

May 10, 2026



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The River of Life* by Corrine Peterson

**Worship With Us On Sunday!**

**6th Sunday of Easter**

**Scripture**  
Acts 17:22-31

**Sermon**  
*Where the Souls Hit the Street*  
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**

- *Hearts & Hands Gathering, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Covenant Room*
- *Westminster Volunteer Day at Hydroponic Farm, May 30th*
- *Session Update from April 29th Meeting*
- *Memorial Garden Service, May 24 at 11:15 a.m.*
- *Free Piano!*
- *Congratulations to Eagle Scouts*
- *My Front Porch, Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Covenant Room*
- *Rev. Julie Emery Message Regarding Concert Protest*

**Important Events in Our Community**

- *YMCA Camp WeHa at Westminster: Registration is Open*

**Prayers for Our Community and Our World**

- *A Celebration of the Life of Richard Stafford, June 12 at 2p.m.*
- *Grace & Space Fellowship and Prayer, Mondays at 12:30 p.m.*

**Westminster News and Events**



## **PRAYER SHAWLS & BLANKETS**

Wednesdays | 1-2 p.m.

March 11 | April 8 | May 13 | June 10

Yarn, material & instructions provided.

ALL are welcome to our "Hearts & Hands" gathering, this Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Covenant Room, to create shawls and blankets which will be shared with members of our community in their time of need. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!** Anyone can quickly learn to make the no-sew blankets and knitters will be on hand to teach folks who want to learn. All supplies will be provided.

Please contact Linda Geisler at [linda.barron.geisler@comcast.net](mailto:linda.barron.geisler@comcast.net) with any questions.

---



## **Westminster Volunteer Day at Levo International Hydroponic Farm, Hartford Saturday, May 30 from 9am-12noon**

Join us for a rewarding morning of hands-on service and community impact at Levo International on Saturday, May 30 from 9am - 12noon. To learn more about Levo [click here](#).

Levo's mission is strengthening communities through sustainable hydroponic farming and improved food access.

Volunteers at the farm perform a variety of tasks: planting seedlings, building and maintaining the hydroponic system, and harvesting crops.

**If you would like to get involved and join us, please contact Lesley Morrey at [lpmorrey@gmail.com](mailto:lpmorrey@gmail.com) or 860-778-5948 for sign up instructions.**

---

### **Session Highlights from April 29th Meeting**

In our April meeting, Westminster's Session gathered with great purpose as we continue to see potential and growth for the Westminster community and our resources.

Our primary focus in the meeting was to assess the findings of the Imagine That! event held in March, and review some preliminary recommendations from our two outside consultants. Session initially planned to present these results to the congregation in early May, but decided that more information and research was needed.

To recap the scope of work and process to date:

**Phase 1 through end of March: Assessment - complete!**

This phase focused on understanding current conditions. It also included stakeholder engagement, which involved conducting listening sessions and distributing a survey to gather input and perspectives.

**Phase 2 through end of April: Project Vision - finishing up!**

During this phase, the consultants, along with the Housing Development Team and Session hosted the Imagine That! event as the final listening post. Following this meeting, the consultants developed initial design and program concepts, which Session reviewed as a draft in our April 29th meeting, and requested more information regarding several.

**Phase 3 through end of May: Recommendations - starting!**

The final phase centers on analysis and recommendations. It includes conducting a SWOT analysis and reviewing best practices, as well as performing a financial analysis to test the feasibility of any proposal. The team will also identify potential funding and financing sources and produce a final report.

Church members will be given an opportunity to review proposals in the very near future.

Other brief updates:

- The Ministerial Relations & Personnel Committee is in the final stages of reviewing candidates for the new Sexton and the Operations and Hospitality Coordinator.
- Work continues to prepare for the building's use by the YMCA this summer.
- Session will be reviewing our rental policies and procedures so that we are better able to respond to any suitability questions related to future rental opportunities.

As always, we remind you that Session meetings are open. While voting is reserved for Session members, your presence, voice, and input are always welcome and valued. Our next meeting will be held at Westminster on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Smart Room.



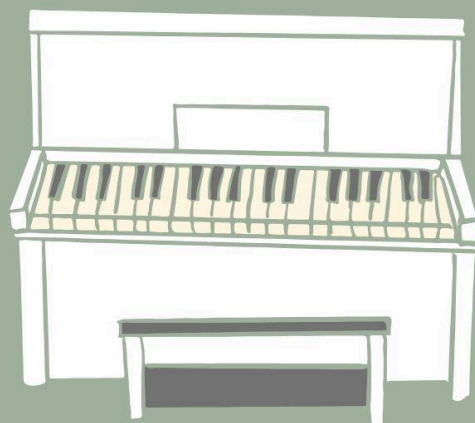
**Memorial Garden Service Sunday  
May 24 at 11:15 a.m.**

It is Westminster Presbyterian Church's tradition on Memorial Day weekend to give thanks for the lives of all the beloved saints whose ashes have been placed with care in the Memorial and Meditation Garden. The Memorial Garden service will be held Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 11:15 a.m. (immediately following our Sunday worship service). This brief service will be held in the garden and will include scripture, prayer and song. In the event of rain, the service will be held in the chapel. [Click here](#) to see the list of those at rest in the Memorial Garden.

