14: King David	Session 9 Church's Fellowship	Is Science More or Less True Than the Bible?
Feb. 16	Session 15: King Solomon	Session 10 Breaking of Bread	Does God Really Care If I Pass Chemistry?
Feb. 23	Session 16: Prophet's Warnings	Session 11 Devote to Prayer?	Do All Paths Lead to the Same God?

CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS VISIT TEMPLE ISRAEL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 5:00 P.M.



On Friday, February 21, at 5:00 p.m. eighth graders, their parents and mentors will gather at Westminster for their visit to the Temple Israel (1140 W. Governor) in Springfield. Service begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner following in their fellowship hall. RSVP to Rev. Choi by Sunday, February 16 or on the web: www.wpcspi.org/confirmation. Special thank you to Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos and Beth Kincaid serving as mentors to our confirmands this year.

2019 YOUTH MISSION MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

It is not too late to join us this July as we head out to West Virginia for our annual mission trip. All Team Meeting on **Sunday, February 23rd from 11:15 a.m. – noon** in the Youth Room for team building and talk more about Appalachia. If you have not done so or joining mission team, please submit \$250 and paperwork. www.wpcspi.org/2020



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

BRIDGES UPDATE!

Bridges Midweek Fellowship for children in grades 3-5 meets Wednesdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. prior to Choristers. On January 22, Bridges children met with their advocates, *Thank you to advocates: Camille & Tom Massey, Marilyn Rigney, Pat Roller, Suzie Spada, Carolyn & Brad Swanson, and Sharon Turner.* During February, Bridges children prepare for the Ash Wednesday Communion Service.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Children and youth (K-Grade 12) will gather Wednesday, February 12, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Temple Israel (1140 W. Governor St.). We will join friends from other faith communities to build friendships, learn about one another and share fellowship over a meal. This year's theme is "Being a Good Neighbor?" If your child needs transportation, please email Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org.

TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING

Sunday school teachers and youth assistants will meet Sunday, February 16 at 11:15a.m. in the third-floor classroom for a mid-year meeting to review curriculum for spring semester, prepare for Lent, and share our vision together.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL PROJECTS

We are fortunate to have Sue Cull as part of our teaching ministry. She shares her talents with our children by planning and implementing special projects. In January our Foundations class (Grades 3-5) created the map of Palestine during the time of Jesus. On Sunday, February 16, the class will prepare for a Seder celebration which will be held in the kitchen on Sunday, February 23.



PREPARING FOR LENT: THE SEASON OF INCLUSION

Lenten Devotional Bags will be mailed to each family the week of February 10 in preparation for Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26. The bags will contain verses for daily reflections.

One Great Hour of Sharing Calendars will also be included in the mailing. The Fish boxes will be distributed on Sundays, February 23 and March 1. Throughout Lent, children are invited to fill their fish boxes with donations as we remember those in need and support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hunger and disaster assistance programs.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 26: Families are invited to dinner at 5:45 p.m. and a family centered worship service at 6:30 p.m.

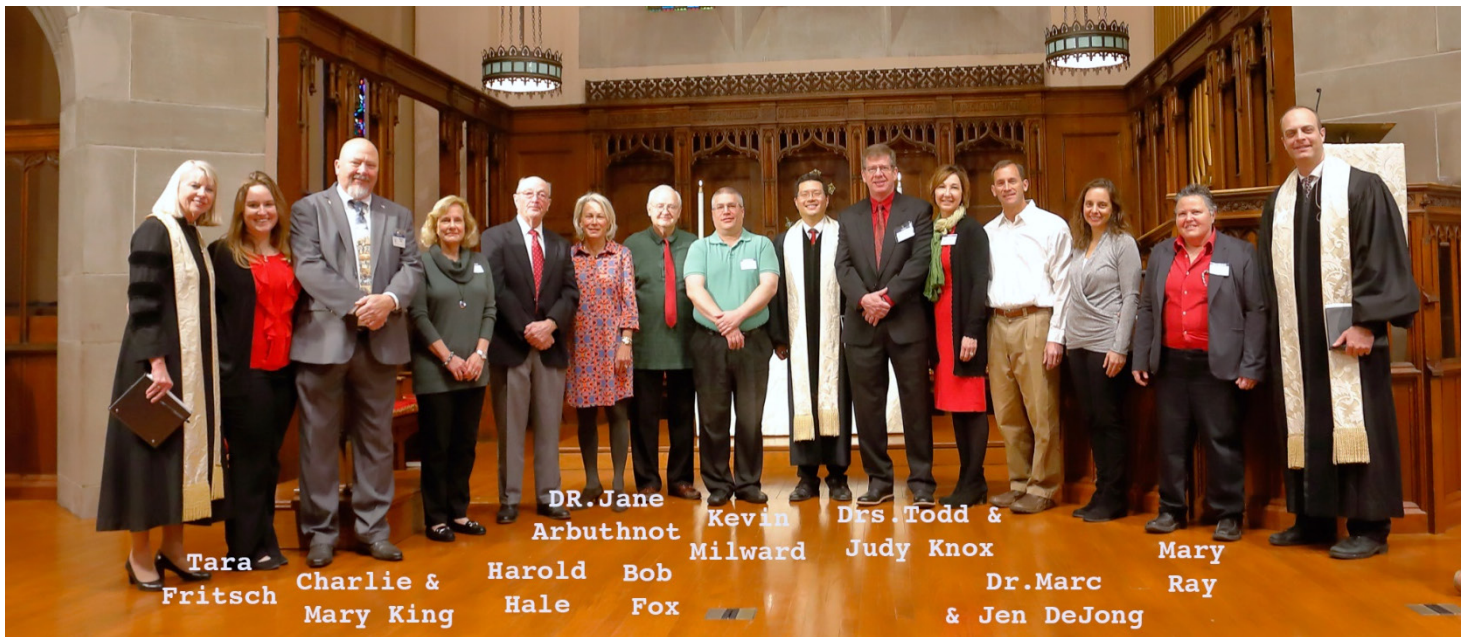
WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

