
Let The Doors Of This Church Be a Way to Service



Westminster Presbyterian Church
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www.wpcspi.org

Mission and Community Service 2022



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Illinois

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ.
– 2 Corinthians 5:18-20a

Westminster Presbyterian Church believes it is in the world for ministry. With each new day, we affirm our common purpose: to join in the worshipful praise of God; to teach the children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church; **to be influential participants in society, by being accountable to the Gospel; to show the love and compassion of Jesus Christ toward each other, and toward those who are hurting; to be a caring community welcoming both friends and strangers;** to own our Presbyterian heritage, reformed and always reforming; and to be prayerfully open to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Let the door of this church be a way to service. Amen.
– **Westminster Mission Statement**



Thank you for your partnership in ministry through your generous giving and dedication to mission and service. This booklet describes the mission and community service efforts during year 2022 at WPC. You are invited to peruse it, find things that interest and excite you and join us as partners in ministry.

Every person called by Christ is called to mission and service. It is our hope that together all of us will find and engage the particular ideas, passions, and causes God has placed on each of our hearts, joining with one another to multiply our efforts and encourage each other.

Pray with us as we discern where God is leading us to join in the effort of justice and extend the love of Christ throughout year 2023, and to prepare for the international mission trip of 2024.

Mission and Community Service Committee 2022:

Peter VanGieson (Chairperson), Rachael Hickman (Vice Chairperson), Braden Barton, Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Nancy Huston, Peter Kieffer, Richard Leary, Bob Leffler, Lynn McMenamin, Bryce Pound, Krista Steller, and Jess Weitzel.

Staff Liaison: Rev. Christian K. Choi **Head of Staff:** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

2022 Total Mission Giving: \$374,027	
OPERATING FUND & SPECIAL OFFERINGS	
Presbyterian Mission:	
General Assembly	\$ 7,225
Synod of Lincoln Trails	\$ 850
Presbytery	\$ 8,925
Per Capita	\$ 36,096
OGHS	\$ 26,747
Pentecost	\$ 375
Peace & Global Witness	\$ 820
Christmas JOY	\$ 2,843
Adopt A Family	\$ 195
Contact Ministries	\$ 8,500
CROP Walk	\$ 6,067
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$ 900
HEAL Fund	\$ 9,801
Heifer Project	\$ 138
Helping Hands Shelter	\$ 5,126
Breadline Sunday	\$ 586
Souper Bowl	\$ 1,420
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	\$ 2,000
Living Waters for the World	\$ 170
Youth Gifts to Contact Ministries' Christmas	\$ 1,686
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 15,119
Total Operating Fund & Special Offerings	\$ 135,589
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	
Blankets Plus	\$ 890
Other Mission Programs	\$ 2,785
World Mission	\$ 3,000
Total Presbyterian Women Mission	\$ 6,675

SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT FUND	
Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Mission	
Matching Grants	\$ 14,702
Service Week & Little Pantry	\$ 24,777
637 W Edwards– foundation	\$ 9,700
626 S. Glenwood purchase/demolition	\$ 26,089
Blackburn College Chaplaincy	\$ 1,000
Boy Scout Trip Scholarship	\$ 390
Camp Barnabas-camp scholarship	\$ 466
COMPASS	\$ 5,000
Contact Ministries	\$ 1,500
5th Street Renaissance	\$ 1,000
Frontiers International	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 10,000
Helping Hands	\$ 4,000
College Mission Scholarship	\$ 500
Illinois Presbyterian Home	\$ 7,000
Kemmerer Village	\$ 4,400
Kumler Outreach Ministries	\$ 1,000
Marion Medical Mission-wells in Africa	\$ 600
The Outlet	\$ 1,000
RefugeeOne	\$ 6,964
St. John's Breadline	\$ 1,000
Ukraine Relief	\$ 100,000
Washington Street Mission	\$ 1,000
Westminster Cooperative School Family Scholarship	\$ 675
Wooden It Be Lovely-	\$ 7,000
YMCA Matthew Project	\$ 1,000
Total Support & Endowment Mission	\$ 231,763



Heifer Project

WPC children support Heifer International with Sunday morning offerings. This goes toward purchasing animals with which people around the world can gain sustainable income and independence.

Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission



This group of knitting enthusiasts gathers weekly at the church to share fellowship and knit numerous items to be donated to newborns, people served by the youth mission, and others. They also sponsor a Mitten Tree during Advent for donations to the community.



Living Waters for the World

Formed out of missional work of Synod of Living Waters (PCUSA), they work in partnership to bring filtered safe water to the world.



