

March 30, 2025



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Home Free by Joel Schoon-Tanis

Worship With Us On Sunday!

4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon

Healing Grace

The Rev. Julie Emery

Bulletin

10:00 a.m. Sunday Hybrid Worship Link

Zoom Meeting ID: 822 3301 6989

Any questions, contact Becky Kimberly in the office
at office@westpresby.org.



This Week at Westminster

In this e-newsletter, you'll find details about:

- *Community Conversation, March 30 following worship*
- *Lenten Gathering for Families*
- *Easter Egg Hunt April 19*
 - *Volunteer Sign up*
 - *Candy Donations Needed to fill 2,000 Eggs*
 - *Egg Stuffing After Worship on April 13*
- *Donate Spring Flowers for Easter*
- *Puerto Rico Service Learning Trip, June 15-21, 2025*

- *One Great Hour of Sharing Collection*
 - *Worship Through Lent: The Healing We Need*
 - *Maunday Thursday Service, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.*
 - *Good Friday Taize Service, April 18 at Noon*
 - *GHIAA Conversation, April 8*
 - *Community Prayer Time Mondays at Noon*
 - *Prayers for Our Community and Our World*
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SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Community Conversation

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Community Conversation This Sunday Following Worship

This Sunday following worship, all are invited to gather in the Smart Room for an open conversation in response to the Vandersall Report and the ongoing discernment regarding Westminster's future. Rev. Julie Emery presented the report at the Annual Meeting on February 23. **If you missed the presentation, you are invited to watch a video of Rev. Emery's discussion and powerpoint [HERE](#).**

We invite you to come with questions, hopes, ideas and a willingness to join with the Session in the process of prayerful discernment. Some of the questions and hopes offered at the end of our Annual Meeting were:

- Who will step up and lead?

- Hope to find rental tenants to increase our revenue.
- How will we make our decisions?
- Hope for solutions that are a win for the church and the community and are led with a spirit of service.
- Are there other churches (non-presbyterian) with whom we should consider partnership?

If you are unable to attend the conversation, or would like to engage in a one-on-one meeting about this or other topics as they relate to Westminster's future, please feel free to reach out to Rev. Julie Emery to set up a meeting.

LENTEN WORKSHOP AND SUPPER FOR FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN



SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH
4:30 - 6:30 PM

MEET IN WESTMINSTER'S
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please join us as we learn about this holy season,
make some items to help us practice at home,
and enjoy a meal together




WESTMINSTER EASTER EGG HUNT!

Ways You Can Support this Popular Community Event

Westminster's Community Easter Egg Hunt has become a cherished annual event for our community. Last year was our biggest year to date - we had almost 300 attendees!

The success of this event relies on the volunteer support from our church family. We need YOU! Can you donate candy, eggs, snacks or some help at the Hunt? Below are more details on the ways you can help and an online sign up so we can prepare.

Thank you!



DONATE CANDY! We need LOTS of individually wrapped candies. Please bring to church by Sunday, April 13th.

Provide finger food snacks (cookies, muffins, donuts, etc.)
Drop off at the church on Friday, 4/18 or bring to the hunt on Saturday, 4/19

Help stuff 2000 eggs. Meet after worship (11:00ish) on Sunday, April 13th.

Help at the egg hunt! We need friendly faces and greeters as well as people to help with crafts
Saturday, April 19th 10:00 - 11:30

Spread the word! Tell friends and neighbors about our egg hunt. Everyone is welcome!
Be on the lookout for ways to share the news!

Please sign up below and contact Nicole Aronson at nmachampagne@yahoo.com with questions!

Easter Egg Hunt Volunteer Sign up



**Please donate
individually wrapped
candy and plastic
eggs for our
Community
Easter Egg Hunt!**

WE WANT TO STUFF
2000 EGGS
SO LOTS OF DONATIONS
ARE NEEDED!

Thank you!

Save the Date!

**Please plan to stay after
worship to help stuff
eggs for our Community
Easter Egg Hunt**

Egg Stuffing:

Sunday, April 13th

11:00 - 12:00

Rooms 4 & 5 (next to the Smart Room)

Everyone Welcome – lots of help needed!



Donate Flowers for Easter Sunday

We will be decorating our sanctuary with spring flowers for our Easter service. The flowers can be picked up by donors or will be delivered to home-bound or isolated members of our church family.

We are looking for individuals who would like to make a donation towards the purchase of the Easter flowers. The cost per plant is \$14 and can be paid to Westminster by check. Please make sure to identify it as Easter flowers in the memo line. You can make a donation from your family, anonymously or in memory or honor of someone.

We need all flower donations by Sunday, April 13. If you would like to order Easter flowers, please fill out the Google Form below. If you have questions or would like to give you flower donation over the phone, please contact Becky Kimberly in the church office at 860-521-6240 x100 or office@westpresby.org. Money can be sent in anytime before May 31.

[Donate Easter Flowers](#)

JOIN WPC & FPC AS WE HEAD BACK TO

SAN JUAN PUERTO RICO

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

6/15/25 - 6/21/25

**APRIL 7TH: FLIGHT COST CONFIRMED
APRIL 11TH: \$150 DEPOSIT DUE
JUNE 15: DEPART FOR SAN JUAN**



IF INTERESTED, SCAN THE QR CODE TO STAY UPDATED

CONTACT ABBEY DOWNING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DOWNINGAC@GMAIL.COM

Westminster and First Presbyterian are partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for a Service Learning Trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, from June 15–21, 2025. Follow [this link](#) for more information or contact Abbey Downing at 860-601-6178 or downingac@gmail.com. We'd love for you to consider sharing your time and talents as we work to spread God's love caring for a community affected by crises and catastrophic events."



