

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

September 2020

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday Schedule:
10:00 a.m.

Live Stream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

Sunday School:
Parable YouTube Video
emailed to Families
Children Birth-Grade 5

September 6

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

The Weight of Letting Go

September 13

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

FALL EDUCATION SUNDAY

Exodus 14:19-31; Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The Rite of Passage

September 20

STEWARDSHIP INTRODUCTION

Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Christian K. Choi

The Gifts of God for the People of God

September 27

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR CELEBRATION

Exodus 17:1-7; Matthew 21:23-32

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Steadfast Neighbor

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR CELEBRATION OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND RIBBON CUTTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 10:00 A.M.

On **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 10:00 A.M.** members, friends, and neighbors will gather for an outdoor worship service on the southeast lawn and parking lot with the new East Entry serving as the Chancel. Highlights of the worship service will include the Sacrament of Baptism, members of the Millikin Brass as guest musicians, and renditions of "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

A **RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AND LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION** will follow worship on the East Entry with a simple reception on the West Terrace and southwest lawn as we celebrate the culmination of the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor initiated by the Strategic Planning Committee in the Fall of 2018. Highlights of the Site and Landscape Plan, Matching Grant, and Neighborhood Service Week can be found on pages 4-5 of this Reporter.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP ALLOW FOR UP TO 100 PARTICIPANTS. Please sign up early on **SignUpGenius** or call Church Administrative Assistant, Jennie Alt. Those who attend will need to **BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR.**

Strategic Planning Committee: *Todd Knox (chair), Pat Hildebrand Culler, Sally Godbey, Keith Hamilton, Beth Kincaid, Carolyn Swanson, Brinton Wilkey, Todd Wise, Dr. Kieffer (staff liaison)*

Hardscape Task Force: *Linda Chronister, Randy Germeraad, Mal Hildebrand, Gregg Humphrey, Mark Vasconcelles, Gary Warnick (staff liaison)*

Landscape Task Force: *Scott Day, Peter Kieffer, Becky McDonald, Andy Sherrick, Dale Rogers (staff liaison)*

Mission Task Force: *Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Brad Milliman, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Mary Peura, Rev. Trajan McGill, Rev. Christian Choi (staff liaisons)*



WESTMINSTER SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS STEADFAST NEIGHBOR ENDEAVOR

Earnings from the principle of Westminster's Support and Endowment Fund provide the loan payments and resources for the mission component. A minimum of 1/3 of the cost of the Site and Landscape Plan is designated for mission.

In May of 2015, on the 180th Founders' Sunday, Westminster dedicated the BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH TWENTY-YEAR Anniversary Endowment Campaign and established the ALBERT HALE CIRCLE with a goal to grow Westminster's Endowment from \$1.7 to \$5 million by 2020. As of June 2020, \$1,589,490 from the 100 pledges totaling \$1,648,120 has been received. Additionally, non-pledge gifts of \$2,762,287 were donated. **The current market value of the Support and Endowment Fund is \$7,297,336.** *This does not include planned gifts.*



Support and Endowment Committee: *Todd Wise, Chair, James Bryans, Secretary, Christy Pound, Dale Smith, Lucy Stafford, Jeff Wilday. Steve Arbuthnot, Treasurer, Advisory Members: Randy Germeraad and Diane Rutledge, Staff liaisons: Dr. Kieffer and Lisa Runkle*

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

for just such a time as this... Esther 4:14

This reference to the biblical story of Esther who found herself in a position of privilege to lead the Hebrew people (according to her Uncle Mordecai) *for just such a time as this* does not totally fit our situation, although it is fair to say we are all feeling captive *in this strange land* (Psalm 137) of COVID-19.

Last month, the Worship Team of Christian, Trajan, Dale and I spent three days on Dale's front porch planning worship for the 2020-2021



program year. Although we had a lot of unanswered questions, we remain grateful for this resilient, nimble, creative congregation and for the privilege of leading worship as we continue to live stream our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service. We anticipate the Steadfast Neighbor Celebration and outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 27!

PASTOR-LED BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN IN OCTOBER

The weekly Bible Studies led by Dr. Kieffer (since 2014) and Rev. McGill (since 2015) will resume the first week of October. Current members will be contacted this month for their input and new members are welcome to join as we find ways to gather safely in fellowship and study.

HOLY IMAGINATION + RACE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 1:00 P.M.

