

September 6, 2026



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Burning Bush by Joe Shumacher

Worship With Us!

15th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-15

Sermon

Turn Aside and See
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.

This Week at Westminster

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

Westminster News and Events

- Session Update from August 23rd Meeting
- Congregational Meeting to Elect New Officers, September 13
- Westminster Women Invited to Sisters of the Spirit Retreat, September 19 at Mercy by the Sea
- Brunch Bunch at Westminster Returns September 20
- Our Front Porch Returns, September 13
- Update from Peru: Ella Kimberly, PC (USA) Young Adult Volunteer

Important Events in Our Community

- South Park Inn Fundraiser, Dance it Out!

Westminster News and Events



Session Update from August 23rd Meeting

Congregational Meeting to Elect New Session Members

On **Sunday, September 13** following worship there will be a meeting of the Congregation to elect new Elders to serve on Session. Please plan to attend! The candidates include Cathi Nelson (Flourish Team), Barbara Riihimaki (Ministerial Relations & Personnel), and Sandy Fry (Engage). We are still in need of an Elder for Finance – please prayerfully consider whether you might be able to serve in this position and reach out to Pastor Julie for more information. (see *official announcement below*).

We are deeply thankful to Peter Benner, Greg Hammond and Janet Wade-Utay for their faithful service as Session Members in recent years. Their dedication and hard work have been a gift to us all. Thank you.

Staffing Announcements

We are happy to welcome **Nathalee Golden** as our **new rental coordinator**. Nathalee has hit the ground running, already meeting with potential new tenants, updating the rental application and other important documents and revising our processes.

We are still searching for our next sexton or property manager. Stay tuned.

After many years of service, **Wanda and Dan Bender** are retiring. The Benders have provided security for Westminster, including doing the nightly lockup. The Session is deeply grateful to Wanda and Dan for their reliability and care of our church home.

Property Utilization - Congregational Conversations

The Housing Team are hard at work with our consultants, Town officials, and potential developers in the pre-pre phase of planning affordable housing on the church property. One of the next steps is for each member of the congregation to have an opportunity to connect with a member of the Housing Team. These will be one-on-one conversations designed to get a feel for what our members envision for the future of the property. Stay tuned for more information!

Baptism Celebration

It is with delight that the Session approves the baptism of Theodore Helberg to take place on Sunday, October 11. We hope you will join us for this happy celebration.

Call for Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 13 Following Worship

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 13 immediately following our worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders and to receive any nominations from the floor. Candidates include Cathi Nelson (Flourish Team), Barbara Riihimaki (Ministerial Relations & Personnel), and Sandy Fry (Engage). All congregational members are entitled to vote and are encouraged to attend.

Any questions about the meeting please contact Becky Kimberly, church administrator, at office@westpresby.org. There are still leadership opportunities at Westminster including serving as an Elder for Finance. Contact the Rev. Julie Emery or any Elders on Session to discuss ways you can serve at Westminster.



Sisters of the Spirit Retreat at Mercy by the Sea in Madison, CT Saturday, September 19, 8:30am - 2:00pm

Sisters of the Spirit invite Westminster women to join them for a Day of Reflection and Healing. Join us as we embrace stillness, walk along the shore and explore how we can live life with gratitude and hope. This event will be held at Mercy by the Sea, Madison, CT on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30-2:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The fee is \$50.00.

Questions or to reserve your place, please contact Diane Smith at (857) 998-0215 or smithdiane2009@gmail.com no later than September 10. Checks can be made out to Diane Smith. Please give your checks to Diane, leave them with Becky Kimberly in the church office or drop it off in the locked mailbox outside the church entrance. We hope to see you there!



WESTMINSTER'S

Brunch Bunch



— WELCOME SINGLE ADULTS 60+ —

 **SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20** |  **SMART ROOM,
WESTMINSTER**

Brunch Bunch Returns September 20 11:30 a.m. in the Smart Room

The Brunch Bunch is gearing up for our first brunch this fall on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. right after church in the Smart Room. All single adults 60ish or above are invited to become part of this monthly gathering as we get to know each other better. That truly is our only agenda. Food will be provided so the only thing you need to bring is your smile and willingness to get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere. If you have questions, please call Barbara Riihimaki (860-803-9090) or email her beriih@gmail.com. See you there.

Our Front Porch Gathering is Back!
Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 a.m.

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!

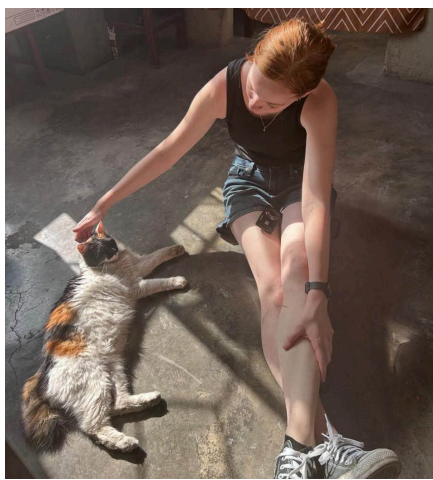
Like those chatting on a front porch, join us before worship for conversation and connection. No preparation or commitment is required.

Contact Peter Benner (pbenner16@gmail.com) or
Larry Carr (larryrcarr@gmail.com) for more information



Update from Peru: Ella Kimberly, Young Adult Volunteer

Ella Kimberly, PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer has arrived safely in Peru and has been busy with orientation, getting to know her host family and her fellow YAVs who include young adults from Peru, Columbia and the U.S. In the midst of this, she is creating a blog which she will update regularly and the link will be shared in next week's email. In the meantime, enjoy these latest photos!



