



# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

November 2023

### WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

#### FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery  
Children Birth – Age 3

10:15 a.m. Sunday School following Children's Sermon  
Children Pre-K - Grade 5  
Confirmation Prep Grade 6-7

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

5:00 p.m. Youth Group

November 5

#### ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Joshua 3:7-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Crossing Over

November 12

#### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION BAY WEEKEND

Psalms 100; Romans 12:1-8  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause  
We Belong to God –  
We Belong to One Another

November 19

#### THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Psalms 90:1-6,12; Matthew 25:14-30  
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Confident Gratitude

November 26

#### CHRIST THE KING AND ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23  
The Rev. Christian K. Choi  
Immeasurable Greatness

Sermon manuscripts are located in the West Narthex and online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

### ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

On Sunday, November 5, Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2022. A bouquet with one white rose for each member whose life we commemorate will be placed in the chancel. The litany, which includes the reading of our loved ones' names, the tolling of our historic bell, and silence will be a part of the worship service. Those members who will be remembered are:

|                       |          |                         |          |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Mary Anne Singleton   | 11/14/22 | Carrol L. Stahlman      | 05/10/23 |
| William L. Meriwether | 12/18/22 | Dr. D. William Sherrick | 06/26/23 |
| Logan H. Schlipf      | 12/22/22 | Charlotte B. Brown      | 07/11/23 |
| Jesse A. Werner       | 01/30/23 | Emma M. Shafer          | 07/11/23 |
| Donald H. Funk        | 03/02/23 | Edith C. Irwin          | 08/04/23 |
| Alice Joanne Roderick | 03/10/23 | Margery W. Dodds        | 08/13/23 |
| Betty R. Cadwallader  | 03/23/23 | Clifton R. Baxter       | 10/17/23 |
| David G. Coontz       | 03/28/23 | Gale J. Fixmer          | 10/28/23 |
| Hazel June Flood      | 03/31/23 |                         |          |

### DR. KIEFFER CELEBRATES FORTIETH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5



On Sunday, November 5, Westminster will recognize Dr. Kieffer on the fortieth anniversary of her ordination. Join us for a reception in Parish Hall following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

Dr. Kieffer was under the care of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. She was ordained on November 6, 1983 by Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery at the First United Presbyterian Church in Belleville, IL where she served as Associate Pastor from 1982-1994. Dr. Kieffer served as Associate Pastor at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church from 1994-2013 before joining Westminster's staff as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff in 2013.

Blythe is a graduate of Hope College, B.A. in Religion and Psychology (Dec. 1977), Fuller Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity degree (May, 1981) and Eden Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Counseling (May, 1989).

### ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. WITH PIPES AND DRUMS

Westminster will continue the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday on November 26 with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music. The Little Entry is the opening procession of the service. Along with the pipers and drummers, the pastors and youth will enter with the Bible to underscore the importance of the Word of God in Reformed



liturgy, and the cross to highlight its centrality in our faith.

In Westminster's observance, elements include the bagpipes, the flag of Scotland, singing from the Scottish Psalter, and the clergy tartan paraments presented to Westminster in 1985 in loving memory of Scott Hoff.



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

*Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger people.*

*Do not pray for tasks to equal your powers,*

*pray for powers to equal your tasks.*

*Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle.*

*You shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself,*

*at the richness of life that has come to you by the grace of God.*

The Rev. Dr. Phillips Brooks, 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Episcopal Bishop

This Sunday, November 5, we will gather as a congregation to recognize the fortieth anniversary of my ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.



On November 6, 1983, while under the care of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, I was ordained at First United Presbyterian Church in Belleville, IL whose members extended the call making my ordination possible. My family, who had been with me every step of the way, (sister Becky, brother

Barry, and my beloved parents Betty and Bill) celebrated this milestone with me. Ordination is an honor and privilege which did not come easily and which I have never taken lightly.

Nine and a half years later on February 29, 1992, after completing a Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis on pastoral counseling, partaking in my own psychotherapy, leading eight summer youth mission trips, and supporting the Belleville congregation through two interims, I walked down that same aisle with my new husband, Dr. Peter S. Kieffer. It was a long time coming, and Peter has been my soul mate, advocate, secret weapon, and partner in ministry for 32 of these 40 years. How grateful we both are to Westminster for the call to lead such a distinguished, healthy, and generous congregation, culminating many years of ministry!



## LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION

TUESDAY, November 28, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, November 28 the Support and Endowment Committee, chaired by Todd Wise, is hosting a Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception at the home of Christy and Karl Pound (100 Pinehurst Drive, 62704) from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the gathering is to thank those who have remembered Westminster in their will and to invite others to consider this opportunity. All are welcome. Please RSVP with Jennie Alt by November 26.



## APNC UPDATE

We welcome Kristianna Eastvold to the APNC Committee: Dr. Craig Batterman, Meleah Berkowitz, Meridith Bryans, Adam Ekstedt, Tom Owen, and Chair Krista Steller in the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry search which began in November, 2021. Since that time, we updated our profile with Church Leadership Connection, reviewed 102 candidates, initiated contact with 27, interviewed 9 on Zoom and welcomed two at Westminster. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek God's spirit in this discernment process and search.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

WESTMINSTER CHOIR meets each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., an earlier time than in previous years.

November Special Music includes the Vocalise of Rachmaninoff played by 'Cellist, Jacobson Woolen, and Greive Not the Holy Spirit of God with tenor, Adam Miller on November 5. O Thou, the Central Orb is the anthem for November 12 and on November 19, Diane Dietz and Jim Kontio will sing a duet from the Magnificat of Bach. For November 26, we will celebrate St Andrew's Sunday with pipes and drums.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) meets on Saturday



mornings at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese for a delightful musical adventure. Mr. Rogers leads Church Mice.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Kindergarten - Grade 5) rehearses Wednesdays, November 1, 8, and 29 at 5:00 p.m. and is led by Katie Moore, our Director for Children's Music.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS GO UP - On Monday, November 27, members will decorate Westminster in anticipation of the first Sunday in Advent on December 3. We begin at 10:00 a.m. If you are able to help, call Dale Rogers at 217-522-4415.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS- Members and friends are invited to donate \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to Westminster's Decoration Fund. The music fund assists in providing special music. The decoration fund purchases flowers. Please submit your donation with desired wording and dedication by Monday, December 11.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### ADULT ED FORUM: REINHOLD NIEBUHR

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 19 AND 26, 11:15-12 NOON

This two-session course will explore one of the great reformed theologians of the 20th century. Who was Reinhold Niebuhr and why did he matter? What can we learn from him today? Raised in Lincoln, Illinois as a second-generation immigrant in the German Evangelical Church, he rose to become a highly respected theologian and public intellectual for over 30 years at Union Seminary in New York City. His brother H. Richard Niebuhr taught at Eden Theological Seminary between 1919-1931. The Adult Ed Forum meets Sundays, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in the Second Floor Classroom.



The class will be led by Dr. Roy Wehrle who has a B.A. from Washington University and a doctorate in Economics from Yale University. Dr. Wehrle was a Senior Economist in President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors, Social Policy Institute, Harvard University. He retired as Emeritus Professor of Special Agent in the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Internal Revenue Service, joined Westminster in 2022.

## APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, November 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court's Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences by Joan Biskupic. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



## YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

### SPECIAL THANKS FROM SPUD BAKE FUNDRAISER



Thank you, Westminster, for your amazing support of our youth and their Spud Bake Fundraiser. We have raised \$2,020 to share the gift of love with other youth this Christmas. Special thanks to Mary Ray, who organized the fundraiser along with Cathy Brower, Suzanne and Jessica

Borland, Bill Deemer, Nichole Magalis and Lisa Metzger.

**SAVE THE DATE:** We will go shopping for Christmas gifts on **Sunday, December 3 at 12:00 p.m.** (following the Advent Celebration) to share God's love with other youth in need using the donations received from the Spud Bake Sale.

### JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION

**Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep** meet Sundays, November 5 (Joseph) and 19 (Exodus) during worship. Teachers: Joe Fierstos and Mary Ray

**Grade 8 Confirmation** meets Sundays, November 5 (The Dark Ages) and 19 (Corruption and Division) at 11:15 a.m. Teachers: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray

### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

**Grades 9-12** meets Sundays, November 5 and 19, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for dinner, games, & Bible Study. Meals provided by Angie and Todd Lafrenz (Nov. 5) and Lisa Metzger (Nov. 19). Leaders: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Mary Ray



### 2024 YOUTH MISSION MEETING Sunday, November 26, 11:15 a.m.



WPC Mission Team Informational Meeting is Sunday, November 26 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second

Floor Classroom. The purpose of the meeting is to present the opportunity to serve at the St. Charles Presbyterian Church Camp Rhino in New Orleans, LA the week of June 15-22. Rhino stands for Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans and is a work-hard, play-hard week of serving Christ in the Crescent City! Campers and their leaders experience a week of intense urban mission, exposing the needs of New Orleans while being a part of rebuilding it.

