



# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

January 2022

### WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

[www.wpcspi.org](http://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

5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

January 2

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18

The Rev. Christian Choi  
God's Time Capsule

January 9

BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
BAPTISMAL VOW RENEWAL  
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The Power of Speech

January 16

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

The Rev. Christian Choi  
Common Good

January 23

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
MISSION SUNDAY

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The Rev. Christian K. Choi  
Common Purpose

January 30

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
If I speak in tongues

### NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

On Sunday, January 9, 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 9, 2021. Their bios can soon be found on the church website ([www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)) under Church Leadership.



#### SESSION CLASS OF 2024

Jay Kennerly, Tim Kluge, Dave Leonatti, Michael Morthland, Christy Pound, Karen Sherrick, Eleanor VanDeventer, Sarah Zervas **Youth Elders** – Emily Brower and Bryce Pound **Elder Class of 2022:** Dr. Peter Kieffer who is serving in the position held by the late Judy Ridinger.

#### BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2024

Mervice Alah Abung, George Botanga, Sophia Choi, Melanie Green, Camille Massey, Jim Parker, James Rigney, Susan Shaw **Youth Deacons** – Braden Barton and Mia Marcy

### CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT AND JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATES

On Saturday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Annual Church Officer Retreat. The APNC Committee will present the updated Ministry Information Form and Leadership Competencies to the Church Officers. Board of Deacons will meet on January 12 and Session will meet January 19.

### THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2021

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

**SESSION:** Norma Adams-Johnson, Marc Anderson, Deb Coontz, John Cross, Dee Dee Duffy, Jim Kincaid, Dr. Todd Knox, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Sam Magalis (Youth)

**BOARD OF DEACONS:** Sarah Eldridge, Tara Fritsch, Nancy Huston, Mary Peura, Nathaniel Brower, Gregg Humphrey, Bob Leffler, Pat Moore, Jessica Borland (Youth)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

## ANNUAL MEETING

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

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast served by youth attending the 2022 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship!

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

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

2021 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are **due Thursday, January 13, 2022 by noon**. Please submit your reports to Jennie Alt [jalt@wpcpi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcpi.org). They will be included in the 2021 Annual Report.

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

*His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years... Luke 2:51b-52a*

Christmas Eve at Westminster was a holy and joyous occasion as we delighted in our children acting out the story of Jesus' birth at the 5:00 p.m. service, enjoyed a delicious meal hosted



by the Board of Deacons, and were bathed in the light of candles, lessons and carols at the 7:30 p.m. service. Each service had its own character and we welcomed a total of 300 in both services. There were over 80 views from households of families gathered together

for the 7:30 p.m. livestreamed Lessons and Carols Service.

The First Sunday after Christmas Day our lectionary reading was Luke, Chapter 2, where we discover twelve-year old Jesus sitting in the temple with the teachers, listening and asking questions. Luke is the only gospel writer that gives us a glimpse into the faith development of Jesus' young life and for this we are grateful. We learn from Luke that Jesus' childhood revolved around his home and faith community. Jesus did not come into his own without the relationships that shaped his faith growing up.

What is true for Jesus is also true for us. Children growing up



in Westminster celebrate milestones on their faith journey. The rituals around baptism, the third grade Bible presentation, and confirmation mark transitions as our children *increase in wisdom and in years.*

On Sunday, December 26, we welcomed Madison Jean, daughter of Morgan and Scott Durco, in the Sacrament of Baptism.

As we move into the new year and reflect on Jesus' birth and childhood, may

we take this opportunity to treasure and give thanks for the people who have shaped our lives and nurtured our identity as God's children. May we keep our minds and hearts open to what God would have us do in this time and may we continue to grow in wisdom and in years.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 9 AND 23



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on **Sundays, January 9 and 23, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon** 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. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on January

30 following a special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** will resume rehearsals in the new year on Wednesday, January 12 at 4:45 p.m. The project for the coming months is the preparation of music for the Ash Wednesday service and the musical on Sunday, May 1, 2022.



**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** will sing *Here's a Pretty Little Baby* on Sunday, January 9 for the 10:00 a.m. service. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m. Assistance is needed to clear out last semester's music in the choir folders, load music for the spring and put the music away on Wednesday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. If you are able to help, let me know.

