

March 9, 2025



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Temptation in the Wilderness by Briton Rivière

Worship With Us On Sunday!

1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture
Psalm 91
Luke 4:1-13

Sermon
Turning Toward Healing And Hope
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.



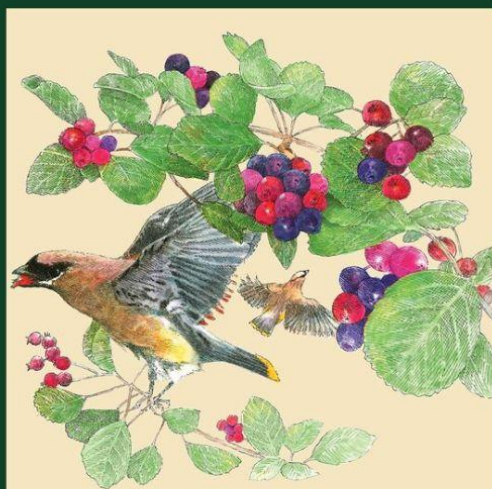
*Don't forget to move your clocks forward an
hour on Saturday night!*

This Week at Westminster

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

- *Book Study on "The Serviceberry" Sunday at 11:30 a.m*
- *Puerto Rico Service Trip Informational Meeting, March 23 at 5pm*
- *Lenten Photo of the Day*
- *Worship Through Lent: The Healing We Need*
- *Recording of Worship Service with the Rev. Dr. William Yoo*
- *Stewardship Update*
- *Please Return Gareth Higgins Book*
- *Community Prayer Time Mondays at Noon*
- *Prayers for Our Community and Our World*

Surrounded by Abundance



THE SERVICEBERRY

**Abundance and Reciprocity
in the Natural World**

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER
AUTHOR OF **BRAIDING SWEETGRASS**

**Join us for
a book
study and
discussion**

**Sunday
March 9
@ 11:30 a.m.**

More details below

Please join the Flourish team for an “abundance mindset” book study and discussion opportunity around *The Serviceberry, An Economy of Gifts and Abundance* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will gather in the Covenant Room this Sunday, March 9 at 11:30 a.m.

This lovely, short book invites us to reflect on our culture and to think differently. It provides us with a way to think about how we live within a culture that elevates competition and profit over relationship and mutual benefit. The book provides an opportunity for us to learn about a different path and build relationships among ourselves, supporting each other in finding that path in our own lives.

Any questions, please contact Peter Benner at 860-922-4114 or pbenner16@gmail.com or Larry Carr at 339-222-8601 or larrycarr@gmail.com.

Whether or not you have read the book, we hope you will join us for great discussion and a time to support and uplift each other.



Join an Informational Zoom Meeting About Our June 2025 Service Trip to San Juan Sunday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m.

In June, a team from Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) and First Presbyterian Church of Hartford (FPCH) will travel to San Juan to assist with a rebuilding project in response to the devastating hurricanes that have impacted the island.

Join an upcoming Zoom call to learn more about this opportunity to make a difference.

Who: Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) & First Presbyterian Church of Hartford (FPCH)

What: Informational Zoom Meeting about the June 2025 Service Learning Trip

When: March 23 at 5:00 p.m.

[Zoom link here](#)

Hear from past participants and explore how you or your youth (age 14+) can take part in this effort, serving at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance work site in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

We hope you'll join us as we answer Christ's call to love and serve others!

Contact Abbey Downing with questions or concerns at downingac@gmail.com



The Season of Lent

The season of Lent has begun and will continue over the 40 days that lead up to Easter (not including Sundays.) It is traditionally a time of reflection and prayer, when people of faith prioritize their relationship with God through spiritual practices. How will you focus your attention on God in this time?

