

February 8, 2026



Christ Lulls the Storm by Jesus MAFA

Worship With Us On Sunday!

5th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture

Matthew 8:23-37

Sermon

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.



This Week at Westminster

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

Westminster News and Events

- *Curling Demonstration After Worship Sunday!*
- *GHIAA Leadership Training Starting February 10*
- *Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Sunday, February 22*
- *Sign up to Bring Food for Annual Meeting Luncheon*
- *Our Front Porch Gathering*
- *Stewardship Reminder*
- *Session Report from January 27th Meeting*

Prayers for Our Community and Our World

- *Community Prayer Time, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. in the Covenant Room*



CURIOUS ABOUT CURLING?

Want to learn more about the Olympic sport of curling? Westminster members Craig and Erin Doucette are members of a curling club and will do a demonstration of what curling is all about this Sunday during coffee hour! Please join us!

***JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL AFTER WORSHIP THIS
SUNDAY TO LEARN MORE!***



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AFTER WORSHIP



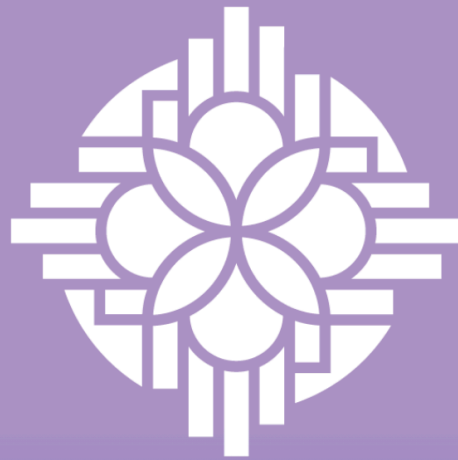
GHIAA Leadership Training Tuesday Evenings Beginning February 10

Have you wished you could get more involved in the work of justice? Have you wondered what YOU can do to make our community better for people who need support? Have you ever wondered how GHIAA (the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) chooses the issues they work on or are you interested in learning more about community organizing?

GHIAA is holding a leadership training on Tuesday nights from February 10 to March 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Temple Sinai in Newington, to explore the fundamentals of faith-based organizing, learn the practices of relational culture, discuss how we build and wield power for the work of ministry and understand the logistics of choosing issues and building skills for action.

The training is free and engaging and is offered to the entire GHIAA network, so a great opportunity to get to know other faithful people who care about justice. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Peter Benner, Tom Buckley or Rev. Julie Emery.

Register for the training by [clicking here](#).



Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

Sunday, February 22

11:30 a.m. following worship

Meeting and luncheon in the Fellowship Hall

Westminster will hold its Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on Sunday, February 22 at 11:30 a.m. to receive the annual reports of the congregation, review the budget for 2026, and act upon any other business that may properly come before the congregation and corporation. *This will be a hybrid meeting (using our Sunday morning worship Zoom link).* We invite all those interested and invested in our ministry to attend and participate. We will enjoy a meal and fellowship at a luncheon following the meeting (*see details below*).

Any questions, please contact Becky Kimberly via email at office@westpresby.org or call the church office at 860-521-6240.



Sign-Up to Bring Food for Annual Meeting Luncheon

We are looking for contributions to our potluck luncheon at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 22, 2026, being held following worship.

Click the button below to sign-up if you can bring items like salad, soup, breads and desserts. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work" so we are grateful to those who can help set-up prior and clean-up after the luncheon. All food donations should be marked "Annual Meeting" and delivered to the church kitchen by 9:50 a.m. on Sunday, February 22. Thank you!

Contact Linda Geisler at linda.barron.geisler@comcast.net with any questions.

[Sign-up for Annual Meeting Luncheon](#)

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 (larryrcarr@gmail.com) for more information



Westminster Stewardship



Every commitment of time, talent,
and treasure helps strengthen our
shared ministry and move us
forward together. Thank you for
being part of this vibrant, caring
community of faith.

Last Sunday we will celebrated Commitment Sunday as we joyfully committed to the ministries and welcoming community that makes Westminster such a special place. We encourage everyone to participate at a level that feels faithful and meaningful. If you have already filled out a pledge card, thank you! If not, feel free to click the link below to submit a digital commitment card or **email your commitment** to Greg Hammond, Stewardship Chair, at rgregoryh@yahoo.com.

[Link to Online Commitment Card](#)


Session Update from January 27th Meeting

The following are highlight from our recent Session meeting:

- The hearing before the West Hartford Town Plan and Zoning Commission to permit the church to be the site of a YMCA camp this summer, being held on February 4 was discussed. Members of the congregation were encouraged to attend at Town Hall to express support for the application.
- Session received a report from the Housing Team that an affordable housing consultant and an architect have been retained to assist in understanding feasible options for developing affordable housing on the Church property. The work of the consultant and architect will be covered by a grant the

church received for that purpose. Again, this is an exploratory process whose outcome is intended to enable the Session and the congregation to make informed decisions on whether providing affordable housing is a suitable addition to the church's mission.

- Session discussed possible responses following the second fatal shooting in Minneapolis. There is a Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis near the ongoing immigration action and protests. The Serve Team will consider how our church may assist the Minneapolis church in responding to the crisis.



COMMUNITY PRAYER

EVERY MONDAY AT 12:30 P.M. in the Covenant Room

Prayers for our Community and Our World

Blessing the Threshold, by Jan Richardson
from *How the Stars Get in Our Bones*

This blessing
has been waiting for you
for a long time.

While you have been
making your way here,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
biding its time,
praying.

this blessing has been
polishing the door,
oiling the hinges,

a spiraling road
and bread
and grace.

All this time
it has kept an eye
on the horizon,
watching,
keeping vigil,
hardly aware of how
it was leaning itself
in your direction.

And now that
you are here,

sweeping the steps,
lighting candles
in the windows.

This blessing has been
setting the table
as it hums a tune
from an old song
it knows,
something about

this blessing
can hardly believe
its good fortune
that you have finally arrived,
that it can drop everything
at last
to fling its arms wide
to you, crying
welcome,
welcome,
welcome.

A small group of Westminster folks gathers each Monday at 12:30 pm in the Covenant Room to pray for each other and the world. We hope you will consider joining us in person or perhaps even stopping each Monday at the same time to pray for the world, for the church, and for our community. May God's grace and presence be with you in this season.

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 LGBTQIA+ 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: Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; David MacMeekin as he recovers from a recent fall and hip surgery; Anne Carney as she recovers from a knee replacement; Callie Boone as she recovers from surgery; Becky Kimberly's brother-in-law Ray; Bob and Carol Rentz; Liz Grabber's mother Barbara; Eric Ouellette's mother Penny who is undergoing medical tests; Beverly Murphy who is in rehab recovering from a broken leg; Mike McElroy's wife Jane who is suffering from Lyme disease; Abbey Downing's father Jack Neller, who is facing serious health challenges; Yvonne Smith; Doug Levine, friend of Marilyn Pikor, who suffered a stroke; 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 family of Ola Coe, a member of Westminster who passed away on January 1 at the age of 94. [Click here](#) to read Ola's obituary.

We lift to God all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in recent months: 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

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