



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

January 2021

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m.

Live Stream Worship Service

www.wpcspi.org

*Nursery Newsletter
emailed to Families
Children Birth – Age 3*

*Sunday School: WPCConnections
emailed to Families
Children Pre-K - Grade 5*

January 3

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

John 1:1-5, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12

The Rev. Christian K. Choi

Search for Jesus

January 10

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Called into Being

January 17

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51

The Rev. Trajan I. McGill

I Saw You

January 24

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The Reluctant Preacher

January 31

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Transfer of Power

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

On Sunday, January 24, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on October 11, 2020. Their bios can soon be found on the church website (www.wpcspi.org) under Church Leadership.



SESSION CLASS OF 2023

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Mal Hildebrand, Robyn Hovey, Becky Huston, James Kontio, Lynn McMenamin, Mary Ray, Krista Steller and Sam Magalis (youth),

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2023

Erin Ekstedt, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Richard Leary, Bruce Strom, Robert Stuart, Jess Weitzel and Jessica Borland (youth)

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT AND JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATES

On Saturday, January 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather by Zoom for the Annual Church Officer Retreat. Both Session and the Board of Deacons will meet on Wednesday, January 20 at 5:30 p.m.

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2020

We are grateful to the following elders and deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

SESSION:

Rance Carpenter, Linda Chronister, Kathy Germeraad, Nichole Magalis, Brad Steller, Marty Stutz, Mark Vasconcelles, Dr. Will Wright, Avery Pound (youth),

BOARD OF DEACONS:

Ted Babcock, Robert Bradford, Steve Cobourn, Dr. Virginia Dolan, Amanda Kurmann, Dr. Michael Nenaber, Maribeth Norton, Roe Stone, Grace Batterman (youth),

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

The annual congregational meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be a hybrid gathering which includes those attending worship in the Sanctuary and those on Zoom immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

2020 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are **due Thursday, January 7, 2021**. Please submit your reports to Jennie Alt jalt@wpcpi.org. They will be included in the 2020 Annual Report.

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

Last year 610 joined us for worship on Christmas Eve. This year we celebrated a centennial anniversary and a first! This was the centennial anniversary of our high school seniors reading lessons and lighting candles, *and* this was the first Christmas celebration since our abolitionist congregation was founded in 1835 that our pews are not overflowing with men and women, young and old, gathered to celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Christ child.



In keeping with the CDC guidelines, those present in the sanctuary included our worship team, participating high school seniors, and their families. We especially missed our Westminster Choir and look forward to hearing their beautiful, harmonious voices fill this sanctuary in 2021 when it is safe to gather.

We are grateful for the gifted quartet, assembled by Dale, who led us in singing the Christmas carols, and to all our members and friends at home, who, with the angels we have heard on high, sang and rang in the birth of our Savior. The Sherrick Family is pictured above.

A few of Westminster's 2020 highlights and silver linings of the COVID-19 cloud which I highlighted on Christmas Eve include:

- 1) Our first international mission traveled in January to Kenya where our members helped construct a church, which we financed.
- 2) The Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor improved our grounds and invested in our neighborhood through matching grants for homeowners, a service week in August, and our little pantry at Graham School.
- 3) The 20-year Anniversary Endowment Campaign, initiated in 2015 and completed in 2020, made this endeavor possible and is a testimony to the generosity and legacy of faith within this congregation.

A silver lining for the Kieffer family has been the joy of having Paul home for six of the last twelve months preparing for the Texas Bar, passing it, and being with us for Peter's heart surgery. We begin 2021 with Paul's departure to Houston where he starts as an associate at Skadden in mergers and acquisitions.

We celebrate doors opening up for all of us in 2021 with the end of the pandemic in sight!

A MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

New cases in Sangamon County and throughout the state continue to decrease! Our positivity rate is back under the state's target of 8%. Hospitalizations have stabilized, but deaths continue to occur at our highest rate. The Moderna vaccine joined the Pfizer one in the arms of thousands of Americans. It will still be several months, however, before most of us receive one, and likely even longer before we reach herd immunity. This means we will need to continue to wear masks, socially distance, and wash our hands for quite a while yet.