PHOTO-A-DAY LENT 2025

Lent Photo-A-Day Challenge

For the past several years, faithful people all around the world have participated in the Lent "photo a day" challenge online. Participants are invited to take a picture that represents a word, and to reflect the word as it relates to your faith. Look for the words on the Westpresby Instagram page and follow along. When posting your word, join by posting in the comments: #lentenwordaday #westpresby

Upcoming words will be:

March 7 = Alone

March 8 = Protect

March 9 = Celebrate

March 10 = Pray

March 11 = Dazzling

March 12 = Glory

March 13 = Awake

March 14 = Good

Worship Throughout Lent: The Healing We Need

More than ever, our world is full of pain and suffering. The news seems to only increase our worry and fear. And as the ground shifts beneath us, we long for healing and wholeness, and a way to love and serve our neighbors well. What is the healing we truly need? What healing can we find through faith? What healing does Jesus promise? How do we access the healing that comes from God?

Throughout our Lenten worship series, we will seek to understand the healing that Jesus offers and how that healing might meet us where we are in this time and place in our world. Join us as together we seek the healing we need that comes from God.

March 9: *The Healing We Need*

March 16: *The Healing We Receive from Being Cared For*

March 23: *The Healing That Comes from Repentance and Forgiveness*

March 30: *The Healing That Comes from Humility and Grace*

April 6: *The Healing that Comes from Practicing Generosity*

April 13: *Palm Sunday*

April 20: *Easter Sunday*



Worship Recording of Joint Service with Guest Preacher the Rev. Dr. William Yoo

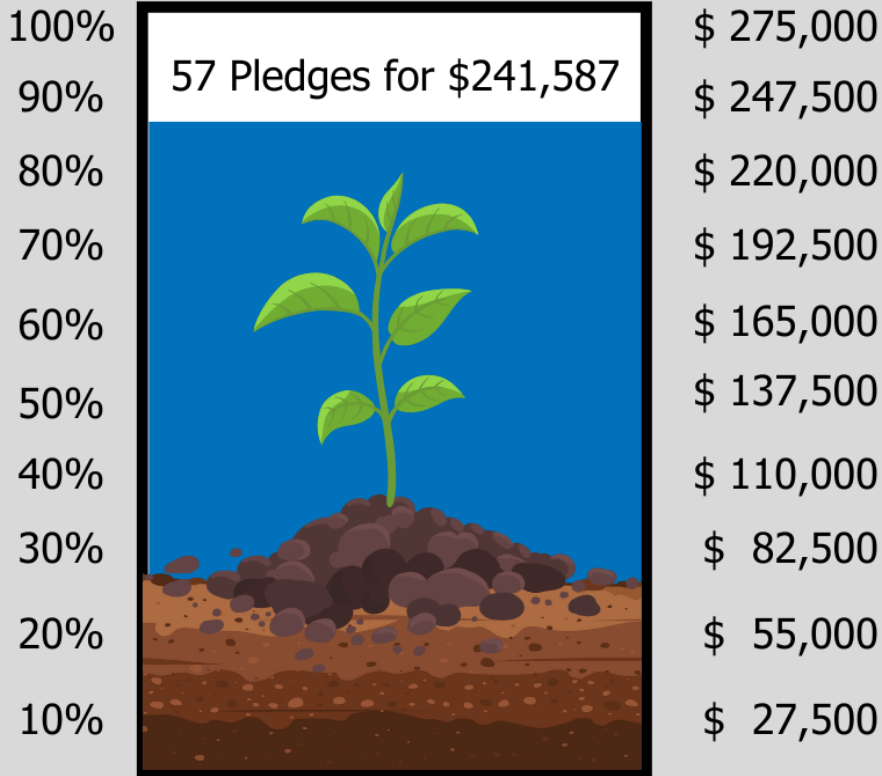
Westminster joined the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Hartford for worship and to hear the guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Yoo is one of the leading scholars today in the study of North American Christianity and race-relations, with a particular specialty in the history of slavery in the United States. He has authored several influential works, including *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church* and *Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity*.

If you missed the worship service, First Presbyterian Church of Hartford has shared the recording. You can access the service on our website under Worship Recording or by clicking the button below.

Sunday, March 2nd Worship
Recording

Westminster 2025 Stewardship Campaign



Thank You for Your Commitment of Time, Talent and Treasure!

