



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

January 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

January 1

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION NEW YEAR’S DAY SERVICE

Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
The Rev. Christian Choi
The Presence that Saves

January 8

BAPTISM OF THE LORD ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
In Whom God Delights

January 15

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42
The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins
Jesus and Justice

January 22

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Casting a Wide Net

January 29

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Kind, Just, and Humble

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

WESTMINSTER WELCOMES REV. JIMMIE HAWKINS

AN MLK COMMUNITY GATHERING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. will introduce his new book Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America, highlighting the important work of Dr. King, and the impact of the Springfield Race Riots of 1908. We have invited Teresa Haley, President of the NAACP Springfield Chapter, who will join us. We are waiting for a confirmation from Senator Durbin’s Springfield Office about his availability to be a part of a panel. Brunch will be served.



WORSHIP AND ADULT ED PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins will preach at 10:00 a.m. and present an Adult Education Forum following worship from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Rev. Hawkins sermon topic is “Jesus and Justice,” and his forum will highlight the relationship between advocacy and spirituality. This will be geared toward Presbyterians as we learn more about Jimmie’s role as Director of the PC (USA) Office of Public Witness.

Rev. Hawkins serves as the Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC); a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, VA); and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center/Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Atlanta, GA).

We are grateful for Rev. Hawkins good work on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and anticipate our time together with great joy as we honor the ministry and life of The Rev. Dr. King.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

ANNUAL MEETING

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

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast that will be served by youth attending the 2023 Youth Mission Trip. Sausage for the breakfast is donated by Mary Jo and David Jenkins. 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

2022 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are due **Thursday, January 12, 2023 by noon**. Please submit your reports to Jennie Alt jalt@wpcpi.org. They will be included in the 2022 Annual Report.

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

Dear Friends,

We anticipate our New Year's Day Communion Service with great joy as we begin 2023 nourishing our spirits at the Lord's Table. We will include a New Year's Litany for our Prayer of Confession intertwined with the ringing of our historic bell. This New Year's Day marks the 160th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, a day of hope in the life of our country, and a day our church bell rang out in joy!

The fact that we celebrate the new year on the heels of our Savior's birth is meaningful. May this prayer from the Iona Prayer book, written by John Harvey, be a source of strength during this Holy Season as we begin anew.

ALWAYS EMMANUEL

God, above time, above space,
yet with us and in us in Christ,
we who are creatures of time and space
come to you with thankfulness.

We give you thanks
for the year that is passing. We thank you
for the many ways in which you have touched us,
in moments of great happiness or in deep distress.
You have been present in Christ,
the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.

We thank you for the people who matter to us,
near and far,
who have given themselves to us
and through whom
you have been present to us in their love.

We thank you for your church,
the community of faith
in whose company we have journeyed,
whose friendship we value,
whose challenge we welcome,
and whose wide boundaries
are not defined by time, by space or by death.

As we move now into a new year,
give us grace
to leave behind our regrets and our failures
and any sense of guilt,
to let go of the past with gratitude,
and to leave in your hands the future in faith –
to live each moment in joyful discipleship,
in the company of Christ who is always Emmanuel.
God with us. Amen.



Westminster begins 2023 with new monogrammed aprons which will be worn by our Hospitality and Nursery Guilds.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR will sing *Brightest and Best* on Sunday, January 1 for the 10:00 a.m. service and *River in Judea* for Sunday, January 8, the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 12 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 11 at 1:00 p.m. If you can help, let me know.

THE ST ANDREWS'S SISTERS will rehearse on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:15 p.m. in the Music Room. They will be singing Hymn to Freedom by jazz pianist, Oscar Peterson for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, January 15.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS will resume rehearsals in the new year on Wednesday, January 11 at 5:00 p.m. The project for the coming months is the preparation of music for the Ash Wednesday service and the musical on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants through age four will begin its new year on Saturday, January 14 at 11 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR, our choir for Kindergartners through second grade will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, January 11 at 4:15 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN will be Wednesday, January 4 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.

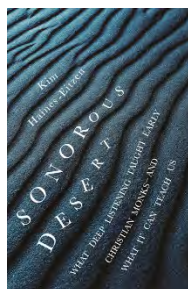
ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: 1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT JANUARY 8 AND 22

Between 14 and 16 August 1908, white mobs rampaged through Springfield, IL, destroying dozens of Black-run businesses and demolishing an entire neighborhood. Two men were lynched in the violence, and the goal of the riot was to drive African Americans out of the city of Springfield.