### FUTURE MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS AND DATES

#### Sunday, January 28, 2024

Annual Meeting Egg-tastic Breakfast Fundraiser @ 8:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, April 14, 2024

Trivia Night Fundraiser in Parish Hall @ 5:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, June 9, 2024

Car Wash & Bake Sale Fundraiser @ 9:30 a.m.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### NOVEMBER LESSONS:

|        |                                |                |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 11/5:  | Jesus Denounces Pharisees      | Matt. 23:1-12  |
| 11/12: | Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids | Matt. 25:1-13  |
| 11/19: | Parable of the Talents         | Matt. 25:14-30 |
| 11/26: | Judgement of the Nations       | Matt. 25:31-46 |

**Please pick up your box of weekly offering envelopes in Sunday School or from the table near the children's check-in.**

### BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom. This year's theme is "Created in God's Image."



The Bridges Children have been working on fostering their community, basic Bible literacy, and creating art together. We have explored scripture, filled the Little Pantry, and created artwork to donate to the Illinois Presbyterian Home. The children are looking forward to learning more about the Reformation, meeting with their advocates, and leaping into the Nativity story. On November 1, we welcome the saints who agreed to serve as advocates to our Bridges children: Pat McNutt, Jeanne Pittman, Marilyn Rigney, Karen Sherrick, Krista and Brad Steller, Pete VanGieson.

### ADVENT DEVOTIONALS MAILED HOME

Advent, the season of waiting, is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of baby Jesus. Children will make Advent wreaths on Sunday, November 26 to take home for their family to light during the four weeks of Advent which begins Sunday, December 3. An Advent devotional will be mailed to your home as a guide in the lighting of the wreath.

### ADVENT CELEBRATION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

#### 10:00 a.m. Worship

Children's Choir will present Special Music.

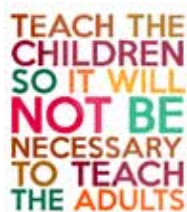
#### 11:15 a.m. Fellowship in Parish Hall

Members and friends gather to create ornaments, sing carols, and enjoy festive refreshments.

### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our study in October has been Fairy and Folk Tales. The children have enjoyed these classic stories, and Abe's grandparents made us a wonderful castle for our dramatic play center. It has created endless hours of wonderful dress-up, imaginative play. The other great addition to our classroom was a fairy garden for our train table created by Jessica's family. All our classes visited Pumpkin Creek Farms. We will end the month with Halloween parties in our classroom, a costume parade around the church building, and enjoying the spooky maze! We are looking forward to Grandparent Days and our annual Friendship Feast in November.

Emily Rowley, Director



### CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM GATHER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Westminster will host Children of Abraham **Wednesday, November 15, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** Children and Youth (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to join us as we welcome our friends from other faith communities. The 2023-24 theme is "Serving our community." Our gathering will highlight the importance of caring for all God's creatures and feature a staff member from the Animal Protection League. Our craft will be creating pet toys from recycled socks and tee-shirts. Please join us for fun, songs, crafts, music, and a vegetarian meal.



## CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM, SEPTEMBER 27



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SALAD SUPPER, SEPTEMBER 27



Westminster children and youth participated in the first gathering of Children of Abraham on September 27 at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield. This year's theme is "Serving our Community."

A staff member of the Helping Hands made a presentation and the children created gift bags for those served by this outreach.

On September 27, over 50 women of Westminster enjoyed a potluck of salads, delicious fall desserts, and fellowship with church sisters.

Jess Weitzel and Rachael Hickman shared information about the timeline for our refugee family's arrival in early 2024. Fourteen women signed on as ministry partners bringing our team up to 51.



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AND DR. LEE- OCTOBER 1



## CROP HUNGER WALK – OCTOBER 1



WE WELCOMED THE REV. DR. LONNIE H. LEE as our guest preacher on World Communion Sunday. Dr. Lee presented his new book, *The Huguenot-Anglican Refuge in Virginia* during the Adult Ed Forum. Bridges children processed during the voluntary with breads of the world and led in the Call to Worship. The Communion table was adorned with African textiles, a gift of the late Andrea Butler.