To learn more about how the church can be a healing force in America's racial divide as a part of the Matthew 25 initiative, members are invited to participate in a 90-minute free webinar on Tuesday, September 15 at 1:00 p.m. Hosted by the Presbyterian Outlook, author Kerry Connelly, who wrote *Good White Racist? Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice*, will lead the webinar. Register online at "Holy Imagination + Race Webinar."

NEW MEMBERS CLASS MEETS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Friends and visitors are invited to a social distancing New Members Class on Sunday, September 13 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom led by Dr. Kieffer. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 11 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall.

SHERRICK FARM VISIT

Thank you to Karen and Andy Sherrick for the invitation to members to visit their farm at peak season.

Several Westminster families including the DeJongs, McMenamins, Mitchells, Pittmans, and Simonsons enjoyed the peace and natural beauty of Illinois' natural prairie thanks to Andy's creative and diligent planning over the years. Look for more opportunities to gather in 2021.



MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

"O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before God's presence with a song." These words from Psalm 100 set to music by C.V. Stanford have been the first words sung by the choir each fall as the Westminster Choir returned to singing their weekly services. Sadly, with the looming presence of the COVID-19 virus, this is not a season for choral and congregational song.

We are very much as the Israelites were when they were captives of the Babylonians when they lamented "how can we sing the Lord's song in this strange land?"



While our understanding of the virus has grown throughout these past months, scientists, medical professionals, and the CDC continue to maintain that "the act of singing may contribute to transmission of COVID-19." The American Choral Directors Association underscores that even masks do not sufficiently contain the aerosol spread related to singing. Therefore, at Westminster, as we gather in a worshiping community, we practice caution by our masked silence during the hymns and spoken responses.

During this time in this "strange land," we must use our private silence as a time to meditate on and to absorb the meaning and the depth of the beautifully crafted texts of our hymns, prayers, and responses.

St. Paul, while he encouraged the Ephesians and the Colossians to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, he also encouraged the Philippians to "look not at your own interests, but to the interests of others." So, our reluctant silence is a responsible way of looking out for the health of our community and a way to make our worship a safe place for both our bodies and our spirits.

During this time, we continue to be blessed by Lyle VanDeventer, bass, who serves as the hymn singer for our congregation. Over the summer, our spirits have been lifted up with the musical gifts of Abby Attig, Brian Blythe, Julie Blythe, Ann Collins, Diane Dietz, Jay Kennerly, Carolyn Lowe, Adam Miller, Kamen Petkov, Krista Steller, David Tell, and Eleanor VanDeventer. For the celebration of the Steadfast Neighbor Project on Sunday, September 27, we will welcome members of the Millikin Brass who will provide a festive note to that service and long-awaited occasion.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Your Coronavirus Task Force continues to meet weekly via Zoom to review the most current information regarding this pandemic. Our weekly messages can be found on the home page of our website. If you have a specific question for us, do not hesitate to reach out on our email: WPCCoronavirus@gmail.com.

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

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

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

NO YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Our prayers are with the youth and their parents as most of them completed the first week of this virtual/remote learning school year. Rather than having a youth group, we invite the youth and the parents to have an open dialogue about how the week went and share the frustrations as well as the silver linings of this week. Then, invite the Prince of Peace by having a relaxed time as a family over Labor Day weekend.

CONFIRMATION (GRADES 6 - 8)

NEW FORMAT BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

11:15 A.M. – 12:00 NOON IN THE WEST TERRACE

Confirmation is the process through which youth affirm the vows made at their Baptism and become active members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are excited about our new confirmation class as we combine all the Junior High Youth to a three-year program to have a comprehensive review of our faith based on the Scripture.

We will integrate our previous curriculums, “Big God, Big Questions” and “Echo, The Story” to connect our confessional faith statements and the Scripture.



We will meet on Sundays twice a month, beginning September 20. Due to COVID-19, we thank you ahead of time for being fluid and flexible with changes that are to come. It is our hope that in the midst of uncertainty, God's steadfastness will be explained, exemplified, and experienced by being together in this class. **Please complete the Registration and Consent Form** and return it to the church office. You may also complete the registration form on-line at www.wpcspi.org.

Teachers: *Rev. Choi, Jim Kincaid, Anna Koeppel*

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

5:00-7:00 P.M.