These two Adult Education Forums, led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, will discuss the history of the riot, the way it was perceived at the time, research into the causes and motivations of the rioters and the long-term effects of the riot, which included the founding of the NAACP.

DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY RESUMES THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study resumes on Thursday, January 19, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. This year's curriculum **Disciple Fast Track** *Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* meets for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Participants read 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily and view a brief, illustrated review video each week.



APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

The Apostles Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, January 24 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi
CONFIRMATION & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Dates	6 th &7 th Grade Confirmation (10:15 a.m.)	8 th Grade Confirmation (11:15 a.m.)	Youth Group (5:00 p.m.)
Jan. 1	No Gathering (Christmas Break)		
Jan. 8	Session 24: Kingdom Ways	Session 4: Who Is Your Lord?	Reformed theology: If the World Belongs to God, Why Do I have to Worry about it?
Jan. 15	MLK Adult Forum		
Jan. 22	Session 25: Parables	Session 6: What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus	Reformed theology: What Is Reformed about My Church?
Jan. 29	Session 26: Kingdom Treasures	Eggtastic Breakfast Fundraiser (Be at Church by 8:30 a.m.)	

The Youth Contact Ministries Shopping adventure on December 4 was a joyous way to share Christ's love with other teenagers. A successful Spud Bake and the generosity of WPC members provided \$1,953 to purchase Christmas gifts for teens.

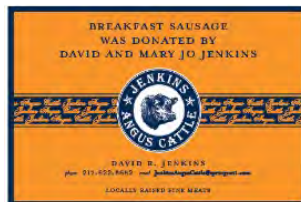


EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER



All youth attending the 2023 Mission Trip are expected to work the fifth annual Egg-tastic breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, January 29. **Plan to arrive by 8:30 a.m. and work through the morning!** The Mission participants will assist in preparing 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! Special thank you to Mary Jo and David Jenkins (Jenkins Angus Cattle), for supplying this year's sausages for Egg-tastic breakfast.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick
BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)



During December, the Bridges children made ornaments for our new neighbors, the Capler Family, as well as the family we co-sponsor with Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston, IL through RefugeeOne.

The children and Mrs. Sherrick presented this gift to the Capler Family on Sunday, December 18 and Mrs. Sherrick mailed this gift for the Burmese Family to Northminster Presbyterian Church who will present it along with a \$500 gift card on our behalf. Because this family is seeking asylum, revealing their identity could harm extended family still living in Myanmar.

Bridges will return to their midweek gatherings on Wednesday, January 11, 18, and 25 from 4:00-5:00 in the Kitchen.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS ARE LECTIONARY BASED!

- 1/1/23 **A Refugee Family** Matthew 2:13-23
- 1/8/23 **Very Happy** Matthew 3:13-17
- 1/15/23 **Called by God** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- 1/22/23 **Working Together** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- 1/29/23 **Filled with Joy** Matthew 5:1-12



Cathy Brower is pictured leading our intergenerational Sunday School class in the third floor Children's Chapel.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

WCP hopes you had a wonderful holiday season! We had a busy, fun December! A definite highlight was our holiday party. We had a delightful evening in the Parish Hall for our families full of pizza, cookie decorating, craft making, piano holiday music, and a book exchange. We have missed this event the last two years! In the classroom, we compared and contrasted all variations of the gingerbread man story. We acted it out with toys on the train table, did experiments to see if the gingerbread man really could have survived the river, and mixed up our own dough to make gingerbread cookies. As a gift for their families, the students made a snowman from a piece of wood the same height as they currently are! Many of our families visited to share holiday traditions from their home. What a great opportunity to learn about each other and different ways cultures celebrate!

We will be on winter break until school resumes on January 4th. As we begin the new year, we'll be accepting applications for the 2023-24 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. **– Emily Rowley**

ADVENT CELEBRATION – SUNDAY, DEC 4

On the Second Sunday of Advent the Westminster Choristers and Children's Choir presented a special advent music under the direction of Katie Moore, Director for Children's Music.

Following worship, 90 members and friends gathered in Parish Hall for the Advent celebration brunch, caroling, and special children's activities.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18



On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday school children listened to the Nativity Story read by Sue Cull. During the closing hymn the children processed in full nativity regalia, joining the pastors on the Chancel for the benediction and charge. This annual tradition continues to shine and bring much joy to worship as we prepared expectantly for the birth of Christ on Christmas Sunday.