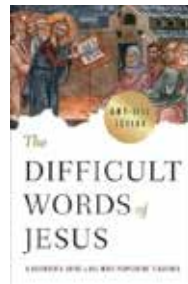
**CHURCH MICE**, our musical experience for infants through age four will begin its new year on Saturday, January 15 at 11 a.m.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**, our choir for Kindergartners through second grade will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, February 1 at 4:45 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN** will be Wednesday, January 5 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Many thanks to those who assisted in decorating the church. We have enjoyed these adornments through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come help store things away for another year.

## ADULT EDUCATION

**ADULT ED FORUM:  
DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS  
SUNDAYS, JANUARY 9 AND 23**



This six-session study features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's reflections on the difficult teachings of Jesus. Lyle VanDeventer will introduce the discussion on Sundays, January 9, 23 from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon in the Second Floor Classroom. Future discussions will be interwoven throughout the winter and spring season.

**ADULT ED HOSTS ABIGAIL ELDRIDGE & NO MALICE FILMS  
MLK SUNDAY, JANUARY 16**

Students in Illinois were challenged to explore the topic of racial healing using the medium of film to harness their creativity and passion to produce short films that help promote fairness, heal wounds in their communities, and lead to positive social changes for the benefit of all through the "No Malice Film Contest." Our own Abigail Eldridge won third place for the 11-14 age group with "We the People." The film details the lives of various civil rights heroes. In voice-over, Eldridge reads Amanda Gorman's poem, "The Hill We Climb." Join us Sunday, January 16 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for a special presentation of Abigail Eldridge's film "We the People."

**DR. KIEFFER'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY  
RESUMES THURSDAY, JANUARY 13**

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study resumes on Thursday, January 13, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. We begin the new year exploring the parables of Christ in Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book and DVD Series entitled *Short Stories by Jesus*. Books and a schedule are available on Sunday mornings in the West Narthex. The cost of the book is \$15.





## FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

### CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2,

NO GATHERING – HAPPY NEW YEAR & WINTER BREAK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

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 for their first gathering of the new year. Theme: New Year Resolutions.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

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

5:00 p.m. - Sr. High Youth will gather for their fellowship and discussion. Theme: Exodus and Racial Justice.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

11:15 a.m. - Confirmation will study Session 7: What Does It Mean to Show Christ's Love? from *Big God, Big Questions* curriculum.

5:00 p.m. – Informational Gathering for Mission 2021.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

No Gathering today as Junior and Senior High Youth participate in Egg-tastic Breakfast Mission Trip Fundraiser.

### 2022 SUMMER MISSIONS INFORMATION MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 5:00 P.M.

With respite of COVID Omicron variant and further unknowns of what the summer has in store, we are in the process of planning a 2022 Youth Summer mission Trip with prayer. For those who are interested in participating in this year's summer mission trip (scheduled for July 10-16), be part of this evening's Youth Group fellowship and discussion of the mission trip.

### EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER



All youth attending the 2022 Mission Trip are expected to work the fifth annual Mission Trip Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, January 30. **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!

### THANK YOU, WESTMINSTER

With funds raised from the Spud Bake Fundraiser and savings from the prior year, our youth purchased about \$1,300 in Christmas gifts for Contact Ministries. 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.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick

### BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)

We sang, snacked, and celebrated at our Bridges Christmas Party. Fun was had by all! We will return to our midweek gatherings on January 12, 19, and 26 from 4:00-4:45 in the Tower Classroom.



### JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

1/2/22 Visitors From The East (*Grades 3-5 stay in the Sanctuary for Communion Sunday.*)

1/9/22 Jesus is Baptized

1/16/22 The Short Man

1/23/22

The Thankful Woman

1/30/22

The Thankful Man



If you would like access to the WPConnections on our website, please contact Karen Sherrick at [ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org) to receive a log in for access to our archives.

### NURSERY UPDATE

**WE WELCOME CAROLINE HAYNOR** to our nursery staff. Caroline is a junior at Springfield High School and active in our youth group. She will work under the supervision of Nursery Coordinator Leigh Milward.

**NEW NURSERY GUILD** is being formed to create an intergenerational space in our church nursery. Many members received a personal invitation. Please consider signing up as a Ministry partner in the nursery on Sundays from 9:55 - 11:00 a.m. If you are interested contact Karen Sherrick ([ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org)) and sign up at <https://bit.ly/3sqninG>. The rotation begins January 2022 and will include two ministry partners per week.



### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

December is a special month in the preschool. Each year, our families all share a holiday tradition from their home. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about the differences and similarities in families and how different cultures celebrate the holidays. We continued our bread study this month, made our own dough for pizza (the church kitchen was so full of flour, rolling pins, and happy faces!), and made pancakes for pajama day. This transitioned perfectly into our yearly fun with gingerbread. You'd be amazed at how many different gingerbread man stories there are and what fun it is to compare them. We finished the month by making and decorating gingerbread cookies. Those sneaky guys managed to run away from us again! We'll be on winter break until school resumes on January 10th.

**As we begin the new year, we'll be accepting applications for the 2022-23 school year.** Current alumni and church members have early registration through February 28th. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested.



## HANGING OF THE GREENS MUSICAL PRESENTATION AND ADVENT CELEBRATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5



Westminster Choristers and Children's Choir, under the direction of Dale Rogers, presented the "Hanging of the Greens" Musical Presentation and did not disappoint. Following a meaningful worship service, 80 gathered in Parish Hall for a festive brunch, caroling, decorating cookies, and creating ornaments to hang on our Christmas Trees at home.

## ELIZABETH CIRCLE HOSTS CHRISTMAS TEA AND THE ST. ANDREW'S SISTERS DECEMBER 13



Over 35 women gathered at the English Tea Room for a luncheon hosted by the Elizabeth Circle. After partaking in an array of tea sandwiches and cookies, the Saint Andrew's Sisters sang a variety of carols and songs for the season.



## CONTACT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION



Thank you to Eleanor VanDeventer, Krista Steller and Diane Rutledge along with Coleman Moore (not pictured) for representing Westminster among the volunteers at the Contact Ministries Christmas Distribution on December 15. Westminster hosted this event for the 30<sup>th</sup> year. The day began with prayer led by Dr. Kieffer.

## WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS VESPERS



The sanctuary was beaming with community members and our church family for the stunning Christmas Vespers presented by the Westminster Choir, St. Andrew's Sisters, guest musicians, and our Director of Music and the Arts, Dale Rogers.

## CHRISTMAS EVE 2021



Thank you to the high school juniors and seniors who led us in the reading of lessons and the lighting of the candles during our traditional Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service which concluded with all of us joining the angels we have heard on high ringing and singing in the birth of our Savior.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MISSION EMPHASIS IN WORSHIP ON JANUARY 23

On Sunday, January 23, mission will be our emphasis in worship. Thanks to all in the WPC family who contribute time, effort, and expertise to the church's mission. A comprehensive list of the mission supported by Westminster will be presented on January 23rd.



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.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Endowment Mission Disbursements for the year 2021	Regional National International
Café Moxo meals	\$1,375
Breath of India	\$2,500
Church World Service-CROP	\$1,625
Marion Medical Mission	\$4,500
PDA-Haiti Relief: Earthquake	\$5,000
<b>Total Betty Smith Mission</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
Central Illinois Foodbank	\$5,000
Compass	\$5,000
EPNIA-Creative Reuse Marketplace	\$1,500
Havey Foundation-Bundles of Joy	\$1,000
Helping Hands	\$4,000
Kemmerer Village-STEAM Curriculum	\$3,000
Motherland Gardens	\$1,000
Outlet-AA boys mentoring (food for families)	\$2,500
Wooden It Be Lovely	\$7,000
Word Up of Central Illinois	\$2,000
YMCA-Strong Kids Summer Camp	\$1,000
<b>Total Mission Grants</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>
Contact Ministries Fundraisers	\$2,250
Faith Coalition for the Common Good Fundraiser	\$400
Word Up of Central Illinois	\$700
<b>Total Other Mission</b>	<b>\$3,350</b>
Videographer Compensation	\$7,275
Licenses/Subscriptions	\$899
Video Equipment	\$2,337
<b>Total Worship Mission</b>	<b>\$10,511</b>
Matching Grants	\$14,533
Service Week	\$12,696
Little Pantry	\$8,006
<b>Total Steadfast Neighbor Mission</b>	<b>\$35,235</b>
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT MISSION</b>	<b>\$97,096</b>

THANK YOU TO THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SIGNIFICANT GENEROSITY DURING THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: WPC members fulfilled **gift requests for nine families** living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. Special thanks to Mary Caroline Mitchell, who coordinated this gift giving tradition again this year, and to Bob Leffler for organizing all the requests.



CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION: On Wednesday, December 15, Westminster hosted Contact Ministries' annual Christmas Distribution. 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 **275 families**. We are honored to be a part of this community generosity. The annual Spud Bake fundraiser also allowed our youth to purchase **\$1,300 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. 124 hats, scarves, gloves, and socks were provided to Contact Ministries.

TOYS FOR TOTS: Thanks to those who responded generously, providing 23 gifts in 2021 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 2021 to date is **\$3,174.18**.



HUNGER ACTION TEAM: The team will prepare a monthly meal for the Springfield Warming Center on **Thursday, January 27** led by Krista Steller, Kathy Germeraad, Pat Hymans, Sue Sawers, and Jeanne VanGieson.

DECEMBER HELPING HANDS MEAL  
PREPARED BY BRYANS AND SWANSON FAMILIES

Thank you to the Bryans and Swanson families for the meal on December 10. The January 14 meal will be prepared by Nancy Canady and Ann Collins. More ministry partners are needed for 2022.



JANUARY EARTH CARE TIP



John the Baptist requested us to give our second coat to the poor, so we can donate to Goodwill and Salvation Army those clothes supplanted by Christmas gifts. Instead of casting aside worn, damaged, or stained clothes, we can reach for the needle and thread (or outsource to our local seamstress or tailor) and remove tough stains with sage advice from wikiHow.com. Remember reusing items reduces consumption of new ones and preserves even more of God's creation than recycling them.

-Dr. Peter Kieffer

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4** will resume on Tuesday, January 4 for our brown bag lunch at noon and knitting at 1:00 p.m.

**PW LUNCHEON** will not meet in January.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets **Wednesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.** hosted by Suzie Spada (3617 Carnoustie Dr. 62712). The lesson is on chapter four "Ruth 1 & 2." Please RSVP to Suzie at 217-553-4954.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets **Monday, January 10 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The lesson is "Ruth 1 & 2". For more information, contact Sue Baker at 217-670-2052.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets **Tuesday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m.** in Third Floor Classroom. The lesson is "Ruth 1". For more information, contact Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be **Thursday, January 13 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Bud Green will provide breakfast. The speaker is TBD and more information will be available next week. RSVP with the weekly email link, our website, or by calling the church office.

## NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithfulness and financial support for the work and mission of Westminster. We ended November with expenses exceeding income by \$34,833. Our 2021 budget included a \$15,000 deficit. However, with strong income from year-end donations, we could overcome the projected deficit.

2021 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 900,336	\$ 908,924	\$ -8,588
Expenses	\$-935,169	\$-922,674	\$-12,495
Net Total	\$ -34,833	\$ -13,750	

## ONLINE GIVING: NEW LOOK AND PHONE TEXTING OPTION

Westminster's online giving link has a new format which provides options to transfer a donation directly from your bank or to pay by credit or debit card one time or set up recurring donations. Included is a new phone texting option which connects members to online giving by texting the keyword "GIVE2WPC" to the number 73256. After sending the text, you'll receive a return message with a link which will take you to the new online giving page for your donation. For assistance, Lisa Runkle will gladly take your call.

## YEAR-END 2021 CONTRIBUTIONS

Now at the end of the year, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have fulfilled your 2021 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. **Be sure any donations for the 2021 tax year are dated 2021 and received no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 4, 2022.**

## STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION UPDATE

As of Tuesday, December 28 we have received 227 pledges totaling \$791,777. This is 99% of our \$797,000 goal with only \$5,223 remaining. If you intend to pledge, please do so online or contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator at [lrunkle@wpcspi.org](mailto:lrunkle@wpcspi.org). The generosity of this congregation enables us to serve friends beyond our faith community and to welcome friends into the joy of the life we share in Christ. - *Pete VanGieson*



## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

John Jaech celebrates 93 years on January 20.

Laurie & Cress Maddox celebrate 55 years on January 21.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Madison Jean Durco, daughter of Morgan and Scott Durco, niece of Shannon and Eric Wise, and granddaughter of Todd and the late Lisa Wise was baptized on December 26.

### DECEMBER GRADUATES

Edison Zohfonyi received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Edison was a recipient of a Westminster Scholarship in 2019 and 2020.

Emma Shafer received a B.A. in Urban Studies from the New School, A University in New York City. She also received the Urban Studies Departmental Honor.

### WEDDINGS

Anna Koeppel and John Laubersheimer were united in marriage December 10, 2021.

