

October 4, 2026



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Moses by James August Swanson

Worship With Us!

World Communion Sunday

Scripture
Exodus 17:1-17

Sermon

When God Provides (And We Grumble)
The Rev. Julie Emery

Bulletin

Bulletin Insert

10:00 a.m. Sunday Hybrid Worship Link

Zoom Meeting ID: 822 3301 6989

Please note that our worship service is recorded and posted online.

**Any questions, contact Becky Kimberly in
the office at office@westpresby.org.**



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

Westminster News and Events

- *World Communion Sunday Offering, October 4*
- *Collecting Food Donations this Communion Sunday*
- *Volunteers Needed for Faithful Families Sunday Gatherings*
- *"Just This" Four-Week Book Study Beginning October 12*
- *Volunteers Needed for Coffee Hour*
- *What's Happening at Session*
- *Brunch Bunch on Sunday, October 18*
- *Our Front Porch Gathering, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.*
- *Hearing Assist Capabilities at Westminster*

Important Events in Our Community

- *Represent Westminster at GHIAA Power Summit, October 15*

Prayers for Our Community and Our World

Westminster News and Events



World Communion Sunday A Global Offering for Peace and Justice

The World Communion Offering through the Presbyterian Church (USA) works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. This Sunday, Westminster will join churches across our denomination for World Communion Sunday to collect funds towards the work of our global Church. **Click the video below to learn more!**



Support the West Hartford Food Pantry

**BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
DONATIONS TO WORSHIP ON
COMMUNION SUNDAY!**

*The Serve Team is collecting food donations each
Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month).
Donations can be placed at the back of the sanctuary
or in the food donation bin outside the Fellowship Hall.*



**Westminster is starting a
new group for young
families**

FAITHFUL FAMILIES
will meet for 8 Sundays
this fall.

Love this idea? Want to help
support our young families?
[Click Here](#) to find a sign up list
where you can volunteer to help
with lunch or with childcare

**Thank you for your help
as we support young
families in our
congregation**



richard rohr

just this

"Just This": A Four-Week Book Study Mondays, October 12 - November 2 at 6:30pm

In today's stressful and often disconnected world, we've found that creating a little space to gather can make a big difference; a chance to slow down, get to know one another, and talk about things that really matter. Larry and Cathi Nelson are going to lead a **four-week conversation group** around the small book of reflections called, *Just This* by Fr. Richard Rohr. It's a short, beautiful book with just four chapters.

Each week, we'll explore one simple theme:

**Awe
Waking Up
Surrendering
Practices**

We know how busy life can be, so we're keeping it intentionally simple:

Mondays, October 12–November 2
Our home: [26 Westpoint Terrace, West Hartford](#)
Near Conard High School

Come around **6:30 PM** for some informal conversation and connection. We'll begin the discussion at **7:00 and end promptly at 8:00 PM.**

And don't worry if you don't finish, or even read the chapter. The book is simply a jumping-off point. We think the conversation will be just as meaningful.

The book can be purchased for **\$10 through the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) website**. To purchase one, [click here](#). Please RSVP to Becky Kimberly in the church office by emailing office@westpresby.org.



Help Host Coffee Hour on Sundays!

Do you love the chance to connect with church-goers after worship each Sunday? Can you bake or buy some muffins to share with friends occasionally? Can you mix lemonade and set out cups or clean up afterward? Please consider signing up to help on an upcoming Sunday so that we can continue this important ministry.

Sign-Up to Help with Coffee Hour

Session Meeting Update

At its September 23rd meeting, the Session approved the revised rental application for use of our building's space and discussed updating the website so that it provides more information for prospective renters. Session also decided to hold small group discussions with the congregation during the service on October 25. The topic will be stewarding our property. Buildings and Grounds will interview potential property management companies within the week. The next session meeting will be held October 28 at 6:30 PM.



— WELCOME SINGLE ADULTS 60+ —

 **SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 18
11:00AM**

 **COVENANT ROOM,
WESTMINSTER**

The Brunch Bunch is planning its next gathering for Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. right after church in the Covenant 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](tel:860-803-9090)) or email her at bdriih@gmail.com

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



Westminster welcomes WaveCAST

**Our new Bluetooth-enabled
hearing assistive technology**



We are excited to share that our Bluetooth-enabled hearing assist equipment, Williams WaveCAST, is up and running in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Our A/V technicians and Minister of Music are ready to support you in using this technology during worship.

