

February 1, 2026



The River Jordan

Worship With Us On Sunday!

Commitment Sunday

Scripture
2 King 5:1-15

Sermon
Little Cups of Healing Water
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.**

This Week at Westminster

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

Westminster News and Events

- *Join us for Commitment Sunday*
- *Food Collection for West Hartford Food Pantry*
- *Poetry & Solidarity Event, February 5 at 7:00 p.m.*
- *Session Report from January 27th Meeting*
- *Support Westminster and YMCA at Planning & Zoning Hearing, February 4 at 7:00 p.m.*
- *Our Front Porch Gathering*
- *Medical Leave for Minister of Music*

Prayers for Our Community and Our World

- *Community Prayer Time, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. in the Covenant Room*

Westminster News and Events



Commitment Sunday

FEBRUARY 1, 2026



**Join us Sunday as we make
our commitment of time,
talent, and treasure in
response to God's love.
Every gift matters.**

This Sunday, February 1st at 10:00 am, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. In worship you'll be invited to bring up your pledge card and place it in the offering plate as we joyfully commit to the ministries and welcoming community that makes Westminster such a special place.

If weather or other circumstances prevent you from attending in person, we encourage you to submit your digital commitment card by clicking the button below or **email your commitment to Greg Hammond, Stewardship Chair, at rgregoryh@yahoo.com.**

[Link to Online Commitment Card](#)

We encourage everyone to participate at a level that feels faithful and meaningful. Every commitment of time, talent, and treasure helps strengthen our shared ministry and move us forward together. Thank you for being part of this vibrant, caring community of faith. We look forward to celebrating all that God is doing among us.

With abundant gratitude and hope,

The Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Support the West Hartford Food Pantry

**BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
DONATIONS TO WORSHIP ON
COMMUNION SUNDAY!**

The Serve Team is collecting food donations each Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month). Donations can be placed at the back of the sanctuary or in the food donation bin outside the Fellowship Hall.



Poetry & Solidarity

CONVERSATION & CONNECTION

5 February • 7:00pm

Readings

by former Poet Laureates:

Ben S. Grossberg, Dennis

Barone, James Finnegan,

Also: Karim Ahmed, Anita

Durkin, Julie Emery, &

Sitara Gnanaguru

WESTMINSTER
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RENEE GOOD,
ALEX PRETTI &
THE PEOPLE
OF
MINNEAPOLIS

OUR
IMMIGRANT
NEIGHBORS

THOSE
TARGETED
AND KILLED
BY ICE



Session Update from January 27th Meeting

The following are highlights from our recent Session meeting:

- The hearing before the West Hartford Town Plan and Zoning Commission to permit the church to be the site of a YMCA camp this summer, will occur on February 4. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend at Town Hall to express support for the application (see *more details below*).
- Session received a report from the Housing Team that an affordable housing consultant and an architect have been retained to assist in understanding feasible options for developing affordable housing on the Church property. The work of the consultant and architect will be covered by a grant the church received for that purpose. Again, this is an exploratory process whose outcome is intended to enable the Session and the congregation to make informed decisions on whether providing affordable housing is a suitable addition to the church's mission.
- Session discussed possible responses following the second fatal shooting in Minneapolis. There is a Westminster Presbyterian

Church in downtown Minneapolis near the ongoing immigration action and protests. The Serve Team will consider how our church may assist the Minneapolis church in responding to the crisis.

Support Westminster and the YMCA at West Hartford Planning & Zoning Commission February 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

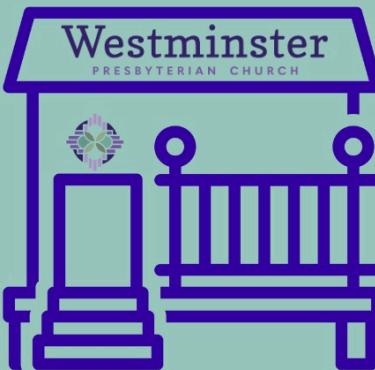
Come support Westminster and the YMCA at a public hearing before the Planning & Zoning Commission at the Town Hall on Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. At the hearing the decision will be made whether Westminster will be granted a special use permit to be the the home of YMCA's day camp this summer.

The church applied for the permit, sent out letters to all our neighbors and last week held a public meeting at the church for neighbors and friends to come and ask questions. A week prior to the public hearing, you will also start seeing signs on the church property about our application. We anticipate that the Commission will vote on our application that night after the public hearing ends

So far we have received only positive feedback from neighbors and those in the community, however a public show of support is important. We encourage all who may be available to join us that evening! Any questions, please contact Steve Frazzini at stevefraz@me.com

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) or
Larry Carr (larryrcarr@gmail.com) for more information

Callie Boone Medical Leave

Callie Boone, Minister of Music, is on medical leave for orthopedic surgeries and recovery time. This time includes a combination of medical leave and working remotely. The hope is for Callie to return to Westminster in-person in March.

For questions about the music ministry and leadership while Callie is out, please contact Becky Kimberly at 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 or [click here](#) to sign up online.

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, or Rev. Julie Emery at jemery@westpresby.org.

COMMUNITY PRAYER
EVERY MONDAY AT 12:30 P.M.
in the Covenant Room



Prayers for our Community and Our World

Blessing the Threshold, by Jan Richardson

This blessing
has been waiting for you
for a long time.

While you have been
making your way here,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
biding its time,
praying.

this blessing has been
polishing the door,
oiling the hinges,
sweeping the steps,
lighting candles
in the windows.

This blessing has been
setting the table
as it hums a tune
from an old song
it knows,
something about

a spiraling road
and bread
and grace.

All this time
it has kept an eye
on the horizon,
watching,
keeping vigil,
hardly aware of how
it was leaning itself
in your direction.

And now that
you are here,
this blessing
can hardly believe
its good fortune
that you have finally arrived,
that it can drop everything
at last
to fling its arms wide
to you, crying
welcome,
welcome,
welcome.

A small group of Westminster folks gathers each Monday at 12:30 pm in the Covenant Room to pray for each other and the world. We hope you will consider joining us in person or perhaps even stopping each Monday at the same time to pray for the world, for the church, and for our community. May God's grace and presence be with you in this season.

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 continue to pray for peace, and for a just and safe world for all.

We pray for the communities in Minnesota and 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 and wisdom to prevail.

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: Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; David MacMeekin as he recovers from a recent fall and hip surgery; Anne Carney as she recovers a knee replacement; Callie Boone as she recovers from surgery; Becky Kimberly's brother-in-law Ray who had a heart attack; Bob and Carol Rentz; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara; Eric Ouellette's mother Penny who is undergoing medical tests; Beverly Murphy who is in rehab recovering from a broken leg; 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:

We celebrate the life of Ginger Ludeman, the wife of former Westminster pastor Rev. Ross Ludeman. We hold their daughter Margaret Lange and their entire family in the comfort of God's love.

[**Click here**](#) to read Ginger's obituary. Those who would like to express their condolences, Ross's address is 100 Wyman Rd., Keene, New Hampshire, 03431

We lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: The loved ones of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and the community in Minneapolis-St.Paul; the Boone family, upon the death of Callie Boone's grandmother; Janet Wade-Utay and Art Utay upon the death of Art's aunt; Janet Wade-Utay and her sister-in-law, Jen, upon the death of Janet's brother George. The Harp Family, the Hamilton and Hammond families.

Session Members

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