THANK YOU CROP HUNGER WALKERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORTS! Westminster was well represented with 20 walkers including 11 youth and children. They joined 60 walkers representing the following churches: Farmingdale Presbyterian, Douglas Ave Methodist, First Christian, First Church of the Brethren, Grace Lutheran, Hope Presbyterian, Kumler United Methodist, Laurel United Methodist, Third Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian. To date the Walk has raised \$13,272 and Westminster has contributed \$4,437. Checks are still welcome as we continue to work together to eliminate hunger.



## ON MY OWN TIME DISPLAY - OCTOBER 8



## GREEN TEAM SUMMIT WATCH PARTY - OCTOBER 8



On October 8 seventeen members shared their special interests in the "On My Own Time" exhibits in Parish Hall. Members shared their hobbies, collections, and fine art and enjoyed fielding questions from our members. Participants included: Jerry Boutelle, Ellen Carpenter, the Choi family, Linda and Roland Folse, Mal Hildebrand, Pat Hymans, Peter Kieffer, Priscilla Kluge, Richard Leary, Bob and Mary Leffler, Pat McNutt, Camille and Ted Proud, Kelly Robertson, and Dale Rogers.

**Green Team Summit Watch Party** - On Sunday evening, 40 members of the community, the Earth Care Team and Senior High youth gathered to hear a zoom presentation of Faith in Place, featuring keynote speaker, Leah Thomas – Founder of Intersectional Environmentalist & Author of *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*. A light dinner was prepared by Kelly Robertson and Pat Hymans.



## SPUD BAKE YOUTH FUNDRAISER FOR CONTACT MINISTRIES - OCTOBER 15



On Sunday, October 15, Westminster youth had their **most successful spud bake to date**. 166 loaded white potatoes and 40 loaded sweet potatoes were sold raising \$2,020 which will go toward Christmas Gifts for the youth served by Contact Ministries. We learned the Presbyterians come out for their spuds with attendance reaching 225!

**Compass Children Plant a Tree at the Capler's Home on October 17 - The Brandywine Maple tree** which adorned our chancel on October 15 was planted at Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Home of Paris and James Capler by the children attending our Compass for Kids program. The tree is a gift from First Presbyterian Church's Earth Care Team led by Don Ecklund. Kristianna and Juliana Eastvold, who are ministry partners with the program coordinated the tree planting. The children were encouraged to hug the tree to welcome it to the neighborhood.

## COMPASS FOR KIDS PLANT TREE AT CAPLERS' - OCTOBER 17





SHEEDY SHORES WINEGARDEN - OCTOBER 22



REFORMATION SUNDAY AND HARVEST FEST - OCTOBER 29





## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED - Sunday, October 15



**Paris and James Capler**, and their older daughters **Ciearra Davis, Laparriona Collins**. James was received by Reaffirmation of Faith. Paris, Ciearra, and Laparriona were received by Profession of Faith and the Sacrament of Baptism. Ciearra is a senior and Laparriona is a junior at Lanphier High School. Paris and James' younger children are Aaleeviah Collins and Jami'ona Capler, and Jamo Capler. Paris is employed as a nursing assistant and James works as a part-time custodian at Westminster along with his landscaping business. The Steadfast Neighbor Habitat House on Glenwood is their new home. **Their sponsors are Ellen and Rance Carpenter and Mary Ray.**

**Laura and Eric O'Reilly** were received by Letter of Transfer from Grace Lutheran Church of LaGrange, Illinois. Laura is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Eric is a Regional Director for Hilton Capital Management, LLD. They have four children: Maeven, Emmett, Holland, and Rowan. **Their sponsors are Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt.**



**Barbara Stewart** was received by Letter of Transfer from Clarendon Hills Community Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills, Illinois. A long-time resident of Illinois and a graduate of SIU Carbondale, Barb and her husband Keith Poling moved to SW Missouri after his retirement in 2007. While in Missouri, Barb assisted the president and CFO of Cox Medical Center Branson, and upon her retirement in 2021, they moved back to Illinois to be closer to their son in Springfield. Their blended family has 4 adult children and 5 grandchildren, most of whom live throughout the U.S. They love living in Springfield and enjoy spending time with family, gardening, and all the cultural and other events the area offers. **Her sponsor is Joyce King.**

