



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February 2022

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. *Jr. High Confirmation*
11:15 a.m. *Adult Ed Forum*

February 6

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Luke 5:1-11
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
God’s Clarion Call

February 13

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Arborvitae: The Tree of Life

February 20

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
Genesis 45:3-11; Luke 6:27-38
The Rev. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Gift of Mercy

February 27

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Hills We Climb

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

THEME: LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

5:45 P.M. CHICKEN ALFREDO 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:

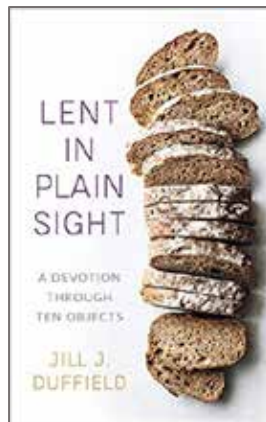
- Bridges children present liturgy music
- Choristers present special music
- Meditation by Rev. Choi
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion

This year a simple **ceramic dish with an engraved cross** will be distributed to worshipers as a reminder that God is often at work through the ordinary as we journey through *Lent in Plain Sight*.

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.



LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

In this devotion for the season of Lent, Presbyterian pastor and former Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, the Rev. Jill J. Duffield draws readers’ attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus’ final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. Members and friends will receive a daily devotional via constant contact as we journey through Lent together *in plain sight*.

LENTEN COURSE: MINDFULNESS, MEDITATION, AND RESILIENCY MONDAYS, MARCH 7, 14, 28, APRIL 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Virginia Dolan will lead a Lenten Course: *Mindfulness, Meditation, and Resiliency* during the Season of Lent as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. This class is the evidence-based program from Benson Henry Institute at Mass General in partnership with Harvard Medical School. The cost of the book will be subsidized by Westminster and will be \$30. **If you are interested in participating, please contact Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter at ranell@comcast.net by February 20 so books can be ordered.**



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

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
I Corinthians 12:27*

As we begin ministry in 2022 and install and ordain new church officers, Paul's metaphor of the church as the "body of Christ" is timely and one of the most memorable of his teachings. Underneath the amusing imagery of talking feet and self-deprecating ears is the profound statement of unity that is the essence of the church: *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

In his book, Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue, Rabbi Edwin Friedman suggests the family systems model is a useful tool for understanding and encouraging a healthy unity within the church. The Family Systems model speaks to the importance of "differentiation" within the members of a family or congregation. Rabbi Friedman defines differentiation as "the capacity to be an 'I' while remaining connected to the 'we.'"

To be self-differentiated is to maintain a clarity about one's principles and vision even amid differing views. A self-differentiated person can feel compassion for another's suffering without becoming responsible for it and can rejoice when another receives honor without feeling negated by their recognition or success.

In a church where individuality and closeness are well balanced, and self-differentiation is honored, the eyes, ears, hands, and feet can do their part and maintain their own identities, vision, and loyalty in the unity of Christ. We all seek to be self-differentiated, and I am grateful for the healthy differentiation and unity within this body of Christ.



Pictured above is Dale Rogers presenting his report at the January Session meeting in Parish Hall. Meeting highlights included electing Tom Owen to serve as Clerk, electing Becky Huston to serve as Treasurer, approving the APNC Ministry Information Form and the 2022 Operating Budget.

STEWARDSHIP GOAL SURPASSED



We have received 233 pledges totaling \$800,897 exceeding our \$797,000 goal. This included pledges from 16 new or newly committed families. Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for a successful campaign!

Stewardship Committee: Pete VanGieson (Chair), Meleah Berkowitz, Robyn Hovey, Tom Massey, Julie McDonough, Pat Moore, Bill Schlosser, Greg Swanson, Brinton Wilkey, and Bob Zerfas.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR Has resumed rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall to accommodate distancing. Many thanks to Brownie Anderson, Sandy Bellatti, Carolyn Berning, Julie Blythe, Ann Collins, Pat McNutt, and Jeanne VanGieson for their help in clearing out the choir folders from the fall semester and readying them for the spring.

CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants through age four, took a break in January to allow for Covid cases to lower. However, Church Mice will begin again Saturday, February 19 at 11:00 a.m.

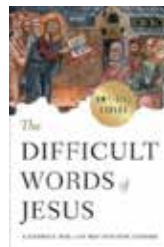
CHILDREN'S CHOIR, our choir for Kindergartners through second grade, will begin weekly rehearsals Tuesday, February 8 at 4:45 p.m. This choir will sing on Palm Sunday.

WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS, our choir for Grades 3-6, will begin weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, February 15 from 4:45– 5:30 p.m. to begin preparation for Ash Wednesday and the Spring Musical "Heroes of the Faith," which will be presented on Founders' Sunday, May 22.

AN ORGAN RECITAL will be presented by Dale Rogers on Sunday, March 20 at 4:00 p.m. Music of Bridge, Couperin, Bach, Scarlatti, Carter, Franck, Elmore, and Saint-Saëns.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

SUNDAYS, 11:15 A.M. TO 12 NOON



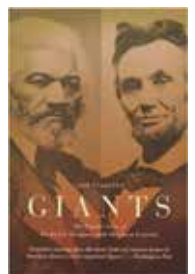
DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 6, 13, 27

This six-session study which began January 13 features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's reflections on the difficult teachings of Jesus. Lyle VanDeventer leads the discussion on Sundays, February 6, 13 and 27 from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon in the Second Floor Classroom.

GIANTS

SUNDAYS, MARCH 6, 13, 20

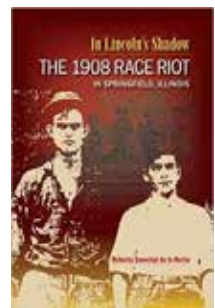
This three-session course will behold the lives of the three nineteenth century giants Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Elijah Lovejoy, who led abolitionists in our congregation and across the land towards emancipation. Dr. Peter Kieffer will lead the class and is grateful to Archivists Sue Cull and Carol Bloemer for their extensive research.



LIBRARY BOOK GROUP: APOSTLES READ

FOURTH TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

The new library book group, led by Aaron Berkowitz, Apostles Read will meet Tuesday, February 22, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in our newly renovated Ziegler Library for the second discussion. Participants are invited to sign up on the church website and are responsible for purchasing their own books. The book selected for February is *In Lincoln's Shadow: The 1908 Race Riot in Springfield, IL* by Roberta Seneschal de la Roche. In March, the group will read *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu.



New members are always welcome!

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship this Sunday, February 6. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).



Please contact Rev. Choi if you are able to participate in collecting donations on Sunday, February 6.

2022 SUMMER MISSIONS INFORMATION MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 11:15 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

Come learn about the exciting plans in place for the 2022 Youth Summer mission Trip. For those who are interested in participating in this year's summer mission trip (scheduled for July 10-16), join us following worship on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.



EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER RESCHEDULED



All youth attending the 2022 Mission Trip are expected to work the fifth annual Mission Trip Breakfast fundraiser on **Sunday, February 20. Plan to arrive by 8:00 a.m. and work through the morning!** The mission participants will prepare and serve a delicious Egg-tastic 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!

CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Date	Confirmation	Sr. High
2/6	Echo Session 9: Wandering	Mission Informational meeting at 11:15 a.m.
2/13	BGBQ: Session 8: Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Teaching?	No Gathering
2/20	Eggtastic Breakfast / Congregational Meeting Come join to serve breakfast	
2/27	Echo Session 10: Promise Land	Theme: Mission Trip & Fundraisers

CONFIRMANDS VISIT TEMPLE B'RITH SHOLOM

FRIDAY, MARCH 18 AT 6:30 P.M.



On Friday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. junior high youth and their parents will gather at Temple B'rith Sholom in Springfield for worship and a visit with Rabbi Lynn Goldstein. RSVP to Rev. Choi by February 20.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick

BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)

February 2 and 9 - No Gathering

February 16 - Prepare for Lent—cross, prayer bowl, and candle for at-home Lenten devotions

February 23 - Practice for Ash Wednesday Service serving as liturgists and providing Ministry of Music

March 2 - Ash Wednesday-Share in a community meal beginning at 5:45 p.m. and lead service at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the month of February we will combine the Sunday school classes into one room. There will be age appropriate activities for our children to interact with the Bible story and an opportunity for mentoring and multi-age collaboration. (Grades 3-5 stay in the Sanctuary for Communion Sunday.)

February 6 - The Thirsty Woman

February 13 - The Rich Man (Communion)

February 20 - Friends Who Help

February 27 - Transfiguration of the Lord

If you would like access to the WPCconnections on our website, please contact Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org to receive a log in for access to our archives.

NURSERY GUILD

Thank you to the following persons who have joined the Nursery Guild:

Suzanne Borland, Linda Caupert, Dr. Tanya DeSanto, Dee Dee Duffy, Carolyn Dungan, Sara Eldridge, Tara Fritsch, Sally Godbey, Nancy Huston, Priscilla Kluge, Dr. Judy Knox, Meg Kontio, Valerie Leonatti, Nichole Magalis, Samantha Magalis, Lynn McMenamin, Mary Ray, Diane Rutledge, Sue Scaife, Jan Schuermann, and Julie Sundquist.

