

Westminster Activity Guide 2018-19



See what
we have
for you!





Welcome!

As Associate Pastor and Chief of Staff, I am excited to invite you to join us in our 2018-19 programming. At Westminster we worship with tradition, connect as a church family, raise 21st Century Disciples and engage in mission. This year we are leaning into raising 21st century disciples and connecting as a church family. **Please look through this guide and see what exciting ways you and every member of your family can participate!**

Kids' Ministry Relaunch

Our church was built on a passion for raising kids to be disciples of Jesus Christ. This year we are offering new high-energy programming on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. With **engaging, play-centered learning** and **recreation-based** group building we are committed to being a place where our kids want to be. **We want our kids to pull their parents to church.**

Our mission for our Kids' Ministry is to raise our kids to be 21st Century Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our goal is that when our kids graduate from high school they:

- Know and follow Jesus Christ.
- Have a considered faith ready to last a lifetime.
- Live in respect and partnership with friends in other religions.
- Join Jesus in his mission to change the world for the better.

Our objectives are to create experiences where our kids:

- Worship with tradition in an age-friendly way.
- Connect as a church family with kids their age and with role models and mentors.
- Know our story and are confident in their knowledge of the Bible.
- Join Jesus in his work, serving and engaging in mission.

Look inside to learn about our **high-energy, engaging, play-centered Kids' Worship, Sunday School and Wednesday Kids Club!**

Connecting as a Church Family

We invite you to join us in leaning into connecting to one another, so we can be a more supportive church family. Look inside to see opportunities to join us for regular all church events. Enjoy the flow of our new Sunday morning schedule that invites us to spend time in fellowship following worship, then sit and talk, or join classes and connection groups, to grow together as a church family. Consider joining or helping us form new Connection groups as Lisa Anderson and our connections team seek to help us grow together.

God has blessed us with a rich history and tradition. Please use this tool to find ways that Westminster can have an impact on you and your family this year, so that together can have an impact on the world around us.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Bill Ekhardt

Activities by Age

With so many events happening at Westminster we divided them up by age groups so you can quickly see what is available to you and your family.

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Worship at Westminster

We believe that our life together centers around meeting God in worship.

At Westminster, our sermons are rooted in the Bible and connected to everyday life.

Here, people from all ages and varying backgrounds come together to form a community shaped by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Starting September 9, 2018, we will gather for worship on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

At Christmas and Easter there will be additional services.



Babies to

Baby to Preschool Activities Sundays at Westminster

Worship

Your kids are welcome in worship! We love having kids of all ages in worship. Choose the option that fits you best: Have them with you in the Sanctuary, step out to the Wiggle Room or take them to the Nursery.

Wiggle Room

During worship, the Narthex-the space just outside of the Sanctuary-becomes the Wiggle Room. It is a space where families can enjoy the service while your children have a bit of "wiggle room" to explore and play quietly. Books and toys will be available during the service for children to utilize. The Wiggle Room opens during the first hymn of worship and closes during the last hymn. The Wiggle Room is welcome to all ages.

Nursery Care

While children are always welcome in worship, childcare is provided for children from birth through preschool in our Nursery, room 204. We seek to nurture our littlest ones and empower parents from the get-go. **Our Nursery is staffed by trained and loving staff and volunteers** from our Congregation for all worship services, Anchor Coffee House and Fine Arts Series events. All staff and volunteers who work with children are required to complete a background check.

WPC Sunday School

Children are encouraged to join our **high-energy engaging** Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. to delve into Bible stories further. All Sunday School classes meet in The Commons and are led to their classrooms by Shepherds. Preschool-aged children will explore what it means to be a child of God **through stories, songs, and interactive play**. They will return to The Commons at 11:15 a.m. to meet their families.

Preschool

Infants, Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers are very important at Westminster!

Other Baby to Preschool Activities at Westminster

Wednesday Night Nursery

We welcome children from infants to preschool-aged into our Nursery during Wednesday night activities. It will be open from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. They will be taken care of by loving and trained staff who will provide faith-based activities for preschool-age children.

