

March 1, 2026



*Anointed by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

**Worship With Us On Sunday!**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture**

Matthew 5:7-8

Luke 7:36-50

**Sermon**  
*Merciful Blessings*  
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**

- *Scouts Host Coffee Hour*
- *Lenten Potluck This Sunday at 4:30 p.m.*
- *Lent at Westminster*
- *Hearts & Hands Crafting Care: March 8 & 11*
- *Beatitudes at Home Lent Family Devotional*
- *Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Volunteers Needed!*
- *Stewardship Update*

**Important Events in Our Community**

- *Support State Affordable Housing Bill: Join us After Worship to Learn More*
- *Rescheduled: Knit & Resist Event at First Presbyterian Church, Monday, March 2*

**Prayers for Our Community and Our World**

- *Grace & Space: Fellowship & Prayer, Mondays at 12:30p.m.*

**Westminster News and Events**



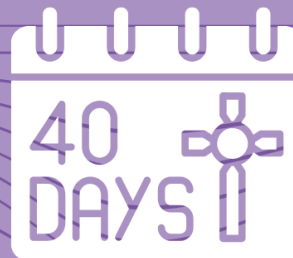
# Scouting America

## Scouts Host Coffee Hour in Honor of Scout Sunday

Westminster is home to two thriving Scouting America troops. We have been the charter organization (aka sponsor) of Troops 163 and 1163 since their founding - the boys in 1955 and the girls in 2019. The scouts and leadership are very appreciative of the space made available to conduct troop meetings and events and store troop equipment.

In honor of Scout Sunday, the scouts will be creating dutch oven desserts for coffee hour this Sunday March 1. Come and meet these extraordinary young people and learn more about the troops!

## Westminster Together for Lent



**JOIN US AS WE LEARN TO  
MAKE ROOM FOR LENT  
FOLLOWED BY A SIMPLE SUPPER  
TOGETHER**

**Sunday, March 1  
4:30 - 6:30 pm**

**THIS IS A GATHERING FOR  
ALL GENERATIONS -  
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!**

**PIZZA AND BEVERAGES  
WILL BE PROVIDED.  
PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT TO  
SHARE IF YOU ARE ABLE.**



# ✝ Lent at Westminster

## Sunday, March 1 ● Lenten Supper for All

Everyone is invited for a time of learning about Lent and  
enjoying supper together  
4:30 - 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

## March 29 - April 5 ● Holy Week

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday 3/29  | Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10 am  |
| Thursday 4/2 | Maunday Thursday supper & worship<br>@ First Presbyterian Church of Hartford |
| Friday 4/3   | Good Friday service<br>@ 12 noon in Westminster Chapel                       |
| Saturday 4/4 | Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt<br>@ 10 am at Westminster                   |
| Sunday 4/5   | Festive Easter Sunday Worship<br>@ 10 am in Westminster Sanctuary            |



# Hearts & Hands

Crafting Care for Westminster Friends

## PRAYER SHAWLS & BLANKETS

Wednesdays | 1-2 p.m.

March 11 | April 8 | May 13 | June 10

Yarn, material & instructions provided.

## DECOUPAGE EASTER FLOWER POTS

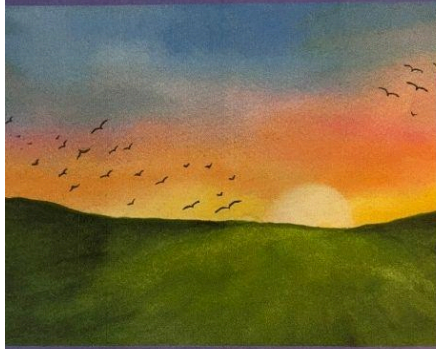


Sunday, March 8  
After Church

We're looking for 4" terra cotta pots.  
Please contact Linda Geisler  
if you have any to donate.  
860-305-8902 or  
[Linda.Barron.Geisler@comcast.net](mailto:Linda.Barron.Geisler@comcast.net)

**COVENANT ROOM**

# Beatitudes



at home  
Lent Family Devotional



*We invite you to participate in a simple Lenten practice at home.*

This devotional, which aligns with our worship focus on the Beatitudes, is a wonderful resource for adults and children. For each of the Beatitudes there is a printed card. One side features a piece of artwork and the other side offers a prayer, a blessing, and gives suggestions for wonderings - questions you might ask and also actions - ways to live out the scripture.