CHRISTMAS VESPERS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



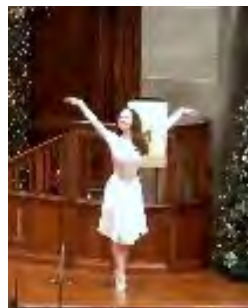
JOINT DEACON AND ELDER HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE KIEFFER HOME - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14



CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

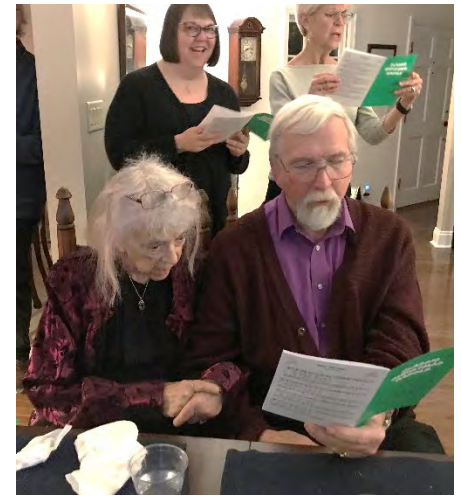


We welcomed as our Holy Family, Mervice Alah Abung, her daughter Dayana Afeseh (Mary and Jesus), and George Botanga (Joseph). The 5:00 p.m Children's Christmas Service was led by Confirmation Junior High youth, William Affrunti, Sam Batterman, Juliet Boutelle, Abigail Eldridge, James Maeda, and Macklin Metzger, and Sunday School children.



Following the Children's Service, 96 members and friends enjoyed Christmas Eve dinner hosted by the Board of Deacons. The evening culminated with the Annual Lessons and Carols service led by High School Seniors: Braden Barton, Emily Brower, Aerwynna Eastvold, Louisa Eldridge, Mia Marcy, Bryce Pound, and Amelia Tungett.

STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY



NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Catherine Brown by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Westlake Village, CA,

Catherine was born in Chicago, raised in and around Springfield and Mechanicsburg and received her BA from the University of Illinois at Champaign in Art Education and English. After graduation, she and her husband moved to Denver, where their two children were born, and she taught school. She later lived in the Washington, DC area followed by a move to Westlake Village, California where she's lived for the last forty-five years. There she wrote a weekly newspaper column for the Scripps Newspaper Corporation's *Thousand Oaks News Chronicle* and the *Ventura County Star* covering the region's fundraising events and the celebrities that attend for almost a quarter century in more than a thousand columns. After her husband's passing in 2010, she spent more and more time in Springfield. She will be moving into her forever home here soon. **Sponsors: Sandy Bellatti and Sue Donels.**



Art Cochran by Reaffirmation of Faith

Art was born in Lansing, KS and grew up in the Ozarks attending a one room schoolhouse. He graduated from Eminence High School at age 16 and attended the University of Missouri for one year before enlisting in the Army Air Corps. Following his military service, Art completed his degree at Mizzou with a B.S. in Education including a major in Chemistry and Math and a minor in Physics. Art taught chemistry, physics, and coached track and cross country at Springfield High School from 1956 – 1977 and he taught at Lincoln Land Community College from 1977 – 1987. Art and his late wife, Mary Lou, raised their three children Beverly, Michael, and Kevin at Westminster although they never officially joined. Art is spending the winter in New Mexico near his daughter. **Sponsor: Mal Hildebrand**

Randy & Bernie Wiseman by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church

Having been raised and educated in grades K-12 in Metropolis, IL and following graduation from McKendree University, Randy returned to southern Illinois where she taught elementary school. She resumed her long-time membership at First United Methodist Church and served as organist until 1989 when she and her family moved to Springfield. Unable to find a classroom teaching position at this time, she took an education position with the IL Dept of Natural Resources and later the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum where she taught teachers until her retirement. Randy is married to Bernie and together they have shared their mutual love of music as church musicians with various local churches. She and Bernie share five adult children and 12 grandchildren – one of the highlights of Randy's life. As a former member of First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, she was an Elder and active in numerous committees and special events. Randy and Bernie look forward to worshipping at Westminster as members and friends in Christ with all those who have made them feel so very welcome.