Three-Year Old Bibles

A fun and colorful storybook Bible, "Spark Story Bible" is given to all children who are 3 years old by September of each year. These Bibles are great beginning Bibles for kids to explore the stories of the Bible in a meaningful way with their families. The Director of Christian Education partners with families to present these Bibles to our children in October of each year. If your child has not receive a storybook Bible and would like one, please contact Tiffany Hays at thays@westpres.org.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Every Summer we gather for one week to explore the promises of God's love with fun thematic programming for preschool and elementary age children.

Staffed by youth and adult volunteers, Vacation Bible School is a **high-energy** way to **connect** with and **engage** our children. Each day is filled with music, skits, crafts, recreation, and mission activities that encourage children to explore important concepts of faith. Learn more about next summer's VBS at westpres.org/vbs





Elementary

Elementary Activities Sundays at Westminster

Sunday Elementary Schedule:

9:15 a.m. Gather for worship in Sanctuary with family.


9:30 a.m. Optional Kids' worship in the Chapel

10:15 a.m. Fellowship in The Commons with friends and family

10:30-11:00 a.m. WPC Sunday School

11:00 - 11:15 a.m. High-Energy Recreation in the Commons

Worship:




All are welcome in worship. Children are an essential part of the worshipping community at Westminster. They lead our worship service on the first Sunday of each month from October to May by reading liturgy, assisting the usher team in greeting congregants and collecting the offering.

Optional Kids' Worship

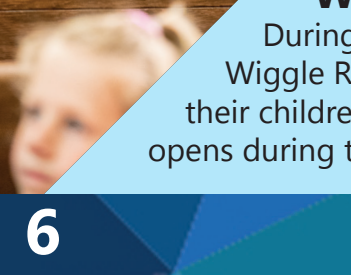
During the worship service, before the sermon, elementary age children are invited to come to Kids' Worship in the Chapel. Here they will learn about Bible stories through song, Scripture and dramatization. They will meet their families at the conclusion in The Commons. The first Sunday of the month kids will lead our traditional worship, allowing families to celebrate Communion together.

WPC Sunday School



Children are encouraged to join us Sunday mornings to delve into Bible stories further during Sunday School. Children will meet their Shepherd in The Commons at 10:30 a.m. Our volunteers will engage children in various workshops throughout the year, including technology, theatre, crafts, science, cooking, and more. Bitty Bells will be available for kids in Kindergarten to 2nd grade periodically during the program year. Kris DeWild will teach a special music rotation for all elementary kids periodically. Kids will perform in worship. **Wednesday Kids' Club + Sunday Worship & Sunday School = Our whole program to raise kids to be 21st Century Disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Wiggle Room



During worship, the Narthex-the space just outside of the Sanctuary-becomes the Wiggle Room. It is a space where families can continue to enjoy the service while providing their children with a bit of "wiggle room" to explore and play quietly. The Wiggle Room opens during the first hymn of worship and closes during the last hymn, and is open to all ages.

K-5th Grade

Elementary Activities Wednesdays at Westminster

Wednesday WPC Kids' Club

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

WPC Kids club is like VBS all year long! We have listened to your feedback and have developed a **high-energy, engaging** program your kids will want to be part of. "We want kids to pull their parents to church."

- Kid-Friendly, Catered Dinners
- High-Energy Games like Gaga Ball
- Learning and serving while earning Bible bucks to use in a special store

Wednesday Kids' Club + Sunday Worship & Sunday School = Our whole program to raise kids to be 21st Century Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Don't miss Wednesday Kids Club if you want your kids to:

- Build church friendships
- Be comfortable with and confident in their knowledge of the Bible
- Learn to serve others in Jesus' name
- Feel knit into our church family

Cost

There are no fees charged for WPC Kids' Club. We don't want cost to be a barrier of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We would love to have voluntary contributions to cover the costs of dinner, at about \$5 a plate. Feel free to contribute weekly, or for a whole semester or year. If you are so moved, we welcome donations toward our Kids' Club Dinner, to cover the costs of kids who wouldn't otherwise attend.

