

January 4, 2026



## Worship With Us On Sunday!

### Epiphany Sunday

#### Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

#### Sermon

*Bread for the Journey*

The Rev. Julie Emery

#### Bulletin

#### Bulletin Insert

**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

- *Star Words*
- *Medical Leave for Minister of Music*
- *Our Front Porch Gathering Resumes this Sunday*



- *Magi Gifts for South Park Inn Homeless Shelter*
- *Stewardship Season*
- *Per Capita Reminder*

### Prayers for Our Community and Our World

- *Community Prayer Time: Now Mondays at 12:30 p.m. (Resumes January 5th)*

## Westminster News and Events



**Star Words  
2026**

**Our Epiphany tradition!**

You are invited to  
come and choose  
your star word  
this Sunday!

**Sunday, January 4th  
Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

Stars Words are simply a wooden star with an intention or guiding word written on it. You choose one at random and hold onto it throughout the year. Consider it one way God might be speaking to or working through you.

### Callie Boone Medical Leave

Callie Boone, Minister of Music, will take medical leave in the beginning of 2026 for orthopedic surgeries and recovery time. Beginning December 31, this time includes a combination of medical leave and working remotely. The hope is for Callie to return to Westminster in-person on March 10th.

For questions about the music ministry and leadership while Callie is out, please contact Becky Kimberly at [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org).

Callie welcomes our prayers and cards of well-wishes during her time of recovery. For those who are interested, Nicole Aronson will be coordinating a meal train and delivery, you can reach out to her at [nmachampagne@yahoo.com](mailto:nmachampagne@yahoo.com).

Westminster is so grateful for Callie's leadership and ministry in our midst, and equally grateful that we can support her through this time. If there are any other questions or concerns, please reach out to Janet Wade-Utay, chair of the Ministerial Relations and Personnel Committee at [mainst.chef10@gmail.com](mailto:mainst.chef10@gmail.com), or Rev. Julie Emery at [jemery@westpresby.org](mailto:jemery@westpresby.org).

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# Our Front Porch

Adult Fellowship & Discussion Group



**Sundays 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.**  
**in the Covenant Room**

**Join Us for an Hour of Connection!**

Gather before worship for conversation and connection.  
No preparation or commitment is required.

Contact Peter Benner ([pbenner16@gmail.com](mailto:pbenner16@gmail.com)) or  
Larry Carr ([larryrcarr@gmail.com](mailto:larryrcarr@gmail.com)) for more information



## Support South Park Inn Homeless Shelter Through Magi Gifts Collection

Each Christmas season, Westminster collects Magi Gifts (formerly known as white gifts) to support the mission of South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford, CT. South Park Inn provides safe, temporary sleeping space for the unhoused, along with other services supporting mental health, veterans and people in transition.

South Park Inn shelter is in need for the following items:

**Men's and women's hoodies (large, XL, XXL)**

**Gaiters**

**Men's and women's thermal fleece shirts (large, XL, XXL)**

**Thermal gloves (large)**

**Men's and women's sweat pants (large, XL)**

**Scarves**

**Women's toiletries**

**Heavy socks**

**Gift cards (local grocery/big retail store)**

Please note, all donations should be new and left unwrapped. Gifts can be dropped off at the church - there will be a box outside the church office and one in the back of the sanctuary. **Magi Gifts will be collected through this Sunday, January 5.**

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Bill Starkowski at [starman5889@comcast.net](mailto:starman5889@comcast.net).

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## Stewardship Season at Westminster

January is stewardship season at Westminster! Just as the wise ones offered their gifts to the Christ-child, so too Westminster members are invited to consider the gifts they might bring to our shared ministry. Keep an eye out for our stewardship mailing, which will go out soon! In the meantime, we hope you will be in prayer about your pledge for 2026.

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## Per Capita Reminder

Each person at Westminster plays a vital role in supporting the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church at every level—local, regional, and national. In 2025, **our per capita apportionment is \$50.50 per member**, which directly funds the important work of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

By contributing your per capita, you help sustain the connectional church, ensuring resources, leadership, and mission outreach remain strong across the country. If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider making a donation for your 2025 per capita as this contribution greatly eases the burden on our church budget. Together,



we can continue to be a light in the world, sharing God's love far beyond our walls.

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### **Community Prayer Returns January 5 New Meeting Day: Mondays at 12:30 p.m.**

Westminster's Community Prayer returns on Monday, January 5 at 12:30 p.m. Please note this is a change - the Community Prayer gathering will now meet on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. in the Covenant Room.

### **Prayers for our Community and Our World**

*Praying* by Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.

*Prayer is a wonderful gift that we can offer each other, as we share and listen to another's concerns and joys. Prayer is also a wonderful gift to receive, in knowing that our church community is holding us and our stories with care and love. 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 offer prayers of celebration to the members of Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Presbyterian Church on their reopening after an arsonist set fire to their church in December 2020.

We continue to pray for peace, and for a just and safe world for all. We pray for a stable and lasting peace in Gaza, comfort for those who are grieving, and sustaining help for those rebuilding lives and communities.

May there be mercy and protection for those who are most vulnerable. Those most affected by the injustices happening in our country at this time: Immigrants and refugees; the LBGTQIA+ community; those standing up against injustice in all its forms.

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: Callie Boone as she recovers from surgery; Bob and Carol Rentz who are battling the flu; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara who is recovering from heart surgery; Eric Ouellette's mother Penny who is undergoing medical tests; Beverly Murphy who is in rehab recovering from a broken leg; Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi who is facing health challenges; Mike McElroy's wife Jane who is suffering from Lyme disease; Abbey Downing's father Jack Neller, who is facing serious health challenges; Yvonne Smith; Doug Levine, friend of Marilyn Pikor, who suffered a stroke; 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 and Ginger Ludeman; Muriel Sherman and Betty Stokes.

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

Janet Wade-Utay on the death of her brother George Wade; Sandy Fry, on the death of her mother Marion; Karen Wagner's son-in-law Billy Calzada and family on the death of his mother Herlinda; Karen Hammond on the death of her mother Carol Hamilton and prayers of comfort for her father Bruce; the family and friends of Elsie Harp; the family of Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie; the family of Shirley Sabin; the family of Cliff Moss; Karen Sprout and family; David Hall and family; Jim and Vivian Carlson; David MacMeekin and family; Russ Smiley and family; Laura Berman and family.

## 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)

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