Weekly messages can be found on the home page of our website. If you have a specific question for us, do not hesitate to reach out on our email: WPCCoronavirus@gmail.com

Ellen Carpenter, RN
Virginia Dolan, MD
Peter Kieffer, MD
Todd Knox, MD

Michael Nenaber, MD
Marilyn Rigney, RN
Cara Vasconcelles, MD

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

While the Advent and Christmas experience was very different for everyone this year, the Christmas story, its message, and many of the Westminster traditions were unchanged. Many thanks to those who contributed to the Flower Fund for the red poinsettias for the Advent Season and for the white poinsettias for Christmas; to those who assisted in putting up the decorations at the start of the season, and to Scott Day who assisted in putting up the aisle candles and placing the poinsettia plants.

We are all particularly blessed by those who have enriched our worship through music in these past weeks: Krista Steller, Adam Miller, Kamen Petkov, the St. Andrew's Sisters...Julie Blythe, Amanda Neubauer, and Eleanor VanDeventer, and the Christmas Eve Quartet: Eleanor VanDeventer, Adam Miller, Jamie Greenwald, and Lyle VanDeventer. Through all this, we continue to be grateful to Bob and Elsie Fox who send out to the world through live streaming all of our services and musical events.

The Christmas Decorations will be taken down on Monday morning, January 4 starting at 10:00 a.m. No previous experience is necessary. If you are interested in adopting a red or white poinsettia, come by the church and claim a plant, or several.

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, December 29 we have received 245 pledges totaling \$788,792. This is 97% of our \$810,000 goal.

If you have not and intend to do so, please pledge ASAP. You may pledge online or contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator at lrunkle@wpcspi.org. Nichole Magalis, Chair



NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Contribution income is under budget, however we anticipate receiving a large number of year-end donations. Expenses are also under budget, but we still ended November with expenses exceeding income by nearly \$15,300.

YEAR-END 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

2020 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 904,143	\$ 954,236	\$-50,093
Expenses	\$-919,441	\$-954,236	\$-34,795
Net Total	\$ -15,298	\$ 0	

As the year-end is tomorrow, we want to thank all who have made donations, and especially to those who have fulfilled their 2020 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to assist. **Be sure any donations for the 2020 tax year are dated 2020 and received no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 4, 2020.**

2020 TESTAMENTARY GIFTS

The Westminster Support and Endowment Fund received testamentary gifts from the following members who died in 2020:

Jo Ann Brown \$1,000
Mary and William Schnirring \$200,000
Dorothea Thrasher \$20,000

We are grateful for their lives, thoughtful generosity, and commitment to Westminster's legacy of faith.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

11:15 a.m. - Confirmation will study Session 21: Jesus' Followers from *Echo the Story* curriculum.

5:00 p.m. - Sr. High Youth will gather for their first gathering of the new year via zoom, sharing their hopes for 2021.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

11:15 a.m. - Confirmation will study Session 5: Who is Your Savior? from *Big God Big Questions* curriculum.

5:00 p.m. - Sr. High youth will gather to explore how we can make an impact during 2021, including possible mission trip during the summer. Although we are in prepping stages, we would like to discuss and discern the realistic steps towards what we can accomplish during this transition year as we look forward to 2021 being a post-pandemic year.

THANK YOU, WESTMINSTER

With funds raised from the Spud Bake Fundraiser and savings from the prior year, our youth were able to purchase about \$1,700 of gifts through our first virtual Christmas Shopping for Contact Ministries on Cyber Monday. Thank you for your generosity to our neighbors and for empowering our youth to do the right thing and help those who are in need.



*"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40*

YOUTH STOCK LITTLE PANTRY

Our youth are staying busy, being steadfast neighbors in various ways. Samantha and Carter Magalis, along with their mom, Nichole, are filling the little pantry at Graham Elementary School to serve those who are in need.

We look forward to hearing many other stories of Westminster youth making an impact in our neighborhoods and beyond.



OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Looking for something fun to do while making an impact during 2021 summer?

