



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

March 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

March 5

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
God Will Come and Save

March 12

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-24

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Risk of Religion

March 19

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-41

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
God’s Eyes

March 26

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Believing Despite Understanding

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

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD

We are embarking on a new Steadfast Neighbor adventure as Westminster sponsors a Habitat for Humanity Build at 626 S. Glenwood, on the block south of the church. Thank you to the following members who will participate:

Site Supervisors:

Coleman Moore
Tom Owen

Site Host:

Todd Knox

Ministry Partners:

Brownie Anderson
Aaron Berkowitz
Edgar G. Caupert
Ann Collins
Susan Day
Bill Deemer
Jim Dolan

Melanie Green

Bud Green

Richard Leary

Bob Leffler

Valerie Leonatti

Mal Hildebrand

Robyn Hovey

Georgina Hudspeth

Gregg Humphrey

Pat Hymans

Al Hymans

Jay Kennerly

Peter Kieffer

Mary King

Charlie King

Priscilla Kluge

Tim Kluge

Judy Knox

Jim McDonough

Mike Nenaber

Jim Parker

Mary Peura

Mary Ray

Jim Rigney

Diane Rutledge

Krista Steller



Brad Steller
Mike Sundquist
Jeanne VanGieson
Peter VanGieson
Eleanor VanDeventer
Lyle VanDeventer

Staff:

Rev. Choi
Rev. Dr. Kieffer
Dale Rogers
Gary Warnick

It is not too late! Register at <https://habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com> and plan to attend the Volunteer Training on **Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** at Habitat for Humanity (2744 S. 6th St.) or **Sunday, March 12, 8:45 – 9:45 p.m.** in Parish Hall. Those who would like to financially support this endeavor are invited to write a check to Habitat for Humanity Habitat’s address is 2744 S. 6th Street, 62703. You can also donate on their website at <https://www.habitatsangamon.com/donate>. Please designate your donation to the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build. The Kick-Off program will acknowledge and thank those who contribute.

KICK-OFF CEREMONY - TUESDAY, MARCH 21 AT 5:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

The congregation is invited to join the Capler Family, Habitat staff, and members of the community as we officially kick-off our Steadfast Neighbor build. Enjoy a simple service and light refreshments following the introductions and celebration.

THE BLITZ WEEK: MARCH 27–APRIL 1 AT 626 S. GLENWOOD,

Once the foundation is laid, sign-ups for the Blitz Week will be posted on the Habitat website <https://habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com>. All ministry partners need to sign up for the day and time they choose to work on this website. A bag lunch will be provided each day. Now the fun begins....

BILL STEIN ORGAN RECITAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

On Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. Bill Stein will present an Organ Recital in the Sanctuary featuring organ music of four young women composers in addition to music of Bach, Creston, Peeters, and Locklair.

Bill received his Bachelor of Music Degree in organ from Illinois Wesleyan University, and a Master of Music Performance degree in organ and sacred music from Northwestern University. While at Northwestern he studied organ with Wolfgang Rubsam, choral conducting with Richard Webster, and church music with Margaret Kemper. Bill served churches in Chicago and Rockford, Illinois as both Organist and Music Director. Bill began serving First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Missouri as Director of Music Ministries on May 1, 2006.



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

As we journey toward Holy Week this year, we pause to give thanks for the gift of prayer. Rev. Choi and I count it a privilege to gather in the thin place of Westminster's chancel each week to lift members in prayer.

Each morning Peter and I begin our day in the holy space of our library. We sip our first cup of coffee as we read a summary of the day's news and the Westminster devotional emailed during Lent. Then we turn to the PC(USA) lectionary app to read the morning psalms before praying together.

The pattern is to pray for (1) family, friends, and colleagues (2) those in need of healing (3) those who have lost loved ones, and (4) those facing challenges within separated and blended families.

Teaching our children to pray is the cornerstone of the faith formation we provide at Westminster. Roscoe Ekstedt is pictured creating a prayer web in Sunday school writing names of friends and family members for whom he will pray during the week. Mrs. Sherrick shared that his investment in this project was heartwarming as he spent nearly 20 minutes on the task.



