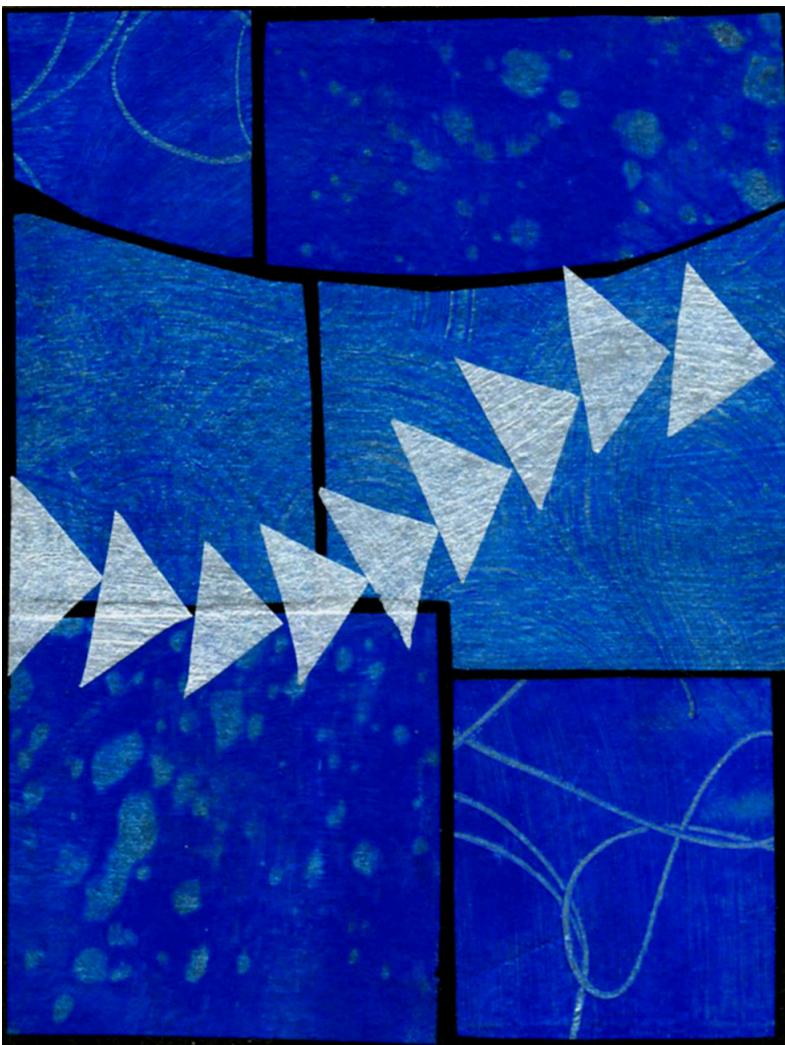


January 18, 2026



Of Water and Spirit by Jan Richardson

Worship With Us On Sunday!

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture
Isaiah 43:1-7

Sermon

When Waters Overwhelm
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 News and Events

- 2026 Stewardship: *Growing Together in Faith*
- CONCORA Big Sing at Westminster, January 24 at 2:00 p.m.
- New Year's Message from Rev. Julie Emery
- Christmas Tree to Donate?
- Star Words
- Our Front Porch Gathering
- Medical Leave for Minister of Music
- Church is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Prayers for Our Community and Our World

- Due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, there will not be a Community Prayer Time on Monday. The church office is closed.

Westminster News and Events



2026 Stewardship Growing Together in Faith

As we look toward 2026, the Session is grateful for the faith, generosity, and commitment that make Westminster Presbyterian Church a welcoming and vibrant community. Over the past two years, pledged support has grown significantly, and that generosity gives us confidence as we move forward together.

For 2026, we are prayerfully working toward a **pledge goal of \$300,000** to sustain our ministries, support our staff, and invest in opportunities for growth. This includes creating a new staff position to expand rental use of our building, new community partnerships, and exploring affordable housing possibilities on our property.

Stewardship at Westminster is about offering our **time, talent, and treasure** in response to God's love. Every gift matters. We encourage everyone to participate at a level that feels faithful and meaningful.

Commitment Sunday is February 1, 2026.

Please return your commitment card by that date, submit your pledge online at [Westminster 2026 Commitment Card](#) or email your commitment to **Greg Hammond, Finance and Stewardship Chair, at rgregoryh@yahoo.com.**

As we move forward, we do so with trust in God's presence among us and confidence in what we can accomplish together. In a world that often feels uncertain, Westminster continues to be a place of welcome, hope, and faithful service. Thank you for being part of this community and for all the ways you help bring God's love to life.

With abundant gratitude and hope,

The Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church

BIG SING



Join together in song
this winter! Coming to
• West Hartford
• Madison
• Stamford

CONCORA Big Sing to be Held at Westminster Saturday, January 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Calling all singers! CONCORA (CT Choral Artists) is hosting a SING in the sanctuary at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday afternoon, January 24. There's no better way to start the New Year and no better time than a wintry afternoon to come and join friends and fellow singers in making music!

The event starts with a vocal workshop at 2:00pm, led by outstanding singer and teacher Sarah Armstrong, followed at 3:00pm by a Community Sing of choruses from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, led by conductor and West Hartford resident Ellen Gilson Voth. Vocal scores will be provided. All are encouraged to come for the workshop, for the SING, or both!

The goal of CONCORA's BIG SING is to host multiple community events in different areas across Connecticut, bringing singers together to sing music from the same well-loved work. Our sanctuary is an ideal and welcoming location for this.

Registration in advance is encouraged. [Click here](#) to learn more!

New Year's Message from Rev. Julie Emery

On Wednesday, a New Year's Message from Rev. Julie was sent outlining some important decisions made by the leaders serving on Session regarding a partnership with the YMCA, our 2026 budget for growth and the grant given to our housing development working group. Click the button below to view Rev. Julie's message.

[Rev. Julie New Year's Message](#)

Do you have an Artifical Christmas Tree that needs a new home?

One of Westminster's trees is ready to be retired. If you have a large pre-lit tree (with all lights working) or a large unlit tree that you would like to donate for our church decorations next Christmas, please contact Becky Kimberly in the church office.

(860)521-6240
office@westpresby.org



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.**



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 (larrycarr@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 on March 10th.

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 jemory@westpresby.org.

Church Office Closed Monday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Community Prayer Gathering will NOT Meet

The church office is closed on Monday, January 19 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Our Monday Community Prayer gathering will not be held, but will resume next Monday, January 26 at 12:30 p.m.

Prayers for our Community and Our World

Blessing the Threshold, by Jan Richardson
from *How the Stars Get in Our Bones*

This blessing
has been waiting for you

a spiraling road
and bread

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

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. The blessing above was shared with group this past Monday. 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 (please note we will not be gathering this Monday due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day). 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 nearing the end of life:

We pray for the wife of former Westminster pastor Rev. Ross Ludeman, Ginger Ludeman, who has entered hospice care. We hold their daughter Margaret Lange and their entire family in the comfort of God's love.

We pray for those in need for health and wholeness:

May those who are struggling receive God's love and encouragement including: 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 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:

We lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: The loved ones of Renee Good 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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