



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February 2023

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

FAITH FORMATION:

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

10:15 a.m. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5 and
Grade 6 -7 Confirmation

11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation
and Adult Ed Forum
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

February 5

MISSION SUNDAY

Matthew 5:13-20; 1Corinthians 2:1-12
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Christ-Centered People

February 12

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Lincoln’s Battle with God

February 19

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9
The Rev. Blythe D. Kieffer
Thin Places

February 26

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Subversive Serpents

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

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 5

LET THE DOOR OF THIS CONGREGATION
BE A WAY TO SERVICE

On Sunday, February 5, mission will be highlighted during worship. This is the eighth Mission Sunday which began in 2016. Rev. Christian Choi, Associate Pastor for Parish Life, will preach.

A booklet including a comprehensive list of the 2022 mission supported by Westminster and the members of the committees who serve will be distributed.

The total Mission Giving for 2022 is **\$374,027**. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

THEME: THE EMPTY POT

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:

- Liturgy and music presented by Bridges children and Choristers
- Meditation by Dr. Kieffer
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

This year’s Ash Wednesday meditation will include the children’s book The Empty Pot. Small clay pots will be distributed as a reminder of our humanity.

40 DAYS, 40 WORDS, 40 PRAYERS: LENTEN REFLECTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

This book written by former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, will be highlighted on our journey. **A word and a prayer from this book will be emailed each day of Lent.**

FAMILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BAGS

Westminster families received a Lenten Devotional Bag which includes a word for each day of Lent. Families are invited to discuss the meaning of each word.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE

During Lent, Westminster’s Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ’s journey to the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

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.

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The APNC begins its second year on the journey to nominate an Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. During 2022, the committee reviewed 24 PIF's (Personal Information Forms), participated in five Zoom interviews, and welcomed one candidate to Springfield who ultimately accepted another call.

The PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection is revising their forms and website for the call process this February. Once the format is available, our MIF will be updated and resubmitted. Additionally, we will place ads in Presbyterian publications and reach out to the placement offices of all our seminaries. We will welcome a new associate pastor as we begin summer together. The congregation is asked to remember the members of the committee and perspective candidates in your prayers.



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

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

MARY RAY JOINS STAFF AS INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH

The Personnel Committee and staff welcome Mary Ray as Interim Director for Youth (5-10 hours per week) until the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry is installed. We are grateful for Mary's experience and dedication to Westminster's youth for over 20 years and her willingness to serve and tend to the details of ministry in support of Rev. Choi.



Mary is a 50-year member of Westminster. She has served the church in many capacities including Elder, Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and youth leader. Mary graduated from Illinois College with majors in Spanish and Sociology. She has worked at Illinois Secretary of State for over 40 years and is currently Manager of the Court Liaison Section. She has a passion for Illinois sports and serving Westminster's youth.

KAREN SHERRICK CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



On Sunday, February 12, the Personnel Committee will recognize Karen Sherrick on her fifth anniversary as Westminster's Director for Children's Ministry. We are grateful for Karen's expertise, dedication, and attention to details. Karen earned a B.S. in education at the Texas A & M University, a M.Ed. in reading from Stephen F. Austin University, and is

currently completing the Certified Christian Educator Program of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR has resumed rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room. Many thanks to Brownie Anderson, Sandy Bellatti, Carolyn Berning, Georgina Hudspeth, Pat McNutt, Pat Roller, and Jeanne VanGieson for their help in clearing out the choir folders from the fall semester and readying them for the spring. In this process, we handle



3,000 anthems as we load 50 folders with anthems and responses for each week. Pictured above, Jeanne Pittman and Pat Roller are putting copies in numerical order before they are stored.

THE ST. ANDREWS SISTERS rehearse on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. On Lincoln's birthday, they will sing The Hallowed, a rare setting of poetry by our sixteenth president set to music by Douglas Beam.

CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants to age five. This is a fun introduction to music with shakers, tone blocks, beanbags, a variety of percussion instruments and many life skills songs. Church Mice meets every Saturday in February at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Follow the cheese and join your friends and their parents at Church Mice!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS meet weekly on Wednesdays, at 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively in the Music Room with Mrs. Moore. The Choristers are preparing music for the Ash Wednesday service on February 22.

ADULT EDUCATION

SYMPOSIUM: WHAT ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 2 AND 9

Join Dr. Roy Wehrle on Thursdays, February 2 and 9, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in Parish Hall for a two-week symposium on “What About Artificial Intelligence?”

ADULT ED FORUM:

UNRAVELING ROE: A COMPLICATED RISE AND FALL SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19

This adult forum meets Sundays, February 5, 12 and 19, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall and will explain the legal, political, and societal foundations of the rise and fall of Roe vs. Wade, along with its branching implications on other seemingly protected rights. The forum will be led by Kate and Michael Morthland, mom and dad to Walter. Kate is a Policy Director and Lobbyist for the Illinois Life and Health Insurance Council. Michael serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Illinois Department of Public Health. Kate graduated from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville with a Bachelor's in Science and a Juris Doctorate with a specialization in health law and policy from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Michael graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's in Music Performance and a Juris Doctorate from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

REFLECTIONS ON HISTORIC SANCTUARIES AND HOLY PLACES

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 26, MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2

This adult forum meets Sundays, February 26–April 2, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall. Each week we will rediscover historic sanctuaries, beginning with Early Christian Churches, Churches in Spain, Germany, Scotland, England, and Churches designed by Ralph Adams Cram. Dale Rogers will lead us on an exploration of Early Christian Churches on February 26.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

WELCOME CONFIRMATION TEACHERS



We began 2023 with a change in our confirmation format. Our sixth and seventh graders meet during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) to study the Old and New Testaments led by confirmation teachers, Meridith Bryans, Cara Barnett, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. The eighth graders meet following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) with a pastor to learn the beliefs and history of the PC(USA) and to prepare for their commissioning on Sunday, April 30.

CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Date	10:15 a.m. 6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation	11:00 a.m. 8 th Grade Confirmation	5:00 p.m. Sr. High
2/5	Session 27: Jesus' Encounters	Session 8: Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Teachings?	What Do Other Religions Believe about Jesus?
2/12	Communion Sunday. No Gathering	History of Westminster & PCUSA	No Gathering
2/19	Session 28: Rising Tension	Session 5: Who Is Your Savior?	No Gathering
2/26	Session 29: New Promise	Session 11: Will You Devote Yourself to the Prayers?	How Can I Be a Better Disciple of Jesus Christ?

EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who enjoyed the Egg-tastic Breakfast in support of the 2023 Youth Mission Trip. Prepared and donated by Pat Hymans and her team and served by the youth attending the mission trip, we raised \$2,018.

A big thanks goes to Mary Jo and David Jenkins for their donation of the sausage for the breakfast.

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship on Sunday, February 12. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).



Please contact Mary Ray if you are able to participate in collecting donations on Sunday, February 12.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick

BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)

February 1 - Be the Light!

February 8 - Guest teacher: Mr. Rogers

What does the Bible say about love? Chocolate tasting.

February 15 - Practice for Ash Wednesday Service serving as liturgists and providing Ministry of Music

February 22 - Ash Wednesday-Share in a community meal beginning at 5:45 p.m. and lead service at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

February 5 - Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 - Say "Yes"

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

February 19 - Listen to Jesus

Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 - Knowledge Wanted

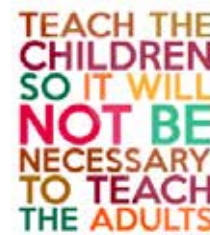
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Families with children (birth - Grade 5) receive a Friday email introducing the Nursery and Sunday School lessons. If you would like access to the WPCconnections on our website, contact Karen Sherrick ksherrick@wpcspi.org to receive a login for access to our archives.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 4:30 – 6:00 P.M.