Ghost Ranch at Abiquin, New Mexico is looking for college aged young adults to help them carry out its mission in its 'historic, inspiring southwest landscape.' For more information, visit ghostranch.org. If interested in applying, go to:

[HTTPS://CV823.INFUSION-LINKS.COM/API/V1/CLICK/5329363405504512/6548721841733632](https://cv823.infusion-links.com/api/v1/click/5329363405504512/6548721841733632)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

SUNDAY SCHOOL GALLERY



JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AND BIBLE PASSAGES

1/3/21 Visitors From The East Matthew 2:1-12

1/10/21 Friends Who Help Luke 1:26-38

1/17/21 Jesus Heals a Woman Luke 1:26-38

1/24/21 Jesus Heals With Words Luke 2:1-7

1/31/21 A Canaanite Woman Does Not Give Up Luke 2:8-20

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.

MINISTRY TO INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Our Westminster family is growing! To date, we have 26 children on our nursery roster. Of those 26, fourteen were born between December 2019 and December 2020. What joy our children bring to the congregation. We can't wait to welcome everyone back with open arms! In the meantime, we encourage you to share pictures and news of your growing families on our WPCConnections private Facebook page. If you would like to connect with other families and children in the congregation, please email Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org for an invitation.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL



Remote preschool, while not equaling the joy of being together, still supplied a fun December for WCP. Our teachers (with help from our wonderful parents!) prepared remote learning bags that went home each week. These bags had little craft projects, math games, and experiments related to our yearly December fun with gingerbread men! As you may remember, every year the preschool invites each family to come and share a holiday tradition. Since we couldn't do this in person, families shared pictures and videos which our teachers added to the videos created for each class. In addition to the traditions, these videos had songs, fingerplays, and stories for the students. They used the students' names and other pictures families sent to help keep the children connected, playing, and learning. Each week also included a short zoom meeting; seeing each other's faces was a definite highlight! We will continue remote learning until after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day when we will reevaluate if we can return to outdoor preschool.

Applications for the 2021-22 school year will be available to current members, alumni, and church members when we return from break. They are found on our website and on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the preschool. Applications are due January 31st (along with the \$40 application fee). The general public will be invited to apply after February 1st.

**CONTACT MINISTRIES ADOPT-A-FAMILY
DECEMBER 7, 2020**



Thank you to our members who provided gifts: Teena Archer, Cara Barnett, Carolyn & Keith Beatty, Sandy Bellatti, the Berkowitz family, Carolyn Berning, Sally Jo Bomke, Nancy Canady, Ellen & Rance Carpenter, Linda & Ed Caupert, Linda Chronister, Cathy Cragoe, Leah Duling, Dee Dee Duffy, Carolyn Dungan, Tara Fritsch, Kathy Germeraad, Melanie & Bud Green, Alyssa Haaker, Nancy Huston, Mary Jo & David Jenkins, Julie McDonough, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Jeanne Pittman, Christy Pound, Camille & Ted Proud, Judy Ridinger, Marilyn Rigney, Mary Gail Romack, Linda Shaefer, Jan Schuermann, Kay Smith, Julie Sundquist, Deb Turnbull, Dr. Meredith Volle, Susan Wilkey, Kate Wilson, and Sarah Zerfas.

**COMPASS FOR KIDS ZOOM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**



Ann Collins leading Compass Grade 2 & 3 for at-risk children in all of District 186. Participants meet at-risk qualifications to be in this program.

CONTACT MINISTRIES GIVEAWAY DECEMBER 14-16



This year's give-a-way looked very different from past years as Contact Ministries volunteers delivered gifts and food baskets to the 378 families in a highly orchestrated curbside pick-up. Westminster's timing on creating the new parking lot with a drive through (as a part of the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor) made this possible! Thank you to Marilyn Rigney, Dr. Diane Rutledge, and Dr. Susan Shea who served at the give-away this year. Dr. Kieffer provided the opening prayer on December 16.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS



In December, the Advent Wreath Candles were lit by the Hovey, Simonson, and Fritsch Families. We welcomed Olive Mae Swiderski in the Sacrament of Baptism pictured with her parents, Natalie Bomke and Ed Swiderski. Dale Rogers led us in the Christmas Vespers and Seniors Kristina Hemberger, Avery Pound, Jai Ireland, Grace Batterman and Ben Parker led the Centennial Candle Lighting Ceremony on Christmas Eve.