If you interested in being a part of this dynamic team of caregivers, please contact Karen Sherrick (ksherrick@wpcspi.org).



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 4:30 – 6:00 P.M.

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to join us **Wednesday, March 9, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** as we gather with our friends from other faith communities as we continue to explore our theme "Be the Light." Parents and children are welcome to drive directly to Temple B'rith Sholom (1004 S. 4th St.) 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
—Abraham Lincoln

ILLINOIS MANDATED REPORTING TRAINING MEETING

If you are a Ministry Partner with the Children's Ministry or Youth, please join us to fulfill the annual mandated requirements for our Safe Child Policy.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 9:00-9:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

CHURCH OFFICER ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

On Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 9, newly elected Elders and Deacons were ordained and installed. In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) men and women are called to a particular service as deacons, elders, and as ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that the ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

We are grateful for the men and women who have been called at this time to serve Westminster.



MISSION HIGHLIGHTED ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 23



On Sunday, January 23, Westminster highlighted 2021 mission giving. Rachael Hickman, Vice-Chair of the Mission and Community Service Committee, presented the Ministry Moment with her daughter, Madelynn, in her arms.

Dr. Kieffer thanked the children for their Sunday School offerings which support the Heifer Project listed in the 2021 Mission and Community Service Booklet.

Rev. Choi preached a sermon on I Corinthians 12 and the *Common Purpose* we share as the Body of Christ.

The Westminster Choir sang *One Faith, One Hope, One Lord* by Craig Courtney and the congregation joined in a Mission and Community Service Litany of Dedication.

In 2021, Westminster gave \$234,677 to mission. Thank you, Westminster, for your generosity as we seek to be true to our mission statement which affirms that the doors of Westminster will be a way of service.

MLK WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS: ADULT ED VIEW NO MALICE FILMS



Adult Ed Forum welcomed 12-year-old Abigail Eldridge who introduced and presented five award winning films on the topic of racial healing that were part of the 2021 No Malice Film Festival. The films viewed were “We the People” by Abigail Eldridge, “Interracial Relationships” by Azalee Irving, “Puzzle” by Sean Atienza, “As We were Planted” by Anna Lee Ackerman and “Hush” by Kenya Apongule.

WESTMINSTER RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD AT MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST



Dr. Kieffer received the Frontiers International Community Service Award on behalf of Westminster. Another highlight of the gathering was seeing Jeffery Ellis who attended our 2021 Youth Mission Trip. He is the President of the Junior Frontiers Springfield Club. Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Dr. Peter Kieffer and Mary Ray joined Rev. Choi and Dr. Kieffer in representing Westminister at the event. Westminister has been a Platinum Sponsor (\$1,500) since 2019.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH JANUARY GATHERINGS



Children gather in stations for reading and activities following their lesson during Sunday School. Following worship Confirmation youth participate in a Bible Study taught by Rev. Choi and Jim Kincaid.

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HUNGER ACTION TEAM PREPARES WARMING CENTER MEAL



The Hunger Action Team prepared a monthly meal for the Springfield Warming Center on **Thursday, January 27** led by Krista Steller, Jim Dolan, Kathy Germeraad, Pat Hymans,

Marilyn Rigney, Sue Sawers, Sue Scaife, and Jeanne VanGieson. The next meal will be on Friday, February 18. Please contact Krista Steller at ksteller@wpcspi.org if you would like to participate.

JANUARY HELPING HANDS MEAL

PREPARED BY SANDY BELLATTI AND NANCY CANADY

Thank you to the Sandy Bellatti and Nancy Canady for the meal on January 14. The February 11 meal will be prepared by Ann Collins and Sue Sawers. Ministry Partners are needed in the months of March to December. Reimbursement is available. Please contact Jennie Alt with any questions.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH FEBRUARY MENU



Canned soups with pop tops, peanut butter, boxed crackers, applesauce, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, toothpaste. (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

FEBRUARY EARTH CARE TIP

Thank God for our miraculous information technology and telecommunications which bring the world and its knowledge to our fingertips! How can we responsibly harness ever-evolving technology without buying every new gadget and piling up mounds of e-waste? Reduce by repairing, upgrading, and updating to give new life to old devices. Reuse by repurposing (e.g., resurrect a retired iPhone as kid's Wi-Fi tablet, camera, or music player) or by donating to Computer Banc, which supplies the less fortunate. When the gadget finally gives up the ghost, Recycle it at BLH Computers. *-Dr. Peter Kieffer*