Sundays twice a month, beginning September 20. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall to have discussion on current topics from Christian perspective, based on PCUSA resource “Faith Questions.” Teachers: *Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Mary Ray, Rev. Choi*



YOUTH GROUP PEER-HELP / TUTORING SESSIONS BEGINS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

4:00-5:00 P.M. THIRD FLOOR CLASSROOM

On Thursdays, Jr. & Sr. High youth are invited to an hour of study time to ask questions about their classroom work. If you are interested in tutoring youth, please contact Rev. Choi at cchoi@wpcspi.org. *Facilitator: Rev. Choi*

KEEP COLLEGE AND GRAD STUDENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Southern Illinois University Edison Zohfonyi

Stritch School of Medicine at

Loyola University Chicago Natalie Knox

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

THIRD GRADE BIBLE & FIFTH GRADE RECOGNITION



are pictured with their families.

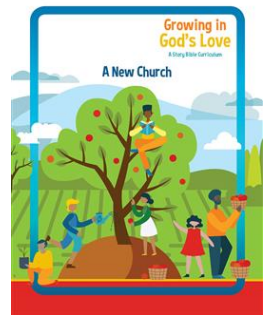
On Sunday, August 2 third graders Kate Bryans and Charles Graham received their personalized Bible, and fifth graders, Maria DeJong, James Maeda, and Macklin Metzger, received the book, *The World Jesus Knew*, for completing Bridges. Unable to attend were Taryn Barnett, Sam Batterman and Abigail Eldridge. The children

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL INTRODUCES

GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE: A BIBLE STORY CURRICULUM

On Sunday, September 13, Fall Sunday School begins with a new curriculum. *Growing in God's Love* invites children and their parents to wonder, play, and connect with one another as they strengthen their relationship with God.

The *WPConnections* is emailed each Friday and includes a lesson, activities, prayers and music. It is designed to be used all at once or over the course of the week as you choose a timeframe that best fits your family's schedule. A workbook with additional resources and background information on each Bible story to assist parents on this journey along with a Registration and Consent Form and the children's backpack Bible verse tag will be mailed to families the week of September 6.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are excited to be back for school starting after Labor Day! Our classes are fully outside this year. Outdoor play has many benefits, and it addresses many concerns for our current situation. We'll be studying trees and many other items in nature. If you have interesting natural items you think we could explore, please let us know!

Emily Rowley Director and afternoon teacher, has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Cedarville University. She enjoys WCP's play-based atmosphere and its inspiration to young children. She has been WCP since fall of 2015.



Kacey Belitos Westminster Co-op Preschool is thrilled to welcome Kacey Belitos as our new morning teacher! Kacey has lived in Springfield for 1.5 years with her husband, daughter, and 4 pets. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University and is certified to teach in Illinois. Having taught in a variety of settings and with her love of learning, Kacey is ready to begin her new teaching venture with Westminster Co-op Preschool. She is beyond excited to teach, guide, and learn with the amazing Westminster Preschool students in the morning classes!

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK - AUGUST 10-14



Together, we were able to: (1) Power wash nine homes. (2) Paint a picket fence white, the Verizon garage, the transformer, the back addition to our rental home, and miscellaneous doors and porch railings throughout the neighborhood. (3) Remove a concrete sidewalk, design and install a brick sidewalk in its stead. (4) Install fence panels enclosing a backyard. (5) Remove steps to a front porch, design and install new steps and railings in its stead. (6) Repair the brick foundation of a porch. (7) Remove shrubbery and trim trees and bushes for five homes...and haul our shrubbery and additional piles of shrubbery in the neighborhood to the recycle center. **Westminster invested \$8,490.67 in our neighborhood!**

WPC Partners: Rev. Jerry & Judy Boutelle, Suzanne Borland, Rich Canady, Ellen Carpenter, Ed Caupert, Susan & Scott Day, Bob Fox, Melanie & Bud Green, Keith Hamilton, Mal Hildebrand, Pat and Al Hymans, Peter Kieffer, Todd Knox, Amanda Kurmann, Dave Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Brad Milliman, Mary Caroline and David Mitchell, Mary Peura, Mary Ray, Austin & Julie Robbs, Diane Rutledge, Noel Scott, Krista Steller, Mike Sundquist, Pete VanGieson, Jess Weitzel

Youth Partners: Grace Batterman, Jessica & Drew Borland, Ben & Sam Brower, Clayton & Ella Kurmann, Carolyn Lowe, Jack Milliman, Allison & Matthew Scott

WPC Staff: Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Rev. Christian K. Choi, Dale Rogers, Gary Warnick, Jennie Alt, Bill Hibbert, Eddie Hubbard



STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MATCHING GRANT

Following the application process and personal interviews by members of the Mission Task Force (Todd Knox, Keith Hamilton, Gary Warnick, Rev. Choi, and Dr. Kieffer) with each neighbor who applied for a matching grant, **twenty matching grants** (up to \$1,000) were initially approved. A few matching grants were transferred to the service week and a few additional requests were added. Once documentation for expenses are received, the grants are paid. **To date \$5,830.97 have been awarded in Matching Grants.**

Matching Grants which have been approved include:

Kristin and Enoch Peterson at 501 S. Glenwood

Vicki Compton at 505 S. Glenwood

Mary Carey and Peyman Esmailzadegan (landlord) at 506 and 508 S. Glenwood

Julia and Phil Ramirez at 514 S. Glenwood

Eva and Ryan Mahan at 529 S. Glenwood

Christine Hemberger and Mathew Spann at 610 W. Edwards

Jennifer Aholt and William Vanderlaan (landlords) at 610, 614, 620, 630 W. Edwards and 602, 606, 608 S. Walnut

Stan Brosam at 509 S. Walnut

Deborah and Harry Berman at 623 S. Walnut

Bill Steele at 627 S. Walnut

Stella and Douglas Rathbun at 504 S. Walnut

Kathryn Cutler and Tyran Harmon at 637 E. Edwards

Bryan Clow (landlord) at 810 W. Edwards



Westminster Team visiting with Vicki Compton at 505 S. Glenwood.



Grant to pave shared driveway of 506 and 508 S. Glenwood was awarded.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SITE AND LANDSCAPE



Our parking lot was designed by Engineer Mark Vasconcelles and constructed by O'Shea Builders. The West Terrace and East Entry were designed by Architect John Shafer and erected by Mark Sexton's Landscape Concepts. Mark also created and installed the landscape design. Lighting has been purchased from Springfield Electric Co. and is being installed by B&B Electrical Contractor. **Cost of the Site and Landscape Plan is approximately \$1.38 million.**

PARISH LIFE by Rev. Trajan McGill MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HUNGER TASK FORCE FORMING

Thank you to *Virginia Dolan, Tom Owen, and Krista Steller* who have answered the call to serve on the Hunger Task Force and to Mary Caroline who has completed the application to becoming a "Hunger Action Congregation." This is a congregation that covenants to build its work in ending hunger and its causes, specifically through action in six areas: hunger alleviation, development assistance, hunger education, our own lifestyle integrity, corporate and public policy witness, and worship. As is evidenced in the work outlined this month, Westminster is committed to addressing hunger in our community and our world. If you would like to join this meaningful team, contact Rev. McGill.



MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES



Thank you to everyone who stepped in and filled even more meal delivery routes than we had committed to, helping give a needed break to the short-staffed crew for Meals on Wheels. *Marc Anderson, Janie Bahlow, Nancy Canady, Rich Canady, Ed Caupert, Linda Caupert, Lynne Cleverdon, Cathy Cragoe, Anne Haaker, David Haaker, Harper Huston, Nancy Huston, Reese Huston, Julie James, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Mary Peura, Morley Peura, Mary Ray, Judy Ridinger, Bill Schlosser, Linda Schlosser, Olivia Simonson, Brad Steller, Krista Steller, and Gayle Wilson* took part.

SPRINGFIELD DO-IT-YOURSELF CROP HUNGER WALK

Due to the pandemic, this year's CROP Walk is taking a different path: a virtual, yet socially distant, walk. Walkers are invited to choose their own times to walk! Please follow CDC group size guidelines and **have walks and donations completed by October 4.**

Distance and route will be determined by each group. Walkers may walk our traditional route (Becky Martin can supply the map). Another option: groups may walk to nearby micropantries and make a food contribution. Micropantry locations near Westminster include Graham Elementary School, Springfield High School, and Douglas Ave. Methodist Church. Or consider something entirely different. Ride bikes. Walk local neighborhoods. Rock in your rocking chairs! Walkers will need to sign a liability waiver and release. Email the church office for a link to register or to make donations online toward the Westminster team. In 2019, Westminster raised \$7,500 to fight hunger locally and throughout the world.



LITTLE PANTRY – Our Little Pantry at Graham Elementary continues to get heavy use. If you'd like to help stock the pantry, contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org for details. Reimbursement is available for items purchased, and an assortment of pantry goods is kept at the church. Suggestions for specific needs are on our website.

HELPING HANDS MEAL

Thanks to mother-daughter team *Cathy Allen and Nancy Canady* for providing the Helping Hands meal on August 14. The Green, Hymans, and Steller families are preparing the meal on September 11.



