

December 21, 2025



Center Christ by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Worship With Us On Sunday!

4th Sunday of Advent Paper Bag Pageant

Part of our worship service on Sunday, the Paper Bag Pageant tells the story of Jesus' birth through scripture reading, carol singing, and delightfully fun props. Everyone of every age is invited - there is a part and place for all levels of participation. No rehearsal or preparation is required - just see what part is inside the paper bag you are given. Come to worship and join in the fun!

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.**



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

Westminster News and Events

- ***The Season of Advent at Westminster***
 - *Paper Bag Pageant in Worship this Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*
 - *Interfaith Longest Night Service this Sunday at 5:00 p.m.*
 - *Advent Study, Monday at 6:30 p.m.*
 - *Christmas Choir*
 - *Christmas Eve Worship at 8:00 p.m.*
- ***Opportunities to Give***
 - *Magi Gifts for South Park Inn Homeless Shelter*
- ***Other News***
 - *Welcome Our New Members*
 - *Per Capita Reminder*
 - *Our Front Porch (Connection Hour) Sundays at 9:00 a.m.*

- Church Holiday Hours

Prayers for Our Community and Our World

- Community Prayer Time: Now Mondays at 12:30 p.m. (Resumes January 5)

Westminster News and Events



INTERFAITH LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

*In this season of festivity, many experience
heaviness, worry and grief.*

You are not alone!

*Several West Hartford faith communities are
coming together to host a multi-faith service,
shining light into the long, dark winter nights.*

All are welcome!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
5:00 - 5:45 PM**

Reception with snacks and time for connection to follow

LOCATION:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2080 Boulevard, West Hartford

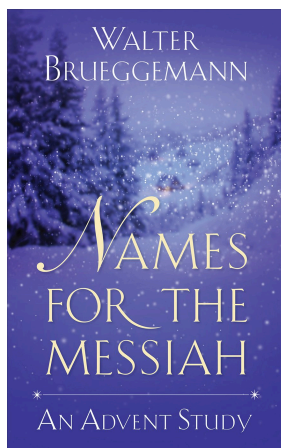
Visit www.westpresby.org to join the service online



Westminster will host this multi-faith service of solace and reflection. We will be joined by leaders of local faith communities including Beth El Temple, First Baptist Church, West Hartford, First Church of West Hartford, Quaker Hartford Meeting House and Universalist Church of West Hartford. In-person and online (below is the link).

[Longest Night Live Worship Link](#)

Advent Study: "Name of the Messiah" Monday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom



Join the Rev. Julie Emery for an Advent Study: "Names for the Messiah" on Monday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Christians have claimed from their beginnings that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures. What were these expectations, and did Jesus fulfill them?

The prophet Isaiah shared a well-known and beloved oracle that uses four titles to describe the Messiah: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Our study will look at the ways people understood these royal titles and how Jesus did or did not fulfill these titles.

Using this study by Walter Bruggemann, and delving into other prophetic sources such as Richard Rohr's new "The Tears of Things," as well as Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words from the Nazi prison

camp, we will ponder the way these prophetic words and titles speak to our lives even now. [Click here](#) for the Zoom link.



All are invited to join our Christmas Eve Choir. We will be singing familiar hymns in worship and want you to be a part of lifting our voices in song. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for a brief rehearsal and then sing with us during worship at 8:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Callie Boone, Minister of Music, at music@westpresby.org.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

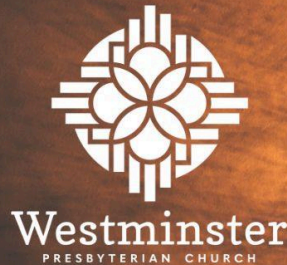
8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

MUSICAL PRELUDE BEGINS AT 7:30 P.M.

WORSHIP WITH US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE.



Our Christmas Eve online worship link will be the same as our Sunday hybrid worship link. You can also visit www.westpresby.org or click the link below.