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to join us **Wednesday, March 8, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** as we gather with our friends from other faith communities to explore our theme "The Earth We Share." Parents and children are welcome to drive directly to Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capitol Ave). If your child needs transportation, please email Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

A Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 10 for families. The meeting provided an opportunity to update families on classroom activities and board decisions. Meleah Berkowitz, Visioning Committee Chair, informed families about a modest tuition increase for the 2023 – 2024 school year. This additional income will help subsidize an increase in teacher and director salaries. The Visioning Committee also recommended establishing a Westminster Cooperative Preschool Endowment Fund within the larger Westminster Endowment Plan. Once established, preschool families and alumni will be invited to make a contribution.

Parents were invited to the classroom following the Membership Meeting where Keri displayed creative science projects which were sent home with parents.



The preschool's major fundraiser, Trivia Night, will be held Saturday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. at Operating Engineers Local 695 Hall (3517 E. Cook St.) Members of the congregation are welcome. – Emily Rowley

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT, ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

On Saturday, January 7, Church Officers gathered for worship, planning, and fellowship at their annual retreat prior to the ordination and installation of newly elected Elders and Deacons on Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 8. 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 women and men who have been called at this time to serve Westminster.

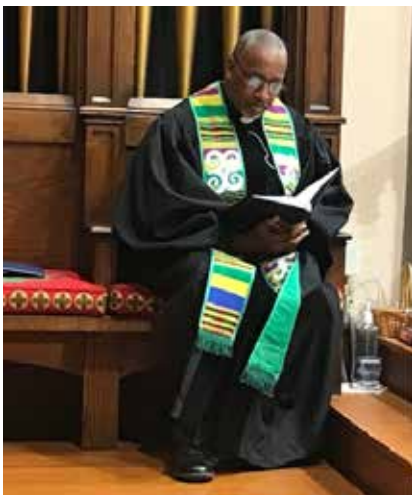


EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST, JANUARY 29



MLK WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

WPC welcomed 140 community members on Saturday, January 14 for a delicious brunch (thank you, Pat Hymans and team). The program included remarks from U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and NAACP Springfield Branch President Teresa Haley on the 1908 Race Riot National Monument and highlights from guest speaker, Rev. Jimmie Hawkins on his book, [Unbroken and Unbowed: The History of Black Protest in America](#). On Sunday, January 15, Rev. Hawkins preached and presented an adult ed forum on the work of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington D.C.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MONTHLY MEALS

HELPING HANDS - Thank you to the Bryans and Swanson families for preparing the January 13 meal.



The February meal will be prepared by Georgina Hudspeth, Mary Ray, and Krista Steller. There are opportunities for members or groups to sign-up for the remainder of 2023. You will find a link on our website to sign-up - www.wpcspi.org or you can call the church office.

SALVATION ARMY WARMING CENTER - Westminster will prepare bagged meals for the Warming Center on February 3 as well as February 22. Please contact Krista Steller Ksteller@wpcspi.org to participate.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thanks to those who continue keeping up our neighborhood micropantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary. If you are interested in helping, please check SignUpGenius (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>), or contact Jennie Alt for more details. Reimbursement is available for items purchased, and an assortment of pantry goods is kept at the church in the lower level outside the elevator.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING -

We are receiving donations toward this multi-denominational annual collection throughout Lent. This ecumenical, special offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people throughout the world.



