



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

September 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
Confirmation Prep Grade 6-7

11:15 a.m. Confirmation Grade 8
Adult Education Forum

September 3

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Being Second

September 10

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:9-14
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
In Remembrance

September 17

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 14:19-31; Matthew 18:21-35
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Parting Ways

September 24

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 21:33-46
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Growing in Generosity,
Rooted in Faith

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

HOMEcoming SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Join your Westminster family for Homecoming Sunday on September 10 as we begin the 2023-2024 Ministry Year!

We will celebrate worship at 10:00 a.m., welcome the Westminster Choir, commission the Education Leadership Team, and partake in Communion with bread prepared by WPC's Bread Guild.

A brunch reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include: ministry displays, children's activities, a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2022-2023 ministry year, and the opportunity to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission, and Service.

Do not miss this new beginning at Westminster!

MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

On Sunday, September 24 we will honor members who joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1973, 1968, 1963, 1953 during worship. We are grateful for all the ways these members have enriched the life of our congregation over the years. The congregation is invited to a reception in the West Narthex following worship to express our congratulations and appreciation.

FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS:

Virginia Cooper

Dwight "Cap" O'Keefe

Mary O'Keefe

Jan Pinkerton

Dr. Jim Pinkerton

Sue Sawers

FIFTY-FIVE-YEAR MEMBERS:

Cathy Cragoe

David Mitchell

Jan Schuermann

Gloria St. Lawrence

SIXTY-YEAR MEMBERS:

Mary Ann Armstrong

Judith Barringer

Marilyn Cohen

Matt Gilmour

Sharon Gilmour

Carolyn Proctor

SEVENTY-YEAR MEMBERS:

Camille Degner

Dr. Tom Lewis

Anne Smith

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN INTRODUCED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Blessed are those whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ~ Ephesians 3:17-18

Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith is the 2024 Stewardship theme, selected by Jay Kennerly who is chairing this year's committee. Being rooted in faith provides the foundation for growing in generosity. Please consider growing in generosity through your support of this year's stewardship campaign.

Serving on the Committee: Susan and Scott Day, Jim Dolan, Becky Huston, Becky Martin, Jeanne Pittman, Bill Schlosser, Brad Steller, and Jay Kennerly, Chair.

The campaign will be introduced on Sunday, September 24 and the Stewardship Dedication will be Sunday, October 29. The stewardship letter will be mailed the week of September 24 following the Session's approval of the 2024 budget.



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

WORSHIP PLANNING RETREAT

Dale Rogers graciously hosted Christian and me a few days in August on his front porch to plan worship for the 2023-2024 ministry year. It was a meaningful time to collaborate with trusted colleagues and to open our hearts and minds to God's Spirit in the "intelligent effort" that goes into worship planning. Our hope and prayer is to provide a meaningful and well-integrated worship service for those who gather faithfully each week. We are grateful for the privilege to lead worship as we continue to live stream our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service.



Paul's post-op visit with his surgeon, Dr. Joseph Bavaria at the University of Pennsylvania, was both sobering and elating. Although Dr. Bavaria explained Paul's surgery was one of the five most complicated of his 400 bicuspid aortic valve repairs, he affirmed he "nailed it," described how the valve no longer leaks, and reiterated that he and Paul are "friends for life." Dr. Bavaria is also a friend of Westminster. Thank you, dear ones, for your prayers and loving support on this journey.

NANCY CANADY RETIRES FROM WPC'S KITCHEN TEAM

Nancy Canady has served on the Kitchen Team with Pat Hymans since 1995 organizing and stocking the kitchen. Part of her responsibility in this role was to coordinate and host memorial receptions. In addition to serving on the Kitchen Team, Nancy provided Compass for Kids dinners from 2012 - 2020 serving between 25 and 40 students and mentors. Nancy also served on the Property Committee for twenty years and has always been an advocate for the kitchen. She remains active in Presbyterian Women serving in several capacities from President, Circle Leader, to Host of the Day. We are grateful to Nancy for sharing her gift of hospitality with generosity and joy!



