

January 28, 2023



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Beginning of the Good News by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Worship With Us On Sunday!

4th Sunday After Epiphany Commitment Sunday

Scripture

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

Sermon

Rise Up and Speak!

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

A Message of Generosity Art Riihimaki, Sustain Team Elder

My name is Art Riihimaki and I am an Elder serving on the Sustain Team which is responsible for the staff, the building and grounds, and the finances of the church. The staff and the church structure create the most expense, but also provide us with the most opportunities to strengthen and to implement our faith.

Of course, it is important for you to donate to pay our staff and keep our building and grounds in good condition. However, it is also important to volunteer to work with the staff. I would like to highlight a couple of volunteer opportunities. You could commit to keep one flower

bed weeded or to help with rental of church space. You will find these and other opportunities to share your time and talent listed on the Westminster 2024 Commitment Card. Copies can be found in the back of the sanctuary, on our website, or by [clicking here](#).

I encourage you to participate in our stewardship process. The ministries and community at Westminster are dependent on each of us making contributions of our time, talent, and treasure. All gifts, large and small, are welcome and important. Please complete your 2024 Commitment Card electronically or bring it with you to Commitment Sunday on January 28.



Are We There Yet? Be Part of Westminster's Journey

Dear Westminster Friends,

This Epiphany season I find myself reflecting on the trip of the Magi. They travelled a long distance with only a star as a guide as well as a sense of hope and faith to keep them going. I can imagine the frustration each time they reached the top of a hill, only to see that star still on the horizon. Will it ever get closer? Did they originate the phrase, "Are we there yet?"

I see some similarities between the journey of the Wise Ones and our congregation's journey. Are we there yet? No, but you can help. We all face more demands for our time, our attention, and our resources. But with each of us contributing what we can, together we can continue following our star.

Please join me on our journey. Gifts – large and small – of time, talent, and financial resources are welcome and important. This path is easier when we encourage and support each other. This is your invitation to commit to the journey.


I'm asking you to prayerfully consider what you might give this year – financially, with your time, and with your talents. Below is a link to our digital commitment card as well as links to the stewardship materials mailed out to church membership late last week. Filling out the commitment card will help our church plan for the year ahead.

This Sunday, January 28th we will have a celebratory Commitment Sunday service at 10:00 am. I'm looking forward to seeing you then to celebrate our journey together.

In Christ,

Greg Hammond
Engage Team Elder/Stewardship Chair


2024 Digital Pledge Card



STAR WORDS

A star word is simply a wooden star with an intention or guiding word written on it. 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.

If you haven't chosen your Star Word yet feel free to pick one up at worship, stop by the church office during the week, or let us know that you'd like a word mailed to you.



South Park Inn Shelter Thanks Westminster for Magi Gift Card Collection!

South Park Inn Homeless Shelter (SPI) and the Westminster Serve Team would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to those who

contributed to the Magi gift card collection during the Christmas season. Your dedication and compassion have not gone unnoticed, and the impact of your gifts has been truly apparent. Your generous contributions will provide tangible assistance to individuals and Veterans experiencing homelessness and contribute to SPI's efforts to identify and remove barriers to permanent housing. Over the course of the collection, WPC was able to gather dozens of gift cards totaling hundreds of dollars. In SPI's thank you note to us from Brianna Dunlap, Director of Development and Community Relations (*see picture below*), they noted that SPI is celebrating 40 years of service this year and WPC has been a partner for 35 of their 40 years of service! Thank you for making the partnership so successful!

Jan 8 2024

Dear congregants,

You are all so wonderful! Thank you for donating gift cards to the guests here at South Park Inn. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

P.S. South Park Inn is about to celebrate 40 years of service. You have been here all along

35 years of



Abbey Downing and daughter Maggie; pictured here with Brianna Dunlap, SPI's Director of Development and Community Relations; dropped off gift cards for SPI clients.



ANTI-RACISM ADULT PROGRAM

Based on the video series
**Trouble the Water: Conversations
to Disrupt Racism and Dominance**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
IMPORTANT LEARNING AND
CONVERSATION**

**Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
February 6th, 13th and 20th
Stay for a meal after each session**

**Interested in an Anti-Racism Program for Children?
Contact Karen Hammond at (860)214-1903**

Anti-Racism Adult Program to be Held Tuesday Evenings in February

Westminster is holding an important and innovative adult education program to help us as a congregation, and individually, **address the racism that persists in our culture**. Racism in America is a system that combines economic, political and social components, which disempower and disenfranchise people of color, while maintaining and expanding explicit advantages for white people. We encourage you to join us as a community working to overcome racism.