**Carol Volle** was received by letter of transfer from Central Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois. Carol moved to Springfield in 1977 and raised three boys here: Gregory, Clayton, & Darren Volle. Darren and his wife, Meredith, joined WPC a few years ago, along with their two daughters. Carol also has a grandson in Georgia and a step-granddaughter at the University of Illinois in Champaign. She spent many years in residential and commercial interior design. She has been employed at Memorial Medical Center for the past 15 years. **Her sponsor is her son Darren Volle.**



**Kelly Zohfonyi** was received by Reaffirmation of Faith. She was a member of Our Lady of Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Douala, Cameroon. Kelly is originally from Cameroon and recently married Edison Zohfonyi in our sanctuary. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University Institute of the Coast in Cameroon. Kelly works as a braider until her work permit is processed and is fortunate to have family members in the US. She enjoys music, cooking, and doing makeup for others. **Her sponsor is her husband, Edison Zohfonyi.**





## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### BREADLESS BREADLINE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

For decades, each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, churches in Springfield have sold bread donated by a local grocery store to raise money for St. John's Breadline, which serves hot food 365 days a year to underserved. Although bread is no longer sold, WPC members are encouraged to provide additional donations on Sunday, November 19 marked for St. John's Breadline.



**HELPING HANDS** - Thank you to Jim Dolan, Pat Hymans, Kate Wilson, Sandy Hockenyos, and Sharon Turner who provided a picnic meal to 50 Helping Hands clients on October 13.

The November 10 meal will be prepared by Cathy Allen and Nancy Canady.

**SALVATION ARMY MONTHLY MEAL** - Thank you to the Hunger Action Team who prepared the October 25 bagged meals. We will gather again on Wednesday, November 22.

#### STEADFAST NEIGHBOR LITTLE PANTRY

When we think of November, Thanksgiving comes to mind. We often associate Thanksgiving as a time for family and friends to get together around food. Once again, we can see the importance and value of food. As we seek to bless others through the food, join in this ministry by restocking the pantry. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here.



#### GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH NOVEMBER MENU

Beef-a-Roni or Canned Pasta Meal, Rice (Instant, Bagged, or Mixes) 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.

#### FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

On Sunday, November 19, following worship, Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold in West Narthex to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers.

#### PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING



Thank you to those who contributed a total of **\$606.25** toward the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

#### UNICEF

Thank you to those who contributed a total of **\$246.00** to UNICEF which was collected at Harvest Fest.



#### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Thank you to those who contributed a total of **\$3,730** to the PDA to support those who are impacted by Hawaii fires and other disasters around the globe. If you would like to give towards any of PDA's response, contact Lisa Runkle ([lrunkle@wpcspi.org](mailto:lrunkle@wpcspi.org)) or place it in an offering with PDA as its designation.



#### CONTACT MINISTRIES AND REFUGEE MINISTRY ADOPT-A-FAMILY

This year, Westminster will again sponsor the nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, providing Christmas gifts as they work their way toward independence, and we will add Westminster's anticipated refugee family as the tenth family whom we will help transition as we prepare a home for them.



**Each family will have multiple Wishlist items on SignUpGenius from which to select gifts. The signups will be available at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) by November 13.**

Gifts can be dropped off under the smaller Christmas tree in the elevator lobby or ordered for direct delivery to Westminster (make sure to notify Jennie Alt to expect a package!). **All gifts need to be at the church by December 3.**

#### FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD

##### ANNUAL BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER, NOVEMBER 14

Westminster is delighted to host Faith Coalition for the Common Good's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. in Parish Hall. This event is free and attendees are invited to invest in their future work. Venessa Knox, Co-chair of the Transformational Justice Task Force of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good is the speaker.



#### COALITION TO STOP CO<sub>2</sub> PIPELINE CELEBRATES

On October 20, Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC announced they are canceling the pipeline that would have transported liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> from four midwestern states to Illinois for underground sequestration. Dr. Peter Kieffer served on the Faith Coalition Environmental Justice Task Force and provided medical testimony regarding public health risks of such a pipeline at the August 27 Forum named in honor of the late Emma Shafer.



#### NOVEMBER EARTH CARE TIP

Even though most of us will never be entirely vegetarian, eating more of a plant-based diet is not only healthy for us but also for our planet. The global food system produces about a third of greenhouse gas emissions. 70% of those emissions in wealthy countries come from meat and dairy which also require 80% of the world's agricultural land but provide only 20% of the calories. Our biblical predecessors ate staples of bread, oil, wine, and fish, consumed dairy when available, and celebrated special occasions with meat- perhaps we should try more of the same!

- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

#### CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive Communion at home on November 12, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to the four teams of elders and deacons who made visits to ten shut-in members on October 1.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION** will be available on Sunday, November 5 by Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

**SECOND HELPING MEAL MINISTRY** led by the Congregational Care Committee would love to provide a meal for anyone who could use a meal due to an illness, recovering from a recent hospital stay, or knowing someone who would benefit by getting a premade meal. Contact Ellen Carpenter.



## 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, November 14. 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.

### PW EVENING MARKET

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 FROM 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.**

All women are invited to the first evening market. This gives everyone a chance to shop for local and fairly traded items. We look forward to shopping with: Simply Fair, Wooden It Be Lovely, and other fair trade retailers with a focus on mission.



**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets on Wednesday, November 1 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christy Pound (100 Pinehurst Dr, 62704). Marilyn Rigney will lead the devotional by Evelyn Underhill entitled “A Simple Regimen of Private Prayer” (pgs. 87-94) from the book, Devotional Classics, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith. Call Christy Pound (217-971-3082) for details.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on Monday, November 13, 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead lessons 3 & 4 “A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ” and “Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032) for details.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on Tuesday, November 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Carolyn Beatty will host and lead lesson 3 “A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Call Nancy Canady (217-899-9890) for details.

### LYDIA CIRCLE HOSTS A CHRISTMAS GATHERING

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 FROM 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.**

All women of Westminster and their guests are invited to the Village at 3301 Robbins Rd. We will enjoy an afternoon of tea sandwiches, salads, and desserts with a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters, accompanied by Dale Rogers. The minimum number required is 50 attendees and the max is 80.

Please reserve your spot on our website, the church office, or with Nancy Canady. There will be opportunities to sign up in the West Narthex on Sundays, Nov. 5, 12, 16 after worship. **The cost is \$16 and pre-paid reservations are required by November 20 (non-refundable)** with checks payable to Nancy Canady.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S BREAKFAST** meets on Thursday, November 9 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Gregg Humphrey, Executive Director, will speak on the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District. Brad Swanson will provide breakfast and Jay Kennerly will share a devotion. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.



### DMA (DON’T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don’t Mention Age) will meet Friday, November 17 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Yves Doumen, garden founder and master gardener, will speak to us on “A Visit to the Motherland Gardens.” RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.

### CONCORDIA COMMUNION AND LUNCH

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 11:30 AM**

Members and friends of Westminster who live at Concordia will gather Thursday, November 30, at 11:30 a.m. for communion followed by lunch with the pastors and the director of music and the arts.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Char Barker celebrates 95 years on November 2.  
Arlene and Mike Cooney celebrate 50 years on November 3.  
Gloria St. Lawrence celebrates 91 years on November 19.

### IN MEMORIAM

Clifton R. Baxter died October 17, 2023. The white rose on the communion table honors his life. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Janet Baxter and sister Velma Kelly.

Gale J. Fixmer died on October 28, 2023. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children: Susan Fixmer Dyer, husband, Jim, John P. Fixmer IV, David Fixmer, wife, Beth, and her grandchildren Katie Good, Rob Dyer, Pamela Fixmer, Sarah Post, and Ava Fixmer. A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 16 in our Sanctuary.

### PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Kay & Rich King on the death of Kay’s brother, John Hudson, on September 22 in Springfield, IL.

Melanie and Gregg Humphrey on the death of Melanie’s mom, and to Chip and Alexander Humphrey on the death of their grandmother, Lena Mae Holt, on October 5 in Springfield.

Blythe and Peter Kieffer on the death of Peter’s stepmom, and to Paul Kieffer on the death of his grandmother, Ann Feeley Kieffer on October 24 in Boulder, Colorado.

Angela and Kevin Simonson on the death of Kevin’s father, and to Sam Simonson on the death of their grandfather, Dennis F. Simonson on October 27 in Springfield.

### NEW ADDRESS

Annie Sherrick, 167 Starr St., Apt. L, Brooklyn, NY 11237

Maggie & Josh Pinke, 6320 Winterberry, Springfield, IL 62712

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Will Hovey, who received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Cooperation.