Please keep our pastoral staff in your prayers as we complete a second ministry year with two pastors sharing the work of three. Beginning this month, Rev. Choi's responsibilities will focus on Parish Life to provide helpful respite and a lighter load following a year and a half of expanded pastoral duties. The Personnel Committee and I are working together to address Family Ministry needs and are grateful for Mary Ray's new role as Interim Director for Youth and Karen Sherrick's ongoing leadership as Director for Children's Ministry.

THANK YOU EDDIE HUBBARD

We are grateful to Eddie Hubbard who has served our congregation as a part-time custodian since February, 2018. Eddie will continue his full-time position as custodian for the Illinois Senate; however, he is discontinuing his part-time position with WPC to spend more time with his family. He and his wife, Bree, were married in our Sanctuary by Dr. Kieffer on September 6, 2020. Eddie is a member of Grace United Methodist Church and his mother and aunts serve on the Children of Abraham Interfaith Fellowship Leadership Team. We wish Eddie well and will miss him.



JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the month of January with income above and expenses below our monthly budgeted amounts. Total income exceeded expenses by \$42,627. A number of families give their annual pledge in a lump sum early in the year.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 116,931	\$ 88,767	\$ 28,164
Expenses	\$- 74,304	\$- 88,767	\$ 14,463
Net Total	\$ 42,627	\$ 0	

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$36.25 per member to support the work of our denomination. Your per capita contribution of \$36.25 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearses each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room. Preparations are well underway for music for Lent and the Easter seasons. On the first Sunday of Lent, the choir will sing David Mitchell's setting of Psalm 130, "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee, O Lord."

THE ST. ANDREWS SISTERS rehearse on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. In addition to the Westminster Choir, the St. Andrew's Sisters will sing in a benefit concert for our habitat house on Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m.



CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants to age five. Church Mice meets every Saturday in February at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Follow the cheese and join your friends and their parents at Church Mice!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS meet weekly on Wednesdays, at 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively in the Music Room with Mrs. Moore. The Choristers are preparing music for Palm Sunday, April 2.

THE EASTER MUSIC and DECORATION FUND provide resources for seasonal guest musicians, the palms and lilies used during Holy Week, and Easter decorations. A suggested donation is \$25 for each fund. For both giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they honor with their gift are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks payable to WPC or by credit card on our website with the wording for the bulletin by Palm Sunday, April 2.

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT ED FORUM:

REFLECTIONS ON HISTORIC SANCTUARIES AND HOLY PLACES SUNDAYS, MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2

This adult forum is presented Sundays, March 5 through April 2, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall. Each week we will rediscover the following historic sanctuaries:

March 5: Christian Choi presents the St. Thomas Church (Thomaskirche) of Leipzig and All Saints' Church (Scholsskirche) of Wittenberg in Germany.

March 12: Blythe and Peter Kieffer present La Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona and Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba, Spain.

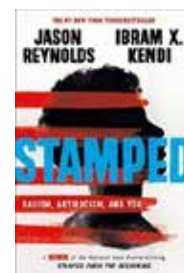
March 19: Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer present St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Dunfermline Abbey and St. Andrews Cathedral in Fife, Old High St. Stephens Presbyterian Church in Inverness, and Iona Abbey in Isle of Iona, Scotland.

March 26: Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold present Lindisfarne and Wells Cathedrals in England.

April 2: Dale Rogers presents a series of churches designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, March 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary A. Ray

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 12. We raised \$702, which was donated to help end food insecurity in Sangamon County! We are supporting the Grace Lutheran Church and Kumler Outreach Ministries' food pantries.



JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION

Sixth and Seventh Graders meet Sundays, March 5, 19, and 26 from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room with confirmation teachers Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. They remain in worship on March 12 for communion.

Eighth Graders meet Sundays, March 5, 12, from 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in the Conference Room. We welcome Maria Lafrenz to the Class of 2023. Mentors paired with our graduating confirmands are: **Sam Batterman and Brad Steller, Maria DeJong and Judy Knox, Abigail Eldridge and Jeanne Van Gieson, Maria Lafrenz and Jen DeJong, James Maeda and Peter Kieffer, Macklin Metzger and Marilyn Rigney.**

Confirmation Sunday is April 30.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Senior High meet Sunday, March 12 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for dinner and Bible Study. Dinner provided by Nichole Magalis.

