

June 21, 2026



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Song of Hagar* by Frank Wesley

## Worship With Us On Sunday!

### 4th Sunday After Pentecost

#### Scripture

Genesis 21:8-21a

#### Sermon

*Father's Day*

The Rev. John Merz

#### 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 News and Events

- *Welcome the Rev. John Merz as our Guest Preacher this Sunday*
- *Volunteers Needed for West Hartford Pride Festival, June 27*
- *Summer Worship with First Presbyterian Church, Begins June 28*
- *Support Ella Kimberly's PC (USA) YAV Year in Peru*
- *Provide a Meal to New Parents Sarah and Alex Helberg*

- *Congratulations to our Graduates!*

### Events in Our Community

- *Talcott Singers Concert on Saturday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m.*

### Prayers for Our Community and Our World

## Westminster News and Events

### Welcome the Rev. John Merz as our Guest Preacher this Sunday



Please welcome the Rev. John Merz as our guest preacher this Sunday. John is a long-time friend of Westminster's church family and serves as our Parish Associate, providing pastoral care when called upon during vacations, etc. His day job is at Advancing Connecticut Together, a statewide HIV/AIDS and anti-poverty social service agency, where he has worked for over 23 years as the CEO. John lives in Simsbury with his husband Bill (also a Westminster member).

## A Summer of Worship and Connection 2026

JUNE 28th & JULY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Hartford

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

AUGUST WORSHIP Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2080 Boulevard, West Hartford



**A Summer of Worship & Connection with  
First Presbyterian Church of Hartford (FPCH)**

## Begins Next Sunday, June 28 at 10:30 a.m.

We are excited to continue our annual summertime partnership with First Presbyterian Church of Hartford (FPCH). **Starting Sunday, June 28 and throughout the month of July**, Westminster will gather for worship at First Presbyterian Church of Hartford at their Sunday worship time of 10:30 a.m. (please note the later starting time). In the month of August, Westminster will play the role of host here at our 10:00 a.m. worship time. Online worship will continue to be offered.

[Click here](#) for further information regarding worshipping at FPCH.

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### Volunteers Needed for West Hartford Pride Festival Saturday June 27, Noon - 5:00 p.m.

West Hartford Pride Festival is on Saturday, June 27, from noon to 5:00pm at Town Hall on 50 South Main St. Westminster is a supporter of Presbyterian Promise, which will have a table there and needs volunteers from local participating churches.

Presbyterian Promise is a non-profit committed to proclaiming God's promise of justice and love in Jesus Christ by organizing churches and individuals in the Presbytery of Southern New England into a community of mutual support for the empowerment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people through education, outreach and advocacy.

We are looking to have some representatives from Westminster to help at the table. This is a wonderful opportunity to share Westminster's spirit of welcome and inclusion. If you are willing to help for an hour or two, please contact Pastor Jinny at [pastorjinny@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjinny@gmail.com). Thank you!

[Click here](#) to learn more about Presbyterian Promise.

[Click here](#) for West Hartford Pride information.

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## **Ella Kimberly to Embark on PC (USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Year in Perú Learn How to Support Her Journey**

I'm excited to announce that in August I will be moving to Perú for a year as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) for the Presbyterian Church (USA). This is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young adults between the ages of 19-30. YAVs work with a local agency within their site location to address the root causes of poverty and racism, with an overall focus on the theme of reconciliation. ([click here](#) to learn more about the YAV program.)

Although I am still learning what my responsibilities will be, I know that I will be volunteering with an agency that works with children in Perú's capital, Lima. I chose this program because I want to live a life of service, but I'm not sure what exactly that will look like. This will be an opportunity for me to reflect on how I am being called to service, how to lead by example as a Christian, and to fully immerse myself in a culture that is different from the one in which I've always lived.

A YAV year abroad is supported by donors. I am asked to raise a total of \$5,000 with the goal of reaching \$2,500 by July 1st to cover the cost of my year in Peru. I'm very grateful that the Session at Westminster has pledged \$1,000 in funds. I'm hoping my church family will prayerfully consider supporting my YAV year with a financial donation if you're able. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have about the program. As a YAV volunteer I will be blogging my experiences in Perú, and I will make sure this is shared with the congregation.

Donations can be made by clicking the link below or by writing a check to Westminster Presbyterian Church with Ella Kimberly YAV year in the memo line. Thank you!

Ella Kimberly

[Link to Support Ella's YAV Year](#)

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## Sign-up to Provide Meals to New Parents Sarah and Alex Helberg!

Congratulations to Sarah and Alex Helberg on the birth of their son, Theodore Alexander. To welcome the newest member of our Westminster community, we are providing some dinners for the happy (but tired) new parents.