PARISH LIFE by Rev. Trajan McGill MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

THANK YOU to the Westminster community for your significant generosity during this Advent and Christmas.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY: WPC members fulfilled **96 gift requests (many of which consisted of multiple individual gifts) for nine families** living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. See photos and more information on page 4. Special thanks to Kathy Germeraad, who coordinated this gift giving tradition again this year, and to Bob Leffler for organizing all the requests.

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION: On Wednesday, December 16, Westminster hosted Contact Ministries' annual Christmas Distribution. This year it was organized as a curbside pickup, and our church was filled with warmth and good cheer as numerous masked volunteers from throughout the Springfield community assisted in distributing toys, shoes, books, food, and hygiene kits to approximately **375 families**. We are honored to be a part of this community generosity. The annual Spud Bake fundraiser also allowed our youth to purchase **\$1,694.50 in gifts for area teens**.



KNIT 2 PURL 4: Our knitting group continues creating hand-made items and donating them to the community. K2P4 and other Westminster members again lovingly supplied a whole tree full of knitted goods to persons in need of warmth this winter. 147 hats, scarves, gloves, and socks were provided to Contact Ministries.

TOYS FOR TOTS: Thanks to those who responded generously, providing 13 gifts in 2020 for this children's program of the United States Marine Corps Reserve.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is used to support Racial/Ethnic leadership development, schools and colleges, and supply financial assistance to active and retired ministers having special circumstances of need. The total received in 2020 to date is **\$2,417.77**.

HUNGER ACTION TEAM: Our new Hunger Action Team is working to understand hunger in Springfield and learn about all the anti-hunger efforts already underway in this area. The team next meets on January 26.



EARTH CARE NEWS



January Earth Care Tip: Although the seventies leisure suits gave polyester a bad reputation, it underwent a rebirth in the eighties when it was blended with cotton to create comfortable, durable, and low-maintenance fabric.

Polyester is in trouble again as the textile industry has recognized its roots in fossil fuel and its troublesome durability--decades to a couple of centuries in the landfill! When shopping the after-Christmas sales, let's consider non-iron cotton, a natural biodegradable fabric which combines wrinkle-free comfort with sustainability.

Earth Care Team: Peter Kieffer (Chair), Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Becky McDonald, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, and Susan Shaw.

2020 MISSION ENDOWMENT GIVING

Many thanks to all from the Westminster community who have given to the WPC Support & Endowment Fund. This provides a significant source of financial support beyond our annual operating budget to mission and community service projects in Springfield and worldwide.

In addition to our Steadfast Neighbor mission projects, direct support of agencies with whom WPC works closely, and the new Betty Smith Mission Fund, the Support & Endowment budget contains an allocation for mission grants, given each year to projects and agencies to support good work in the community. Below are the efforts supported by Westminster in 2020. This list comes not only from your donations but also from the creative mission vision of Westminster members. The Mission and Community Service Committee is always interested in hearing from you!

Program	Description	Funding
YMCA	Support of their collaboration with the Matthew Project in summer programming for homeless children	\$ 1,000.00
Helping Hands	Assistance with extra staffing and other pandemic-related costs	\$ 4,000.00
Kemmerer Village	Support of summer programming for youth overcoming life challenges	\$ 2,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	Funding of "Unity Build" new home construction (now scheduled for 2021)	\$ 5,000.00
H.I.S. Home Haitian Orphanage	Sponsorship of annual bike ride fundraiser, toward housing homeless children	\$ 500.00
IL Presbyterian Home	Funding for personal protective equipment and other pandemic-related expenses	\$ 5,600.00
IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Food and supplies for domestic violence victims, distributed by partner agencies throughout Illinois	\$ 2,000.00
Compass for Kids	Extra staff and supplies needed for an all-online after-school program	\$ 5,000.00
Central IL Foodbank	Funding to make healthier foods available on a regular basis	\$ 2,500.00
Salvation Army	Support for programming in the city's winter warming center for homeless persons	\$ 5,000.00
Total		\$32,600.00