2023 YOUTH MISSION TRIP UPDATE

DATES: JUNE 25 – JULY 1, 2023

Current 8th grade, high school youth, and college young adults are invited to join this summer's mission trip! Please complete the Intent to Participate Form and return to Mary Ray. Any questions, text or call Mary at 217-494-3810.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER, SUNDAY, APRIL 30



Each year, members support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. This year Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell will return as Co-MC's of the evening. Sign-up yourself or your team online at our website or at <https://bit.ly/3LxTdYv>. Tickets for dinner are \$5, and for trivia are \$15. **Childcare is available in the nursery. Details to follow!**

Each year, members support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. This year Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell will return as Co-MC's of the evening.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen H. Sherrick

BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5)

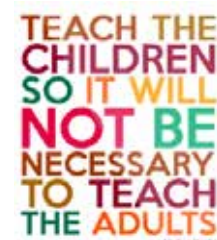
- March 1 -** The Empty Pot
- March 8 -** Children of Abraham 4:30-6:00
Grace United Methodist Church
- March 15 -** Holy Week Prep
- March 22 -** NO BRIDGES—Spring Break
- March 29-** Service Project: Helping Hands
- April 5-** Holy Week gathering with guests

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

- March 5-** God calls Abram and Sarai Gen. 12:1-4a
- March 12-** Water from a Rock Exod. 17:1-7
- March 19 -** One More Son 1 Sam. 16:1-3
- March 26-** Lazarus, Come Out! John 11:1-45

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 4:30 – 6:00 P.M.



Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) will gather Wednesday, March 8, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capitol Ave). We will continue to explore our theme "The Earth We Share." Parents and children are welcome to drive directly to the event at Grace. If your child needs transportation, please email Karen

Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE!! JUNE 5-9, 2023

Food Truck Party

June 5-9 from 9 a.m. to noon, children age 4 to age 11 are invited to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! This street party helps children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs - and also to serve as the hands of God for ensuring that the needs of others are met.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

With a Sesame Street theme and Aaron Berkowitz emceeing, we had such a fun evening! It was a joy to have our alumni, current families, community members, and several area businesses come together to support the preschool. It was a great success and so important in our financial health! In the classroom, we've been studying pets and enjoying an animal clinic in the dramatic play center. For Valentine's Day, our students got lots of practice writing their names as they filled out cards for all their friends. We're looking forward to a music study in March and lots of visitors to share their musical talents and interests.

At their February meeting, Session concurred with the recommendation from the Support and Endowment Committee to approve the Westminster Cooperative Preschool Endowment Fund as a part of the Westminster's larger Endowment Plan. The WCP will invest \$10,000 of their savings for the initial balance of the new endowment fund. This spring look for an initiative to add to this endowment fund which will support our annual budget and provide financial scholarships.

General registration for the 2023-24 school year is now open through the end of March. Please spread the word and let any interested families know we will be having an Open House in the classroom on Thursday, March 16, from 6:00-7:30. Applications are available on our website and in the church office. **– Emily Rowley**



KAREN SHERRICK RECOGNIZED FOR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



On Sunday, February 12, Westminster honored Karen Sherrick on the fifth anniversary of her service as Director for Children's Ministry. Along with a pewter serving tray, Mrs. Sherrick received the gift of a series of hearts lovingly designed by the Bridges Children in a craft frame created by Dale Rogers.

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we welcomed 140 members and friends in meaningful service led by our Bridges Children, Children's Choir and Choristers directed by Katie Moore. Following a meditation featuring the children's book, The Empty Pot by Demi, all received the imposition of ashes, communion by intinction, and a small clay pot as a reminder of our humanity.

Prior to worship, over 100 guests enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Hospitality Coordinator, Pat Hymans.



ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER AND WORSHIP



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HOST NEW BEGINNINGS BRUNCH



On Saturday, February 4 Presbyterian Women hosted a New Beginnings Brunch with over 50 women in attendance. The program featured “Wooden It Be Lovely” and a free-will offering was received on behalf of the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build raising \$1,088. PW will provide lunches during the Blitz Build and on consecutive weekends when work is being done on the build.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S BREAKFAST



On Thursday, February 9 Presbyterian Men welcomed Sheriff Jack Campbell as their speaker, Mike Shaw provided the devotion, and Nancy Canady prepared a delicious breakfast for the 21 men in attendance.