Please consider signing up using this link for [HELBERG DINNERS](#). The Helbergs live in Middletown, so feel free to sign up to either bring a meal to their home or drop it off at Westminster for someone else to deliver.

The Helbergs have requested **NO RED MEAT and NO TREE NUTS**. Other than that anything is welcome - food you've prepared or food that you've purchased, crock pot dinners for their freezer, or gift cards so they can order food.

Thanks for sharing our Westminster love in this way! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Hammond at (860) 214-1903 or [khammond@westpresby.org](mailto:khammond@westpresby.org)

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*Congratulations*

**GRADUATES!**

Chase Emery, Conard High School  
Hayes Rieger, Hall High School  
Sydney Rekow, Central Connecticut State University  
Gisselle Santa, Hall High School

**Events in Our Community**

# Talcott Singers Summer Concert



Saturday, June 20th  
6:00pm

Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

2080 Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT

*Come enjoy the start of  
the summer season with  
lovely choral song!*

This event is free and welcome to all. Proceeds go towards Hands on Hartford.

We were graced with the musical gifts of the Talcott Singers in worship on Music Appreciation Sunday. Come enjoy an evening of choral song at their concert this Saturday evening. A free-will collection will support Hands on Hartford.

## Prayers for our Community and Our World

Please text or call Rev. Julie Emery at 603-748-1130 with any prayer requests or pastoral concerns.

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

We pray for peace, especially in those places of increased violence and war particularly in Iran and throughout the Middle East. We pray

for a peaceful resolution to conflict. May God's peace take root in the hearts of all people, may peace prevail.

We pray for the communities throughout our country who are experiencing increased conflict and terror due to the actions of ICE. We pray for those suffering from trauma and grief, and for those who are caught in the middle of such conflict. We pray for an end to the violence and for justice to be found.

May there be mercy and protection for those who are most vulnerable: Immigrants and refugees; the LBGTQIA+ community; those standing up against injustice in all its forms.

We pray for those who stand up for justice in communities throughout the world. May they be wise, safe and courageous.

May God's love and grace be the guiding force in our lives, our homes and our communities in the days ahead.

**We pray for those in need for health and wholeness:**

May those who are struggling receive God's love and encouragement including: Yvonne Smith who is recovering from a fall; George Dewey, who is receiving treatment for AFib; Cyndi Robinson's friend Shelby Lippart, who is suffering from a heart condition; Nancy Murray; Ashley Aronson; Abbey Downing's father Jack Neller; Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara; David MacMeekin; Bob and Carol Rentz; Mike McElroy's wife Jane; Doug Levine, friend of Marilyn Pikor; Susie Scoville's brother Jon; Jane Sebolt; Joan and Jim Lin; Bob Gillis; Becky Kimberly's father John; Barbara Aronson; Karen Wagner's friend Rich; Ross Ludeman; Muriel Sherman and Betty Stokes.

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

We continue to lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: friends and family of Richard Stafford; the family of Jamison Clegg, Eina Reiger's cousin; the family of Camden Siegal; the family of Ginger Ludeman, wife of former Westminster pastor Rev. Ross Ludeman; the loved ones of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and the community in Minneapolis-St.Paul; Janet Wade-Utay and Art Utay upon the death of Art's aunt and Janet Wade-Utay and her sister-in-law, Jen, upon the death of Janet's brother George.

**We celebrate with:**

George and Nancy Dewey on the arrival of their great granddaughter Sadie, born to their granddaughter Sage this week.

Sarah and Alex Helberg on the birth of their son, Theodore Alexander, on May 19.

## Session Members

Peter Benner (Flourish) [pbenner16@gmail.com](mailto:pbenner16@gmail.com)  
Liz Doering (Clerk) [lizdoering81@gmail.com](mailto:lizdoering81@gmail.com)

Stephen Frazzini (Sustain: Buildings & Grounds) [stevefraz@me.com](mailto:stevefraz@me.com)  
Linda Geisler (Care) [linda.barron.geisler@comcast.net](mailto:linda.barron.geisler@comcast.net)  
Greg Hammond (Sustain: Finance) [rgregoryh@yahoo.com](mailto:rgregoryh@yahoo.com)  
Sheila Huddleston (Worship) [sheilahuddleston7@gmail.com](mailto:sheilahuddleston7@gmail.com)  
Lesley Morrey (Serve) [lpmorrey@gmail.com](mailto:lpmorrey@gmail.com)  
Janet Wade-Utay (Sustain: MR&P) [mainSt.chef10@gmail.com](mailto:mainSt.chef10@gmail.com)

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