



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sacrament of Baptism
6 September 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment	Compass for Kids	Ryan Reitmeier
Voluntary	Fanfare for the Common Man	Aaron Copland

*Ringing of the Bell

*Call to Worship

Leader:	God is our dwelling place from year to year, age to age. And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are. God reforms us
People:	and makes prosperous the work of our hands!
Leader:	God's life surges forth through creation, like grass that renews every morning. And yet we prefer to be dust, swept away in the wind of every new idea and new fad. God reforms us
People:	and makes prosperous the work of our hands!
Leader:	God turns to us, and has compassion on us, so the great work of our lives manifests Christ's glorious love to the world. God reforms us
People:	and makes prosperous the work of our hands!
All:	May we worship a God who is reforming us and through the Holy Spirit always reforming.

*Processional Hymn 297	In Christ Called to Baptize	<i>St. Denio</i>
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***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Living God, you are the One who is always on the move, always creating and re-creating, always doing a new thing. And yet, we confess, O Lord, that our lives can become static, routinely paralyzed by doubt and fear. We remain ossified in patterns of greed, covetousness, and self-interest. We doubt your promises of abundant, everlasting life and so we live in dread of our neighbors, our friends, and our enemies. Our souls remain still. We do not love as you love. Nor do we live as you would have us live, with courage, generosity or the boldness of the gospel. Forgive us, O God. Renew us by your Spirit, and reform us with your compassion, remaking us more fully into the image of Christ, and as nimble servants of your reign. 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**

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Congregational Response

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
When you hear the wonder of the Word,
I'll be there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

Following the response, children in Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes. Today only, drop off is on the sidewalk by the entrance. Pick up from their classrooms.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

Pew Bible, NT pages 193-194

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Pew Bible, NT page 17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rule of Faith: Valuing Our Reformed Heritage

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Solo

Andante

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

The Church at Prayer

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 at the end of each pew.*

Offertory

At the River

Aaron Copland

***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 grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us, we
give thanks for your hope in us through the Word, we
rejoice in the knowledge of your unending grace found in
the word. In the light of your mercy, and confident in your
love, we dedicate these offerings, and ourselves, to you.
Amen.

***Hymn 761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Beecher

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary**

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.



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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465

<http://www.wpcspi.org>

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Gerald "Jerry" W. Smith

12/13/1949 – 08/20/2026

United with Westminster 02/25/2007

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Lyle VanDeventer
- **Worship Leader:** Maria Lafrenz
- **Acolytes:** Brooke Boutelle and Roscoe Ekstedt
- **Greeters:** Peter and Jeanne VanGieson
- **Safety Team:** Charlie King
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Claudia Nash, Todd Lafrenz, Cathy Yokley, Randy Wiseman, Bernie Wiseman, Cameron Hudgins, Mary Ray
- **Music:** Lucy Yockey, Oboe and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller, 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** begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. PreK – 2 will meet in the Chapel each week, and 3rd – 5th will meet in the Tower Room. We will be following our Feasting on the Word Curriculum in both classes, as well as learning more about the structure and contents of our Reformed worship services.
- *This Sunday only, our Sunday school kids (PreK-5) will start Sunday School outside chalking the sidewalk for the preschoolers' first day! During the Congregational Response, drop off with the leaders on the sidewalk by the entrance. Pick up will be in the Sunday School classrooms after church.*
 - **PreK – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Julie Robbs*
 - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **The Sacrament of Baptism** will be celebrated today as Adrienne and Kyle Newman present their son **Thomas Robert Newman**. Representing the children of the congregation are Diana and Zach Choi and serving as assisting elder is Jeanne VanGieson.



DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY BOOKS

A GIFT TO INFANTS AT THEIR BAPTISM

Thomas Robert Newman will receive a book each month until age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

The tradition of providing this gift to infants baptized at Westminster was initiated in 2022 by Todd Wise, and given in memory of his wife, Lisa Wise, who was a kindergarten teacher, and in honor of Dr. Diane Rutledge who brought this exciting ministry to his attention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and 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.

ALL CHURCH BOOK READ – Pick up a copy of *Love Your Neighbor* in the West Narthex on Sundays or the Church Office during the week. Extended care will be available in the nursery after worship and there will be activities for school-aged children so that parents can participate in a small group.

Small Group Sign-Ups- Please sign up on the sign-up genius even if you already expressed interest on an interest form.

Use the QR code to sign up for a small group or stop by the book table. Groups will meet starting September 27th and run through October 18th.