TRIVIA NIGHT IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

The Annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction is **Saturday, February 29th** at the VFW Hall (2211 Old Jacksonville Rd.). **Doors open at 5 p.m., trivia begins at 6 p.m.,** and free childcare is available by registering with Mary Alice Suter via email at maksuter@yahoo.com. Hope you can join us!



**ORDINATION, INSTALLATION, RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT,
AND KENYA TEAM COMMISSIONING
JANUARY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**



On Sunday, January 5, Westminster ordained and installed the Deacons and Elders (Class of 2022 and youth) following an inspirational presentation of "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" (Music: Southern Harmony, 1835) by the St. Andrew's Sisters (Julie Blythe, Amanda Neubauer and Eleanor VanDeventer), accompanied by Ann Collins on the fiddle and Dale Rogers on the piano.

On Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 12, Westminster participated in the Service of the Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant and commissioned the Kenya Mission Team.

KENYA MISSION TRIP
JANUARY 14-30, 2020



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CONTACT MINISTRIES PROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Each year Contact Ministries holds its major fundraising event featuring dinner, an auction, and dancing. Westminster is sponsoring the event with \$1,000 from the Support & Endowment Fund. WPC is one of the founding congregations of this faith-based organization working to meet needs of homeless families, with Dr. Kieffer and Joe Fierstos serving on their Board. Westminster also supports Contact Ministries through our annual mission giving budget and the H.E.A.L. Fund, as well as by hosting their Christmas Distribution each year in December, and the Elizabeth Circle volunteers the third Monday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. WPC was also the featured partner in their January newsletter.



DANCING WITH THE STARZ, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22



This annual fund-raiser for the Springfield Art Association will be Saturday, February 22, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. In 2019, Meredith and Jim Bryans competed. This year, **Beth and Tad Allen** will be representing WPC, sponsored by Marty Sumner. Members are invited to attend (\$65 / person). You may also vote for Beth and Tad at <https://www.springfieldart.org/dwts.html> RSVP by February 15 to be seated at a Westminster table.

EARTH CARE TEAM MEETING – The Earth Care Team will meet Sunday, Feb. 2, 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. New people are always welcome to join the team, led by Peter Kieffer, which includes Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Becky McDonald, Lynn McMenemy, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, and Brad Steller.



FEBRUARY EARTH CARE TIP

Most of us know the three R's of earth-friendly consumerism: reduce consumption if we can, reuse products we must have, and recycle those we discard. Now we can add two more: *refuse* that free single-use plastic straw, cup, or bag (which encourages vendors to think green) and *repair* rather than discard broken items (which not only reduces waste but also supports the American service industry). Although we love to recycle, usually one of the other R's is a better choice for God's creation.

MISSION IN 2020 – The Mission and Community Service Committee has a need for several additional members from the congregation at large. If you sense working to help lead WPC's mission and service efforts is something you'd like to be involved in, please talk to committee chairperson Kathy Germeraad or Rev. Trajan McGill.

HELPING HANDS MONTHLY MEAL

WPC provides dinner for the Helping Hands homeless shelter on the second Friday of each month. The dinner on February 14 is being provided by **Janie Bahlow, Sally Godbey, Julie James, Patricia Picchi, and Amy Xanders**. We still need volunteers to provide meals in each month from April through November.