Bernie Wiseman was born in Springfield in 1944 and grew up in Edinburg, IL. His family were members of the Edinburg Methodist Church. He was baptized in the church as a child. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1969 as a music major where he had found his niche. He was active in performance groups during his time at IWU. Upon graduation he taught music in public schools for four years. His working life entailed working for state government for many years. However, his passion for choral music was ever present. He directed numerous church choirs in the Springfield area a total of 38 years. His last choir directing position was at First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL. Music performance was also a large part of his life. He has sung in numerous choral groups in Springfield. He was a charter member of the 8 member Capital Chamber Singers group and a member of the approximately 120 member St. Louis Symphony Chorus for about 15 years. He appreciates "high" church and Westminster Presbyterian offers this type of worship service. **Sponsors: Marilyn and Jim Rigney**

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.

WPC's Habitat Steering Committee, a subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Committee, has been working with Habitat leadership to gather donations for contractor work and materials, as well as helping finalize the build plans. We will also be asking for ministry partners, you all, to help in the actual building of the house. Two members of the church have agreed to co-supervise the build: Tom Owen and Coleman Moore.

On Sunday, December 18, Todd Knox presented the Ministry Moment to introduce the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build and introduced the Capler Family, with whom we are partnering on the build, and who will be our new neighbors. Karen Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry, and our Sunday School children presented a gift of several Christmas ornaments, created by the children, to the Capler Family with these words: **On behalf of the children of Westminster, we welcome you to the neighborhood. During this season, within these walls, and in our homes, we wait for the birth of our Savior. This is also a season of waiting for your family, not just for a house, but for your new home. The children of this congregation have made ornaments for your Christmas tree as a reminder and invitation that our doors are open to you now and in the future. Welcome!**



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING DATES

**ONE SESSION REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS
(EXCEPT FOOD PROVIDERS)!**

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

Tuesday, January 17 – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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, January 22 – 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. (Parish Hall)

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

Following worship, members gathered in Parish Hall as Todd shared the story of our journey to this crossroads within our Steadfast Neighbor Outreach and Colleen Stone, Executive Director of Habitat, shared details about the build and ways members can participate. All who choose to work on the build site need to attend one Orientation Session which are listed above. Additionally, one must register at habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com.

The anticipated cost of the house is \$157,000 which Westminster will raise through donations, grants, donated professional services and materials. Presbyterian churches and neighboring congregations have been invited to partner with us. Those who would like to include the Habitat Build in their charitable giving are invited to write a check to Habitat for Humanity and designate it to the **2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build**. Habitat's address is 2744 S. 6th Street, 62703. You can also donate on their website at <https://www.habitatsangamon.com/donate>. The Dedication Bulletin will acknowledge and thank those who contribute.

The Blitz Week is tentatively scheduled for March 27–April 1.

Mark your calendar and plan to be flexible as this is totally weather dependent. **If you have questions, contact:**

Susan Carrigan – development@habitatsangamon.com

217-523-2710 ext. 213

Todd Knox – hardknox1@mac.com 217-691-3312

All are invited to drive by the empty lot at 626 S. Glenwood. We are grateful that the demolition of the front house was completed the week of December 12 by Jaren Industries.

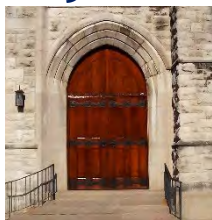
After Westminster and Habitat purchased the property during the summer, the City of Springfield demolish the back carriage house. The \$34 to purchase the property and the \$26,000 to demolish the front house came from Mission Endowment Funds designated for the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi
MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 5

On Sunday, February 5, mission will be highlighted. Thanks to all in the WPC family who contribute time, effort, and expertise to the church's mission. A comprehensive list of the 2022 mission supported by Westminster will be presented on Sunday, February 5.



Many thanks to all who have given to the WPC Support & Endowment Fund. Below are highlights of 2022 Mission Operating Fund and Endowment Fund distributions.

