

April 13, 2025



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Entry into the City* by John August Swanson

**Worship With Us On Sunday!**

# PALM SUNDAY

Scripture  
Luke 19:28-40

Sermon  
*Witness Stones*  
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).



**Please plan to stay after  
worship to help stuff  
eggs for our Community  
Easter Egg Hunt**

**Egg Stuffing:  
THIS Sunday  
11:00 - 12:00**

**Rooms 4 & 5 (next to the Smart Room)**

**Everyone Welcome – lots of help needed!**

# *This Week at Westminster*

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

- One Great Hour of Sharing Collection
- ***Easter Egg Hunt April 19***
  - *Candy Donations Needed by Sunday to fill 2,000 Eggs*
  - *Egg Stuffing After Worship this Sunday!*
  - *Volunteers Needed!*
- *Donate Spring Flowers for Easter (due this Sunday)*
- *Spring Clean-up Postponed*
- *Maunday Thursday Service, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Good Friday Taize Service, April 18 at Noon*
- *Easter Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.*
- *Puerto Rico Service Learning Trip, June 15-21, 2025*
- *Community Conversation Summary*
- *Prayers for Our Community and Our World*



## **Westminster to Participate in One Great Hour of Sharing**

Our church will join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This year's theme is "Repairing the Breach." Each gift to

One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (our hosts for the upcoming Puerto Rico Mission trip!).

**We will be collecting special gifts by this Sunday April 13 (Palm Sunday)** earmarked for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Please consider donating to support our larger faith community and provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope!

For more about the programs supported by your generosity, please [click here](#) to watch this brief (2 minute) video.

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## **WESTMINSTER EASTER EGG HUNT!**

### **Ways You Can Support this Popular Community Event**

Westminster's Community Easter Egg Hunt has become a cherished annual event for our community. Last year was our biggest year to date - we had almost 300 attendees!

The success of this event relies on the volunteer support from our church family. Below are more details on the ways you can help and an online sign up so we can prepare.

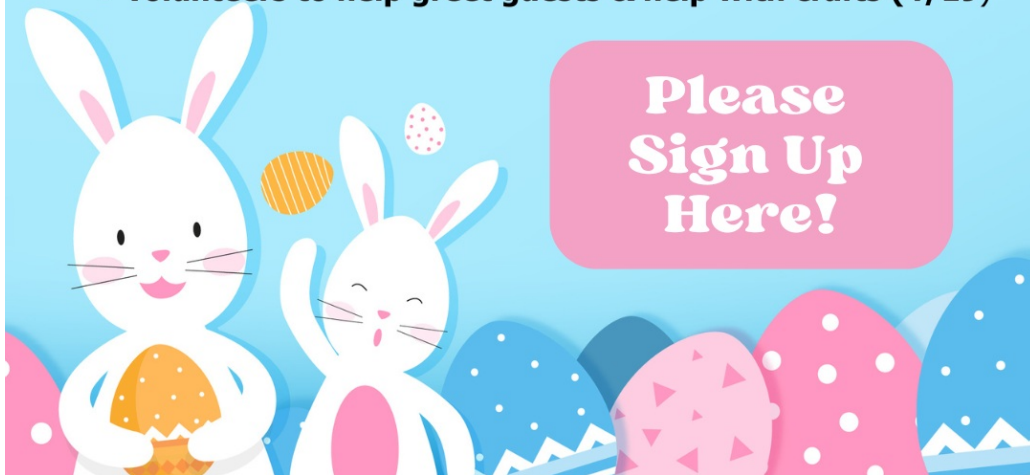
Thank you!

**Our Easter Egg Hunt  
is a fun event for our  
whole community...**

***but we need  
your help!***

We're particularly in need of:

- small, individually wrapped candy (by 4/13)
- help stuffing eggs (11:00 am on 4/13)
- **finger food for our snack table (drop off 4/18 or 4/19)**
- **volunteers to help greet guests & help with crafts (4/19)**



### **Donate Flowers for Easter Sunday**

We will be decorating our sanctuary with spring flowers for our Easter service. The flowers can be picked up by donors or will be delivered to home-bound or isolated members of our church family.

We are looking for individuals who would like to make a donation towards the purchase of the Easter flowers. The cost per plant is \$14 and can be paid to Westminster by check. Please make sure to identify

it as Easter flowers in the memo line. You can make a donation from your family, anonymously or in memory or honor of someone.

**We need all flower donations by Sunday, April 13. If you would like to order Easter flowers, please fill out the Google Form below. If you have questions or would like to give you flower donation over the phone, please contact Becky Kimberly in the church office at 860-521-6240 x100 or [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org). Money can be sent in anytime before May 31.**

Donate Easter  
Flowers



Due to the uncooperative weather this Saturday, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be rescheduling the church's spring clean up. Stay tuned for a rescheduled date in May. Thank you!



Maundy  
*Thursday*

"Do this in Memory of Me"

**Dinner and Worship Service**  
**April 17 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

All are invited to join our friends from First Presbyterian Church of Hartford for a simple dinner of soup and salad which will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Westminster. Worship will be in the midst of dinner, at the tables - come when you are able, there will be plenty of food.

We are looking for volunteers to help support our Maundy Thursday service. This includes people who can bring salad, bread or dessert or those who are able to set-up or help clean-up after the service. Click the link below to sign up! Thank you!