ADULT EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM AND FORUM



On February 2 and 9, Dr. Roy Wehrle led a two-week symposium on “What About Artificial Intelligence?” Thirty members and friends from the community gathered for a dynamic discussion.

On February 5, 12 and 19, attorneys Kate and Michael Morthland led an Adult Education Forum: “Unraveling Roe: A Complicated Rise and Fall.” Thirty members gathered for the helpful presentation and healthy discussion.

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

FOURTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH

The Strategic Planning Committee and Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force continue to address the mandate to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood within the decade. These investments include matching grants, service week projects, the Little Pantry at Graham Elementary School, and in 2022 the purchase of property for the 2023 Habitat Build. We spent \$27,506 in 2020, \$35,794 in 2021, and \$75,267 in 2022 on these outreach projects. With the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build, this year we will continue the Matching Grant program and Little Pantry outreach; however, the Service Week will be streamlined with more focused projects. **Letters to our neighbors were mailed the week of February 20.**

SERVICE WEEK: JUNE 19 - 23, 2023

The dates for this year's neighborhood outreach are **June 19 - 23**. Please consider joining us for one or more days of the third week of June as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood!

MATCHING GRANTS

Local homeowners are invited to apply for matching grants up to \$1,500 toward simple property improvements, especially addressing certain needs such as safety, security, and energy efficiency upgrades. We awarded 16 grants in 2020, 18 grants in 2021, and 13 grants in 2022.

COMPASS FOR KIDS



Compass for Kids is an after-school tutoring program to assist and help nurture young people. Seventeen Graham Elementary students spend Tuesday afternoons at Westminster, being ministered by Compass staff and many ministry partners, most of whom are from Westminster. Thank you to Dale Rogers who led a tour of the Sanctuary and organ demonstration for the students on February 7.



We also want to give a shout out to Cathy Allen who prepares snacks for the children every week.

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

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

MONTHLY MEALS

HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Mary Ray, and Krista Steller for preparing the February 10 meal. The March meal will be prepared by Melanie Green, Pat Hymans, and Krista Steller. There are opportunities for members or groups to sign-up for the remainder of 2023. You will find a link on our website to sign-up -www.wpcspi.org or you can call the church office.



SALVATION ARMY WARMING CENTER -



Thank you to the Hunger Action Team and friends who prepared the February 22 meal. Westminster will prepare bagged meals for the Warming Center on March 22. Please contact Krista Steller at ksteller@wpcspi.org to participate.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY

Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary. If you are interested in helping, please check SignUpGenius (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>). or contact Jennie Alt for details.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MARCH MENU

Canned Ravioli, Canned Veggies, 100% Juice Canned or Boxed, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, toothpaste. (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.



FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, MARCH 19

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

MARCH EARTH CARE TIP

We can help preserve creation's precious resources by teaching our children how to fix stuff instead of throwing it away. Teach a child how to sew a torn garment, re-finish scuffed furniture, or glue a broken toy. Searching online for DIY repairs almost always finds a video to show us more complicated repairs. Calling the repair shop achieves the same while fueling our local economy. Repairing that broken item saves resources, replacement cost, and landfill space and preserves the sentimental value of a cherished belonging. **-Dr. Peter Kieffer**



WOODEN IT BE LOVELY

SPRING SHOWCASE FURNITURE SALE

March 18, 9-1 p.m. & March 19 11:30-3 p.m.
Douglas Ave. United Methodist Church
501 S. Douglas Ave

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION - Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited 10 members on February 12. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday, March 12 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. Beverages and dessert will be provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

LAYETTES FOR KUMLER



Join the women of Westminster in donating layette items during March and April in the box in the West Narthex. Items will be given to Kumler Outreach Ministries in early May. If you would like to shop online, you can have them shipped directly to the church.

Attention Knitters: If you are donating knitted items, please let Sue Cull know what and how many items you have donated.

PW LUNCHEON will be **Friday, March 3 at 12 noon.** The program will be presented by the members of Elizabeth Circle, who will be highlighting some of the missions PW support. Ann Collins will be the kitchen chair. Nancy Scott is the chair of the day. Please R.S.V.P. on our website or by calling the church office.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Marilyn Rigney (3801 Indian Lands Ln, 62711.) Kathy Germeraad will lead Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Lynn McMenammin will lead devotions and Mary King will lead Lesson Seven: Sabbath and Self-Care.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Pat Hymans will be the hostess and Carolyn Beatty will lead Lesson Seven: Sabbath and Self-Care.