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2022 Mission Disbursements Highlights	Regional National International
From Betty Smith Mission:	\$107,000
Burmese Refugee Family:	
RefugeeOne / Northminster	7,000
Ukraine Relief – PDA and UNICEF	\$100,000
Mission Grants Highlights:	\$44,000
5 th Street Renaissance	\$1,000
Compass for Kids	\$5,000
Contact Ministries – Prom Fundraiser	\$1,500
Habitat for Humanity – 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Build	\$10,000
Helping Hands	\$4,000
Illinois Presbyterian Home	\$6,000
Kemmerer Village	\$4,000
Kristina Hemberger – SALT Project	\$500
Kumler Outreach Ministries	\$1,000
St. John's Breadline	\$1,000
The Outlet	\$1,000
Washington Street Missions	\$1,000
Wooden It Be Lovely	\$7,000
YMCA – Matthew Project	\$1,000
Steadfast Neighbor Mission Highlights:	\$75,213
Matching Grants	\$14,702
Service Week	\$15,068
626 S. Glenwood	\$26,034
637 W. Edwards	\$9,700
Little Pantry	\$9,709
TOTAL ENDOWMENT HIGHLIGHTS:	\$226,213
Presbyterian Mission (GA, Synod, Presbytery)	\$17,000
PCUSA Per Capita	\$36,096
Youth Mission Trip[†]	\$15,119
Contact Ministries	\$8,500
Helping Hands	\$4,000
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$900
TOTAL MISSION OPERATING FUND HIGHLIGHTS:	\$78,015

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

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: WPC members fulfilled gift requests for seven families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. Special thanks to Rachael Hickman who coordinated this gift giving tradition again this year, and to Jennie Alt for organizing all the requests.



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. 83 hats, scarves, gloves, and socks were provided to Contact Ministries.

TOYS FOR TOTS: Thanks to those who responded generously, providing 36 gifts in 2022 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 2022 to date is **\$2,773.**

SALVATION ARMY WARMING CENTER HUNGER ACTION TEAM: Thank you to Pat Hymans, Mary King, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Sue Scaife, Jeanne VanGieson for preparing the December 28 meal. The team will prepare the next monthly meal on **Wednesday, January 25.** Please contact Krista Steller to participate.



HELPING HANDS: Thank you to Ann Collins, Judi Mier, Betsy Ruklick, and Sue Sawers for preparing the December 9 meal. The January 13 meal will be prepared by the Bryans and Swanson families. **February – December** are available and the link to sign up can be found at www.wpcspi.org.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please check SignUpGenius (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0v5>) for open dates in January.

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH JANUARY MENU

Spaghetti and meatballs, Canned Veggies and Fruit in 100% juice/water, instant pudding or jello. High-Demand Items: personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers every **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch is held at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. Beverages and a dessert will be provided. Knitters will not meet on January 3. Questions – call Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657. Knitters enjoy Christmas Lunch.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, January 4 p.m. at the home of Linda Purves (6 North Cotton Hill, 62712). Judy Knox will lead Lesson 4 “Sabbath and Surrender.”

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, January 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the second-floor classroom. Lynne O’ Shea will lead Lesson 5 “Sabbath and Servitude” and Lynn McMenamin will lead devotions.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler library. Nancy Canady will lead Lesson 5 “Sabbath and Servitude” and Nancy Scott will be the hostess.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Presbyterian Men gather Thursday, January 12 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall for devotional, breakfast, and a program. Dr. Peter Kieffer will speak on the History and Theology of Bread. Jay Kennerly will provide breakfast and Tim Kluge will bring the devotion. RSVP to the church office or at www.wpcspi.org.

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION UPDATE

As of Wednesday, December 28 we have received **222** pledges for a total of **\$825,544**. This is **97%** toward our \$848,800 goal. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.



2023 Stewardship Campaign Committee: Brownie Anderson, Becky Huston, Jay Kennerly, Julie McDonough, Kate Morthland, Greg Swanson, Brinton Wilkey, Bob Zerfas, and Robyn Hovey, Chair

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 \$25,690 year-to-date. With strong income from year-end donations, we expect to meet our balanced budget.

2022 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 909,274	\$ 938,462	\$ -29,188
Expenses	\$-934,964	\$-938,462	\$ 3,498
Net Total	\$ -25,690	\$ 0	

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.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn and Jerry Davis celebrated 60 years on December 30. John Jaech celebrates 94 years on January 20.

IN MEMORIAM

Theresa Mae Davison died on October 6, 2022 in Winter Garden, FL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her daughters Kathy Davison and Linda Kleiss (husband, Jerry), two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

William Meriwether died December 18, 2022. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Kathryn and cousins, Carole and Jay Kennerly.

Logan H. Schlipf died December 22, 2022 in Old Mission, MI. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his sister Margaret Van Meter, nephew Andy Van Meter, nieces Alice Wolfe and Ann Van Meter Mohn, and their families.