Marion Medical Mission

Merion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with the extreme poor in Africa by providing sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water.

RefugeeOne



In partnership with Northminster Presbyterian Church of Evanston, IL, Westminster sponsors and financially assists the relocation of Burmese Family of 7 in 2022.



Spring Coat Drive

Coats are collected during Lent for Contact Ministries, and passed on to people in need. 78 Coats were collected and given in 2021.



UNICEF

UNICEF work is to be an advocate for every child around the world. Being present in over 190 countries and territories, making a difference through education and medical/food assistance. Westminster supported UNICEF's Ukraine Relief Efforts in 2022.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) MISSION

Westminster supports numerous denominational mission projects and the worldwide ministry of the Presbyterian Church through PC(USA) Mission Giving and Per Capita contributions. These funds sustain work at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, and come from WPC's Operating Fund and individual per capita giving.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) MISSION GIVING:		\$ 133,881
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$ 26,747
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance		\$ 50,000
Pentecost Offering		\$ 375
Peace & Global Witness Offering		\$ 820
Christmas Joy Offering		\$ 2,843
Per Capita		\$ 36,096
General Assembly		\$ 7,225
Synod of Lincoln Trails		\$ 850
Presbytery		\$ 8,925



One Great Hour of Sharing

This Lenten, ecumenical offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Every year brings natural disasters to communities both near and far, in multiple regions of the United States and other nations. Westminster Youth worked with PDA to help tornado stricken Madisonville, KY for summer mission trip, and congregation gave \$50,000 towards Ukraine Relief Efforts.



Pentecost Offering

This denomination-wide special offering, collected in June, “helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children,” locally and around the world.



Peace and Global Witness Offering

This fall denomination-wide special offering supports worldwide peacemaking work of the PC(USA) in areas of deep conflict and embrace our God’s mission of reconciliation.



Christmas Joy Offering

This special offering brings assistance to church workers in times of need and provides leadership development and education at PC(USA)-related racial/ethnic colleges and schools.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION

Presbyterian Women directly support and participate in efforts and organizations and other projects including clean water and domestic disaster relief.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION GIVING

\$ 6,675

Blankets Plus

\$ 890

Other Mission Programs

\$ 2,785

World Mission

\$ 3,000



Blankets+

Presbyterian Women hold an annual fundraiser to support the Church World Service Blankets program, which provides needed emergency supplies and home necessities to people worldwide in times of need, particularly moments of emergency and disaster.



GENERAL AID MISSION

Westminster explored and supported the following mission opportunities in 2021 to live out Micah 6:2— “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

GENERAL AID MISSION GIVING

\$ 67,868

Adopt A Family

\$ 195

H.E.A.L. Fund

\$ 9,801

Heifer Project

\$ 138

Living Waters for the World

\$ 170

Marion Medical Mission-wells in Africa

\$ 600

RefugeeOne

\$ 6,964

UNICEF

\$ 50,000



Adopt-a-Family

This ministry works with Contact Ministries to provide 200+ Christmas gifts for area families living in their shelter and working to transition from homelessness.



Fair Trade

Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate are sold monthly in the West Narthex after services, supporting economically just, environmentally sound products, and small, independent producers.

Fair Trade Ministry Team 2022: Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson



H.E.A.L. Fund

Helpful Emergency Assistance for Living (H.E.A.L.) funds are shared by the congregation and distributed at the discretion of the pastors to individuals and Contact Ministries for emergency needs.



Westminster Cooperative Preschool

Westminster Coop Preschool celebrated its 50 years last year, and it continues to offer a NAYC accredited, safe, small preschool to our community. WPC hosts and shares many of its resources with the preschool, offers funding to assist families who need help with tuition at our educational mission partner to our community.



YMCA / Matthew Project

The YMCA annually hosts summer programming for the Matthew Project, a Springfield agency serving homeless children.

Youth Mission Trip

Westminster Youth Group's summer mission was help the rebuild efforts of a community that was impacted by the December 2021 Tornado disasters in Kentucky in partnership with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Hopkins County Long Term Recovery Group. Youth Group stayed at First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville, KY, along with mission team from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Dayton, OH. We picking up debris at many different homes and sites where once a home stood as we witnessed the devastations that the EF-4 tornado caused. Our main task was to build two porches of a home to meet the code so that the homeowner's family can move into the home. We also helped build a dog kennel, a shed, replaced a mailbox, and creating an attic access at the homeowner's mother's house (next door).

EARTH CARE MISSION

WPC is an Earth Care Congregation, committed to caring for God's earth in worship, education, facilities, and outreach, promoting environmental stewardship in property decisions, administrative practices, and teaching.