NEW D.M.A. START TIME

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet **Friday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and **Program at 6:15 p.m.** Ann Picto and Mary Kay Hinkle, U of I Master Gardener Volunteers, will be doing a program on "The Importance of Worms." RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST THURSDAY, MARCH 9 AT 8:00 A.M.

Presbyterian Men gather on Thursday, March 9 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. John Stremsterfer, President and CEO of Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln will speak on who they are, what they do, and the charitable impact the Foundation makes in our community. Mike Shaw will provide breakfast and Scott Day will give devotions. RSVP with the weekly email link, on our website, or by calling the church office.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

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



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 12 and 19, 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited.

The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, April 2, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Rich Canady celebrate 64 years on March 13.

Judy & Dale Huston celebrate 60 years on March 15.

Pat Picchi celebrates 97 years on March 20.

Donna Foster celebrates 92 years on March 21.

Elsie Unglaub celebrates 97 years on March 23.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Maggie and Josh Pinke will present their son, Arthur James for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, March 5. Arthur's grandparents are Dr. Scott and Susan Day, and his uncle is Spencer.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Each child baptized at Westminster receives a book a month until age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This tradition began in 2022, a gift by member Todd Wise, given in memory of his wife, the late Lisa Wise (a kindergarten teacher), and in honor of Dr. Diane Rutledge who brought this exciting ministry to his attention.



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Kate Wilson on the death of her sister, to Wendy (husband William) Oakes and Sally (husband Brett) Szudy on the death of their aunt, to Genny, Torey, and Dennis Elkin, Ivy Horner, Liam and Violet Szudy on the death of their great-aunt, Loretta Trumbull, on February 6 in New Hartford, Ct.

Zayne and Jaiana Ireland on the death of their grandfather, to Tami (husband Tom DeMarco) Ireland on the death of her father, Larry Jean Kime, on February 5 in Virden, IL.

Julie and Randy Robbs on the death of her mom, John Klein on the death of his wife, Amber and Austin Robbs on the death of their grandmother, Ruby Klein, on February 27 in Springfield, IL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Cress Maddox who was recently inducted into the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame.

Matthew Knox, who completed his swim career at Duke University. His swims placed him tenth all-time in the mile, fourth in the 200 free, and second in the 500 free.

NEW ADDRESS

Gale Fixmer, IL Presbyterian Home, 2005 W. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62704.

Katrina & Doug Opperman, 912 Evergreen Walk, Sherman, IL 62684

Sue Baker, 1700 W. Washington Apt. A304, Springfield, IL 62702

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. Piano Festival is hosted annually by Westminster. The dates of this year's festival are Sundays, February 26 and March 12.

Together Women Rise Program will be presented by Sandy Bellatti and Mary Caroline Mitchell on Sunday, March 5, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. All are welcome as they share about their recent trip to northern India. Chai and Girl Scout Cookies will be served, and cookies will be available to purchase.

Symphony Guild will host Pi Day + 5 Dinner & Pie Party Sunday, March 19, 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. For more information and tickets check out ilsymphony.org.

THE SEASON OF LENT

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Members and friends are receiving a daily devotional via email from Former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow taken from his book 40 Days, 40 Words, 40 Prayers: Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life.

Additionally, each Westminster family received a Lenten Devotional Bag which includes a word for each day of Lent. Families are invited to discuss the meaning of each word as a part of a daily meal or bedtime prayer.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE

During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship services begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross.

LENTEN GIVING

The **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

A **LENTEN COAT DRIVE** will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, and then they will be donated to Contact Ministries.

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour

of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children's Choir and Choristers will sing. The Westminster Choir will sing "O Divine Redeemer" of Gounod and "Let the Same Mind Be in You" by Thomas Pavlechka.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY

April 2-9 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster's Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall during Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 6

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing "Lamb of God" by Twila Paris, and "He Never Said a Mumbling Word," a spiritual with Michael Morthland, bassoon. This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the "Adagio for Strings" of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" and "Alleluia! For Christ the Lord is Risen" of Bach and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.

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Part-time Custodians

Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, March 29.