



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Reformation and Harvest Sunday

25 October 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Growing into God's Future: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope

Ministry Moment

Food Drive

Ann Collins

Voluntary

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Johann Hanff

*Ringing of the Bell

*Call to Worship

Leader: The mountains may shake,

People: but God is our God, and we are God's people.

Leader: The waters may roar and rage,

People: but God's love is unfailing.

Leader: The earth may crumble,

People: but God builds us up.

Leader: The waves may crash,

People: but we will dance with joy!

Leader: There may be times of great trouble,

All: but we have found grace in the wilderness. And so we worship a God whose unfailing love and grace allows us to dance with joy, forever.

*Processional Hymn 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

Nettleton

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we are often good at following rules while neglecting the heart of your commandments. We place ourselves in the congregation of the righteous, but take our seat among the scoffers. We seek approval of our friends, family, and others whose opinions we value, forgetting that our call is to please you, above all. You created us to love you with soul, heart, and mind, but we have held parts of ourselves back. Have mercy on us, God. Watch over our ways, redirect our paths, and help us love you with abandon — heart, soul, and mind. Make us instruments of reconciliation and transformation as we seek to follow your law of love, made known to us in Jesus Christ. 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

Congregational Response

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

*Following the response, children in Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5
will go to their Sunday school classes and youth in Grades 6-7
go to Confirmation Prep class.*

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Pew Bible, NT page 154

Second Scripture Reading

Ruth 4:9-17

Pew Bible, OT pages 243-244

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faithfulness of Our Ancestors

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Anthem

On Wings of Song

Felix Mendelssohn

On wings of song we send you the best our hearts can give, may
health and good fortune attend you as long as you shall live.
We wish you peace and comfort, we wish you happy days, the sun
to warm in the daytime, the moon to guide you at night.
Let music be your companion on every road you tread.
With songs uplifting and certain, your spirit be always led.
Through rain and stormy weather, when hope at times may seem
gone, just know that the light is before you.
Arise with the shining dawn, just know that the light is before you.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen

The Church at Prayer

Choir:

Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And with your spirit.

Pastor:

Let us pray.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

The Presentation of Our Gifts

*At this time all worshipers are asked to sign and pass the
Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory

Allegretto

Felix Mendelssohn

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

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

*Prayer of Dedication

**God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds
of your love in our world and in our lives. As we bring our
gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and
hope, planted deeply in our community. Amen.**

*Hymn 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

*Charge and Benediction

Closing Response

Amen

William Smith

*Voluntary

Sonata II: Fugue

Felix Mendelssohn

(*) 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

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Dr. Glen Pittman from his family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
- **Stewardship Speaker:** Tad Allen
- **Worship Leader:** James Maeda
- **Acolytes:** Sam Berkowitz and August Ekstedt
- **Greeters:** Becky, Todd, Harper and Reese Huston
- **Safety Team:** Charles King
- **Ushers:** Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross (Head Usher), John Addo-Yobo, Maud Essel Addo-Yobo, Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Lisa Metzger, Willow Stallings, and Brad Steller.
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers, Organist.
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller, and William Affrunti

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery) gather for play and Bible Story. *Caregivers: Kara Milward and Michella Arnold*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 Sunday School**
 - **PreK – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Cathy Brower*
 - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Prep Class**
 - **Grades 6 & 7** meet in the Conference Room during worship (except on Communion Sundays).
- **11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Harvest Festival** – Members of all ages are invited to join Westminster families in Parish Hall following the service. Building off the fun and success of our All-Church Picnic, fall crafts, games, and treats will be available for all to share and enjoy. Come ready to spend time having fun and connecting with the congregation as we celebrate the origins of Hallows' Eve in our faith tradition. Special thanks to Ms. Sue Baker for being our Guest Reader in Sunday School on Reformation and Harvest Sunday, blessing the children of WPC with some fun and spooky stories and books to share!
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** will gather in Parish Hall tonight for fellowship, games, and dinner followed by Bible Study in the Youth Room. Tonight's meal will be provided by Katy and Toshi Maeda.

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.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with hearing amplifier packets on lanyards for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and amplifier packets at the end of worship. Members may also download an app to their smart phone and connect via Bluetooth to listen through their hearing aids to the church's sound system in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. both For assistance, ask an usher or Krista Steller.