Any questions about the service, please contact Becky Kimberly, church administrator at [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org) or 860-521-6240.

---

# FREE PIANO



Westminster is looking to find a home for one of our pianos. The piano needs some TLC, but has been confirmed by a reputable piano tuner to be worth keeping. The piano would be free - you would be responsible for moving it (we can put you in touch with a piano mover). Contact Becky Kimberly at [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org) for more information.

---

## **Congratulations to the 163rd and 164th Eagle Scouts of Troop 163**

Scouting America Troop 163's most recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on Sunday April 26 in the sanctuary at Westminster Presbyterian Church, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

In addition to the celebration of two outstanding young people, this court of honor enjoyed two special milestones:

First, the 163rd Eagle Scout is church member Hayes Rieger. *(pictured on the right)*

Second, the 164th Eagle Scout, Geoffrey Herrnson *(pictured on the left)*, is the 50th Eagle Scout awarded by long-time troop Scoutmaster Mike Stimson. *(Photography by Craig Rosenberg)*

Hayes and Geoffrey, lifelong friends, were recognized together for their impressive achievements including earning many more merit badges than required to attain the highest rank in Scouting, and both being members of Order of the Arrow, Scouting America's honor society.



Hayes' Eagle project was building a bridge and boardwalk on the Hinman Trail in Nassahegan State Forest in Burlington, reducing environmental impacts of the trail and improving safety for bikers and hikers; Geoffrey's Eagle project marked and remarked hiking trails at West Hartford reservoirs #3 and #5 to improve safety for hikers and to assist the West Hartford Fire Department in rescue activities when needed.

Troop 163 shares a deep history with this church. Westminster Presbyterian Church has been the troop's charter organization since its founding in 1955. The troop recognized its first Eagle Scout in 1959.

---

# 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

## **Rev. Julie Emery Message Regarding Concert Controversy**

As some of you are aware, Westminster has been facing a unique challenge related to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine and an event that was planned by a group that rents our space. Rev. Julie Emery sent an a message regarding this last week. Click the link below to read the message.

[Message from Rev. Julie Emery](#)

## **Important Events in Our Community**

**YMCA Camp at Westminster This Summer  
Registration is Open!**



**Where every child can Belong to Something Greater.**

**June 22 – August 21**

**Grades: PreK – 6th**

Day Camp: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Before Care: 7 am – 9 am

After Care: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Questions? Contact  
ethan.basch@ghymca.org  
or 860 653 5524



**Location:**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford



Westminster is excited to be the location of the YMCA Camp WeHa this summer. Share the news with your neighbors and friends! Registration is open - click the link below for more details.

[Click Here for Camp Registration](#)

**Prayers for our Community and Our World**



## A Celebration of the Life of Richard Stafford

Dear Westminster Family,

It is with great sadness that we share the news that one of our beloved saints, Richard Stafford, passed away on April 26. A service to celebrate his life will take place at Westminster on June 12 at 2:00 p.m.

Richard was one of the longest active members of our church community, joining Westminster along with his family when he was 8 years old. Richard has shared many memories of the early years of Westminster including the distinctive memory of golf balls ricocheting off the roof of the Buena Vista Golf Clubhouse when the church worshipped there.

Richard served Westminster in many capacities throughout the years, including as the church administrator for nine years. Some may recall that he was honored at our recent 75th anniversary celebration by cutting the cake at our celebratory luncheon. Please [click here](#) to read Richard's obituary.

Richard will be remembered for his wise counsel, his generous encouragement, and his witty humor. He will be missed by all who knew him. We hold his wife Janet, their family and all who grieve his loss in our prayers at this time.

As we grieve the loss of Richard, who has now joined the great saints of our church, we trust and believe that, nothing, not even death, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In faith,

Julie

---



A time for  
fellowship & prayer

Mondays | 12:30 — 1 p.m.

COVENANT ROOM

Join Us

All are welcome to join us for Grace & Space, a time of sharing and prayer, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in the Covenant Room. *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 pray for peace, especially in those places of increased violence and war particularly in Iran and throughout the Middle East. We pray for a peaceful resolution to conflict. May God's peace take root in the hearts of all people, may peace prevail.

We pray for the communities 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 to be found.

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: George Dewey, who is responding well to lung cancer treatment; Nancy Murray, former Westminster member, asking prayers for a successful surgery, full recovery and wisdom in discerning the path forward; Ashley Aronson and for her parents Craig and Nicole who are providing care and support; Abbey Downing's father Jack Neller, who is recovering from a bilateral lung transplant; Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara; David MacMeekin; Bob and Carol Rentz; 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:**

The friends and family of Richard Stafford, who died on April 26. *(Please see further details at the top of the prayer page).*

We continue to lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: the family of Jamison Clegg, Eina Reiger's cousin; the family of Camden Siegal; 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)

---

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church | 2080 Boulevard | West Hartford, CT 06107 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!