[Maundy Thursday Volunteer Sign-up](#)

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# Good Friday

**April 18, 2025**

*Taize worship service  
of reflection and prayer*

***Noon in the Chapel***







# *Hope Has Risen*

**CELEBRATE EASTER AT  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**EASTER SUNDAY,  
APRIL 20, 2025 | 10:00 AM**

2080 BOULEVARD, WEST HARTFORD, CT  
[WWW.WESTPRESBY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTPRESBY.ORG)

JOIN WPC & FPC AS WE HEAD BACK TO

**SAN JUAN PUERTO RICO**

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

## SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

6/15/25 - 6/21/25

APRIL 7TH: FLIGHT COST CONFIRMED

APRIL 11TH: \$150 DEPOSIT DUE

JUNE 15: DEPART FOR SAN JUAN



IF INTERESTED, SCAN THE QR CODE TO STAY UPDATED

CONTACT ABBEY DOWNING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DOWNINGAC@GMAIL.COM

Westminster and First Presbyterian are partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for a Service Learning Trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, from June 15–21, 2025. Follow [this link](#) for more information or contact Abbey Downing at 860-601-6178 or [downingac@gmail.com](mailto:downingac@gmail.com). We'd love for you to consider sharing your time and talents as we work to spread God's love caring for a community affected by crises and catastrophic events."

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HELD ON MARCH 30

# Community Conversation

A DETAILED SUMMARY

On March 30, we gathered for an open conversation in response to the Vandersall Report and the ongoing discernment regarding Westminster's future. Rev. Julie Emery presented the report at the Annual Meeting on February 23. **If you missed the presentation, you are invited to watch a video of Rev. Emery's discussion and powerpoint [HERE](#).**

The discussion was a fruitful one and touched on many subjects including:

- Building housing or other facilities
- Leasing/renovating the education wing
- Seeking grant opportunities
- Opportunities for a Mental Health Community Hub
- Collaboration with other churches

Click the link below to read a detailed summary of the community conversation.

Community Conversation  
Summary

If you were unable to attend the conversation, or would like to engage in a one-on-one meeting about this or other topics as they relate to Westminster's future, please feel free to reach out to Rev. Julie Emery to set up a meeting.

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Prayers for our Community and Our World

*Prayer is a deeply important part of our faith. Paul prayed for the community of Philippians in his letter to them, writing, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters..." (Philippians 1:3-6, 9-10a)*

*One of our core values is to build relationships and one of the ways we do that is through prayer. 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.*

*We invite you to hold one another in prayer as a practice of care and devotion. We invite you to share prayers of thanksgiving and also concern with Rev. Julie Emery or our Care Team Elder, Linda Geisler to share in our weekly prayer gathering. [All are invited to join in a time of communal prayer and silence with the Care Team on Mondays at noon.](#)*

[Zoom Link to Community Prayer Time](#)

#### **We pray for those near and far:**

We pray for the members and leaders of our church, that we might discern God's will and move into our future with faith and courage.

We pray for our country and its leaders, that those with power would strive to care for and protect those most vulnerable. May those with agency and voice be courageous in seeking justice and standing up for the greater good.

We pray for all those experiencing racism, sexism and homophobia, that they might find love and compassion.

We pray for the members of the LBGQTQIA+ community, that they may be safe from harm and encouraged in love.

We pray for the members of the immigrant and refugee community, especially for those whose fear of deportation prevents them from seeking help or support. May they be surrounded by God's love and protection.

We pray for those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, that they might find help.

We pray for those struggling with chronic illness and those who care for them. May they be surrounded by God's loving presence and experience the wholeness of life.

We pray for those experiencing mental illness or struggling with

addiction, that they may find strength and hope.

### **We pray for those in need of health and wholeness:**

Liz Grabber's mother Barbara who is recovering from a stroke; for ongoing healing for Kevin Morrison; Nancy Dewey, Jestina McGill and Barbara Aronson; Janet Wade-Utay's brother George Wade, who is battling cancer; Karen Wagner's friend Rich; Ross and Ginger Ludeman; Jon Scoville; Muriel Sherman; Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie now in hospice care; Stella Madjitey; Betty Stokes.

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

The family and friends of Shirley Sabin, who passed away on January 28 at the age of 91. Shirley and her husband Edward were early members of the church, joining in 1960, and were active members of Westminster until they moved out of state for retirement. We keep their children in our prayers.

The family of Cliff Moss, Karen Sprout and family; Karen Wagner and the family of her friend Sherm and of her nephew; Barbara Riihimaki and family; David Hall and family; Jim and Vivian Carlson; David MacMeekin and family; Russ Smiley and family; Laura Berman and family.

### **We pray for those suffering in the aftermath of recent disasters:**

We pray for victims of the earthquake in Myanmar and for the rescue and aid workers. We pray for all those displaced from their homes by wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, storms and floods. May they find support and restoration, comfort and connection.

### **We pray for those living in the midst of war and violence:**

We pray especially for peace in the Middle East. We pray for peace, mercy and unity throughout the region. We pray for peace and protection for the people of Ukraine and the children of the world.

### **We pray for those near and far:**

We pray for our country and its leaders,  
that we might find mercy, understanding and unity.

We pray for all those experiencing racism, sexism and homophobia,  
that they might find love and justice.

We pray for those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity,  
that they might find help.

We pray for those experiencing mental illness or struggling with  
addiction, that they may find strength and hope.

We pray for the members and leaders of our church, that we might  
discern God's will and move into our future with faith and courage.

## We celebrate:

The safe return home of Abbey Downing, who recently traveled to Kenya on a medical mission trip.

Carol and Craig Schramm on the birth of their granddaughter Ella Jean Schramm, daughter of their son Mike and his wife Laura.

## Session Members

Peter Benner (Flourish) [pbenner16@gmail.com](mailto:pbenner16@gmail.com)

Abbey Downing (Serve) [downingac@gmail.com](mailto:downingac@gmail.com)

Ma'Lynn Feingold (Worship) [mlnewportmd@aol.com](mailto:mlnewportmd@aol.com)

Stephen Frazzini (Sustain: Buildings & Grounds) [stevefraz@me.com](mailto:stevefraz@me.com)

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