THIRD ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK – JUNE 27 – JULY 1, 2022



This year's neighborhood outreach will be **the week of June 27 – July 1**. Please mark your summer calendar and consider joining us for one or more days of the final week of June as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood! Last year over fifty members gathered each morning for a devotion before arriving at our neighborhood sites. Projects include power washing, painting, landscape improvements, repairing front porches, and installing fences.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

DANCING WITH THE STARZ ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12



Dancing with the Starz annual fundraiser for the Springfield Art Association was rescheduled from February 10 to **Saturday, March 12** and the decision was made to livestream the event.

This year, **Drs. Jonathan and Katie Carlson-Eastvold** will represent

WPC, sponsored by James J. Greenwald, D.D.S., Becky and Rich Owens, and Marty Sumner. Members are invited to watch and take part in the silent auction. You can vote for Katie and Jonathan and support the Springfield Art Association at: <https://www.springfieldart.org/dwts.html>

CONTACT MINISTRIES PROM FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Contact Ministries Annual Prom has been rescheduled from February 11 to **Friday, April 29** at 6:00 p.m. at Illini Country Club. Westminster is one of the founding congregations of this faith-based organization and will sponsor a table again this year.



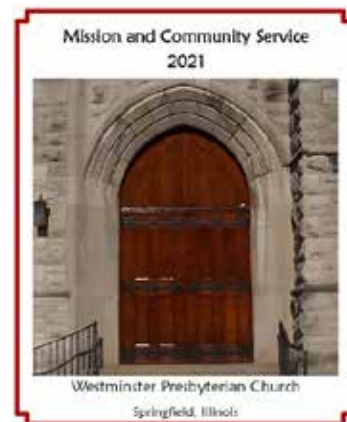
COMPASS FOR KIDS TENTATIVELY RESUMES FEBRUARY 15

Compass for Kids in-person gatherings at Westminster are scheduled to resume **Tuesday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.** This weekly tutoring after-school program also offers a life skills class. A snack will replace the weekly dinner this year.

2021 MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE BOOKLET CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

The 2021 Mission and Community Service Booklet, created by Rev. Choi, lists the many vital ministries with whom we partnered to shine God's light through the community and beyond.

Thank you to the 2021 Mission and Community Service Committee ably led by Mary Caroline Mitchell and Bob Leffler. Other mission teams include the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach Task Force (led by Dr. Todd Knox), the Earth Care Team (led by Dr. Peter Kieffer), the Hunger Action Team (led by Dale Smith), and the FairTrade Team (Becky Martin and Jeanne Van Gieson). The final page lists the total Mission Giving for 2021 which was an impressive **\$234,677**. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds. The booklet can be found on our website.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited six members on December 12. If you are unable to attend worship on February 13 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 gathers every **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The monthly brown bag lunch will not be held in February. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins about knitted items needed at 217-544-8657.

PW LUNCHEON will not meet in February.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.** hosted by Dr. Diane Rutledge (3935 Surry Place Lane, 62711). The lesson is chapter five "Ruth 3-4." Please text Diane directly to R.S.V.P. at 217-725-3016. *We will not meet Wednesday, March 2 because of Ash Wednesday!*

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The lesson is chapter six "Bathsheba." Contact Sue Baker at 217-670-2052.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m.** in Third Floor Classroom. The lesson is chapter six "Bathsheba." For more information, contact Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST is **Thursday, February 10 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Sangamon County Clerk Don Gray will be the speaker. Jim Dolan will provide breakfast. RSVP with the weekly email link, our website, or by calling the church office.

2021 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful that Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year with a deficit of only \$1,742 when we had budgeted a \$15,000 deficit (planning to cover this with our reserve.) Expenses for the year were overbudget, yet income from donations exceeded the budgeted amount by \$2,000 and from mission collections and other income sources exceeded the budgeted amount by over \$30,000. Thank you to those who completed their pledge or made donations this year to further the ministry of Christ at Westminster.

2021 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,024,606	\$ 991,553	\$ 33,053
Expenses	\$-1,026,348	\$-1,006,553	\$-19,795
Net Total	\$ -1,742	\$ -15,000	

2022 BUDGET

On January 19, 2022, the Session adopted a balanced 2022 Operating Fund Budget totaling \$1,023,777 and a Support and Endowment Budget totaling \$281,000.