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

We can help keep creation clean as we clean our clothes! Earth Breeze biodegradable detergent sheets eliminate heavy plastic jugs and wash well with cold water. Reusable wool dryer balls reduce drying time and keep clothes soft and smooth without disposable dryer sheets. Electric dryers, like electric cars, emit no climate-warming carbon dioxide, and the Climate Bill gives up to a \$840 rebate for the most efficient newer ones. Even better, skip the energy-hog dryer and help clothes last longer by hanging them up to dry, either during winter near a heating vent or summer in a warm breeze. -Dr. Peter Kieffer

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD



This year, 2023, marks the fourth year of Westminster's ten-year Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor commitment to our surrounding neighborhood. The first three years saw very successful programs for Matching Grants, our Little Pantry, and our Service Weeks. This year, we are embarking on a new adventure: Westminster is sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity build at 626 S. Glenwood, on the block just south of the church. All who choose to work on the build site need to attend one Orientation Session which are listed below. Additionally, one must register at habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING DATES

One Session Required for All Participants! (except food providers)



Habitat for Humanity Office Entrance (2744 S. 6th Street)

Tuesday, February 7 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21 - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church (533 S. Walnut Street)

Sunday, February 19 - 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. (Parish Hall)

- THE STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT HOUSE KICK-OFF IS TUESDAY, MARCH 20
- THE BLITZ WEEK IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 27-APRIL 1.



COMPASS FOR KIDS

Compass for Kids is an after-school tutoring program to assist and help nurture the young people. 17 Graham Elementary students spend Tuesday afternoons at Westminster, being ministered by Compass staff and many ministry partners, most of whom are from Westminster. Thank you to the Morthlands for preparing the January 24 meal for Compass Kids.

Other Ministry Partners that are involved making a difference in the young people through Compass are:

Cathy Allen, Cathy Brower, Emily Brower, Kristianna Eastvold, Chris Gates, Mia Marcy, Bryce Pound, Matthew Scott.



FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

On Sunday, February 19, following worship, Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold in the West Narthex to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers. Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson oversee this ministry.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP INVITES those who knit to join us remotely on your own schedule or join us in person every **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. Beverages and dessert will be provided.



Come check K2P4 out!

You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

ALL WOMEN'S NEW BEGINNING BRUNCH will be hosted by the PW and held on **Saturday, February 4 from 10:30 a.m. - noon** in Parish Hall. Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup will speak about the "Wooden It Be Lovely" program. A free-will offering will be collected for the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, February 1 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Drive, 62711.) Meg will lead Lesson Five: Sabbath and Servitude.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary Peura will lead devotions and Beth Kincaid will lead Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in Ziegler Library. Sharon Turner will be the hostess and Betsy Ruklick will lead Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 8:00 A.M.

Presbyterian Men gather on Thursday, February 9 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell will be the speaker. Rich Canady will provide breakfast and Mike Shaw will give devotions. RSVP with the weekly email link, on our website, or by calling the church office.



APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, February 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss January's book, Sonorous Desert: What Deep Listening Taught Early Christian Monks - and What it Can Teach Us by Kim Haines-Eitzen. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 12 NOON



Members & friends of Westminster will gather at Concordia Thursday, February 23 with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts. Communion is at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 noon.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited 13 members on January 1. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday, February 12 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.

If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon and would like to serve on the home communion team, please contact Rev. Choi.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Roy Wehrle celebrates 91 years on February 5.

Neil Lee celebrates 90 years on February 5.

Mary Ann Nation celebrates 93 years on February 11.

Dr. Neville and Mrs. Cheryl White celebrate 55 years of marriage on February 17.

Mina Bentsen celebrates 90 years on February 21.

IN MEMORIAM

Jess Werner died January 31 in Springfield. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to his wife Sue, their children Kevin (wife Robin) Werner, Kristine Werner, Karen (friend Paul) Danna, and grandchildren Jess and Allyson Werner, Zeke (wife Ali Train) Danna, and Sam (wife Bella) Danna. Services will be announced on Sunday, February 5.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Kathy and Randy Germeraad and Carolyn and Dan Dungan on the death of Kathy and Carolyn's aunt, to Scott and Colleen Germeraad, Carrie and Nick Walden, Caitlyn and Mark Simhauser, and Colin Dungan on the death of their great-aunt, and to Declan, Merrin, Verity, Isla, and Carys Germeraad, Hallum Walden, and Nora and Anna Simhauser on the death of their great-great aunt, Marilyn "Lyn" Schnirring Kennedy on January 25 in Springfield.