COMPASS FOR KIDS WELCOMES MINISTRY PARTNERS – Compass for Kids is looking for ministry partners on **Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after school program, Club Compass, for the Graham Elementary students. This community-based program helps develop social-emotional/leadership skills while also giving kids the opportunity to participate in interactive life-skills and enrichment activities. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful outreach, please contact Shelly Kinner by phone at 217-414-7940 or by email at shelly@compassforkids.org.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will resume on **Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Judy Knox (2004 Maryknoll Pl, 62704). Judy will also lead the discussion of Intro and Chapter 1 in *An Alter in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. RSVP directly to Judy Knox at 217-691-1057.

MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes for the fall on **Thursday, September 10**. We will meet at Midwest Technical Institute (MTI) at 2731 Farmers Market Road, Springfield at **8:00 a.m.** for a tour of their facilities and a presentation of their offerings. Following that, we will reconvene at Parkway Cafe for breakfast (2715 N. Dirksen Parkway). If you would like to carpool out, meet at the church at **7:30 a.m.** Advance sign-up would be appreciated so they can be better prepared for our group. RSVP on our website or email jalt@wpcspi.org.

CHURCH MICE is our introduction to music for infants through age four that meets **each Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. beginning Saturday, September 19**. With shakers, rhythm sticks, beanbags, and percussion instruments, the 45-minute-long session is fun for everyone. Just follow the pathway of cheese.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes regular rehearsals on **Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Music Room.



THE ANNUAL CHOIR RETREAT will be on **Saturday, September 12 from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.** at the picturesque Indian Point Presbyterian Church, north of Athens. At the retreat we will read through the music for the fall and even into the Advent and Christmas seasons. Following Evensong at the retreat, the choir will share a potluck dinner at the home of Meg and Jim Kontio.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING HOMECOMING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13 – Parents and youth are invited to a brief organizational meeting on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom with Rev. Sarah Bishop. The purpose of the meeting is to meet one another, to meet the Confirmation Teaching Teams, and to review the 2026-2027 schedule and expectations.

FLU SHOT CLINIC on Sunday, September 13th from 11am - 12pm at WPC in the church office.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC Join us, next Sunday, September 13, we will gather after worship for an All-Church Picnic. Wear casual clothes to worship and plan to stay for food, fellowship, and fun. The Westminster Membership Committee is providing chicken tenders, families with the last name beginning with A-M are encouraged to bring a side or salad. Families with the last names beginning with N-Z bring a dessert to share. Drop your dish off in the church kitchen before worship and our kitchen team will ensure it is put out at the start of the picnic. There will be an inflatable obstacle course and games for people of all ages. There will be indoor and outdoor seating on the terrace.

Would you like to help set-up for the picnic? Click the QR code to sign up!



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP – Senior High youth will meet two Sunday evenings each month, beginning **Sunday, September 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE resumes on **Monday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. **LYDIA CIRCLE** resumes on **Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Both groups will study Lesson 1, “Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God” from the PW Horizons Bible Study United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Circle Contact: Lynn McMenamin for Elizabeth Circle and Nancy Canady for Lydia Circle.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR Our Children’s Choir for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade will start their fall season on **Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m.** Our music selections will focus on the fun holidays of fall, while also preparing to perform at our Advent and Christmas celebrations. By tying the music to stories of faith, the children learn all the wonderful ways they can use their talents to bring them closer to God and to each other.

BRIDGES will resume on **Wednesday, September 16 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Tower Room. Please note the NEW time! We will have our kickoff on the playground, making tie-dye shirts and items for each other, and enjoying popsicles and fellowship. Families are welcome to join our kickoff!

A banner created to represent “A Brief Statement of Faith” – Each symbol and color represent the witness of the statement and the creation of the Presbyterian (USA) symbol.



THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, September 7

Labor Day - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

- 9:00 AM WCP First Day of School – 2 & 4 Day Classes
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Worship, Music, & the Arts (Music Room)
- 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, September 9

- 9:00 AM WCP First Day of School – 3 Day Class
- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Chancel)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
- 4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Congregational Care (Library)
- 5:30 PM Congregational Fellowship (Conference Room)
- 6:00 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, September 10

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Off-Site)
- 2:30 PM Early Stage Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Presb Home (Off-site)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, September 11

- 11:00 AM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep (Kitchen)
- 1:00 PM Funeral for Jerry Smith

Saturday, September 12

- 1:30 PM Choir Retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian
- 5:30 PM Choir Retreat Dinner at the Kontio's

Sunday, September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

- 9:15 AM Parent Confirmation Meeting (2nd Floor Class)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel)
- 11:00 AM All Church Picnic
- 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

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