



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
04 October 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Siyahamba

South African Melody

*Ring of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Leader:

Which commandment is the greatest?

People:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Leader:

And the second is like it.

People:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Leader:

What does it look like to love our neighbor?

People:

By being curious.

All:

Let us love God and neighbor as we embrace curiosity.

*Processional Hymn 504

We Come As Guests Invited

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*Silent Confession

During this silence, worshipers are asked to offer individual prayers of confession.

*Sung Response

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen

Children's Sermon

*Following the response, families with children under 4 are
invited, if needed, to utilize the nursery.
Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 and youth will remain in
worship to participate in Communion.*

Congregational Response

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God's love is strong and it never ends.** (Repeat three times)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40 Pew Bible, NT pages 127

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Choosing Curiosity Over Judgement
Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Reflection Prompt

On your leaf, please write a word or phrase:
Name one person or group you will be curious about this
week?

*Leaves will be collected during the offering. Please place your
leaf in the offering plate as it is passed.*

Anthem

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Philip Ledger
The text for the anthem is 662 in the hymnal.

The Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the
Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew.*

Offertory

Ubuntu

Mark Hayes

I am me because of you, ubuntu, and you are you because of me, ubuntu. I need you and you need me, ubuntu. We are one big family. Ubuntu, ugumuntu ngabanye abantu. I am human just like you, but we have differences, it's true. I will see the best in you, and I know that you will see the best in me. We will live in harmony, ubuntu. I will lift your spirit high, ubuntu, wipe the teardrops from your eyes, ubuntu. As a chorus we are strong, when everyone of us sings along. So, lift your voice and sing your part, let us hear what's in your heart, ubuntu, ubuntu.

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy God, you made the world to hum in harmony;
you listened and you called it good...

Therefore we lift our voices with choirs of angels and with
all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to
the glory of your name:

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: We thank you for Jesus: Word made flesh...Take this bread and cup, O God – a feast of grace; Take our hearts and lives – an offering of praise.
Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Leader: By your Spirit, make us one. By your Spirit, make us whole...Let us join our voices together praying as Christ taught us, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ. Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

Music at Communion

Meditation for Japanese Flute

*Prayer after Communion

We thank you, eternal God, that you have fed us in this sacrament, uniting us with Christ and with all the faithful who have come before us, who have served you with courage and with joy. Renewed for our daily living in this world, may we remember that we belong to you and that you lead us into newness of life. Amen.

*Hymn 318

In Christ There is No East or West

St. Peter

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Response

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly. Day by day.

*Voluntary

Trumpet Tune in A

David N. Johnson

(*) *The congregation is invited to stand.*



THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO
WESTMINSTER MINISTRIES ARE WELCOME TO SCAN
HERE

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Acolytes:** Diana Choi and Eva Volle
- **Bible and Cross Carriers:** Taryn Barnett and Maria Lafrenz
- **Today's Communion Bread** was lovingly prepared by Priscilla Kluge.
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Vonnie Hinesley (Team Leader), Brownie Anderson, George Botanga, Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Tara Fritsch, David Jenkins, Christy Pound, Lucy Stafford, Brad Swanson, Lyle VanDeventer, Jess Weitzel, and Brinton Wilkey.
- **Communion Prep:** Ann Collins, Pricilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, and Krista Steller.
- **Greeter:** Cameron Hudgins
- **Ushers:** Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross (Head Usher), John Addo-Yobo, Maud Essel Addo-Yobo, Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Lisa Metzger, Willow Stallings, and Brad Steller.
- **Safety Team:** Charlie King
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; David Tell, Japanese Flute and Native American Flute; Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller, William Affrunti

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – Stewardship Mailing Preparation in the 3rd Floor Classroom**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. *Caregivers: Erin Winn and Michella Arnold*
- **10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** Children in 1st-5th grade are invited to remain in worship today and witness or share in the sacrament of communion. There will be no Sunday School today. Children PreK-K or those who do not wish to remain in the service may go to the nursery after Children's Sermon.
- **11:00 a.m. – Fair Trade items**, including new coffee options can be purchased in the West Narthex. Thank you to Melanie Green for her leadership with Fair Trade.
- **11:15 a.m. – Adult Ed Small Groups**
- **1:00 p.m. – Annual Church World Service**
- **4:00 p.m. – John W. W. Sherer, Organist Recital – “The British are Coming”**, a program of English organ music will be presented by John W.W. Sherer, organist in our sanctuary. For 28 years, John was the organist of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and is now the organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, New York. John has been hailed by critics as a “terrific musician, a pronounced virtuoso who plays with assurance, authority, and superb energy.” Reception to follow in the West Narthex.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us is on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located at the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

THE WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING, received during “A Season of Preparation”, is a new way for Presbyterians to “love kindness” expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this Offering. Donate with a check noting World Communion on the memo or to donate online, use the QR code in this bulletin and choose the “World Communion” fund.



