

August 16, 2026



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Daughter of the Canaanite Woman by Peter Koenig

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture

Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon

Zeus's Law

The Rev. John Merz

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

- *GHIAA Court Accompaniment Training, August 30*
- *Help Host Coffee Hour this August*
- *Volunteer Day at Hydroponic Farm in Hartford, August 29*

- *Where is God Calling You: Ways to Serve at Westminster*
- *Support Ella Kimberly's PC (USA) YAV Year in Peru*

Important Events in Our Community

- *South Park Inn Fundraiser, Dance it Out!*

Prayers for Our Community and Our World

Westminster News and Events



Be a Moral Witness of Faith Take Part in Court Accompaniment Training Sunday, August 30 at Westminster

Westminster Presbyterian Church will host a Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) event to provide training in court accompaniment on Sunday, August 30 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Trained accompaniment volunteers offer presence, witness, moral support, and solidarity with vulnerable people in stressful situations such as ICE check-ins, immigration hearings, and criminal court. Led by the Hartford Deportation Defense, this training will cover the basics of what it means to accompany someone, what the role entails, and the way one carries themselves through the process.

This is open to anyone interested in being informed of what is happening in our area and to see if this is something that spurs you to be involved as a moral witness of faith. Click the link below to register.

[Register Here!](#)

Some Westminster members joined Rev. Julie Emery at an informational session last week that gave an overview of all the immigrant protection activities in which a congregation could engage. A small group including Rev. Julie, Peter Benner, Larry Carr and Tom Buckley are meeting to discuss potential engagement activities for our congregation.

Westminster is a founding member of GHIAA, a nonprofit broad-based organization of 52 diverse faith communities and allied institutions organizing together for justice in the Greater Hartford Region.

Any questions or to learn more, please speak with Rev. Julie or contact Tom Buckley at tbtrailrun@hotmail.com.



Help us Extend Hospitality this Summer with Refreshments After Worship!

Throughout August we will host our friends at First Presbyterian Church of Hartford. As part of that hospitality, we will be providing refreshments following worship and we need your help!

Here's what you can do:

- **Be a host!** That means putting out food and lemonade after worship Sunday and cleaning up afterwards. Everything you need will be in the kitchen. Food will be provided and pitchers of lemonade will be in the refrigerator. There are also popsicles in the freezer! **We need hosts for Sundays August 23 & 30.**
- **Donate food!** Bring baked goods, snacks, etc. to the church that can be put out on Sunday morning.

Please contact Becky Kimberly in the church office at 860-521-6240 or email office@westpresby.org if you can help!



Westminster Volunteer Day #2 at Levo International Hydroponic Farm in Hartford Saturday, August 29 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Join us for a rewarding morning of hands-on service and community impact at Levo International! More about Levo here:

<https://levointernational.org/>

Levo's mission is strengthening communities through sustainable hydroponic farming and improved food access. Volunteers at the farm perform a variety of tasks including planting seedlings, building and maintaining the hydroponic system, and harvesting crops.

Westminster members who attended our last event found it to be very rewarding and a great opportunity to connect with other members while doing good!

If you would like to get involved and join us on Saturday August 29, please contact Lesley Morrey at lpmorrey@gmail.com or 860-778-5948 for sign up instructions.

Where is God Calling You? Opportunities to Serve at Westminster

The Session is seeking members to represent the Finance, Flourish, MR&P, and Engage teams as Elders for the 2026–2027 calendar year. We are grateful to outgoing Session members Greg Hammond (Finance), Peter Benner (Flourish), and Janet Wade-Utay (MR&P) for their dedicated service, and now invite others to share their time and

talents in these important roles. If you are interested in serving or would like to learn more, please contact Rev. Julie Emery or any current Session member — your participation is greatly appreciated.

The next Session meeting is Wednesday August 26th at 6:30pm in the Smart room. All are welcomed to attend the meeting.



Ella Kimberly to Embark on PC (USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Year in Perú Learn How to Support Her Journey

On Monday, August 17, I will be moving to Perú for a year as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) for the Presbyterian Church (USA). This is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young adults between the ages of 19-30. YAVs work with a local agency within their site location to address the root causes of poverty and racism, with an overall focus on the theme of reconciliation. ([click here](#) to learn more about the YAV program.)

Although I am still learning what my responsibilities will be, I know that I will be volunteering with an agency that works with children in Perú's capital, Lima. I chose this program because I want to live a life of service, but I'm not sure what exactly that will look like. This will be an opportunity for me to reflect on how I am being called to service, how to lead by example as a Christian, and to fully immerse myself in a culture that is different from the one in which I've always lived.

A YAV year abroad is supported by donors. I am asked to raise a total of \$5,000 to cover the cost of my year in Peru. Thanks to the generosity of my church community, along with a commitment from the Session at Westminster of \$1,000, I'm close to reaching my goal! Donations are still welcome by clicking the link below.

As a YAV volunteer I will be blogging my experiences in Perú, and I will make sure this is shared with the congregation. I look forward to sharing my journey with you!

Ella Kimberly

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

We are called to live out our discipleship within the community of faith, that we might support each other in walking the path of Christ. We share our struggles and our joys to invite others in, receiving the support we also give.

Susanne G. Farnham writes in *Listening Hearts*, "A wise swimmer does not cross a difficult channel without a boat close behind, with those aboard watching for signs of danger or weariness and providing words of encouragement along the way. Nor does a prudent climber scale a mountain alone, without companions to hold the rope and help along the way."

So too, we help one another bear the burdens of life, by sharing the way God is at work in our lives, as well as our needs and struggles. We invite you to pray for our community and world using the prayers below.

We celebrate with:

Our choral scholars, Ryan Mancini and Vanessa Paré, who are preparing for their wedding on August 21, in Italy.

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 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: David MacMeekin who is recovering after a recent fall and David's granddaughter Tara who has been sick; Kevin Wunder's friend Nick who recently broke his arm; Becky Kimberly's father John; George Dewey; 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; Bob and Carol Rentz; 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 Mary Sand, who passed away this past week. A Service in Witness to the Resurrection in her honor will be held on August 22 at 1 pm. 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.

The family and loved ones of Nancy Hoffman, who passed away this week. Nancy faithfully served as Westminster's church administrator for 20 years (before retiring in 2000).

The family and friends of Marilyn Pikor's dear friends, Carol and Stan, who both passed away recently.

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

Peter Benner (Flourish) pbenner16@gmail.com
Liz Doering (Clerk) lizdoering81@gmail.com
Stephen Frazzini (Sustain: Buildings & Grounds) stevefraz@me.com
Linda Geisler (Care) linda.barron.geisler@comcast.net
Greg Hammond (Sustain: Finance) rgregoryh@yahoo.com
Sheila Huddleston (Worship) sheilahuddleston7@gmail.com
Lesley Morrey (Serve) lpmorrey@gmail.com
Janet Wade-Utay (Sustain: MR&P) mainSt.chef10@gmail.com

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

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

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