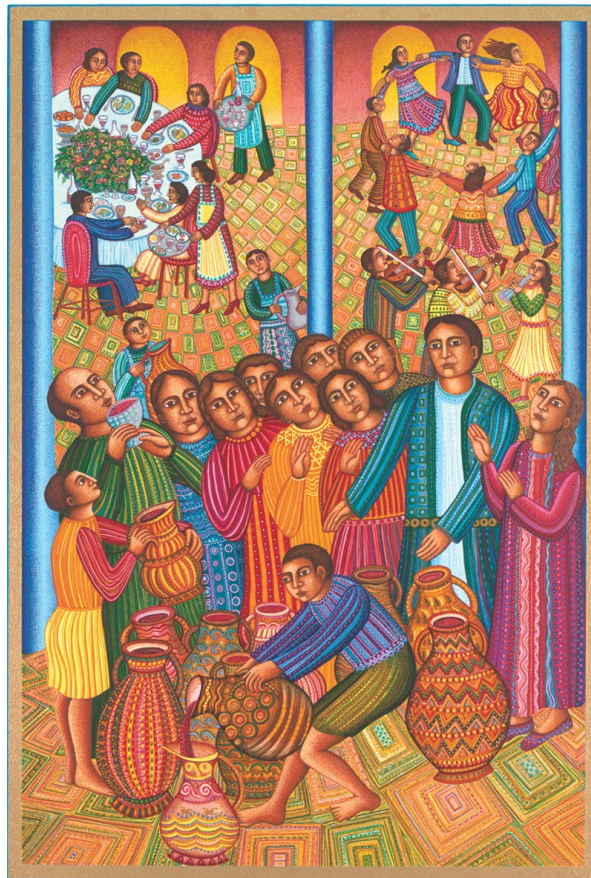


January 19, 2024



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Wedding Feast* by John August Swanson

**Worship With Us On Sunday!**

## 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

### Scripture

John 2:1-11

### Sermon

*Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs*

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](mailto:office@westpresby.org).



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

*Westminster Stewardship Season*

*Closed for Martin Luther King Day*

*Link to PSNE "Connecting Our Conversations" Podcast*

*Epiphany Star Words*

*Welcome New Accompanist and Pianist*

*Prayers for Our Community and Our World*



"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

## Planting Seeds of Hope, Faith and Love Westminster Stewardship Season

As we look ahead to 2025, Westminster is stepping forward in faith, inspired by Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, reminding us that "God loves a cheerful giver." We are planting seeds of hope, faith, and love - trusting in God's abundance - as we discern new paths for our ministries, service, and utilization of our building and grounds.

We invite you to join us on this journey by making a financial pledge and sharing your time and talents to help Westminster continue to grow and thrive. This year, your support is more critical than ever as we work together to prayerfully discern God's call for Westminster's future. Your financial pledge, as well as your pledge of time and talent, will enable Westminster to continue sowing bountifully in our community. Together, we can nurture the seeds of ministry, ensure vibrant worship and fellowship, and expand our outreach efforts to meet the growing needs around us.

Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of this important work in 2025. Please bring your completed Commitment Card to our celebratory Commitment Sunday service on January 26, 2025, or submit it to the church office before that date. You may also submit your pledge electronically by clicking the link below or by emailing me at rgregoryh@yahoo.com. Together, we can sow seeds for a vibrant future, trusting in God's blessings along the way.

With gratitude and hope,  
Greg Hammond  
Finance Team Leader/Stewardship Chair

[Electronic Pledge Card](#)



# We WILL Be Closed on

MARTIN LUTHER



KING DAY



## Westminster Will be Closed Monday in Observance of Martin Luther King Day

Westminster will be closed this Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King Day. Please note that the Community Prayer Gathering held at noon on Mondays is canceled.

## Connecting Our Conversations

### MATTHEW 25 SERIES

WHY MATTHEW 25 AND WHAT IS INTERSECTIONALITY?