**Revamped
for 2018-19!**

**Check out our
New Kids Club
Program**

Other Elementary Activities

Third-Grade Bibles

As a child enters third grade, we know they begin to understand important concepts differently. We use the entrance into third grade as a milestone to transition into reading the Bible by giving them a Spark Bible. Kids are encouraged to read their Bible daily at home and bring their Bibles with them to Kids' Worship where they will use it each week. If your child has not received a Spark Bible and would like one, please contact Tiffany Hays at thays@westpres.org.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Every Summer we gather for one week to explore the promises of God's love with fun thematic programming for preschool and elementary age children. Vacation Bible School is a high-energy way to connect with and engage our children. Learn more about next summer's VBS at westpres.org/vbs



Junior High

Junior High Activities Wednesdays at Westminster

Wednesday Junior High Schedule:

5:30 Dinner in The Commons with Senior High

6:00-7:00 WPC Youth Wednesday

8th Grade Only: 7:00-8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Wednesday Night Dinner

Youth will gather in The Commons for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. We will have food brought in from a rotation of restaurants.

WPC Youth Wednesday

Wednesday night is a time for youth to connect with each other through games, teaching, and small groups. **We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and then break off into groups to have high-energy fun!**

Confirmation

8th Graders will engage in study, prayer, discussion, and activities that challenge them to consider deeply what they believe and how that intersects with their faith tradition. Classes are from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Cost

There are no fees charged for Wednesday activities. We don't want cost to be a barrier of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We would love to have voluntary contributions to cover the costs of dinner, at about \$5 a plate. Feel free to contribute weekly or for a whole semester or year. If you are so moved, we welcome donations toward our Kids' Club Dinner to cover the costs of kids who wouldn't otherwise attend.

6th-8th Grade

Junior High Activities Sundays at Westminster

WPC Youth Sunday

- **6th-7th Graders** will participate in our workshop rotations to study Bible stories and concepts through diverse experiences with God's word. No registration required.
- **8th Graders** will develop leadership skills within our church, as they shepherd elementary school students through their workshop rotations.

Kids' Worship Leader (Optional)

During the worship service, before the sermon, elementary age children are invited to come to Kids' worship. Junior and Senior High students are invited to help lead this in the Chapel.

Sunday Junior High Schedule:

9:15 a.m. - Gather for worship in Sanctuary with family.

9:30 a.m. - Optional: Escort kids to Chapel and lead Kids' worship

10:15 a.m. - Fellowship in The Commons with friends and family

10:30-11:15 a.m. - Sunday School

Other Junior High Opportunities

Junior High Mission Trip: Each summer Jr. High students travel to a nearby city to engage in service, fellowship and learning about how to live out their faith.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer

Every Summer we gather for one week to celebrate VBS. Learn more about next summer's VBS at westpres.org/vbs. Youth who are entering 7th grade are welcome to volunteer.





Senior High

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides a welcoming youth ministry where senior high students are encouraged to be themselves, to ask questions, and to be appreciated for who they are where they are in their faith life.

Senior High Activities **Wednesdays at Westminster**

Wednesday Senior High Schedule

5:30- Dinner in The Commons

6:00-7:00 - WPC Youth Wednesday

Wednesday Night Dinner

Youth will gather in The Commons for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. We will have food brought in from a rotation of restaurants. There is no fee or registration required.

WPC Youth Wednesday:

Wednesday night is a time for youth to connect with each other through games, teaching, and small groups. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and then break off into groups to have high-energy fun! Unlike previous years there is no fee or registration required. We'll conclude by 7:00 p.m.

