

April 12, 2026



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Mourning Light* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

**Worship With Us On Sunday!**

**2nd Sunday of Easter  
Eastertide Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Scripture**

Acts 4:32-35  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

**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**

- *Eastertide Service of Lessons and Carols this Sunday*
- *Session Update*
- *My Front Porch*
- *Rev. Julie Emery Out of the Office*

**Important Events in Our Community**

- *YMCA Camp WeHa at Westminster: Registration is Open*

**Prayers for Our Community and Our World**

**Westminster News and Events**

# EASTERTIDE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

EASTER IS NOT SIMPLY A  
DAY...IT'S A SEASON



Easter is not simply a day...it's a season. As Christians we are an Easter people, and as such our celebration of the Resurrection continues. This Sunday we'll continue this celebration with a service of readings and Easter "carols," joyful and beloved hymns that celebrate the resurrection. Come, and join your hearts and voices with those of others as we witness to the joy of new life that arrived that first Easter.

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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.

## 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 ([larryrcarr@gmail.com](mailto:larryrcarr@gmail.com)) for more information

### Rev. Julie Emery Out of Office

The Rev. Julie Emery is out of the office taking some well-earned time off. She will return to lead worship on Sunday, April 19th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Becky Kimberly in the church office at 860-521-6240 or [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org) and she will get you in touch with a pastor on call.

**Important Events in Our Community**



This blessing was shared with our prayer group, as we shared our collective stories of concern, lifting up those who were in need of prayer. All are welcome to join us for Grace & Space, a time of sharing and prayer, every Monday at 12:30pm in the Covenant Room.

**(Please note, Grace & Space will not be gathering this coming Monday, April 13 due to Rev. Julie Emery being out of the office).**

*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 LBGQTIA+ 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)  
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