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

ADVENT CARDS – The Deacons annually deliver Christmas poinsettias to our homebound members and all who have lost immediate family in the last year. With home visits impossible this year, the Congregational Care Committee instead coordinated the mailing of cards, designed in-house for our members. Thanks to Bob Leffler, whose beautiful photo of poinsettias in the Sanctuary adorned the front of those cards.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4

Knitters are encouraged to check email for the date in-person knitting will resume. Knitters are encouraged to knit at home, to deliver their knitted items directly to the church office, and to inform Sue Cull of the number and type of items donated.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m.** on Zoom. We will view the video and discuss Chapter 2, "The Piercing of Mary's Soul," in the book *Not a Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton.

LYDIA CIRCLE INVITES ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN to meet **Tuesday, January 19 at 9:30 a.m.** on Zoom. Leah Duling will lead Lesson 5, "Lamenting Life," based on the theme scripture of Psalm 137 in the *2020-2021 PW Horizons Bible Study: Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lynn Miller. **For those who are not in Lydia Circle and want to receive an email Zoom invitation, email Jennie in the church office at jalt@wpcspi.org.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Springfield Art Association Collective Artist Holiday Sale continues through January 16 in the main (700 N. 4th St.) and new gallery (105 N. 5th). WPC members participating in this sale are Dr. Scott Day, Dr. Roland Folse, Priscilla Kluge, Bob Leffler, and Sue Scaife.

NEW ADDRESS

Alyssa Haaker, 2236 S. Pasfield, Springfield, IL 62704

Judith Pensoneau-Feurer, 2101 W. Lawrence, Apt. 107, Springfield, IL 62704 (temporarily)

Raymond Phipps, Heritage Health, 900 N. Rutledge, Springfield, IL 62702

Lee Romack (and daughter, Kayla Romack), 45 Ives Hall Lane, Silex, MO 63377

Edison Zohfonyi, 590 Reserve Circle Dr. Apt. 7, Edwardsville, IL 62025

DECEMBER HELPING HANDS MEAL PREPARED BY BRYANS AND SWANSON FAMILIES



Thank you to the Bryans and Swanson families for the meal on December 11. The January 10 meal will be prepared by Nancy Canady and Ann Collins. More ministry partners are needed for 2021.

Please consider taking one or more dates (the 2nd Friday of each month) to prepare and deliver a much-needed dinner for the men at the Helping Hands shelter. Reimbursement is available. Find out more by contacting Rev. Trajan McGill or Jennie Alt at the church office.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JANUARY MENU – Canned Spaghetti and Meatballs, Canned Veggies, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water, Instant Jell-O or Pudding. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola/nutri-grain/breakfast bars.*

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Roy Baker celebrates 95 years on January 4.

John Jaech celebrates 92 years on January 20.

NEW ARRIVAL

Jonah Duke Hill was born on September 11 in Springfield to Tamika and Jake Hill. His sisters and brother are Jenna, Becca, and Noah.

Madison Jean Durco was born December 9 in Chicago, IL to Morgan and Scott Durco. Her grandfather is Todd Wise and her uncle is Eric Wise.

Anna Faye Simhauser was born on December 15 in Springfield to Caitlin and Mark Simhauser. Her sister is Nora, her grandparents are Carolyn and Dan Dungan, and her uncle is Colin Dungan.

IN MEMORIAM

Joe D. Burgess died December 9. The prayers and sympathies are extended to his wife, Carol, their daughter Kimberly Dawn (husband William T. Jr.) son, Jeffery Scott Burgess (wife Melony) and grandchildren, Amanda Workman, Rachel Monroe, Chandler Burgess, Jamie Burgess, and their families.