Please feel free to pick up a packet of cards at the back of the Sanctuary.

If you'd prefer to get this online or in the mail, please contact Karen Hammond at [khammond@westpresby.org](mailto:khammond@westpresby.org)



## ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

This wonderful tradition is great fun and brings joy to hundreds of children in our community. But... it requires lots of help!

There are big and small jobs - to find out how you can help please contact

**Karen Hammond**  
**[khammond@westpresby.org](mailto:khammond@westpresby.org) or**  
**(860)214-1903**



### Stewardship Update for 2026

We are grateful for the strong response to this year's stewardship invitation. As of February 17, 2026, we have received commitments from 52 households totaling \$224,224, which represents 75% of our \$300,000 pledge goal for 2026.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a Commitment Card. Your generosity and faithfulness make it possible for

Westminster to continue its ministries and remain a welcoming, vibrant community of faith.

There is still time to participate. If you have not yet submitted your commitment, we encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so. Every commitment of time, talent, and treasure strengthens our shared ministry and helps us move confidently toward our goal.

You may submit your financial commitment by:

- Returning a paper Commitment Card
- Completing a digital Commitment Card (*click the button below*)
- Sending an email with your pledge to Greg Hammond at [rgregoryh@yahoo.com](mailto:rgregoryh@yahoo.com)

Together, we are building something meaningful and lasting. Thank you for being part of Westminster's ministry and mission.

[Link to Online Commitment Card](#)

## Important Events in Our Community



### Let Legislators Know You Support House Bill 5396 Regarding Affordable Housing

#### *House Bill 5396:*

*An act concerning affordable housing development on certain land owned by a religious organization*

This bill has just been raised in the legislature and the public hearing for it is Wednesday, March 4 at 10:30 am. This bill **would streamline approval of new housing on religious property when clear conditions are met.** It is being strongly supported by GHIAA and Westminster, especially since we are in the middle of our discernment about affordable housing.

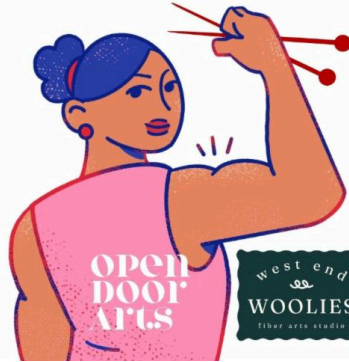
**A huge step in supporting this bill is to submit written testimony prior to the March 4 hearing date.** GHIAA has created a soup-to-nuts document of how to submit online testimony and has talking points you can use in your letter (*see link below*). A simple way for you to individualize your letter is to mention how Westminster is working with consultants now to assess ways to use our property for potential affordable housing.

**There will be a brief workshop on how to submit written testimony for this bill after church this Sunday.**

Contact Peter Benner at pbenner16@gmail.com or Tom Buckley  
tbtrailrun@hotmail.com for more details.

[Click Here for More Details](#)

# KNIT + RESIST



Monday  
March 2  
5:30-7:00 pm



First Presbyterian  
Church of Hartford



**Knit & Resist with our Friends at  
First Presbyterian Church of Hartford  
Monday, March 2, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

During World War II in Norway, red knit caps became a public act of resistance. Grounded in the folk tradition of the nisse (a red-hatted gnome symbolizing protection and blessing) Norwegians wore and sold these hats in open defiance of Nazi rule, even when it brought punishment.

Knit red beanies have now become a symbol of resistance in Minnesota! By knitting red beanies together, we'll claim that legacy: faith made visible, culture defended, and resistance worn boldly.

Gather at First Presbyterian Church of Hartford (136 Capitol Ave). Free and open to all, at all levels. No need to register in advance, just show up! We will provide needles and yarn, coffee, and tea.

**Prayers for our Community and Our World**



A time for  
fellowship & prayer

Mondays | 12:30 — 1 p.m.

COVENANT ROOM

Join Us

*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: Abbey Downing's father Jack Neller, who is recovering from

a bilateral lung transplant; Callie Boone who is recovering from her second surgery; Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi; David MacMeekin; Bob and Carol Rentz; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara; Eric Ouellette's mother Penny; Mike McElroy's wife Jane; Yvonne Smith; 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 lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: the family of Ola Coe; 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; 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 and the Hamilton and Hammond families.

## **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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[www.westpresby.org](http://www.westpresby.org)

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