Important Events in Our Community



Why is a Homeless Shelter Throwing a Dance Party? *Because Life is a Lot Right Now*

Staff at a homelessness service provider organization knows firsthand how heavy the world can feel, especially when fighting day after day to keep people safe and get them housed while dealing with many levels of uncertainty.

So, they decided to crank up the cheer with live music and dancing at South Park Inn's second annual fundraiser, *Dance It Out!*

Come support our long-term mission partner! [Click here](#) for more information!

Prayers for our Community and Our World

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of two of our faithful saints, who have journeyed with Christ and with Westminster in ways which have enriched and enlivened our community:

David MacMeekin

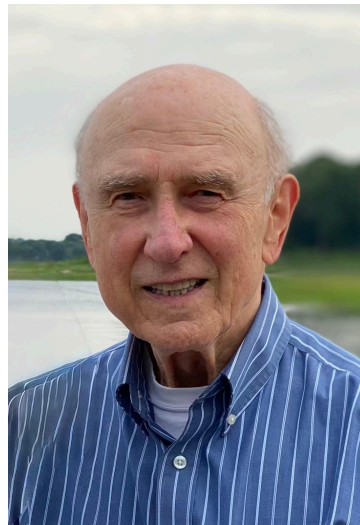


We give thanks for the cheerful and faithful witness of David MacMeekin, who died peacefully on September 1, surrounded by his loving family. David grew up at Westminster, was married here and in his later years became a faithful member of our online Zoom worship community. He will be

greatly missed. Memorial Services in honor of David are being planned and will occur sometime this fall. Please keep David's family in your prayers, especially David's daughter Kelly and his granddaughters Tarah and Kaitlyn, as they grieve his passing. May God's comfort and peace surround them.

Bob Rentz

We give thanks for the compassionate and caring witness of Dr. Bob Rentz, longtime member of Westminster, who died on August 14, attended by his loving family. Bob was a physician and had a private general practice until he retired at the age of 78. He was thoughtful, kind, meticulous and steady. At Westminster in his later years, he and his wife Carol were faithful attendees of the group "Getting to Know You," and spoke fondly of their kids and grandkids. A private burial for the family will be held on October 3, followed by a celebration of his life at the Wood n' Tap in Farmington, CT at noon. You can read more about Bob's life and faithful witness by [clicking here](#). Please keep Bob's wife Carol, and his children and grandchildren in your prayers. May God surround them with love and peace.



As we mourn these faithful witnesses, and give thanks for the lives they lived in Christ, we affirm once more that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. We proclaim the depth of God's love - a love to which these faithful saints are drawn in ways that await each of us - and we trust that Love will carry us through these times of sorrow. Amen.

Continued Prayers for our Community and World...

We celebrate with:

Our choral scholars, Ryan Mancini and Vanessa Paré, who were married in Italy on August 21!

We give thanks for all those who have found support and love within our church communities, especially for the connections between Westminster and First Presbyterian Church of Hartford.

We pray for those near and far:

We pray for peace in Gaza, throughout the Middle East and Sudan. May God's peace take root in the hearts of all people.

We pray for all of God's creation, and for people impacted by the repercussions of global warming - the devastating flood in Nepal; the Canadian wildfires, extreme temperatures and weather. May we seek new ways to heal our planet and steward our resources.

We pray for the communities experiencing increased fear and terror due to the actions of ICE. We pray for the safety and dignity of those who have been detained, and for justice to be found.

May there be mercy and protection for those who are most vulnerable: Immigrants and refugees especially children; the LBGTQIA+ community; those standing up against injustice in all its forms.

We give thanks 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 be surrounded by God's healing and comfort.

We pray for: Kevin Wunder's friend Nick who recently broke his arm; Cyndi Robinson's friend Shelby Lippart; Nancy Murray; Ashley Aronson; Abbey Downing's father Jack Neller; Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara; Mike McElroy's wife Jane; Doug Levine, friend of Marilyn Pikor; Susie Scoville's brother Jon; Jane Sebolt; Joan and Jim Lin; Bob Gillis; Barbara Aronson; Karen Wagner's friend Rich; Muriel Sherman and Betty Stokes.

We ask God to comfort those who grieve:

May God's loving arms surround all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in this season. We pray God's comfort and peace to surround:

The family and loved ones of Paul Chabot, who died recently after a long battle with leukemia. May God surround his wife Kimberlea and their children, Ava, Mason and Ella with peace and comfort in this time.

The family and loved ones of Mary Sand, who passed away on August 11. Please hold Mary's husband Bill and their children and extended family in your prayers.

The Rev. Laura Opsahl upon the death of her sister, Eugenia. May God surround their family and bring them peace.

The family and loved ones of Yvonne Smith, especially daughters Diane Smith and Aimee Hopkins as they continue to celebrate her life and grieve her loss.

The family and loved ones of Rev. Ross Ludeman, who died peacefully on August 5 at the age of 93. Ross served as our Senior Pastor from 1983-1998 and is remembered fondly by his Westminster

church family. A service to celebrate Ross and his wife Ginger (who died in January) will be held at Westminster on October 10 at 11 am.

We continue to lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: family and friends of Marilyn Pikor's dear friends, Carol and Stan; the loved ones of Nancy Hoffman; the friends and family of Susan Plese, friend of Karen Wagner, who died following a long illness; friends and family of Richard Stafford; the family of Jamison Clegg, Eina Reiger's cousin; the family of Camden Siegal; Janet Wade-Utay and Art Utay upon the death of Art's aunt and Janet Wade-Utay and her sister-in-law, Jen, upon the death of Janet's brother George.

We trust that God walks with each of us in our struggles and sorrows, and rejoices in our celebrations.

If you have any prayer requests or pastoral concerns, please text or call Rev. Julie Emery at 603-748-1130.

Session Members

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