The Flourish Team has planned a three-session program for **Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm on February 6, 13 and 20 in the Smart Room**. There is no commitment to attend all three sessions, there is benefit and learning that comes from each session. Come to one or all as you're able. A light meal will be served at 7:00 p.m. following the program. Those who cannot join us in-person are invited to join us via Zoom (see link below).

The sessions will be led by either the Rev. Julie Emery, Peter Benner, our Elder for the Flourish Team, or Larry Carr. Each will begin with a video from the series, "Trouble the Water," developed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The video will be followed by a discussion prompted by the leader for that session. The videos and discussion undoubtedly will be enriching and informative, even eye opening, which will move us forward as a church whose focus is on building relationships, deepening faith, and pursuing justice.

Please let us know if you're planning to attend so we can plan for the meal following the program. [Click here](#) to RSVP. Any questions or for more information, please contact Peter Benner at pbenner16@gmail.com

Zoom Link to Anti-Racism



14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

*Presenting the 2024
Chesed Award
and the
Simon Konover Recognition for
Excellence in Holocaust Education*



Keynote Address:
David Simon, Ph.D., Yale University
Director Genocide Studies Program,
Asst. Dean for Graduate Education,
Senior Lecturer in Global Affairs

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 AT 12:30 PM
KOSHER BRUNCH - \$20
FREE FOR SURVIVORS AND STUDENTS
THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE, WEST HARTFORD

You're Invited: Voices of Hope International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The Greater Hartford community is commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday, January 28 with a brunch, awards ceremony and educational lecture. International Holocaust Day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz/Birkenau and was set by the United Nations as a day of education about the Holocaust. The event is open to the community; students and Holocaust survivors are invited to attend at no charge.

To register to the event, [click here](#) or by clicking on the Voices of Hope flyer above.

This is a meaningful and important day every year, but with the alarming increase in antisemitism being experienced by the Jewish community, it is especially important to have a showing of strong communal support this year.

**West Hartford Food Pantry Stock is
Extremely Low!**



WEST HARTFORD FOOD PANTRY

Westminster Presbyterian Church is excited to announce the relaunch of our food collection efforts, dedicated to supporting the West Hartford Food Pantry. Join us as we come together to support this important mission.



Questions? Suggestions? Concerns? Email Abbey Downing
downingac@gmail.com

It is with great joy and gratitude that we announce the resumption of our food collection efforts in support of the West Hartford Food Pantry. Your generosity and dedication to this cause have made an impact on our community in the past, and we are excited to continue this vital mission.

The West Hartford Food Pantry is currently in great need of the following items: BAKED BEANS, CANNED FRUIT/APPLESAUCE, PASTA AND SAUCE, COLD CEREAL, CANNED CHICKEN AND TUNA, RICE – 1 LB. PACKAGES, PEANUT BUTTER (16-18 OZ. JARS), SOUP, and MACARONI AND CHEESE.

Your contributions can make a significant difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in our community. Please bring your donations to our designated collection box outside the Fellowship Hall. Let us come together to provide essential support to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community through Westminster.

Questions, suggestions, or concerns please contact Abbey Downing at downingac@gmail.com

Prayers of the People

We continue to pray for:

El Harp, who is in hospice care; the Rev. Laura Opsahl; Susie Scoville's friend Ron; Art Riihimaki's friend Tom Taylor who is in hospice care; Ross and Ginger Ludeman; the people of Palestine and Israel; healing relationships; Cori Mackey; Karen Wagner; Art Riihimaki; David MacMeekin's wife Colleen; Liz Grabber's nephew Drew Newsom; Rhys Logan; Howard Sprout; Laura Berman and family; Karen Wagner's friends Rich and Ramon; Jon Scoville; Paige Logan's friend Mia; Muriel Sherman; David MacMeekin's brother-in-law, Dan Reinhard; Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie; Stella Madjitey and Betty Stokes.

We grieve with:

- The family and friends of Dorothy Elsner, a long-time Westminster member who passed away peacefully on January 19 at the age of 97. Rev. Julie Emery will officiate a celebration of Dorothy's life on Saturday, January 27, 10:00 a.m. at Molloy Funeral Home (906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford);
- George and Nancy Dewey on the death of their daughter-in-law Elizabeth (Elle) Turner on January 23, after a long battle with cancer. Additional prayers of comfort for their son Seth Dewey;
- Friends and families of those in recent months who mourn the death of loved ones. May they be comforted.

Session Members (Teams)

Peter Benner (Flourish) pbenner16@gmail.com
Cyndi Buckley (Serve) cindykozak59@gmail.com
Ma'Lynn Feingold (Worship) mlnewportmd@aol.com
Greg Hammond (Engage) rgregoryh@yahoo.com
Will Hoelzel (Clerk) bill.hoelzel@gmail.com
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