WESTMINSTER DAY LABORERS



Grigsby Farms again this year donated sweet corn to provide much-needed fresh produce to area food pantries. Thank you to *Marc Anderson, Ted Babcock, Grace Batterman, Drew and Jessica Borland, Judy and Jerry Boutelle, Rich Canady, Ellen Carpenter, Ed Caupert, Sophia, Diana, and Zachariah Choi and friends, Melanie and Bud Green, Harold Hale, Nancy Huston, Jay Kennerly, Clayton Kurmann, Tom Owen, Christy, Avery, and Bryce Pound, Mary Ray, and Matthew Scott* for bringing in the bountiful harvest!

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH SEPTEMBER MENU

Spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned or bottled 100% juice, and 100% juice or water canned fruit. High-Demand Items: *personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.*

COMPASS FOR KIDS - This year's Compass after-school program for at-risk children **will be online and is expected to begin Tuesday, October 6.** Adult leaders will be needed to help lead social-emotional lessons, as well as fill other needs, including meal delivery. Contact Rev. Trajan McGill to find out more about getting involved.

BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Thank you WPC members! Westminster donated **180 backpacks**, which were distributed by Contact Ministries. Thanks to Sue Baker, Camille Degner, Mary Peura, and friends for attaching Bible verses to each backpack.

Thanks also to *Mary Caroline Mitchell, Nancy Huston, and Kathy Germeraad*, who helped Graham Elementary school (on short notice) fill backpacks with school supplies for over 260 of their students!



EARTH CARE NEWS – SEPTEMBER TIP

Looking for new ways to care for God's creation? Mighty Nest (www.mightynest.com) offers green alternatives for household items. Blueland (www.blueland.com) sells tap water soluble tablets and reusable bottles to reduce harmful chemicals, shipping costs, and plastic waste associated with cleaning solutions. Terracycle (www.terracycle.com) helps recycle many difficult disposables including pens, razors, toothbrushes, and even guitar strings. **-Peter Kieffer**

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

A NOTE FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE



August was National Immunization Month. This year, as I am sure you are aware, we will not be able to have the flu vaccination clinic we ordinarily hold at the church. I encourage all of you to get your flu vaccine at your pharmacy or with your primary care provider. CVS already has some in, and Walgreens is expected to receive their vaccine in September. This year, more than ever, it is important to get this annual vaccine. Please stay safe. Until we meet again,

-Ellen Carpenter, Parish Nurse

H.E.A.L. FUND – The “Helpful Emergency Assistance for Living”



Fund provides resources to church and community members facing financial challenges. If you or someone you know could benefit from this, please reach out to a Westminster pastor.

PRAYER CIRCLE – If you would like members of the congregation to pray for you, or if you would like to join the Prayer Circle, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill.



SECOND HELPINGS COOKBOOK

AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL FILE FOR \$10 DONATION

Digital copies of Westminster’s Second Helpings Cookbook are available for \$10.00 thanks to Sue Cull’s gift to our congregation. This digital file can easily be downloaded to tablets and computers or given as a gift. Please contact Jennie Alt, Church Administrative Assistant, with any questions or for your copy.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DMA will not resume in September. The date is TBD.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN are looking into ways to carry on their fellowship during the present time. Contact Rev. McGill or Pete VanGieson for more info on this group.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON, RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE, AND ELIZABETH CIRCLE will decide on a month by month basis. Check with your circle for updates.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m.** in the gazebo at the IL Presbyterian Home. Nancy Canady will lead Lesson 9 “Words of Love: Don’t Fixate on What You Don’t Have” *2019-2020 PW Horizons Bible Study: Love Carved in Stone: A fresh look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Gamble. For information, call Nancy Canady at 217-546-8469.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

Knitters - find your yarn and needles and join us at Westminster on Tuesdays in the month of September from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. In consideration of the COVID-19 guidelines, we have a few changes:

- Seating will be spaced per the guidelines.
- The monthly luncheon will not be held.
- Please bring your own beverage.

Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 622-8657 if you have questions.

LAYETTES FOR KUMLER



Thank you to our members and friends who joined Presbyterian Women in contributing layettes for Kumler Outreach Ministries. We collected 402 items which were delivered this week.

- 200 layettes
- 112 knitted items from K2P4 knitters
- 90 other baby items

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sue & Jess Werner celebrate 61 years on September 6.