Christmas Eve Hybrid Worship Link



Support South Park Inn Homeless Shelter Through Magi Gifts Collection

Each Christmas season, Westminster collects Magi Gifts (formerly known as white gifts) to support the mission of South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford, CT. South Park Inn provides safe, temporary sleeping space for the unhoused, along with other services supporting mental health, veterans and people in transition.

South Park Inn shelter is in need for the following items:

Men's and women's hoodies (large, XL, XXL)

Gaiters

Men's and women's thermal fleece shirts (large, XL, XXL)

Thermal gloves (large)

Men's and women's sweat pants (large, XL)

Scarves

Women's toiletries

Heavy socks

Gift cards (local grocery/big retail store)

Please note, all donations should be new and left unwrapped. Gifts can be dropped off at the church - there will be a box outside the church office and one in the back of the sanctuary. Magi Gifts will be collected through January 5.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Bill Starkowski at starman5889@comcast.net.

Please Welcome Our Newest Westminster Members!



From left to right, Peter, Rosie and David Denio (not pictured: David's wife Jessica and baby Samantha)



Jennifer Gillotti



Alex and Sarah Helberg



Cathi and Larry Nelson





Kevin Wunder

Per Capita Reminder

Each person at Westminster plays a vital role in supporting the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church at every level—local, regional, and national. In 2025, **our per capita apportionment is \$50.50 per member**, which directly funds the important work of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

By contributing your per capita, you help sustain the connectional church, ensuring resources, leadership, and mission outreach remain strong across the country. If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider making a donation for your 2025 per capita as this contribution greatly eases the burden on our church budget. Together, we can continue to be a light in the world, sharing God's love far beyond our walls.

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

Our Front Porch will be meeting this Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the Covenant Room. **Please note, the Front Porch will not meet on Sunday, December 28th, but will gather again on Epiphany Sunday, January 4th.** All are welcome!

Church Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on December 25 - December 26 and December 31 - January 2 for the holidays. Please contact Becky Kimberly at office@westpresby.org with any questions.

Community Prayer Returns January 5 New Meeting Day: Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

Westminster's Community Prayer gathering will not meet during the holidays but will return on Monday, January 5 at 12:30 p.m. Please note this is a change - the Community Prayer gathering will now meet on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. in the Covenant Room.

Prayers for our Community and Our World

Praying by Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Prayer is a wonderful gift that we can offer each other, as we share and listen to another's concerns and joys. Prayer is also a wonderful gift to receive, in knowing that our church community is holding us and our stories with care and love. 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 offer prayers of celebration to the members of Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Presbyterian Church on their reopening after an arsonist set fire to their church in December 2020.

We continue to pray for peace, and for a just and safe world for all. We pray for a stable and lasting peace in Gaza, comfort for those who are grieving, and sustaining help for those rebuilding lives and communities.

May there be mercy and protection for those who are most vulnerable. Those most affected by the injustices happening in our

country at this time: Immigrants and refugees; the LBGTQIA+ community; those standing up against injustice in all its forms.

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: Liz Grabber's mother Barbara who is recovering from heart surgery; Eric Ouellette's mother Penny who is undergoing medical tests; Callie Boone's Aunt Cyndi who is facing health challenges; 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 and Ginger Ludeman; Muriel Sherman and Betty Stokes.

We ask God to comfort those who grieve:

Janet Wade-Utay on the death of her brother George Wade; Sandy Fry, on the death of her mother Marion; Karen Wagner's son-in-law Billy Calzada and family on the death of his mother Herlinda; Karen Hammond on the death of her mother Carol Hamilton and prayers of comfort for her father Bruce; the family and friends of Elsie Harp; the family of Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie; the family of Shirley Sabin; the family of Cliff Moss; Karen Sprout and family; David Hall and family; Jim and Vivian Carlson; David MacMeekin and family; Russ Smiley and family; Laura Berman and family.

Session Members

Peter Benner (Flourish) pbenner16@gmail.com
Liz Doering (Clerk) lizdoering81@gmail.com
Stephen Frazzini (Sustain: Buildings & Grounds) stevefraz@me.com
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