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.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Ann Nation celebrates 92 years on February 11.
Kay and Jerry Smith celebrate 50 years on February 12.
Margie Dobson celebrates 101 years on February 16.

NEW ARRIVAL

Finnagan "Finn" Edward was born December 29, 2021. Finn's parents are Whitney and Ryan Spearie, his big brother is Maxwell, and his proud grandparents are Michelle and Tom Power.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Reverend and Mrs. Christian and Sophia Choi on the death of Sophia's grandmother and to Diana and Zachariah Choi on the death of their great grandmother, Cho Ja Jung, who died December 30, 2021 in St. Louis.

PARISH NURSE NEWS By Ellen Carpenter

WHY VACCINATE YOUR CHILDREN AND TEENS FROM COVID 19?

Vaccination protects your child from becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID. The vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective for children ages 5 - 11 and 100% effective in children ages 12-15 in preventing serious illness or worse. The vaccination is safe! Over 8.7 million children from 5 - 11 years old have already safely received at least 1 dose.



Some children experience no side effects from the vaccine. Others have mild, temporary effects like fatigue, chills, or headache for a day or 2. Side effects have been particularly lower in those getting the 5 - 11-year-old dose. The vaccine is not associated with decreased fertility although having the COVID infection has. Myocarditis (swelling of the heart muscle) can also occur because of the infection and can be severe. There have been a very small number of teens who have had mild myocarditis following a COVID vaccine, but they have been mild and improved with minimal treatment (ibuprofen) and rest. There have been no reported cases of myocarditis after vaccination in the 5 - 11-year-old group.

If your child is recovered from COVID, they may have some natural immunity for a period of time, but it is to their advantage to still get the vaccine if they had not already. The vaccine will strengthen their immune response to other variants (Healthychildren.org).

Boosters are recommended for those 12 years and older, but not for the 5 - 11-year-old yet. There is no official word on the availability of the vaccine to those 4 years old and younger.

-Dr. Virginia Dolan, Pediatric M.D.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

WE ARE CALLING ALL WCP ALUMNI TO JOIN US ON FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 22 as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Westminster Cooperative Preschool, recognize the vision of those who created our preschool, and honor the teachers and parents who have served through the years. If you have a son or daughter who attended WCP, please email Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) who is putting a list together for our celebration. **We welcome photos and can scan them!**

Early registration for the 2022-23 school year is open to current families, alumni families, and church members until February 28th. General enrollment will open in March. If you know of any interested families, please direct them to our website. The application is available there and in the church office. We will have an open house for prospective families in March.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE



Row One: Adam Ekstedt, Dr. Craig Batterman, Tom Owen (secretary) Row Two: Krista Steller (Chair), Meridith Bryans, Emily Brower, Meleah Berkowitz

The APNC presented the completed Ministry Information Form (MIF) which to the Church Officers at their January retreat for feedback. Following Session's approval in January, the MIF was sent to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Great Rivers for their approval. Once this is received, the MIF will be activated online at the Presbyterian Church Leadership Connection website.

Members are welcome to review the MIF which can be found on our website wpcspi.org. The congregation is asked to remember the members of the committee and perspective candidates in your prayers as we seek God's spirit in the discernment process and search for the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. The Leadership Competencies selected by the committee include *compassion, spiritual maturity, teacher, communicator, advisor, task manager, collaboration, interpersonal engagement, flexibility, and self-differentiation*.

RIISING UP OF THE SPRINGDALE LADIES AIDE SOCIETY

SUFFRAGE PLAY PRESENTED MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

AUDITIONS ARE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 10: 00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

The Women's Suffrage Play **Rising Up of the Springdale Ladies Aide Society** written by Carole Kennerly and directed by Kelly Robertson will be presented **MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND** with a Friday and Saturday evening performance for the community at 8:00 p.m. and a 12 noon Sunday performance in Parish Hall. There will be a Tea Reception following worship on the West Terrace on Mother's Day.



The opening scene is a grandmother sharing her grandmother's story with her granddaughter. It is an account of generations of courageous women seeking equality for their daughters and granddaughters and the risks they took in the struggle to secure a woman's right to vote.

AUDITIONS ARE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 FROM 10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. If you are interested in participating in the audition, please contact Kelly Robertson at 217-741-3605. Rehearsals will take place in March and April. *All proceeds will support the 2022 Youth Mission Trip. whose theme will be the Women's Suffrage as they journey to Seneca Falls.*

RESCHEDULED SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

ANNUAL MEETING

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

2022 Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

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

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
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 H. Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
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The Church Office will be closed Monday, February 21.

Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, March 2.