Linda Chronister and Dr. J. Roland Folse were united in marriage December 18, 2021 in our Sanctuary.

### IN MEMORIAM

Kyle Graham Schultz died November 29, 2021 in Dallas, Texas. The prayers of the congregation are extended to her husband, Dr. William Schultz, their children Jennifer (husband Peter) Wells of Auckland, New Zealand and Nathan (wife Lacy) of Dallas, TX and families.

Elder Don F. Harmon died December 2, 2021 in Springfield, Illinois. The prayers of the congregation are extended to his wife, Agnes, and their children Diane Harris of Dickson, TN and Michael Harmon.

Gordon E. Cozadd died December 9 in Springfield. The prayers of the congregation are extended to his sons Brian (wife Diana), Evan, Damon (wife Kara), Jason (wife Amy) and their families.

Elder William A. Irvine died December 10 in Springfield. The prayers of the congregation are extended to his wife Marci, their chosen daughters Jeni (husband Kevin) Reilly, children Kathleen, Shannon, John Patrick Irvine Reilly and Brenda (husband Brad) Bucher, children Drew, Morgan and Luke Bucher.

Charles Marshall Kenney, II M.D. died December 16 in Springfield. The prayers of the congregation are extended to his wife Janet, their twin sons Charles and William Kenney and extended family.

Elder Jon R. Hockenyos died December 18 in Springfield. The prayers of the congregation are extended to his wife, Sandy, their children Jon (wife Rebecca Yerly), Julie (husband James) Coyle, James (wife Karen), and grandchildren Jack and Sam Hockenyos, Lyn (husband Matt) Henson and Clara Coyle, Luke, Alex, and Elizabeth Hockenyos. A Memorial Service honoring Jon's life will be held Saturday, January 8 at 3:00 p.m. with visitation in the West Narthex beginning at 2:00 p.m.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Hank Beatty who received the Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year award out of 608 nominees. The Gatorade State Player of the Year award recognizes the nation's most outstanding high school student-athletes for their athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character.



## THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST RETURNS TO IN PERSON ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Breakfast will be held in person, with masks and social distancing in place, on Monday, January 17, 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndam Hotel. This year's speaker is Dr. Charles Person who was the youngest of the original thirteen Freedom Riders sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).



Westminster continues our support as a Platinum Sponsor, donating \$1,500 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund. It is symbolic and meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice

and equality. If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). *Westminster is this year's recipient of the Community Service Award.*

For more information, check the **Frontiers' website** at [springfieldfrontiers.org](http://springfieldfrontiers.org).

### KRISTA STELLER

SERVES AS WESTMINSTER'S COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Krista Steller's role on Westminster's staff will expand January 1, 2022. Krista will combine her webmaster work with additional responsibilities around communications as Communications Coordinator. This position will fill the part-time admin position in the 2022 budget. Krista's office hours will be Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and her workstation will be outside the Pastors' Studies. A University of Illinois graduate in music, Krista retired from Levi, Ray & Shoup Inc. as a computer software trainer in 2018. Krista will continue her responsibilities as an elder serving on the Information Technology (I.T.) Committee, Mission and Community Service Committee and the Associate Pastor Nomination Committee which she chairs.



### APOSTLES READ - LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

The Adult Education Committee is introducing a new book group called "Apostles Read" which will gather in our newly renovated Ziegler Library on the Fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. beginning in January. The group will be led by Aaron Berkowitz. Participants are invited to sign up on the church website and are responsible for purchasing their own books.



[Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers](#) by Michael Long is the book selected for the first discussion on Tuesday, January 25.

### 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**. 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 fences. Many requested we get the date out early so they can make their summer plans around the "beautiful week in the neighborhood." Others suggested we meet earlier in the summer for cooler days to work. 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!



### Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*  
[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
*Associate Pastor for Parish Life*  
[cchoi@wpcspi.org](mailto:cchoi@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
*Parish Associate*

**Dale T. Rogers**  
*Director of Music and the Arts*  
[drogers@wpcspi.org](mailto:drogers@wpcspi.org)

**Deb Watts Elliott**  
*Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator*  
[deb.watts@live.com](mailto:deb.watts@live.com)

**Karen H. Sherrick**  
*Director for Children's Ministry*  
[ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org)

**Leigh Milward**  
*Nursery Coordinator*

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*Part-time Custodians*

*The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, January 3.*

*Reporter folding and mailing will be  
Wednesday, February 2.*