Cost

There are no fees charged for Wednesday activities. We don't want cost to be a barrier of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We would love to have voluntary contributions to cover the costs of dinner at about \$5 a plate. Feel free to contribute weekly or for a whole semester or year. If you are so moved, we welcome donations toward our Kids Club Dinner to cover the costs of kids who wouldn't otherwise attend.

9th-12th Grade

Senior High Activities Sundays at Westminster

Sunday School

9th - 12th Graders will continue to dig deeper into their faith questions and learn about what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Kid's Worship Leader (Optional)

During the worship service, before the sermon, elementary age children are invited to come to Kid's worship. Junior and Senior High students are invited to help lead this in the Chapel.

Sunday Senior High Schedule:

9:15 a.m. - Gather for worship in Sanctuary with family.

9:30 a.m. - Optional: Escort kids to Chapel and lead Kid's worship

10:15 a.m. - Fellowship in The Commons with friends and family

10:30-11:15 a.m. - Sunday School

Other Senior High Opportunities

Music

Seniors are invited to join our intergenerational band that will perform on Veterans Day, and adult bell choir to perform in Advent and Easter. They are also invited to join our choir, Westminster Chorale, directed by Kris DeWild. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Senior High Mission Trip

Each summer Sr. High students travel to a city to engage in service, fellowship and learning about how to live out their faith. Previous trips have been to Baltimore and Miami.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer

Every Summer we gather for one week to celebrate VBS. Learn more about next summer's VBS at westpres.org/vbs.





Adults

Sunday Adult Schedule

9:15 Worship with Tradition

10:15 Fellowship and Refreshments

10:30 – 11:15 B-Hour Opportunities

Pastor-Led Classes

Join Pastors Scott and Bill in September for a sermon series and classes on the four core activities that make us Westminster. (Then look for more pastor led classes throughout the year.)

Connection Groups

We invite people to join existing or form new connection groups. Groups are welcome to meet during the B-Hour.

Music Groups

Karla Killinger will lead practices during the B-Hour for our Intergenerational Band to perform on Veterans Day, and adult bell choir to perform in Advent and Easter. Adults are also invited to join our choir, Westminster Chorale, directed by Kris DeWild. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Guest Speakers in All Things Considered

Look for guest speakers to address timely issues facing our world.

Advocacy Groups

Our Advocacy Groups are encouraged to meet during our B-Hour. If you are in or would like to join a group like our Gay Lesbian Straight Affirmation (GLSA) group, or our newly forming Immigration Advocacy group please check out weekly newsletter for their meeting schedule.

Continue Casual Fellowship

Grab a cup of coffee and connect with one another, or read while you wait for others to finish their classes or groups.

Adults

Additional Adult Activities

Connections

We are leaning into connecting as a church family. In this program year we are inviting our members to get to know one another better by attending our monthly all-church events, connecting with one another in the B-Hour and by joining an existing, or a newly forming Connection Group. Connection Groups can take many forms depending on how often folks want to meet and what they would like to do together. We want to help you find a group that fits you best. We will be offering a survey to help you find a group that meets your interests. Talk to Lisa Anderson if you would like to get more connected.

Grow

In addition to our Sunday morning opportunities for education, there are groups dedicated to study and growth.

Opportunities for Service

We worship, connect, grow, and serve. There are many opportunities to make an impact both in our congregation and to and for our community and world.

- Chancel Choir
- Greeters
- Shepherds
- Ushers
- Communion Servers
- Liturgists
- Sanctuary Guild
- Food Pantry Deliverer
- Serving on committees
- Volunteering with our kids and youth

All Church Events

Throughout the year we will be holding All-Church Events. These are activities that any age can attend. They are a way to get more connected as a community and enjoy some fun fellowship! Read all about this year's events on pages 14-15.



All Church Events

Join us for our all-church events as we get to know one another and grow together as a church family.

Come to one, come to all, whatever works with your schedule.