THE ANNUAL YOUTH SPUD BAKE – THANK YOU to all our members for sharing God's love at this year's Spud Bake! **On Sunday, October 18 \$2,040** was raised to support Westminster youth purchasing Christmas gifts for Contact Ministries' youth residents.



THANK YOU to all our members for your generous donations to the **CROP Hunger Walk** held on October 4th. We will still accept gifts until **November 1**. The current amount collected is **\$3,215**. In addition, the Mission and Community Service Committee allocated \$5,000 from the Betty Smith Mission Endowment.

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING Thank you to all who expressed “love kindness” and contributed to our denominational offering that culminated on World Communion Sunday, October 4. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this offering. To date, we have received donations totaling **\$940**.



2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – Join us as we continue our **Growing into God's Future: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope** worship series. We will reflect on the ways that God has provided a foundation for us in Jesus Christ, that generations have been building on. We have benefited from the faith of those who have come before us and our faithful actions will impact the generations that come after us. Let us consider what God is inviting us to dream and do. We also invite you to pray, asking God, “What might you do through me?” To date, we have received 50 pledges totaling \$302,937, which is 31% of our \$989,770 goal. Pledges can be made on Dedication Sunday by bringing your pledge card to church or going online using the QR code in this bulletin.

Stewardship Speaker: Tad Allen

Stewardship Dedication next Sunday, November 1 – Bring your pledge card if you have not already turned it in. We will dedicate our pledges as part of worship and celebrate God's blessings as we gather for a time of fellowship in Parish Hall afterwards. Hors d'oeuvres and treats will be served.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on **Tuesdays 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. Due to Election Day on **November 3**, knitters will not knit at Westminster which is a polling place. Knitters are encouraged to knit at home that day.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets on **Tuesday, October 27 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to discuss Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TODAY **Tuesday, October 27** at Westminster from **7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** Please join Dr. Roy Wehrle as he speaks on the merits and dangers of artificial intelligence in the Third Floor Classroom.

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE – On Sunday, November 1, Westminster will honor members of our church family who have died since All Saints' Remembrance in 2025. 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.

FIRST ANNUAL WESTMINSTER FOOD AND SNACK DRIVE – Join us on **Sunday, November 1** as we kick off our First Annual Westminster Food and Snack Drive to benefit our own micro pantry and Compass for Kids. We will collect donations **before and after our 10:00 a.m. service** in the West Narthex. Suggested donations include canned proteins, breakfast items like instant oatmeal packets, cereal and boxes of granola and breakfast bars and individually wrapped snack items.

YARN DONATIONS – Children of Abraham needs your help! We are making a collaborative art project that requires a large amount of yarn, and we would love to use any yarn you have lying around! Any color, texture or length can be donated. This is great way to clear out your stash of odds and ends from finished projects. Please bring your yarn donation to the main office and label "Attn: Meleah." We are so grateful for your assistance!

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on **Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Drive Springfield, IL 62711). Meg will lead the discussion of Chapter 3 in *An Alter in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. RSVP directly to Linda Purves at 409-651-4701.

SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING – **Sunday November 8** following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Second Floor Classroom.

ON MY OWN TIME: an exhibit of collections and hobbies – **Sunday, November 8**. You may not be a painter, a potter, or a sculptor, but you might be a collector of intriguing and fun stuff. It might be porcelain figures, Barbie dolls, watches, fountain pens, Hot Wheels; whatever you have multiples of. This is the opportunity to put your treasures on display and let us know our congregation better. Bring your collection to Parish Hall on Saturday morning, November 7 to set up your display on tables. The exhibit will be on view Sunday morning until noon. Registration forms will be in the bulletin.

FAIR TRADE – **The next Fair Trade is Sunday, November 8**. Thank you to Melanie Green for her work with this ministry.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, October 26

9:30 AM King's Daughter's Board Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, October 27

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
4:30 PM Support & Endowment Meeting (Library)
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
7:00 PM Artificial Intelligence (AI) Today (3rd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off-Site)

Wednesday, October 28

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Cancel (Chancel)
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Deliver Meal to Helping Hands
5:15 PM Membership Committee (Library)
6:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

Thursday, October 29

5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Class)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, October 30

Saturday, October 31

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

Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Day

8:30 AM Food Drive for Compass Kids (West Narthex)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conf. Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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<http://www.wpcspi.org>

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
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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