



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February 2024

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 4

MISSION SUNDAY

Mark 1:21-28; 1 Corinthians 8:1-6
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Liberating Spirit

February 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

2 King 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Light and Shadow

Ash Wednesday

February 14

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES AND COMMUNION

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Broken and Contrite Heart

February 18

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15
The Rev. Blythe D. Kieffer
Light and Color

February 25

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 9:2-9
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Light and Covenant

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 4

LET THE DOOR OF THIS CONGREGATION BE A WAY TO SERVICE

On Sunday, February 4, 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 2023 mission supported by Westminster and the members of the committees who serve will be distributed.

The total Mission Giving for 2023 is **\$276,263**. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds and does not include the procurement of grants and in-kind gifts totaling **\$107,395** by Westminster as the sponsoring congregation for the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

THEME: THE DESERT OF COMPASSION

5:30 P.M. CHICKEN AND STEAK FAJITA 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 Children’s Choir
- Meditation by Rev. Choi
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

Small stone hearts will be given to each worshipper as a tangible reminder for the need to change one’s heart as we journey with Christ during this Holy Season.

THE DESERT OF COMPASSION DEVOTIONALS FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY,

Meditations from this devotional book, written by the Rev. Rachel M. Srubas, (Pastor of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Tucson, Arizona) will be emailed to members on Ash Wednesday, each Sunday during Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday with follow-up questions for reflection.

FAMILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BAGS

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

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 be donated to Contact Ministries.

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

Let us build a house where love can dwell, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

The 2023 Annual Report was received at the 188th Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 28. Thank you to all who prepared comprehensive and concise reports, to those who attended the meeting, and to the youth who served us breakfast at their Egg-tastic Mission Trip Fundraiser before worship. Those who were unable to be with us on Sunday may contact Jennie Alt for a copy of the report.

The text for my annual report was based on the hymn "Let Us Build a House," by Marty Haugen, as I highlighted a year of building

on our past, for today, and into the future. As we continue

to search for the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry, it is my privilege to collaborate with our incredible Directors for Children and Youth, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray and to join them at the APCE (Association of Partners in Christian Education) Annual Event in St. Louis January 25-27. Their capable and loving leadership provides a house where "saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive."



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, MARCH 3 AND 10 AT 9:00 A.M.

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 3 and 10 at 9:00 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 recognized at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 17, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.



LISA RUNKLE RECOGNIZED FOR TEN YEARS

Lisa Runkle was recognized on Sunday, January 28 for the milestone anniversary of ten years on Westminster's staff. Lisa joined the staff in the fall of 2013, upon the enthusiastic recommendation of former Financial Administrator Bill Smith.

Lisa received a B.S. in Accounting and Marketing from MacMurray College graduating with honors. Her career most recently focused on serving congregations as the accountant at First Christian Church and Kumler Outreach Ministries before joining Westminster's staff. Lisa and her husband, Dr. Ken Runkle, have two grown children, Natalie, who was recently married and is enrolled in the Philosophy Ph.D. program at the University of Pittsburg and Joseph who is earning a master's degree in music performance at the University of Illinois.



Lisa is smart, dedicated, precise, steadfast, nimble and professional. She is a gift to this congregation. We presented her a Maraposa String of Pearls pewter tray to honor her elegant and accurate presence in our midst.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR has resumed rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room with regular work on anthems and special music for each Sunday through Pentecost and beyond.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR rehearses at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday. They are working on music for their part in the Ash Wednesday service on February 14 and for Palm Sunday.

CHURCH MICE, a musical experience for infants through age four meets each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will meet each Saturday into April except for the Saturday prior to Easter, March 30.

ST. ANDREW'S SISTERS meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julie Blythe.

THE CAPITAL BIG BAND

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us for the Capital Big Band who will present a lively program featuring music of the Big Band Era (the 30's and 40's) and more recent tunes on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Westminster's Parish Hall. The Capital Big Band is comprised of sixteen musicians from Springfield and the surrounding area. Thanks to Pat Hymans, coffees and biscotti will be served at the program.

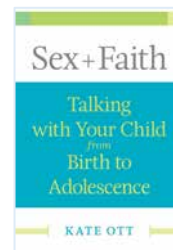
ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

**THE REGULATION OF GUNS IN USA
SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 4, 11**

This adult education forum meets Sundays, February 4 and 11 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. We will continue the conversation as we explore the regulatory oversight of guns, its societal and political implications, and a summary of the PC(USA) position on gun control measures. The forum is led by Kate and Michael Morthland.

**GOD'S GIFTS OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER
FEBRUARY 18, 25**

This adult education forum will meet Sundays, February 18 and 25 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Join the Kieffers who will review faith-based sexuality curriculum, define the many facets of sexual and gender identity, and provide a brief history of PC(USA)'s evolving and enlightened understanding of sexuality. Blythe and Peter (who is a pediatrician) taught human sexuality courses at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church during her tenure as Associate Pastor.



**DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAYS, 5:30 – 6:45 P.M.**

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study meets Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. We continue the Short-term Disciple Studies: **Invitation to John during the month of February**. New Members are always welcome!



**APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.**

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, February 27 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Ziegler Library for an extended meeting to discuss both Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court's Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences by Joan Biskupic and The Shack by William P. Young. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who enjoyed the Egg-tastic Breakfast in support of the 2024 Youth Mission Trip. Prepared and donated by Pat Hymans and her team and served by the youth attending the mission trip, to date we raised \$1,550.

Those who were unable to attend and who would like to make a donation to support our youth are welcome to do so.

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship on Sunday, February 11. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).



JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP meets during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) on Sundays, February 4 (King David), February 18 (King Solomon), and February 25 (Prophet's warning). Thank you to ministry partners Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, and Joe Fierstos who teach with Mary Ray.

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION meets following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) on Sundays, February 4 (John Knox in Scotland), February 18 (The Counter-Reformation), and February 25 (Presbyterians in America). **Mentors are invited to attend class** with their confirmand: Will Affrunti/Dave Leonatti, Juliet Boutelle/Rev. Jerry Boutelle, Juliana Eastvold/Val Leonatti, and Ned Moore/Joe Fierstos.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Senior High youth continue to meet two Sunday evenings each month. Eighth graders (especially those attending the 2024 mission trip) are invited to participate as we build community in preparation for our mission adventure.

ON SUNDAYS, FEB 4

AND 18 youth will meet to enjoy games, dinner, and Bible study. The meals will be prepared by Sara and David Eldridge (Feb. 4) and Beth and Tad Allen (Feb. 18). Thank you to ministry partners Cathy Brower, Susan Day, and Kyle Duffy who serve with Mary Ray.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom as we continue the theme "Created in God's Image."

During January, the Bridges children started a study on different types of prayer. So far, we have discussed praise, gratitude, and confession. We created prayer hands to remind ourselves of the different types of prayer, gratitude fortune tellers to help us share what we are thankful for, and we made watercolor art while practicing examining our consciences.



THANK YOU TO SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY PARTNERS!

Starting in February, our Sunday School is expanding into two classes – one for children grades K-2 and one for children grades 3-5. To allow this, a wonderful group of ministry partners has stepped forward to teach or assist in the classroom. We'd like to thank Lindsay and Juliet Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Sophia Choi, Marc DeJong, Juliana and Kristianna Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Kate Morthland, Laura and Eric O'Reilly, Julie Robbs, and Karen Sherrick.

FAMILY MATTERS GATHERING AT SPRINGFIELD GYMNASTICS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Our February Family Matters event for families with young children (ages birth through Grade 5) will be at the Springfield Gymnastics Center. Come join us for an evening of Ninja excitement on Saturday, February 24 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. RSVPs required. Please contact Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz (berkowitz@wpcspi.org) by February 17 to reserve a spot for you and your children.



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 4:30 – 6:00 P.M.

Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to join us **Wednesday, February 21, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** at Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capitol Avenue) as we gather with our friends from other faith communities to explore "Serving our Community." Parents and children are welcome to drive directly there. If transportation is needed, please email Meleah at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL



Saturday, February 10th is our Trivia Night! We would love to have you join us for this fun evening! It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we would so appreciate your support. This Episode of Bluey Is Called WCP Trivia Night will start at 6:30 (with doors opening at 6) at the Operating Engineers Local 695 Hall at 3517 E. Cook Street. We'll have a wonderful Silent Auction as well. Visit this link to purchase a table! <https://givebutter.com/c/HhCMD7>

January has been a fun month at the preschool! We've embraced a favorite topic of preschoolers: dinosaurs! We've enjoyed a whole dinosaur world in our sensory table, saved dinosaurs who were frozen in ice, read numerous wonderful books, built an exploding volcano, and made dinosaur "fossils." We're looking forward to February when we talk about Community Helpers. If you have any resources of people who work in the community and would like to share their job with us, please let us know! We are hoping to fill February with many guest speakers.

Early registration is open for our 2024-25 school year for current families, alumni families, and church members until February 28th. We will then open for general enrollment. If you know of any interested families, please direct them to our website. We will have an open house on March 21st for prospective families to see our classroom and meet our teachers and board members. - **Emily Rowley, Director**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS IN JANUARY



Children's Ministry is alive and well at Westminster! Sunday school learns about creation with Dr. Berkowitz, Bridges explore different types of prayer with Mrs. Berkowitz, and the Children's Choir practices with Mrs. Moore.