Dinner in the Garden, September 22, 2018

This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our refugee neighbors who have plots in our garden and for fellowship with our church family. Children are welcome! Participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Joel Kinser will be providing music after dinner.

Orchard Outing, September 30, 2018

We'll travel to Center Grove Orchard in Cambridge, Iowa, and enjoy select activities around the orchard, and then gather around a campfire where we will make s'mores and drink cider.

Carnival and Hoot & Howl, October 27, 2018

Hoot-n-Howl is a performance that features family-friendly spooky organ music. The hour-long performance begins at 7 p.m. will include audience participation that will leave listeners in a festive "spirit." A free carnival begins at 6 p.m. with games, prizes and a kid's costume parade. All ages are welcome. Come to the carnival and enjoy the recognizable music and entertaining skits – a great night of memory making for all families!

Chili Cook-off & Dessert Auction, November 17, 2018

Westminster Youth hosts our annual Chili Cook-Off and Dessert auction. For the Chili Cook-off, chefs will supply one full pot (at least 6 quarts) of chili. Event attendees will choose their favorite chili after sampling. For the Dessert Auction, members are asked to provide desserts to be auctioned off in a live-auction style.

Advent Party, December 2, 2018

This is a fun event for everyone! We will make and decorate an Advent wreath for each family to take home. There will also be ornaments to create for your tree at home and cookies to decorate and eat. Come and enjoy a fun time of fellowship.

Pizza & Caroling, December 16, 2018

Join us after church for pizza followed by Christmas caroling at Calvin Community Center and Eden Crest in Beavertdale.



All Church Events

Sledding & Tubing, January 20, 2019

Join us at Sleepy Hollow sports park, near the State Fair grounds, for an afternoon of sledding and tubing. Sleepy Hollow makes their own snow and provides a lift so you can enjoy sliding down the hills and not have to walk back up the hill!

Mystery Dinner Theatre, February 16, 2019

As a "Dinner Detective" you'll tackle a hilarious and challenging crime while you feast on a fantastic dinner. Just beware! The culprit is hiding in plain sight somewhere in the room, and you may find yourself as a prime suspect before you know it!

CROSS Trivia Night, March 2, 2019

CROSS Ministries is celebrating its 5th annual Trivia Night and invites you! Enjoy a fun night with friends and support a vital neighborhood ministry! All proceeds will benefit CROSS Ministries and will help to prevent homelessness and provide financial assistance, food, and other basic survival items to people in need.

Ash Wednesday Pot Luck, March 6, 2019

Bring a soup or salad to share, we'll provide the bread and dessert! This is an opportunity to break bread with one another as a community. After dinner we will adjourn to the Sanctuary for Ash Wednesday worship.

Easter Celebration, April 21, 2019

Kids and adults alike will enjoy the Easter festivities. Kids complete a passage through time by visiting Jesus' tomb, learning the Easter story, seeing the brilliance that is his rebirth and finish off with the miracle of life by touching baby chicks! It's a glorious celebration.

End of the Program Year Celebration, May 19, 2019

Come and join us as we celebrate the end of our program year. Everyone can enjoy snacks and a fun time of celebration on the lawn. There are festivities for the kids to participate in and a great opportunity for adults to enjoy fellowship.

VBS Celebration Sunday, July 28, 2019

Each year we culminate our weeklong bible school experience by sharing all that the kids have learned during the week. The entire congregation can enjoy hearing from the kids through song and word about all that they have experienced. After church, please join us for food and festivities and we celebrate this annual tradition.



Watch our weekly newsletter and bulletin for additional information as each event approaches or go to westpres.org/allchurch for updates.

We are
WESTMINSTER



WE WORSHIP
WITH TRADITION



WE RAISE 21ST CENTURY DISCIPLES



WE CONNECT AS A CHURCH FAMILY



WE ENGAGE IN MISSION

*WE VALUE INCLUSIVITY, MUSIC
& THE ARTS AND PLAYFULLNESS*

LEARN MORE AT WESTPRES.ORG