FAIR TRADE AT WESTMINSTER

Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil and a variety of nuts are available for sale one Sunday each month after worship services. These sales benefit small farmers who work and employ workers in environmentally sustainable, economically equitable ways, and profits are used for missions and service of the church. The February Fair Trade sale will occur on **February 9**, with lots of great chocolate available for Valentine's Day, along with the usual full line of coffee, tea, and other sustainably grown food items. We accept payment by credit card, debit card, cash, or check.



MEETING OUR NEIGHBOR'S NEEDS

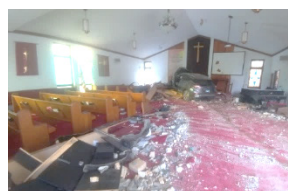


MATTHEW 25

Westminster is currently exploring taking part in two new denomination-wide initiatives of the PC(USA) aimed at connecting with need in the world. Becoming a **"Matthew 25 Church"** involves committing to a vision of growing congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty, all while remembering the words of Matthew 25:31-46, in which our Lord tells those before him that whoever sees to the needs of "the least of these" is showing love toward Jesus Christ himself. More specifically centered on one of those needs in particular, becoming a **Hunger Action Congregation** involves intentionally working in multiple areas of our church life to combat hunger at both the local and systemic levels. Look for more information in the near future about these projects.

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH FEBRUARY MENU: Canned Soups with Pop Tops, Peanut Butter, Boxed Crackers, Applesauce. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

DISASTER AT NEIGHBORING CHURCH



A recent vehicle accident largely demolished the Sanctuary of the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield. Please keep the church and those involved in the accident in your prayers. Our Session voted to provide \$1,000 from the Support and Endowment Mission and Benevolence Fund to help their congregation cover immediate needs and continue to function while waiting for insurance and repair processes to move forward.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER



HOME COMMUNION – Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited seven members on January 12. If you are unable to attend worship on February 9 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.

SECOND HELPINGS MEAL MINISTRY

Westminster's meal ministry, initiated in winter of 2018, hopes to reach people just home from the hospital or in other situations where a meal would be appreciated. Thanks to Suzie Spada for coordinating this ministry over the last two years. Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter will be the new meal coordinator. If you know of someone who could use a casserole, or if you'd enjoy occasionally making and bringing a dinner to someone, please contact Ellen Carpenter.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 4

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

K2P4 Mission gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will meet for a brown bag lunch in the kitchen at 12:00 p.m. and knit at 1:00 p.m. on February 11. Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-544-8657.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW LUNCHEON Join with us Friday, February 7 at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair will be Mary Ray and Chair of the Day will be Suzie Spada. The 2020 Officers will be installed:

*Sue Sawers, Moderator; Marci Irvine, Treasurer;
Lynne Cleverdon, Mission; Suzie Spada, Secretary;
Camille Degner, Correspondence Secretary;
Nancy Canady, Chair of the Day;
Pat Hymans, PW Luncheons*

Dr. Ken Runkle, Ph.D. in Environmental Health, will provide the program entitled "In Search of Clean Water in Liberia." The 2020 PW handbook will be available.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Ellen Carpenter (2529 Wydown Ave.) to discuss The Debate, #4 and Wisdom Stories in *Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. If you would like info, call Meg Kontio at 217-670-2052.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet **Monday, February 10 at 5:30 p.m.** in Second Floor Classroom. Mary Peura will lead the discussion of Chapter 5 "God with Us When We're Powerless" in the *2018-2019 PW Horizons Bible Study: God's Promise - I Am with You* by Amy Poling Sutherlin. For Information, call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m.** in the church library. Leah Duling will give devotions and will teach Lesson 5 "Words of Love; Don't Kill Each Other" from the *2019-2020 PW Horizons Bible Study: Love Carved in Stone: A fresh look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Gamble.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Presbyterian Men will meet **Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 a.m.** for a breakfast gathering. Mike George, of the Illinois Air Combat Museum, will speak on the history of the museum, its mission, and the current displays. David Mitchell provide devotions and Harold Hale will provide breakfast. Please RSVP online or by calling the church office.



LIBRARY NEWS



Thank you, Lucy & Ben Bassett, for donating children's books to the Elaine Ryder Children's library in honor of Sue Cull and her work with the Children's Choir.

Lenten/Easter children's and adult books will be available on the cart in the West Narthex following the 10:00 a.m. service. The adult library has a wide variety of historical books on Easter. Come browse additional Lenten and Easter titles in both libraries.

The Library Committee welcomes book donations for adult, older children, and pre-teen/teen fiction books. Please place in the Church Office.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Carol & Rev. John Stahlman celebrate 63 years on February 2.

Mary Ann Nation celebrates 90 years on February 11.