Westminster to Participate in One Great Hour of Sharing

Our church will join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This year's theme is "Repairing the Breach." Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (our hosts for the upcoming Puerto Rico Mission trip!).

We will be collecting special gifts on Sunday April 6 and Sunday April 13 (Palm Sunday) earmarked for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Please consider donating to support our larger faith community and provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope!

For more about the programs supported by your generosity, please [click here](#) to watch this brief (2 minute) video.

Worship Throughout Lent: The Healing We Need

More than ever, our world is full of pain and suffering. The news seems to only increase our worry and fear. And as the ground shifts beneath us, we long for healing and wholeness, and a way to love and serve our neighbors well. What is the healing we truly need? What healing can we find through faith? What healing does Jesus promise? How do we access the healing that comes from God?

Throughout our Lenten worship series, we will seek to understand the healing that Jesus offers and how that healing might meet us where we are in this time and place in our world. Join us as together we seek

the healing we need that comes from God.

March 30: *The Healing That Comes from Humility and Grace*

April 6: *The Healing that Comes from Practicing Generosity*

April 13: *Palm Sunday*

April 20: *Easter Sunday*



Maundy
Thursday

"Do this in Memory of Me"

Dinner and Worship Service
April 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church

All are invited to join our friends from First Presbyterian Church of Hartford for a simple dinner of soup and salad which will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Westminster. Worship will be in the midst of dinner, at the tables - come when you are able, there will be plenty of food.

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

*Taize worship service
of reflection and prayer
Noon in the Chapel*



**GHIAA Conversation on Fiscal Roadblocks
with House Speaker Matt Ritter
Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m.**

GHIAA will hold an important Conversation on Connecticut's Fiscal Roadblocks with House Speaker Matt Ritter, joined by members of the Hartford Legislative Delegation, on **Tuesday, April 8, from 6:00-7:30 pm**, at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford. Please [click here](#) to register and join us! Questions? Contact Peter Benner at pbenner16@gmail.com



COMMUNITY PRAYER MONDAYS AT NOON

**In-person and online.
Click the link below to join us on Zoom.**

Community Prayer Time, Mondays, 12:00 p.m.

ALL are welcome to join the Reverend Julie Emery and members of the Care Ministry Team each week for a time of collective prayer. Join us in-person or online to lift the prayers of our community on Mondays from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. We will meet in-person at church in the Smart Room or you can click the button below to join us online.

[Zoom Link to Community Prayer
Time](#)

Prayers for our Community and Our World

Our scriptures invite us, again and again, to devote ourselves to prayer. As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians: "Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

We invite you to use the following prayers in times of personal devotion, joining with our church to lift up those in need in our

community. All are invited to join in a time of communal prayer and silence with the Care Team on Mondays at noon.

We pray for those experiencing increased fear and oppression in this time:

We lift to God members of the LBGTQIA+ community, their families and loved ones, that they might experience love and support, welcome and affirmation. May we find ways to stand up for justice and protect those in need.

We lift to God members of the immigrant and refugee community. For those desperately seeking asylum and safety, may God surround and protect them. For those who fear oppression and hatred, may they be surrounded by God's love and grace.

We pray that within the leadership of our community and country, better angels prevail in stopping injustices and seeking mercy, peace and security for all God's beloved children.

We pray for those in need of health and wholeness:

Liz Grabber's mother Barbara who is recovering from a stroke; for ongoing healing for Nancy Dewey, Jestina McGill and Barbara Aronson; Janet Wade-Utay's brother George Wade, who is battling cancer; Karen Wagner's friend Rich; Ross and Ginger Ludeman; Jon Scoville; Muriel Sherman; Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie now in hospice care; Stella Madjitey; Betty Stokes; and all those suffering from chronic illness, and the families who care for them.

We ask God to comfort those who grieve:

The family of Cliff Moss; Karen Sprout and family; Karen Wagner and the family of her friend Sherm and of her nephew; Barbara Riihimaki and family; David Hall and family; Jim and Vivian Carlson; David MacMeekin and family; Russ Smiley and family; Laura Berman and family.

We pray for those suffering in the aftermath of recent disasters:

We continue to pray for victims of wildfires and those displaced from their homes by hurricanes, tornadoes, storms and floods. May they find support and restoration, comfort and connection.

We pray for those living in the midst of war and violence:

We pray especially for peace in the Middle East. We pray for peace, mercy and unity throughout the region. We pray for peace and protection for the people of Ukraine and the children of the world.

We pray for those near and far:

We pray for our country and its leaders,

that we might find mercy, understanding and unity.

We pray for all those experiencing racism, sexism and homophobia, that they might find love and justice.

We pray for those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, that they might find help.

We pray for those experiencing mental illness or struggling with addiction, that they may find strength and hope.

We pray for the members and leaders of our church, that we might discern God's will and move into our future with faith and courage.

We celebrate with:

Carol and Craig Schramm on the birth of their granddaughter Ella Jean Schramm, daughter of their son Mike and his wife Laura.

Session Members

Peter Benner (Flourish) pbenner16@gmail.com
Abbey Downing (Serve) downingac@gmail.com
Ma'Lynn Feingold (Worship) mlnewportmd@aol.com
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