A Memorial Service for Mary Anne Singleton will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer and to Michael and Michelle Tungett on the death of Eleanor and Michael’s uncle, and to Kyle Huitt (wife Samantha), Kayla Medina (husband Jonathan), Matthew and Amelia Tungett on the death of their great-uncle, and Nolan and Aubrey Medina, Noah and Harper Huitt, on the death of their great-great-uncle, James Tungett December 2, 2022 in Springfield.

Susan and Brinton Wilkey on the death of Brinton’s father and to Megan, Brinton, Jr. and Alison Wilkey on the death of their grandfather, the Rev. Dr. John Wilkey, Dec. 6 in Atlanta, TX.

Elsie and Bob Fox on the death of Bob’s brother, and to Suzie Wunder (husband Jim) and Mike Fox on the death of their uncle, and to Colin and Clayton Mihalich and to Aiden and Trevor Fox on the death of their great-uncle, James Fox, on December 14 in Camden, IL

NEW ADDRESS

Al Hibbert, Brenden Gardens, 900 Southwind Rd, Apt. 108, Springfield, IL 62703

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Seniors Louisa Eldridge, Luke Hockenyo, Mia Marcy, Sidney Miller, Bryce Pound, and Matthew Scott, who received the Illinois State Scholars Award.

Nate Fierstos, who graduated from Seal Qualification Training, and received the Navy Special Warfare Trident in December. Nate’s family and friends traveled from Illinois and Ohio to see the pinning ceremony in Coronado, California. It was an honor-filled, inspirationally moving event, on a beautiful day. An interesting fact presented during the ceremony: each of the 23 graduating candidates did the equivalent of swimming from Cuba to the southern tip of Florida, then running to New York City during their training! LTJG(SEAL) Nathaniel Fierstos will report to his new Team at Navy Special Warfare Center in Coronado after the first of the year.

Dr. Diane Rutledge, who received the Western Illinois Alumni Achievement award for outstanding contributions to exceptional service to her community.

Amelia Tungett, who was awarded top first soprano in the All-District Choir.

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

On Sunday, January 8, 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, 2022. Their bios can be found on the church website (www.wpcspi.org) under Church Leadership after January 15.



SESSION CLASS OF 2025

Dr. Scott Day, Jim Dolan, Gregg Humphrey, Dr. Judy Knox, Amanda Kurmann, Pat McNutt, Dr. Mike Nenaber, Jeanne VanGieson,
Youth Elder – Will Hovey

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2025

Julie Pittman McDonough, **Deacons Class of 2025:** Keith Hamilton, Chris Hickman, Sabrina Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Kathy Kenyon, John McNutt, Coleman Moore, Erin Winn,
Youth Deacons – Kristiana Eastvold

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT AND JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATES

On Saturday, January 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather in Parish Hall for the Annual Church Officer Retreat.

The Board of Deacons will gather on Wednesday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. with Usher Orientation following their meeting and Session will meet Wednesday, January 18 at 5:30 p.m. and include Communion Orientation.

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2022

We are grateful to the following Elders and Deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

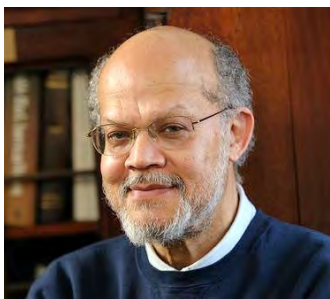
SESSION: Carol Bloemer, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Adam Ekstedt, Dr. Peter Kieffer, John Stafford, Carolyn Swanson, Pete VanGieson, Bill Ward, and Youth Emily Brower and Bryce Pound

BOARD OF DEACONS: Rich Canady, Bud Green, Alyssa Haaker, Rachael Hickman, Julie McDonough, Mike Sundquist, Brinton Wilkey, and youth Braden Barton and Mia Marcy

THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

The 48th Annual MLK Breakfast will be held Monday, January 16, 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndam Hotel. This year's speaker is Dr. Gerald McWorter, Professor Emeritus, Department of African American Studies and School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He will speak on "An Oasis of Freedom & Justice Is the Dream." He is the great-great grandson of Free Frank McWorter.



Westminster continues our support as a Platinum Sponsor, donating \$1,500 (\$1,000 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund and \$500 from the Peace and Global Witness collection for local ministry.) 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. For more information, check the Frontiers' website at springfieldfrontiers.org.

Westminster Staff

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The Reverend Christian K. Choi
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Parish Associate

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Gary Warnick
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gwarnick@wpcspi.org

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

Church Offices closed on January 2 and 16. Reporter folding and mailing will be Wednesday, February 1.