NEW MEMBER CLASS, OCTOBER 1 & 8

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Member Class on **Sundays, October 1 and 8, 9:00 - 9:45 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. **New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on October 15** following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful for the strong support received through the month of July. Income is \$70,295 higher than the budget to date. Expenses are over budget by \$8,834, so year-to-date the total income exceeds expenses by \$61,461. Thank you for your continued financial support through the summer months.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 691,665	\$ 621,370	\$ 70,295
Expenses	\$-630,204	\$- 621,370	\$ -8,834
Net Total	\$ 61,461	\$ 0	

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes its regular rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. and will have its annual Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 9 from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. Following the retreat, the choir is invited to share dinner at the home of Meg and Jim Kontio. If you have considered joining the choir, now is a great time.



CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet on Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, September 16 at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Open to members and friends. Mr. Rogers leads Church Mice.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Kindergarten - Grade 5) will begin Wednesday, October 4 led by Katie Moore, our Director for Children's Music, and meet weekly from 5:00 until 5:45 p.m. This is a choir combining the full range of singers from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and welcomes all young singers to join in the fun.

WESTMINSTER ON MY OWN TIME EXHIBIT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Calling All Members—The Worship, Music and Arts Committee will again host the very popular **On My Own Time** Exhibit on Sunday, October 8 following worship in Parish Hall. Start thinking of the things that you do as a hobby and are willing to share with the congregation... from Precious Moments, Barbie Dolls, to Woodcarving or your collection of arrowheads. If you would like to participate, contact Dale Rogers (drogers@wpcspi.org).

ADULT EDUCATION

DR. KIEFFER'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS, 5:30 - 6:45 P.M.

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study resumes **Thursday, September 21, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. This year's curriculum includes Short-term Disciple Studies: **Invitation to Genesis, Invitation to John, and a video series: The Holy Land Revealed.** Books are available in the Church Office and on Homecoming Sunday. New members are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

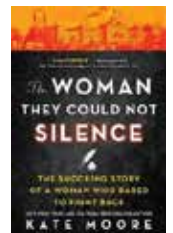
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN SPAIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

On Sunday, September 24 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, Dr. Debbie Parker will share her recent experience hiking part of the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain. The Camino de Santiago is a network of ancient pilgrim pathways stretching across Europe and leading to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela.

Debbie Parker is a Senior Instructor at Western Governors University. She has a Ph.D. in English Studies from Illinois State University and lives in Springfield with her husband. They have two sons, Jacob (23), & Benjamin (20) who live in other cities.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, September 26 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



FAMILY MINISTRY by Mary Ray

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION

BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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.). Three-year Confirmation class provides a comprehensive review of our faith based on the Scripture.



GRADES SIX AND SEVEN meet Sunday mornings from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. during worship (except) Communion Sundays in the Conference Room. They will study the Old Testament during these preparatory years and utilize “Echo, The Story” curriculum. Teachers: [Tara Barnett](#), [Meridith Bryans](#), [Joe Fierstos](#), [Mary Ray](#)

GRADES EIGHT meets Sunday mornings from 11:15 – 12 noon in the Conference Room following worship in the Conference Room. The curriculum, written by Dr. Peter Kieffer, will explore Church History, Presbyterian Polity and Beliefs. Teachers: [Dr. Aaron Berkowitz](#), [Dr. Peter](#) and the [Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer](#), [Mary Ray](#)

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on Homecoming Sunday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary with Dr. Kieffer. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another, the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2023-2024 schedule and expectations.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 5:00-6:30 P.M. PARISH HALL

Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning September 10. High School youth will gather in Parish Hall for dinner and fellowship/games followed by discussion on current topics from the Christian perspective, based on PC(USA) resource “Faith Questions.” Parents are asked to prepare the meal on a rotation basis. Mary Ray will reach out to schedule the meals. Mentors: [Cathy Brower](#), [Susan Day](#), [Kyle Duffy](#), [Mary Ray](#)