**CHURCH OFFICES** are closed November 23-24 for Thanksgiving.

### STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION



**Growing in Generosity - Rooted in Faith** is the 2024 Stewardship theme. Our church family is made resilient through the faith and generosity of our members. We are grateful for the deep and elaborate root system within this faith community that has grown strong through the years.

**As of Monday, October 30, we received 166 pledges totaling \$706,018 which is 83% of the \$850,000 goal.** Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

**2024 Stewardship Committee:** Jay Kennerly, Chair. Susan and Scott Day, Bill Deemer, Jim Dolan, Becky Huston, Becky Martin, Jeanne Pittman, Steve Scaife, Bill Schlosser, and Brad Steller

### SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

We are grateful for the congregation’s response to the 2024 Growing in Generosity – Rooted in Faith Stewardship Campaign and for your continued faithfulness in 2023! At the end of September, income is above budget by \$22,690 and expenses are above budget as well by \$7,702. Our net total is \$14,988 income over expenses year-to-date.

| 2023 Operations | Actual     | Budget      | Difference |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Income          | \$ 821,594 | \$ 798,904  | \$ 22,690  |
| Expenses        | \$-806,606 | \$- 798,904 | \$- 7,702  |
| Net Total       | \$ 14,988  | \$ 0        |            |



## THE 2023 BAY WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 11-12

WELCOMES THE REV. DR. DEBORAH KRAUSE

Professor of New Testament and President, Eden Theological Seminary

Presentation:

The Bible in The Public Square:

Lifting Voices of Lament, Prophecy, and Praise  
in a Time of Christian Nationalism  
and Religious Extremism

Saturday, November 11

**Welcome Reception - 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Members are invited to a welcome reception at the home of Drs. Todd and Judy Knox hosted by the Adult Education Committee.

Sunday, November 12

**Worship Service 10:00 a.m.** Dr. Krause will preach.

**Education Forum 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Presentation

**All Church Lunch 12:30 P.M.** The Westminster family will share in a community meal.



**Description:** While many imagine that faith is a matter of private belief, Christian faith and Biblical interpretation have long been at the center of North American public square debates about race, social diversity, struggles for human liberation, and other moral discourse. In these days of ascendant Christian nationalism and religious extremism, the Bible (and its authority) are often claimed as a tool for asserting dominance and control. This seminar explores how people of faith might engage the Bible not as a weapon, but as a resource for hearing and sharing voices of lament, prophecy, and praise that speak to God's presence and purpose in the public square. We will consider how to share a Biblical faith that resists domination and strengthens our capacity for joining God's redemptive work of justice, mercy, and love in the world.

**Biography:** Dr. Krause joined Eden's teaching staff in 1992, served as Academic Dean from 2005-2018, and began as Eden Seminary's president in July 2020. She teaches courses in the gospels, early Jewish exegesis, the Deutero-Pauline and pastoral epistles, feminist-womanist, post-colonial, and postmodern biblical interpretation. An ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Dr. Krause serves the church through social justice advocacy work, teaching, preaching and scholarship. Her academic resume includes Amherst College, B.A., 1984, Eden Theological Seminary, M.Div., 1988, Emory University, Ph.D., 1996.

**Please RSVP at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) by Thursday, November 9 for the Sat. Welcome Reception and/or the Sun. All Church Lunch.**

The Bay Weekend was established in 1974 by the family of Frances and Ed Bay with the formation of the Frances M. Bay Lay Education Fund. This fund has provided the Westminster congregation and community with educational weekends for over 40 years. We are grateful to the Bay Family whose generosity and legacy have nourished our faith for more than four decades, and for the Westminster Endowment Fund which has also contributed to these endeavors.



Saturday, November 4 is daylight savings time.  
Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

## Westminster Staff

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

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

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

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

**Mary A. Ray**  
Interim Director for Youth  
[zkarmar.mr@gmail.com](mailto:zkarmar.mr@gmail.com)

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry  
[berkowitz@wpcspi.org](mailto:berkowitz@wpcspi.org)

**Katie L. Moore**  
Director for Children's Music  
[kkilduski@gmail.com](mailto:kkilduski@gmail.com)

**Millie McNutt, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
Cooperative Preschool Teachers  
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**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager  
[gwarnick@wpcspi.org](mailto:gwarnick@wpcspi.org)

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,**  
Part-time Custodians

Reporter folding and mailing will be  
Wednesday, November 29.