To set you up for success, please do the following **before** coming to church:

1. Ensure your hearing aids are compatible with Bluetooth.
2. Enable Bluetooth on your phone and connect your hearing aids.
3. Download the Williams WaveCAST app in the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#).

When you **arrive**

1. Connect to the **westpresby-guest** wifi. Signs with the password are in the back of the Sanctuary.
2. Open the WaveCAST app (making sure your hearing aids are connected to your phone).
3. Search for: Main Sanctuary in the app.

BONUS: Tap the heart icon next to the room and save it as a favorite so you don't need to look it up again.

To use the app, drag your finger along the slider to increase or decrease the volume. Press **play** to begin the feed and **stop** to pause it. That's it!

If you plan on using the technology for the first time, you are encouraged to **come at least 15 minutes early** so we have plenty of time to assist you if needed. Should your hearing aids not work with Bluetooth, no problem! We have other options for individual sound amplification. Email Callie at music@westpresby.org or check in with an A/V tech if you want to learn more.

Important Events in Our Community

Represent Westminster at the GHIAA Power Summit Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.



POWER SUMMIT 2026

Thursday, October 15
6:30-8:30 pm (doors open at 5:30)
Immanuel Congregational Church
10 Woodland St. Hartford, CT

Join 700+ leaders from 50+ GHIAA member institutions to uplift our priority issues, launch new action campaigns, and seek commitments from elected officials in our districts



Follow the QR code or visit
cljct.org/power-summit to register

Westminster is a founding member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) and a strong showing from our community

will demonstrate our continued commitment to the critical social and community justice issues GHIAA addresses through the "power of the people."

Each year's Power Summit is an important action for GHIAA, with 700+ leaders present to launch new campaigns, seek commitments from our elected officials, and make commitments ourselves, too. It's always a deeply impactful--and uplifting--evening. Let's help fill the sanctuary at Immanuel to show GHIAA's full strength and power. To learn more, contact Peter Benner at pbenner16@gmail.com or 860-922-4114.

Prayers for our Community and Our World

There have been many deaths in our congregation and in our world in these last months. Even as we mourn losses in our own lives we are affected as well by the losses of luminous spirits such as Catherine O'Hara, Dolly Parton, Tim Curry, and most recently a favorite writer - Annie Dillard.

Dillard wrote the beautiful book "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek," and from it comes this quote: *"The answer must be, I think, that beauty and grace are performed whether or not we will or sense them. The least we can do is try to be there."*

As followers of Christ, we believe this - that beauty and grace are everywhere, even in the midst of grief and death, even in the midst of the war and suffering we see all around us. Prayer is an act of affirming this belief - that God is with us, that God's grace is available to us if we simply take a moment to reach for it.

We invite you to hold our community in prayer throughout your week, to reach for God's grace, to watch for God's beauty, and to pray in thanksgiving in hope for ourselves and each other. We offer the prayers below for our community and our world:

We give thanks for celebration and milestones:

We give thanks for the wedding celebration of Sandy Fry's daughter Emily to Kevin Harrigan. We pray God's blessings upon them as they begin their married life together.

We give thanks for all those who have said yes to serving as leaders at Westminster. May God guide and direct them as they help lead our congregation, and may God help them to serve with "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love."

We pray for those near and far:

We pray for peace in Gaza, Iran, Sudan. May God's peace take root in the hearts of all people, and may those who are caught in between the powers and principalities be protected and comforted.

We pray for all people who, because of conflict and economic instability, have been forced into migration to seek safety and stability. We especially pray for the people of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. May God's strength and presence be with migrants everywhere.

We pray for all of God's creation, and for people impacted by the repercussions of global warming. 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 especially pray for Jane Sebolt, who recently sustained a fall and is now recovering at home.

We continue to pray for: 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; 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 upon:

The family and loved ones of David MacMeekin; the family and loved ones of Bob Rentz; the family and loved ones of Ross and Ginger Ludeman; 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; the Rev. Laura Opsahl upon the death of her sister, Eugenia, may God surround their family and bring them peace; and the family and loved ones of Yvonne Smith, especially daughters Diane Smith and Aimee Hopkins.

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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