YOUTH WORSHIP LEADERSHIP: The participation of youth enriches our worship service and heightens their sense of belonging. Junior High serve as acolytes each Sunday. Senior High serve as worship leader most Sundays and Bible/Cross carriers on Communion Sundays. Mary Ray will reach out to schedule youth participation.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

September 5th and 6th are the start dates for our new school year! We still have a couple of openings in our 2 and 4 day classes; please contact us if you know anyone who might be interested. We'll begin the year with popsicles on the playground for our open house, first day coffees for our parents, Mo Willems' books, and lots of building community in our preschool family.

If you could join us, we'd love to have you come to our [Macaroni Fest on Thursday, September 21st](#). Enjoy macaroni dinner, noodle crafts, and music for your whole family while supporting our preschool!

Tickets are sold in advance; more information will be available on our website <https://rb.gy/tq31g>.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Parents are asked to register their children through [KidCheck](#) on or before Homecoming Sunday, September 10. Join us at the reception in Parish Hall to select the animal for this year's Sunday School Offerings which support Heifer International. Envelopes will also be distributed. The following classes begin Sunday, September 10:

CHILDREN BIRTH-AGE 3 begin in the [Nursery](#), located on the lower level. Following the children's sermon **PRESCHOOLERS** join them for a lesson from the Frolic Preschool Sunday School curriculum, which is play-based and helps our youngest children experience Bible stories and faith-based storybooks in meaningful ways. Our Nursery is staffed by [Erin Winn](#) and [Millie McNutt](#), Nursery Coordinators, [Maria Lafrenz](#), Nursery Worker, and members of the Nursery Guild: [Linda Caupert](#), [DeeDee Duffy](#), [Sara Eldridge](#), [Sally Godbey](#), [Priscilla Kluge](#), [Judy Knox](#), [Meg Kontio](#), [Val Leonatti](#), [Lynn McMenamin](#), [Leigh Milward](#), [Sue Scaife](#), and [Julie Sundquist](#).

Nursery Guild members will participate in Mandatory Reporting Training on Homecoming Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. The training will be led by Meleah Berkowitz.

KINDERGARTENERS - GRADE 5 will gather in the [Third Floor Chapel](#) following the Children's sermon for a lesson from the Feasting on the Word curriculum, which is a lectionary-based, multi-aged curriculum. This resource is designed to encourage cooperative learning across a wide age range. Children will experience Scripture through storytelling, drama, and a variety of activities that appeal to various learning styles. Teachers: [Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz](#), [Cathy Brower](#), [Sophia Choi](#), [Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt](#), [Kate Morthland](#), [Linda Purves](#), and [Julie Robbs](#)

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

September 3: Called By Name Exod. 3:1-5

September 10: Making Things Right Matt. 18:15-20

September 17: Forgive Again and Again Matt. 18:21-35

September 24: So Much Love Matt. 20:1-16

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 13, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. beginning in the Children's Library. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It also includes service opportunities, art projects, and interfaith gatherings. This year's theme is “Created in God's Image.” Leaders: [Meleah Berkowitz](#) and [Pat Roller](#).



TEACH THE CHILDREN SO IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO TEACH THE ADULTS

**CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM
GATHERS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to the first gathering of Children of Abraham on **Wednesday, September 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield (3000 Stanton Street). This year's theme is “Serving our Community.”

Mark your calendar for the quarterly Wednesday Gatherings: **SEPTEMBER 27 AT THE MOSQUE**, **NOVEMBER 15 AT WESTMINSTER**, **FEBRUARY 21 AT GRACE UNITED METHODIST**, and **MAY 8 AT SPRINGFIELD ART ASSOCIATION**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – SUNDAY, AUGUST 20



RECOGNITION OF KAREN SHERRICK – SUNDAY, AUGUST 27



SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR YOUNG FAMILIES SWIM PARTY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 27



Children and youth gathered in the Chancel on Sunday, August 20 for the annual blessing of their backpacks.

