

April 19, 2026



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Road to Emmaus by He Qi*

**Worship With Us On Sunday!**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

**Scripture**  
Luke 24:13-25

**Sermon**

*Faith in Conversation*

The Rev. Julie Emery and Brianna E. Dunlap, Director of  
Development and Community Relations at South Park Inn

**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**

- *Conversation with South Park Inn this Sunday*
- *Easter Egg Hunt Thank You*
- *Coffee Hour and Baby Sprinkle for the Helbergs, April 26*
- *My Front Porch, Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Covenant Room*
- *Session Update*

**Important Events in Our Community**

- *GHIAA Advocacy Day, Tuesday, April 21*
- *YMCA Camp WeHa at Westminster: Registration is Open*

**Prayers for Our Community and Our World**

- *Grace & Space Fellowship and Prayer, Mondays at 12:30 p.m.*



Breaking the cycle of homelessness

## This Sunday, April 19

We welcome Brianna E. Dunlap, Director of Development and Community Relations at South Park Inn.

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This Sunday during worship we will focus on the mission of South Park Inn, a long-time mission partner of Westminster.



## Our Easter Egg Hunt was bigger than ever this year!

Thanks to the MANY people who donated items and volunteered to help welcome over 750 people (including 370 children) to our Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a chaotic but very joyful morning that included many smiles, hugs for the Easter Bunny, and lots of donations for the West Hartford Food Pantry.



## Did You See Us Featured on Channel 8 News?



Church member Lindsay Reiff  
was interviewed for a news  
story that aired that evening.  
([click here](#) to watch)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COFFEE HOUR

**BABY  
SPRINKLE**

HONORING

**SARAH & ALEX  
HELBERG**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH**

JOIN US TO "SPRINKLE" SARAH & ALEX  
WITH LOVE AS THEY WELCOME THEIR  
BABY BOY IN MAY.



# 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](mailto:pbenner16@gmail.com)) or  
Larry Carr ([larrycarr@gmail.com](mailto:larrycarr@gmail.com)) for more information

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## **Save the Date: May 3rd After Worship Follow-up From Imagine That!**

On May 3, join us after worship in the Smart Room for a presentation from Liz Torres of HousingSmarts and Kathy Dorgan, architect. They will share thoughts on concepts for more fully utilizing our amazing asset - this property!

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## **Westminster Session Highlights - March 22**

Session gathered with a spirit of excitement and gratitude as we continue to see meaningful momentum across many areas of Westminster's life together.

### **1. Imagining the Future Together**

We celebrated the energy and thoughtful engagement from our recent "Imagine That!" event. Members of the congregation toured the church and grounds, reflected on the values that define our community, and explored architectural drawings to imagine what could be possible for Westminster's future. Ideas, dreams, and suggestions were gathered as part of Session's ongoing discernment during this important season of transition, helping us listen for where God is calling us next. This process is being guided by two outside consultants, supported through a \$25,000 grant from Housing Ministries of New England. If you would like to learn more, our consultants will present their findings on Sunday, May 3rd immediately following worship.

### **2. Gratitude for Generous Stewardship**

The Finance Team has successfully concluded the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, receiving 76 pledges totaling \$278,137, reaching 93% of

our \$300,000 goal. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and commitment shown by our congregation in supporting Westminster's ministries. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, it is not too late. You can still share your intended support by contacting Finance Team Chair **Greg Hammond** at [rgregoryh@yahoo.com](mailto:rgregoryh@yahoo.com). Additional pledges will also be added as new members join throughout the year.

### **3. Building Our Team for the Future**

The Ministerial Relations & Personnel (MR&P) Committee is actively reviewing resumes for three important roles: a new sexton (as we prepare to celebrate Mike McElroy's retirement this spring), the Operations and Hospitality Coordinator, and the possibility of combining these roles into one position. With more than 120 applications received, the committee is carefully reviewing 55 candidates as they begin the process of identifying individuals to invite for interviews. We are encouraged by the strong interest in serving Westminster and look forward to welcoming new team members.

### **4. Expanding Opportunities to Serve**

The Serve Team continues to create meaningful ways for our congregation to engage in hands-on mission work. An exciting upcoming opportunity with LEVO International will focus on supporting local hydroponic farming efforts to provide fresh produce in a North Hartford food desert. More details will be shared soon. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Elder Leslie Morrey at [lpmorrey@gmail.com](mailto:lpmorrey@gmail.com).

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, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Smart Room.

## **Important Events in Our Community**



### **Advocacy Day! Tuesday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join Us for a Day of Legislative Advocacy**

Ever wondered about the work that the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) does? Curious about how faithful people raise issues to our state legislature? Feeling hopeless about the state of the country and looking for tangible ways to make a difference???

Join us for GHIAA's Advocacy Day on Tuesday!

We will gather first for light breakfast at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and then walk over to the Capitol for a meeting with Rep. Jillian Gilchrist. Then we will break up into groups to meet and talk with our

various legislators. This will be a day of public witness, legislative advocacy, leadership development, relationship building, and more! Join us!!

For more information - reach out to Rev. Julie Emery or Peter Benner. [Click here](#) to register if you'd like to attend.

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



**Let's Make This Summer Matter!**  
This way to **YMCA CAMP WEHA**

**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 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 LBGQTQIA+ 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 battling lung cancer; Richard Stafford who is going through medical challenges; Nancy Murray, former Westminster member, who is dealing with health issues; Ashley Aronson who is having a challenging recovery from surgery 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 who is recovering from her second surgery; 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:**

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)  
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