# PSNE

DR. COREY SCHLOSSER-HALL

REV. DR. SHANNAN VANCE-OCAMPO



What it Means to be a Matthew 25 Church PSNE Podcast, "Connecting Our Conversations"

As a Matthew 25 congregation, Westminster is committed to justice, community, and serving "the least of these." This calling shines through our work with organizations like GHIAA, South Park Inn Homeless Shelter (SPI), and Covenant to Care for Children (CCC). Last November, we joined over 1,000 people of faith at GHIAA's Power Summit to address critical issues such as affordable housing and combating hate. Each month, Westminster provides meals for 75 unhomed neighbors at SPIT and annually supports CCC with school supplies, Thanksgiving meals, and Christmas gifts.

In 2025, Westminster is discerning how to align our ministry and resources to deepen our role as a Matthew 25 church. We invite you to listen to "Why Matthew 25 and What is Intersectionality," the first episode of a 7 episode podcast series *Connecting Our Conversations* from the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) exploring faith, justice, and transformation. Let's envision a bold, compassionate future together.

Episode 2, "Vital Congregations" has just been released. Click the button below to access the podcast.

[Click Here to Hear the Podcast](#)



## Epiphany Star Word Tradition

Please join us in our epiphany tradition of selecting a star word as a way to put your attention on God in a new way in 2025.

Stars words are written on a small piece of paper or wooden star. Each

is designed to act as an intention or guiding word. You are invited to randomly choose a word and hold onto it throughout the coming year. Consider this just one way that God might be speaking to and working through you.

We have star words in a basket in the front office for anyone who would like to come in and select one during the week. For those who would like a star word, but are unable to come to the church, please let us know. We would be more than happy to work with you to ensure that you get one! All are welcome to take an extra word or two for friends, family, and others who might find such an invitation welcome as well. Contact Becky Kimberly in the church office at [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org) or 860-521-6240 if you'd like a star word sent to you.

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### Welcome Danielle O'Neil as our New Accompanist and Pianist

Westminster is excited to announce Danielle O'Neil as our new accompanist and pianist. Danielle is a member of our church who is stepping into the position effective January 2025. A long time pianist and church musician, Danielle has been part of our music family along with her daughter, Heather. We are thrilled to welcome such a faithful, loving individual into our staff and a deeper role in our community.

### 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 in need of health and wholeness:**

Janet Stafford, who has been hospitalized for bronchitis; Richard Stafford, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments; Jestina McGill, recovering from recent surgery; Barbara Aronson, recovering from recent surgery; Howard Sprout, who is in hospice care; Janet Wade-Utay's brother George Wade, who is battling cancer; Karen Wagner's friends Sherm, Deana and Rich; Greg Hammond's cousin Bridget; Becky Kimberly's cousin Pete; Ross and Ginger Ludeman; Jon Scoville; Muriel Sherman; Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie now in hospice care; Stella Madjitey; Betty Stokes; Nancy Dewey; those suffering from chronic illness, and the families who care for them.

### **We celebrate the life of:**

Fred Scoville, Eliza Cleaveland's brother and Susie Scoville's cousin. Prayers of comfort for his wife and sons.  
John Campbell, Karen Wagner's nephew. Prayers of comfort for his family.

### **We ask God to comfort those who grieve:**

Barbara Riihimaki and family; David Hall and family; Jim and Vivian Carlson; Elsie Harp and family; David MacMeekin and family; Russ Smiley and family; Laura Berman and family.

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

We pray for victims of wildfires especially in Los Angeles, and we continue to pray for those displaced from their homes by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

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

Especially we pray for the people of Palestine, Israel and Lebanon; the people of Ukraine, and the children of the world.

### **We pray for those near and far:**

We pray for the victims of the New Orleans terror attack, praying for healing for those injured and comfort for the family and friends of those who were killed.

We pray for our country and its leaders,  
that we might find peace 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,  
especially as the weather turns colder, 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.

## Session Members

Peter Benner (Flourish) [pbenner16@gmail.com](mailto:pbenner16@gmail.com)  
Abbey Downing (Serve) [downingac@gmail.com](mailto:downingac@gmail.com)  
Ma'Lynn Feingold (Worship) [mlnewportmd@aol.com](mailto:mlnewportmd@aol.com)  
Stephen Frazzini (Sustain: Buildings & Grounds) [stevefraz@me.com](mailto:stevefraz@me.com)  
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