On Sunday, August 27, Karen Sherrick was recognized for her retirement on Sunday, April 27. Her gift from the congregation was a trio of artistic candleholders. The children presented her a tote bag with a painting of a dandelion featuring each of their fingerprints.

The young families gathered the afternoon of the 27th at the Kieffers' to swim, enjoy a boat ride with Elsie and Bob Fox, and to thank Mrs. Sherrick.

MISSION TRIP REUNION – AUGUST 6

On Sunday, August 6 the youth mission team gathered at Christy and Karl Pound's for a reunion. They shared photos, memories, food, and fellowship.

The Splash into the New Year Youth Swim Party was hosted by Drs. Tanya DeSanto and Craig Batterman. Mary Ray reviewed the 2023-2024 schedule for junior high confirmation and senior high youth group as we look forward to another year of growing together.

The Men's Annual Summer Cookout was reinstated and hosted by Harold Hale at the Grigsby Farm. Over thirty enjoyed a delicious meal under the stars.



YOUTH SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR SWIM PARTY – AUGUST 20



MEN'S ANNUAL SUMMER COOKOUT – AUGUST 26



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi
MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
ANNUAL CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP HUNGER WALK
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Join the Springfield community addressing hunger in our world and community. The walk begins at Third Presbyterian (1030 N. Seventh) at 1:00 p.m. Krista Steller is an event coordinator, with Becky Martin organizing the Westminster walkers.



HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER



HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Pat Hymans, Julie McDonough, and Jeanne Pittman who prepared the August 11 meal. The September 8 meal will be prepared by Pat and Al Hymans.

SALVATION ARMY MONTHLY MEAL - Westminster Hunger Action Team members prepared bagged meals for the Cooling Center on Wednesday, August 23 at 1:00 p.m. We will gather

again on Wednesday, September 27.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR LITTLE PANTRY

Thank you for your continual commitment and dedication to eradicating systemic poverty, starting in our own neighborhood. There are few slots still open for the month of September. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here or contact Jennie Alt for details.



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.

WOODEN IT BE HELPFUL

In March, the Mission and Community Service Committee unanimously voted to support Coleman Moore's vision of making furniture for Wooden It Be Lovely (WIBL). He is looking for ministry partners of any skill level of woodworking to join in this mission. **This ministry opportunity will begin Tuesday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m. and will meet weekly at Habitat for Humanity Restore.** For additional information, contact Coleman Moore (csmoore56@yahoo.com or 414-617-0477).

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9

This year, we are joining PC(USA)'s 40th annual commitment to peacemaking. Each September and October WPC receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

SEPTEMBER EARTH CARE TIP

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, we need to quit burning stuff! Last year's Climate Bill offers up to \$14,000 savings for new electric appliances such as induction stoves and ovens as well as heat pumps for HVAC, water heaters, and dryers. These efficient appliances do not burn fuel or produce greenhouse gases. As our grid transitions to more wind and solar, these appliances will have even more impact. When your old electric or gas appliances need replacement, update, save money, and electrify!
- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

MISSION PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

In 2021, the Mission and Community Service Committee awarded a mission grant to support Yves Doumen's vision for Motherland Gardens: a community garden initiative, to grow and provide fresh produce to those in the community without easy access. His ministry has grown and continues to serve the needy.



On Saturday, August 26, 2023, Yves held a Grand Opening event, where former Chair, Pete VanGieson (with Jeanne) and current Chair, Lynn McMenamin, attended.

REFUGEE MINISTRY AT WESTMINSTER

Westminster is deeply rooted in justice and missional ministries, as the prudent charter members founded it as an Abolitionist Church. Westminster (Second Presbyterian Church at the time) extended their hospitality (there truly were no Greek or Jew) as they joined the city's effort to welcome and support Portuguese refugees in the mid-1800s (<https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=553>). Throughout Westminster's history, the mantle of hospitality, work for justice, and missional effort has been passed on and met by this faith community whenever there was a call. Some may recall memories of serving the Cuban refugees in 1960s and helping a Vietnamese refugee family to relocate here in 1975. Westminster continued to support and partner with various refugee ministries, most recently in partnership with RefugeeOne and Northminster Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL.