Earth Care Team 2022:

Peter Kieffer (Chair), Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller.



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS MISSION

WPC pursues to act out God's love, justice and mercy by working towards eradicating systemic poverty; one of three foci of being a Matthew 25 congregation of PC(USA).

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS MISSION GIVING

\$ 30,812

Contact Ministries

\$ 11,686

Habitat for Humanity

\$ 10,000

Helping Hands

\$ 9,126



Contact Ministries

WPC was one of the founders of Contact Ministries, whose mission is "to daily serve the greater Springfield community by providing food, shelter, clothing, financial assistance referrals, and life skills education and training through Christ's love & compassion," with a broad array of services, including shelter for homeless women & children. WPC has two Board members, and takes part in many individual projects as described elsewhere. The PW Elizabeth Circle also typically volunteers monthly at their housing center.

Habitat for Humanity

WPC is partnering with Habitat for Humanity for 2023 Steadfast Habitat build to welcome Capler family to our neighborhood. The vision that was generated during the first year of our Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor, we are blessed to partner with Habitat and Capler family to make it a reality in Spring of 2023. Build is expected to begin in March and finish by June of 2023.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands assists people with shelter and financial management assistance. WPC budgets \$4,000 annually, and members provide the shelter dinner monthly. In 2022, Westminster supplied the agency with an endowment mission grant for additional needs.





HUNGER ACTION MISSION

Westminster is a certified Hunger Action Congregation, with many hunger-related ministries and now taking on a new level of commitment to fighting hunger by forming a member task force devoted specifically to looking at ways our church can grow its work against this problem in our community and all around the world.

Hunger Action Team 2022:

Jeanne VanGieson (Chair), Virginia Dolan, Linda Folse, Kathy Germeraad, Mary King, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Tom Owen, Marilyn Rigney, Sue Sawers, Dale Smith, Krista Steller.

HUNGER ACTION MISSION GIVING	\$ 20,274
CROP Walk	\$ 6,067
Little Panty	\$ 10,201
Kumler Outreach Ministries	\$ 1,000
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 1,420
St. John's Breadline	\$ 1,586



Central IL Foodbank

The Central Illinois Foodbank is the central source of food for numerous food pantries in the region. Westminster supports this organization's mission through Give-a-Meal-a-Month, holding an ongoing collection for particular food items.



CROP Hunger Walk

The Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk is an annual fundraiser to fight world hunger.



St. John's Breadline

Springfield's St. John's Breadline provides daily, hot, nutritious meals to anyone in need, giving people the opportunity to spend their time seeking jobs and education instead of food.



Compass for Kids

Westminster hosts this weekly after-school program of homework help, life skills, and hot meals for at-risk children from Graham Elementary, partnering with Central Baptist and providing numerous volunteers. Participating children are also supplied with nutritious food for each weekend. Compass has continued in adapted form during the pandemic, meeting children's academic, social, and nutritional needs despite the inability to gather in person.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

This group gifts free books to children from birth to age five.



Frontiers International Inc.

Frontiers was formed to provide men and women of various backgrounds an opportunity to offer community leadership and community service, particularly in the African-American communities.



Kemmerer Village

Kemmerer Village is a Presbyterian Child Care Agency which helps children and youth facing stress and turmoil in their lives to attain skills and dignity and become well-adjusted members of family and society. Several members are directly involved with this ministry. We also collect box tops to contribute to their educational programming.



Ready 4 Success

WPC members donated approximately 195 backpacks in July and August to this annual back-to-school giveaway of Contact Ministries.

Scholarships

WPC provides scholarships annually, usually for minority students or those in need, from endowment funds designated for this purpose. We have supported three individuals through this funds.



The Outlet

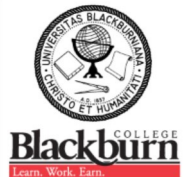
The Outlet works with young male ages 8—22 to help develop the capacity and skill sets to make responsible life-decisions, acquire and maintain spiritual and ethical values, explore their gifts, talents, and recognize their dreams and aspirations through male role-models/tutors.



SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION MISSION

One of Westminster's common purpose is "to teach children, to lead and inspire the young, and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church" (Mission Statement).

SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION MISSION GIVING		\$ 32,550
Blackburn College Chaplaincy		\$ 1,000
Compass for Kids		\$ 5,000
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library		\$ 2,000
Kemmerer Village		\$ 4,400
Frontiers International		\$ 1,000
Scholarships		\$ 2,031
Boy Scouts Trip Scholarship		\$390
Camp Barnabas- Camp Scholarship		\$ 466
College Campus Mission Scholarship		\$ 500
Westminster Cooperative Preschool Family Scholarship		\$ 675
The Outlet		\$ 1,000
YMCA Matthew Project		\$ 1,000
Youth Mission Trip		\$ 15,119



Blackburn College Chaplaincy

WPC provides \$1,000 from the Support & Endowment Fund annually to support the chaplaincy program at Blackburn College, a Presbyterian school in Carlinville, IL.



Souper Bowl of Caring

A thought and work of small Presbyterian youth group of sharing bowl of soup during Super Bowl in Columbia, SC launched this work over 30 years ago. WPC youth members joins this effort and annually raise funds on Super Bowl Sunday, sending every dollar collected to local food pantries.

Little Pantry



WPC built and maintains a micropantry at Graham Elementary School, offering food and basic supplies according to a "Take what you need; leave what you can" model. The pantry has sparked participation from the rest of the neighborhood and has seen heavy use. Westminster members visit the pantry everyday to keep it clean and well-stocked. The church maintains a supply of food and reimburses purchases for the pantry, on top of many independent contributions from WPC & community members.

Meals on Wheels



WPC takes on two weeks of deliveries each summer in service of Meals on Wheels, a Senior Services of Central Illinois program that supports independent living by delivering food to seniors with difficulty preparing their own meals.



Westminster Day Laborers

Members of the church annually donate land, seed, and time to planting and harvesting sweet corn used to supply local food pantries with much-needed fresh vegetables. We are grateful for Grigsby Farms for their partnership in this ministry.

Kumler Outreach Ministries



Westminster has been a faithful partner in their mission to serve the hungry, care for the sick, and to help neighbors who are struggling. K2P4 often send them the knitted hats and mittens for the newborns, Youth Group supports their food pantry through Souper Bowl of Caring.



NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY MISSION

Westminster believes it is in the world for ministry, and it begins at where we are called: at the corner of Walnut & Edwards and central Illinois.

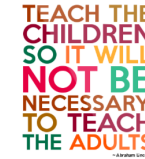
Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force 2022: Todd Knox (Chair), Keith Hamilton, Bob Leffler, Tim Kluge, Jim McDonough, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Diane Rutledge, Pete VanGieson, Jess Weitzel.

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY MISSION GIVING	\$81,967
Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor Mission Component:	\$ 65,067
Matching Grants	\$ 14,702
Service Week	\$ 14,576
637 W. Edwards—Foundation	\$ 9,700
626 S. Glenwood—purchase/demolition	\$ 26,089
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	\$ 900
Fifth St. Renaissance	\$ 1,000
Illinois Presbyterian Home	\$ 7,000
Washington Street Mission	\$ 1,000
Wooden It Be Lovely	\$ 7,000

Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor

Neighborhood Service Week – 70 members of the Westminster spent a week in the summer tackling home and property improvement projects on behalf of neighbors of the church, taking on numerous painting, fence-building, bricklaying, landscaping, power washing, and other assignments by request of the homeowners.

Matching Grants – For house improvements that needs a professional's work, Westminster provides financial matching grants to assist our neighbors in beautifying and maintaining their historic homes. Funded by the Support & Endowment Fund, we are committing \$450,000 (years: 2020 - 2030) to serve WPC's neighborhood.



Adopt-a-Street

Westminster members head out on a quarterly basis to clean up streets in the church neighborhood.

Children of Abraham

WPC joins with faith groups across ethnic & religious boundaries, bringing children and youth together to build mutual understanding and respect.

Faith Coalition for the Common Good

This faith-based group links community institutions and people to build power and change systems for fairness, equity and participatory decision-making.

Fifth St. Renaissance

Originally created in 1979 to weatherproof the homes of elderly and low-income families, it has become the first transitional shelter program in Springfield and to provide care services for HIV+ individuals.

Illinois Presbyterian Home

The Illinois Presbyterian Home Fair Hills Residence seeks to provide seniors with quality care and affordable living. Presbyterian Women volunteer regularly, and WPC members serve on the Board of Directors.

Historic West Side Neighborhood Association

Westminster Presbyterian Church is a member of this association, which since the 1970s has been involved in city planning, advocacy, and development of the residential character of the neighborhood in which our church sits.

Washington Street Mission

Washington Street Mission was founded in 1910, continues to serve Springfield in various programs and constituencies since its conception.



Wooden It Be Lovely



Wooden It Be Lovely offers hope and employment to women healing from lives of poverty, addiction, and abuse by providing transitional employment, mentoring, recovery tools, education, community networking, and a safe community.