Margie Dobson celebrates 99 years on February 16.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary L. Schnirring died January 12, 2020.

William R. Schnirring died January 26, 2020.

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to their daughters and husbands Kathy and Randy Germeraad, Carolyn and Dan Dungan, grandchildren Scott Germeraad (wife Colleen), Carrie Walden (husband Nick), Colin Dungan, and Caitlin Simhauser (husband Mark), and great-grandchildren Declan, Merrin, Verity, and Isla Germeraad, and Nora Simhauser. A joint memorial service celebrating their lives will be held Thursday, May 14 at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary.

James "Jim" H. Bressan died on January 12, 2020 in Waterford, WI. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his family. A private family service will be held.

Lois C. Strom died January 25, 2020. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her husband Bruce Strom, their daughters Karen (Jamie) Strom Pruitt, Blue Strom, and grandchildren Mavis Pruitt, Tara Pruitt and Aiden Wolsey. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Elizabeth Marcy, who was honored as Arts Educator, by the Springfield Area Arts Council, at the 20th Mayor's Awards for Arts, on January 13th. Elizabeth has been teaching Visual Arts for Springfield Public Schools for over a decade, and is actively engaged in multiple arts-based events and organizations, throughout our community.

Carolyn Berning and the late Lois Strom, who are recipients of the Loyalty Award for Exceptional Alumni Service of the University of Illinois Springfield. This award is for their outstanding service to UIS.

Hank Beatty and Eli Vogler, who were named in the SJR 2019 Best of Preps All-Area Large School Football Team for Rochester and Chatham.

SAFETY TEAM MEETS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Safety Team meets Sunday, February 9, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. In 2018 a group of interested members gathered to formulate a plan for security during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The Safety Team is led by retired FBI agent John Stafford.

Currently 21 members serve on the Safety Team and rotate on Sunday mornings. Utilizing two-way radios and security cameras, the team communicates with one another, ushers, and staff responsible for our children to assure a welcoming and safe environment for those gathered for worship. If you are interested in joining the team, contact John Stafford.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME



Cake donations are needed for the Presbyterian Home's monthly Birthday Celebration. If you are not signed up currently and would like to help, please contact Nancy Canady 546-8469.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Offices will be closed February 17, in observance of President's Day.



STEADFAST NEIGHBOR UPDATE

The Strategic Planning Committee met in January to propose the timeline for the winter, spring, summer and fall as we proceed with the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor. The following is a brief outline of what 2020 holds for us!

LOAN

In January, Session approved our request to apply for a loan up to \$1.3 million with the Presbyterian Church (USA) Investment and Loan Program which will be repaid with accumulated endowment earnings in the Special Church Support Fund. After bids are received and the amount for the loan is finalized, approval is needed from Session, the Congregation, and Presbytery.

HARDSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE TASK FORCES

Once we receive final approval from the City of Springfield for the parking lot plan created by Vasconcelles Engineering, bids will be secured. The apartments at 517 and 519 S. Walnut are vacated and abated of asbestos. Bids for demolition are being sought which will include the garage at 522 S. Glenwood and half of the garage at 519 S. Walnut. The 522 S. Glenwood garage will be replaced. The West Terrace plans created by John Shafer are being finalized and work will begin this Spring.

MISSION TASK FORCE

The task force is creating a letter to be sent to neighbors in the Spring. The letter will include an application for Westminster's Steadfast Neighbor Matching Grant, information on the City of Springfield Grants, and an application to sign up for the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week next summer. A team of members will do minor repairs on neighbor homes the week of July 13-17, 2020. Providing advocacy and information for renters is also being explored. \$30,000 from accumulated endowment earnings in the Mission and Benevolence Fund has been designated for 2020.

FOUNDERS' SUNDAY MAY 31, 2020

Founders' Sunday will be commemorated on Pentecost! We will celebrate the culmination of the Building a Legacy of Faith Twenty-Year Anniversary Endowment Campaign initiated in 2015 and participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan. Work on the parking lot and East Entry begins Monday, June 1 with the goal of completion by Commotion Sunday, September 13. Landscape work will continue in the fall.

Todd Knox, Chair of Strategic Planning

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

THEME: A SEASON OF INCLUSION

5:45 P.M. CHICKEN AND CAESAR SALAD 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:

- Bridges Children and Choristers lead worship and present music
- Meditation by Rev. Choi
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion

This year **shells** will be distributed to members as a reminder of our baptisms in this season of inclusion as we prepare for Holy Week.

LENTEN GIVING:

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed. A **Lenten Coat Drive** will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and then they will be donated to Contact Ministries.

Westminster Staff

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

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
deb.watts@live.com

Karen Sherrick
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