We are **REVITALIZING** Refugee Ministry at WPC as we seek to relocate a family who has been through an unspeakable ordeal to call Springfield their new home. Through the U.S. Federal Government Program, Welcome Corps, we are sponsoring a family whom we believe will arrive early to mid-2024. Members who have already joined this endeavor are:

Coordinators: Rachael Hickman & Jess Weitzel;

Benefits & Health Care: Rachael Hickman (team leader), Peter Kieffer, and Mary Moore;

Education and Language: Richard Leary, Lynn McMenamin (team leads), Carolyn Beatty, Sandy Bellatti, Melanie Green, Georgina Hudspeth, Katy Maeda, Randy Wiseman;

Finance: Bob Leffler, Jess Weitzel (team leaders), Diane Rutledge;

Housing and Basic Necessities: Krista Steller (team leader), Melanie Green, Anne Haaker, Vonnie Hinesley, Elaine Hoff, Katy Maeda, Coleman Moore, Sue Scaife;

Welcoming and Local Orientation: Krista Steller (team leader), Melanie Green, Katy Maeda, Mary Moore, Pat Roller, Sue Scaife, and Susan Shea.

Additional ministry partners are welcome to bring the new family into Springfield. Please contact the Co-Chairs, Rachael Hickman (rachael.hayes87@gmail.com) and Jess Weitzel (jaweitzel@gmail.com) for more information.

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, September 12. 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.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE resumes on Monday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032) for details.

LYDIA CIRCLE resumes on Tuesday, September 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

ELIZABETH AND LYDIA CIRCLES will use the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Please contact your circle leader to order books.

RUTH AND NAOMI resumes on Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dr. Diane Rutledge (3925 Surry Place Lane, 62711). Their lessons will come from the book, Devotional Classics, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith. Call Christy Pound (217-971-3082) for details.

PW HANDBOOKS will be available at the Salad Supper. They will be available the following day in the church office if you are unable to attend.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, September 15 at 5:30 for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Julia Turchetti and Joe Coppick, owners of Aviatori Coffee House, will be here to tell us about their history as pilots, aviation facts, and their coffee/brunch business. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes on Thursday, **September 14 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Jess Weitzel and Rachael Hickman, WPC Co-coordinators for the Refugee Subcommittee, will highlight Westminster's Refugee Ministry as we prepare to host a family through Welcome Corps. Rich Canady (thank you, Nancy) will provide breakfast and Dr. Roy Wehrle will present the devotions. Join us for the first breakfast of fall. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

The Westminster pastors will lead worship each Thursday in September, 4:00 p.m. at the Illinois Presbyterian Home.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION - Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited 13 members on August 13. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday, September 10 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.

WELCOME PETER BYSKO



We are happy to welcome Peter Bysko to our part-time custodian staff. Peter and his wife moved to Springfield in 2020 to be closer to their grandchild. He previously served as Head Custodian at Wethersfield School System in Wethersfield, CT for 22 years. He enjoys woodworking and golf and was recommended to us by his neighbor, a friend of Westminster.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Diana and Dale Hedrick celebrate 60 years on September 7.
Cindy & Bill Ruesink celebrate 55 years on September 8.
Judy & Harvey Stephens celebrate 64 years on September 12.
Judy & Dan Dees celebrate 68 years on September 15.
Virginia & Neil Lee celebrate 63 years on September 16.
Sharon & Larry Reynolds celebrate 62 years on September 24.

IN MEMORIAM

Edith Irwin died on August 4 in Springfield, Illinois. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, Cathy (husband Dr. Tom) Schwartz, Peter (wife Kathy) Irwin, her nephew Jerry (Kay) Smith.