COMMUNITY EVENT

Dr. Roland Folsie's art exhibit at the David Strawn Art Gallery (331 W College Ave., Jacksonville, IL) titled "An Insatiable Desire to Create" will be introduced at a reception on Saturday, February 4, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The exhibit will be displayed February 4-26, 2023.



NEW ADDRESS

Linda Cisco, 5008 Timberline Ln, Gastonia, NC 28056

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sandy Bellatti and Mary Caroline Mitchell will travel to India February 1 - 16 with 14 other women from across the US who are members of the national organization Together Women Rise. They will visit the northern state of Rajasthan and four of the organization's grantees that equip Indian women and children living in poverty with the skills and resources to become leaders of their own futures.

Jen and Marc DeJong and Leigh and Kevin Milward will travel to Kenya, Africa February 6 – 20 with four others from Springfield to partner with the Outreach Foundation doing odd jobs at the nursing home and finishing a church build.

LIBRARY GUILD NEWS



The Library Guild is pleased to announce new books that may be of interest on these chilly, winter days:

Cat's Café by member Rolls Melotte was donated to Westminster in December.

March Book One, March Book Two and March Book Three, by John Lewis. This three-book Trilogy captures the story of the Civil Rights Movement and was donated by Keith Hamilton.

Unbroken and Unbowed: the History of Black Protest in America by Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, who was our guest preacher on Martin Luther King Weekend.

These books can be checked out and are located on the Library Cart in the West Narthex.

In March, we will highlight books on the Women's Movement. We welcome resources from members. – Mary Peura

2022 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful that Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year in the black by nearly \$19,000. Expenses for the year were underbudget by \$1,676. While income from donations was less than the budgeted amount by \$3,211, revenue from mission collections and other income sources exceeded the budget by \$20,480. Thank you to those who completed their pledge and to all who made donations this year to further the ministry of Christ at Westminster.

2022 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,041,046	\$ 1,023,777	\$ 17,269
Expenses	\$-1,022,101	\$-1,023,777	\$ 1,676
Net Total	\$ 18,945	\$ 0	

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: The 2023 Stewardship Campaign reached 97% of its \$848,800 goal. We have received **223** pledges for a total of **\$825,996**. This includes 10 new pledges and a 3% increase over pledges 2022. Thank you to all who pledged.

2023 BUDGET: In January, the Session adopted a balanced 2023 Operating Fund Budget totaling \$1,065,205 and a Support and Endowment Budget totaling \$444,200.

2022 SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT PLAN: Year-end market value of the Plan assets was valued at \$7,808,499. Total income received was \$441,868. This includes estate gifts of \$233,889, donations totaling \$28,945 from campaign receipts, memorials, restricted and unrestricted gifts, and investment income of \$179,034. Testamentary gifts received in 2022 include: \$5,000 from Evelyn Jensen, \$25,000 from the Betty and Bill Denham Estate, and \$203,889.47 from the Dorothy Kessler Estate. Additionally, we received a \$10,000 memorial gift from Dr. William Schultz in honor of his wife, Kyle G. Schultz.

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$36.25 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 \$36.25 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, MARCH 12 AND 19 AT 11:15 A.M.



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 12 and 19, 11:15 a.m. 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. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 26, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO

A NEW BEGINNINGS BRUNCH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:30 A.M. – 12 NOON IN PARISH HALL

PROGRAM

WOODEN IT BE LOVELY

Presented by Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup

The free-will offering will support
WPC's 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

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

Mary A. Ray
Interim Director for Youth

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

Katie L. Moore
Director for Children's Music
kkiduski@gmail.com

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
keri@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat5@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

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

The Church Office will be closed Monday, February 20. Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, March 1.