Our youth also had a productive January! The 2023 Mission Team presented the Adult Ed Forum on MLK weekend and served the Eggstastic Breakfast before the Annual Meeting to raise funds for their 2024 Mission to New Orleans. They also partnered with the Earth Care Team to sort and clean 404 lbs. of bottle caps which will be exchanged for two benches made of recycled caps.



CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT, ORDINATION & INSTALLATION



On Saturday, January 6, 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 7.

WESTMINSTER SUPPORTS COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS



Several members of the Mission and Community Service Committee and Hunger Action Team attended the **Helping Hands Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** at their new facility at 2200 Shale Drive on January 17 where services are combined for the most vulnerable within our community. Westminster is providing meals on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month to those served by Helping Hands.

Westminster provided a Gold Sponsorship to the **2024 MLK Frontier's Breakfast** again this year. This \$1,500 donation provides scholarships for young men at risk in our community.

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HUNGER MINISTRIES

HELPING HANDS: Thank you to Pat Hymans, Melanie Green for preparing the premiere meal for the consolidated Helping Hands meal on January 23 for 56 people.

MOVING FORWARD: Westminster will prepare two meals each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Street) which is the old Juvenile Justice Facility off Dirksen Parkway. On 2nd Wednesdays, Westminster will provide 56 bagged meals and on 4th Wednesdays the same number of hot meals to assist those who are seeking shelter.



(Ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Helping Hands location, where 11 members of Westminster were present.)

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY: Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please sign up on SignUpGenius. (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>)

We are grateful to the following ministry partners, who have regularly committed to keep the Little Pantry full and keep our own pantry well stocked for distribution: Julie Barton, Sandy Bellatti, Ann Collins, Bill Deemer, Dee Dee Duffy, Kristine Gates, Christie Hovey, Georgina Hudspeth, Nancy Huston, Pat Hymans, Mary & Charlie King, Judy Knox, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Julie Robbs, Diane Rutledge, Sue Scaife, Kay Smith, Krista Steller, Eleanor VanDeventer, and Jeanne & Pete VanGieson.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JANUARY 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



FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



On Sunday, February 18, 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.

FEBRUARY EARTH CARE TIP

This year Westminster is recycling caps to create benches for our playground, but we can recycle caps at the curb too! Remember to screw those caps back onto the bottle so that they are efficiently sorted by machines at the recycle plant. When possible, encourage even more recycling by purchasing beverages in aluminum cans which are recycled hundreds of times versus food-grade plastic which is typically downcycled into something else once.



- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

CONTACT MINISTRIES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Each year Contact Ministries holds this major fund-raising event featuring dinner, dancing, and an auction. This year's event is Friday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. The theme is Rhinestone Cowboy, and it will be held at the Illini Country Club. Members of the Mission and Community Service Committee will represent Westminster at a table. If others are interested in purchasing tickets, contact Dr. Kieffer.

REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATE

Westminster's application to Welcome Corps has been approved and has been matched with Exodus World Services to welcome a refugee family. It is never late to join the subcommittee to help the family transition and call Springfield their new home. For those interested in partnering with Westminster's Refugee Ministry, please contact Rachael Hickman or Jess Weitzel.

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.



COMPASS FOR KIDS



Compass for Kids is an after-school tutoring program to assist and nurture young people. 25 Graham Elementary students spend Tuesday afternoons at Westminster, being ministered by Compass staff and many ministry partners, most of whom are from Westminster.

On Sunday, February 4, Sam Lipp, Westminster Site Coordinator will give a ministry moment to share more about Compass for Kids and will field questions after worship in the West Narthex.



Ministry Partners that are involved in making a difference in the young people through Compass are: Cathy Allen, Cathy Brower, Kristianna and Julianna Eastvold, Chris Gates, Angie Lafrenz, Jamie and Jordan Robinson.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on February 11, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to the four teams of elders and deacons who made visits to seven members on Sunday, January 14. If you are an Elder or Deacon (currently or formerly serving) and you would enjoy serving other members in this ministry, please contact Rev. Christian Choi.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, February 4 by Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

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. 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 Hospitality Coordinator Pat Hymans or Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The monthly brown bag lunch will be held on February 13 with drinks provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



Come check K2P4 out!

ALL WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. - noon

PW will host All Women's Brunch on Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. - noon in Parish Hall. Brownie Anderson and Carole Kennerly will present a program called "An Introduction to C.S. Lewis, the practical Christian." Please RSVP to the church office or our website.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Drive, 62711). Meg will lead the devotional by John Wesley entitled, "Loving one Another" (pp. 258-263) from the book, Devotional Classics. Contact Christy Pound at (217-971-3082).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on Monday, February 12, 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary Peura will lead Lesson 6 "A Person with a Physical Disability" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters. Contact Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032).