Margery Dodds died on August 13 in Chesterton, IN. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children Collin (wife Anne), Lance (wife Carol), Tim (wife Jonell), and her grandchildren, Dan, David, and Liz Koch.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Kayla and Jess Weitzel on the death of Kayla's mother, to Ryan Weitzel on the death of her grandmother, Carol J. Koncor, on August 11, 2023 in Bluffs, IL.

NEW ADDRESS

Mary Lou Culver, 2735 North Beach Rd. #3A, Englewood, FL 34223

Linda Dillard, Concordia, 4101 W. Iles Ave, Springfield, IL 62711.

Dale Smith, Concordia, 4101 W. Iles Ave, Apt. 2101, Springfield, IL 62711

THANK YOU TO

The Westminster family, for donating **192** backpacks to Contact Ministries and to the Ministry Partners who attached a Bible verse to each backpack: Nancy and Rich Canady, Camille Degner, Mary and Bill Hibbert, Kathy Meriweather, Judi Mier, Sue Scaife, and DL Stanfield.



The Westminster family for donating over **160** (K - Grade 5) books for Will Hovey's BSA Eagle project. These books will be housed in a Little Children's library near the Little Pantry at Graham Elementary. The little library is included in the national register for community members to find a location near them at www.littlefreelibrary.org.





WESTMINSTER'S WELCOME BROCHURE

The Welcome Brochure includes inserts offering introductory information about the history and architecture of WPC and outlining the church's ministries in Children and Youth, Adult Education, Worship and Music, Mission and Community Service and Congregational Life. It features photos of the Life of Christ stained-glass window located above the choir loft and contains a welcome letter from Dr. Kieffer. Look for the updated brochures on Homecoming Sunday in the pew pockets or at the Welcome Table.

NINTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Come learn about good health practices at interactive stations in Parish Hall following worship **and receive your flu vaccine**. Information on many topics will be presented, and several personal screenings and assessments will be available. We are grateful to Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter, who is coordinating the fair and to the many other health professionals from our congregation and elsewhere for contributing their time and expertise. **Stations will include:** **Flu Vaccines** (Tamika Hill, Pharm.D.), **Advance Directives** (Michael Nenaber, MD), **Cancer Education** (Tia Rapps, RN), **Skin Care** (Judy Knox, MD), **Blood Glucose Screening** (Kathy Bacon, RN), **Dental Care** (Allison Long, DMD), **Blood Pressure Screening** (Marilyn Rigney, RN and Camille Proud, RN), **III. Assistive Technology Program** (Angela Schneider), **Computer Health Assessment** (Krista Steller), **Adult Vaccines and Safety in the Home** (Janet Withers, RN), **Bone Density Screening** (Erin Ekstedt, RN) and **Senior Services Programs** (Tessa Franch).



REVEREND CHRISTIAN K. CHOI CELEBRATES TENTH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

On Sunday, September 24, Westminster will recognize Rev. Choi on the tenth anniversary of his ordination. Christian was ordained on September 28, 2013 by San Joaquin Presbytery at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA where he served from 2013-2018. Prior to his ordination, Rev. Choi served Lakeview Korean Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL from 2009 to 2013.



Christian joined our staff in December of 2018 as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry and was called to become our Associate Pastor for Parish Life in October 2021. During his tenure, Sophia and Christian welcomed their son Zachariah into the world to join their daughter Diana. We are grateful for Christian's charisma, warmth, resilience, leadership, and heart for mission. The gifts Christian shares so generously with our congregation enrich our life together. We celebrate Christian's life, family, and ministry!

Christian is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree (2008) and a Master of Theology degree (2009) with an emphasis on missions and ecumenics. Prior to seminary Christian earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2004).

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
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The Reverend Christian K. Choi
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
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**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO
THE EIGHTH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

PROGRAM:
WESTMINSTER'S REFUGEE MINISTRY

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad.

Sign up on 9/10 Homecoming Sunday, 9/17, 9/24 in the West Narthex
or RSVP to Jennie Alt 217-522-4415 or jalt@wpcspi.org.

Reporter folding and mailing will be
Tuesday, September 26.