WPC is introducing new Worship Bags for our Sunday services. These bags are intended for congregation members of all ages to help you more deeply engage with the service. Each bag contains a flipbook of the order of the service; bookmarks to mark the hymns and scripture; paper, pencil, and crayons for notetaking or doodling, and fidgets to keep your hands busy. If you have suggestions for additional items you'd like to see in these bags, please speak with Meleah Berkowitz. Bags can be found outside the entrances to the sanctuary, and should be returned at the end of church.

ALL-CHURCH BOOK READ – Small groups continue to meet. Check the sign in the West Narthex if you need to remember which group you are in. Anyone not signed up for a small group can join Dr. Marshall after worship for a casual conversation about “Choosing Curiosity Over Judgement” in the front half of Parish Hall.



CROP Hunger Walk Today! Lace up your walking shoes and join the Springfield community in fighting hunger. Check-in starts at 1:00 p.m. and the 2.2-mile Walk begins at 1:30 p.m. Please consider joining our children and youth who will walk or sponsor them. Checks may be made to Westminster with CROP Walk on the memo line. Or pledge online using the QR code. The Betty Smith Mission Fund is providing a \$5,000 grant. Let us join and give generously.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers **every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The group is knitting colder weather items for children and adults. We will collect knitted hats, scarves and mittens in late fall and for the Mitten Tree later. Knitters of any skill level are welcome. Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 218-622-8657 for more information.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL – Our first fundraiser for the year will be Macaroni Fest - join us on **Monday, October 5th 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** for a delicious dinner, crafts and activities, and live music! Support the preschool and purchase a meal by scanning the QR code. The cheese sauce for the macaroni comes from **Anvil and Forge** restaurant!



ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on **Monday, October 5 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 2, from the PW Horizons Bible Study “United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other” by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Circle Contact: Lynn McMenamin

RUTH AND NAOMI meets on **Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Linda Purves (6 N. Cotton Hill Lane, 62711). Christy Pound will lead the discussion of Chapter 2 in “An Alter in the World: A Geography of Faith” by Barbara Brown Taylor. RSVP directly to Linda Purves at 409-651-4701.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, OCTOBER 7 & 21, 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. An intergenerational group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month to play Dungeons & Dragons. New members are always welcome! No experience needed. Our campaign is historically based and is currently set in 26 CE, and the party is about to arrive in Jerusalem! Currently seeking new members! Questions, contact Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

MEN’S BREAKFAST meets on the **second Thursday, October 8, at 8:00 a.m.** Chuck Martin, Owner and Executive Director, will speak about the history of Christian County Coal Mine Museum in Taylorville, IL. The museum was featured on Illinois Stories and can be found on YouTube. RSVP’s are helpful, but not necessary.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – On Sunday, October 11, the congregation will hold a brief congregational meeting directly after worship for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and members for Strategic Planning Committee. See the e-news or the Reporter for the slate of nominees that will be presented by the Nominating Committee.

EXPLORATION CLASS -- On October 11 and 18 there will be an Exploration Class at 9:00 a.m. in the library for anyone who would like to learn more about Westminster. If you would like to join the church and are not available for the Exploration Classes please contact Dr. Marshall.

SAVE THE DATE! The Annual Youth Spud Bake will be on Sunday, October 18. Before and after worship, Westminster youth will be in the West Narthex to take orders for loaded bake potatoes for \$5.00 per potato. Potatoes can be ordered “to go” and all, including small group participants, can enjoy that day. Funds from the Spud Bake will support the Contact Ministry Christmas gifts distribution. So mark your calendar to “Buy a Spud and share God’s love!”

DMA (Don’t Mention Age) meets on the third Friday of each month, **October 16**, with a **potluck at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:15 p.m.** in Parish Hall. Program will be announced in an email in October. Attendees are invited to bring a side to share with others. An RSVP is suggested but not required either on the WPC website under fellowship or by calling the church office. If you should find yourself with time to attend and did not call or email, please come.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 5

- 9:00 AM Garden Club of Springfield (Parish Hall)
- 1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Macaroni Fest Fundraiser

Tuesday, October 6

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off-site)

Wednesday, October 7

- All Day WCP Offsite Fieldtrip for AM & PM
- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
- 10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir (Parish Hall)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 5:15 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Mission & Community Service Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)
- 7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle (Off-Site)

Thursday, October 8

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
- 2:30 PM Early Stage Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Small Group Zoom Call
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, October 9

- 1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep (Kitchen)

Saturday, October 10

- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, October 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K- Grade 5 (Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Small Groups
- 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Anne Marshall
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Sue Sawers, CRE
Interim Care Coordinator

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz
Education Coordinator

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah Berkowitz
Director for Children's Ministry,
Westminster Cooperative
Preschool, and Music Assistant

Keri Tate, Becky Nika
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Braden Barton, Terry Gietl,
Lamonte Gross, Jerry McCullum**
Part-time Custodians

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St. Springfield, IL 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415
Fax (217) 522-4465
<http://www.wpcspi.org>