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on Tuesday, February 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Nancy Canady will host and Randy Wiseman will lead Lesson 5 "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters. Contact Nancy Canady (217-899-9890).

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Thursday, February 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Joe McMenamain will reflect on his experiences serving as Alderman and serving on Springfield's City Council. Alan Stutz will provide breakfast and Dr. Roy Wehrle and Jay Kennerly will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 12 NOON



Members & friends of Westminster will gather at Concordia Thursday, February 22 with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts. Communion is at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 noon.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The major HVAC project for our sanctuary, including new hydronic piping in the crawl space, began in 2023 and will be completed in 2024. The chiller was installed on Friday, January 26! The cost of this project \$354,633 is being divided between 2023 and 2024 and funded by the Special Church Support Fund within Westminster's endowment. Special thanks to Property Committee Chair, Mal Hildebrand, for making this initiative possible, and Building and Property Manager, Gary Warnick, for his oversight on this project.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Roy Wehrle celebrates 92 years on February 5.

Neil Lee celebrates 91 years on February 5.

NEW ARRIVAL

Annmarie McMenamain-Weinberg was born on January 5 in Champaign, IL. Annmarie's parents are Carrie McMenamain and Charlie Weinberg, proud big brother is Jimmy, and grandparents are Lynn and Joe McMenamain.

Congratulations to Mary and Charlie King on the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia Ryan Stransky, born to Catie and Ryan Stransky on January 7 in Chicago.

IN MEMORIAM

Sandra Bauer died January 19 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her daughters, Wendy (husband Lee) Rudolph and Libby Bauer Peach and her grandchildren Mason and Hudson Rudolph and Ella and Logan Peach.

Patricia Shafer died January 30 in Springfield, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her son, John Shafer, his wife, Cathy Schwartz, and her beloved granddaughter, the late Emma Shafer. A service honoring her life is Wednesday, February 7 at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary with a visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the West Narthex.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Catherine Brown on the death of her granddaughter, Alyona Sterling Beckner on January 19 in Pasadena, CA.

Cornelia Perry Page on the death of her husband, The Rev. Henry Chase Page III on November 23, 2023, in Worcester, MA. Rev. Page served as Interim Associate Pastor at Westminster from 1987-1988.

NEW ADDRESS

Annie and John Jaech, 1 McKnight Place, Apt. 260, St. Louis, MO 63124

Kathy Nickell, 121 N. Cross St., Apt. 501, Wheaton, IL 60187

2023 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful that Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year in the black by more than \$27,000. Total income exceeded the budget by \$33,162, and total expenses exceeded the budget by \$5,846. Thank you to those who completed their pledge or made donations this year to further the ministry of Christ at Westminster.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,098,367	\$ 1,065,205	\$ 33,162
Expenses	\$ -1,071,051	\$ -1,065,205	\$ - 5,846
Net Total	\$ 27,316	\$ 0	

2024 BUDGET: In January, we approved a balanced 2024 Operating Fund Budget totaling \$1,122,850, and a Support and Endowment Budget totaling \$514,000.

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$37.25 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 \$37.25 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT

THURSDAY - SATURDAY, MAY 2-4, 2024

New Harmony, Indiana is a Holy space where visitors meditate and celebrate the wonder and beauty of life and the God who created it. Along with award-winning architecture and sculpture, one can discover and explore labyrinths and a park dedicated to 20th century theologian, Paul Tillich.

Members and friends are invited to join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers on a journey to New Harmony for a Spring Retreat Thursday-Saturday, May 2-4. Participants are welcome to drive down Thursday morning to visit the historic city, shop, and enjoy lunch. The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and conclude at 12 noon on Saturday.



The cost of the two-day retreat is \$250 per person. This includes two nights of lodging and five meals. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for 40 participants. Sign up begins Sunday, February 4 in the West Narthex and applications are also available on our website at www.wpcspi.org.



The retreat will be based on John Philip Newell's book [A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul](#). Those planning to attend are also invited to the Adult Education Forum on Sundays, April 21 and 28 led by Blythe and Peter Kieffer. This two-week series entitled Paul Tillich: The Courage to Be, will be a review of the man and his writings in preparation for the New Harmony Retreat May 2-4, 2024.



ALL WOMEN'S NEW BEGINNING BRUNCH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

10:00 A.M. – 12 NOON IN PARISH HALL

PROGRAM

"AN INTRODUCTION TO C.S. LEWIS,
THE PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN"

BY

BROWNIE ANDERSON AND CAROLE KENNERLY



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
Director for Youth
zkarmar.mr@gmail.com

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

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

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

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

Ellen Carpenter
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Pat Hymans
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Lisa Runkle
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Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians

Church Offices will be closed on February 19
in observance of Presidents' Day.

Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, February 28.