Patrick A. Noonan died December 11, 2020. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his sons Patrick Sutton Noonan (wife Parlee), Christopher Hay Noonan (wife Michelle), Peter Todd Noonan, Thomas Andrew Noonan (wife Teri), and to his grandchildren, Paul, Will, Trevor, Amanda, Christopher, Bryce, Sophia, Riley Anne, Camden, Jackson, Drake, Hanna, Ridgely, and Davis Noonan.

Elder Dr. Robert A. Lynn died December 12. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Dr. Naomi Lynn, their daughters: Marylou Lynn (husband Mark Vogel), Nancy Francis (husband Darrin), Judy Chance, (husband Marvin), and Jo-An Lynn (husband Doug Seifert), grandchildren Joshua Lynn-Vogel, Aaron and Dani Lynn-Vogel, Sam and Maisong Francis, Adam Chance, Alison and Riley Eckels, Alex Chance, Dr. Jessica and Bob Bregant, Hilary and Chris Lawton, Ben Francis (partner, Madelyn Sather), and great grandson Nathaniel.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Carrol Stahlman on the death of her brother, Claude Bryan, on November 22 in Benton, IL.

Dr. Ken and Lisa Runkle (Financial Administrator) on the death of his cousin Carole Runkle, on December 1.

Dr. Virginia and Jim Dolan on the death of Virginia's mother, and to Chelsea and Kelby Dolan, Katherine and Ryan Dolan, Katy and Keegan MacDonna and Erin and Josh Masters on the death of their grandmother, and Teddy and Toby Dolan and Piper MacDonna on the death of the great-grandmother, Carolyn MacDonna on Tuesday, December 8.

Todd Wise on the death of his mother, and to Morgan and Scott Durco and Eric Wise on the death of their grandmother, Charlene Slater, on December 4 in Urbana, IL.

Lucy and John Stafford on the death of John's brother, Kevin Stafford, on December 18 in Annapolis, Maryland.

Church offices will be closed on January 1 in observance of New Year's Day and Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SITE AND LANDSCAPE PLAN



During December some of the final touches on the Site and Landscape Plan were completed with the installation of the limestone landings for the East Entry.



Additionally, the fencing along our parking lot, rental home, alley, and the Verizon Garage was installed.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION OUTREACH

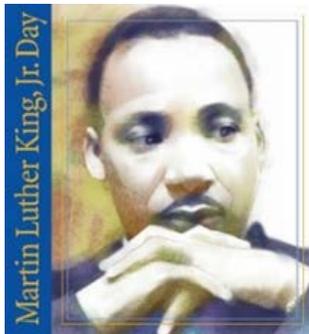


The first year of investing in our neighborhood has been exciting and fulfilling. Of the \$30,000 designated for SNE mission, Westminster was able to provide \$12,130.42 in Matching Grants, \$13,029.51 in projects completed during the August Service Week, and \$1,984.24 to install, fill, and replenish the Little Pantry at Graham Elementary School.

Our next-door neighbors, Carol and Stan Brosam, shared a photo of their completed matching grant project with a lovely view of Westminster in the background.

THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST

WILL BE VIRTUAL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18



The 46th Annual MLK Breakfast on Monday, January 18 at 7:30 a.m. will be virtual. The Rev. Dr. Melvin Charles Smith, pastor of Mt. Moriah-East Baptist Church will be the keynote speaker.

WPC is a Platinum Sponsor again in 2021, donating \$1,500. It is meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality.

Those who would like to attend are invited to prepare your breakfast at home and follow the link on Frontiers' website at springfieldfrontiers.org.

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2020 Westminster distributed \$3,000 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund. The recipients include: (1) the Frontiers Intl., Springfield Chapter (\$1,500), (2) Edison Zohfonyi of Cameroon, an engineering student at SIU Edwardsville (\$1,000). *He is pictured with his sister Mervice Alah*



Abung and niece Myra. (Mervice begins a Master's Degree in accounting at UIS this month.) and (3) Youth First, an outreach to at-risk urban teenagers in Los Angeles (\$500).



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
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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Deb Watts Elliott
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Kimberly Hollinshead
Jaymie Hale Ngoupa
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Krista Steller
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Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians

January Reporter deadline is Sunday, January 31. Reporter folding and mailing will be on Wednesday, February 3.