Virginia & Neil Lee celebrate 60 years on September 16

NEW ARRIVAL

Jennifer Ayana McNutt was born to Millie & John McNutt on July 28. Her proud brother is Luke and proud grandmother is Pat McNutt.

Congratulations to Sue and Steve Scaife on the birth of their granddaughter, Wren Moses Jordan, to Andrea and Jason Jordan on August 27.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Mae Martha Volle, the daughter of Meredith and Darren Volle and sister of Eva, will be baptized on Sunday, September 27.

MEMORIAL

A private internment service for Mary and William Schnirring will be held at Oakridge Cemetery on Wednesday, September 30, Mary and Bill were wed on September 30, 1950 in our Sanctuary.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Valerie and Dave Leonatti on the death of his father, and to Alena Leonatti and Lauren Leonatti on the death of their grandfather, William Leonatti on August 20 in Carlinville, IL.

Priscilla and Tim Kluge on the death of Priscilla’s mother, and to Elisabeth Kluge and Matthew Kluge on the death of their grandmother, Harriet Martha Maher on August 9 in Peoria, IL.

Norma Adams-Johnson and Frank Johnson on the death of her brother, Robert Wilmert on August 30 in Lincoln, IL.

NEW ADDRESS

Shelby VanGieson, 209 Farragut Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Nell & James VanSice, The Villas at Five Forks, 4309 Creek View East, Williamsburg, VA 23188

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Kelly Robertson, who received her MA in Education from Concordia University with high honors.

THANK YOU

Following a farewell lunch and the presentation of the knitted sweater and matching hat (by Mary Leffler of Knit 2 Purl 4), staff received a thank you from Amy Bonansinga who retired as WCP morning teacher in May. She and her husband are expecting a son in October.



JULY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithful financial support through these summer months while we have a limited number who are able to attend worship services. Income is under budget by more than \$13,000 at the end of July. Since expenses came in under budget by nearly \$10,000, the expenses exceed income by only \$3,579.

2020 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 593,882	\$ 607,241	\$ -13,359
Expenses	\$ -597,461	\$ -607,241	\$ -9,780
Net Total	\$ -3,579	\$ 0	

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN INTRODUCED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

THE GIFTS OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Gifts of God for the People of God is the 2021 Stewardship theme, selected by Nichole Magalis who is chairing this year's committee. *"The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come for all is now made ready."* These words are often used as an invitation to share the loaf and cup of Holy Communion. In the context of stewardship, they may be used as an invitation to reflect on God's bountiful blessings. It is good to name the gifts, to count our blessings. It is good to be still and come to know God's mysteries. It is good to receive the gift of silence to share with a world that is wary of chaos, darkness, fear, and hopelessness.



Serving with Nichole are: Marc Anderson, Bill Deemer, Tanya DeSanto, Virginia Dolan, Tara Fritsch, Mary King, Dave Leonatti, Becky Martin, Sally Godbey, Will Wright, and Pete VanGieson.

The campaign will be introduced in worship on Sunday, September 20 and the Stewardship Dedication will be Reformation Sunday, October 25. The Stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 20 following the Session's approval of the 2021 budget.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR LOAN CLOSED!

On Wednesday August 26, final paperwork on the Steadfast Neighbor Construction Loan (approved by the congregation on April 26) was delivered via UPS. The first draw on the \$1.2 million loan was received on August 27. **Special thanks to Financial Administrator, Lisa Runkle**, for her "steadfast" diligence and persistence on this long and winding journey, **and to attorney, Jeff Wilday**, whose legal guidance and attention to details were invaluable.



GARY WARNICK CELEBRATES TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY TO BE RECOGNIZED ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

For just such a time as this...

Gary joined the Westminster staff in June 2010. He came to us with 25 years of experience in City Operations at Archer, Daniels Midland, Inc. Gary has a B.A. degree in agriculture from Illinois State University.



As we recognize Gary for the decade he has served this congregation on September 27, we do so with deep gratitude and appreciation for his leadership in the oversight of the Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan and his initiative and guidance in the Neighborhood Service Week.

Little did we know ten years ago what an invaluable asset Gary would be to this faith community *for such a time as this*. As Westminster's Building and Property Manager, Gary not only takes superb care of our facilities, he is instrumental in building our community and enriching our life together.

Thank you, Gary, for who you are and for all the ways you make us better.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
deb.watts@live.com

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Victoria Hollinshead
Kimberly Hollinshead
Jaymie Hale Ngoupa
Nursery Workers

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org

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**Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, September 30.**