Dear Westminster Family,

As we approach the final Sunday of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign on March 9, 2025, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has submitted their commitment card. Your generous financial support is vital to sustaining Westminster's ministries and mission in the year ahead.

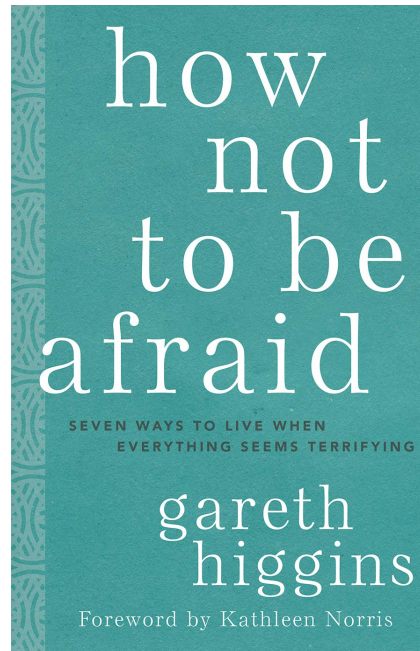
If you haven't yet made your 2025 commitment, we encourage you to do so this weekend. Every pledge—no matter the amount—makes a meaningful difference. You can submit your commitment card in person on Sunday, by mail, online by clicking the link below or simply reply by email to me at rgregoryh@yahoo.com.

Thank you for being part of this journey of faith. Together, we are planting seeds for a hopeful and vibrant future!

With gratitude,
Greg Hammond
Finance Team Leader/Stewardship Chair

[Electronic Pledge Card](#)

Please Return Books!



If you participated in the book study on *How Not to Be Afraid: Seven Ways to Live When Everything Seems Terrifying* by Gareth Higgins and borrowed a book, please return it to the church office. They are on loan from the John P. Webster Library at First Church, West Hartford and need to be returned. Thank you!



COMMUNITY PRAYER MONDAYS AT NOON

**In-person and online.
Click the link below to join us on Zoom.**

Community Prayer Time, Mondays, 12:00 p.m.

ALL are welcome to join the Reverend Julie Emery and members of the Care Ministry Team each week for a time of collective prayer. Join us in-person or online to lift the prayers of our community on Mondays from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. We will meet in-person at church in the Smart Room or you can click the button below to join us online.

[Zoom Link to Community Prayer
Time](#)

Prayers for our Community and Our World

Our scriptures invite us, again and again, to devote ourselves to prayer. As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians: "Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

We invite you to use the following prayers in times of personal devotion, joining with our church to lift up those in need in our

community. All are invited to join in a time of communal prayer and silence with the Care Team on Mondays at noon.

We pray for those experiencing increased fear and oppression in this time:

We lift to God members of the LBGTQIA+ community, their families and loved ones, that they might experience love and support, welcome and affirmation. May we find ways to stand up for justice and protect those in need.

We lift to God members of the immigrant and refugee community. For those desperately seeking asylum and safety, may God surround and protect them. For those who fear oppression and hatred, may they be surrounded by God's love and grace.

We pray that within the leadership of our community and country, better angels prevail in stopping injustices and seeking mercy, peace and security for all God's beloved children.

We pray for those in need of health and wholeness:

Cliff Moss who is in hospice care; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara who is recovering from a stroke; Richard Stafford, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments; 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; Nancy Dewey; and all those suffering from chronic illness, and the families who care for them.

We ask God to comfort those who grieve:

The family and friends of Howard Sprout, who passed away on February 6. Prayers of comfort for his wife Karen and daughter Joanna. A celebration of Howard's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. this Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT.

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; Elsie Harp and family; David MacMeekin and family; Russ Smiley and family; Laura Berman and family.

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

We continue to pray for victims of wildfires especially in Los Angeles and, those displaced from their homes by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. 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, that the ceasefire will persist. We give thanks for the return of hostages and the return of displaced Palestinians to their homes. We pray for continued 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 the families and communities of those who died in recent plane and helicopter crashes. May God surround those who mourn and bring them comfort and peace.

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,
especially as the weather turns colder, 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.

Session Members

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