

# ***This Week at Westminster***

April 28, 2019



## **Rain Couldn't Dampen the Fun this Year at the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt!**

Westminster welcomed about 55 children and their families at our annual community Easter Egg hunt this year, an impressive turnout considering the miserable weather. Children hunted for eggs in the hallways of the church, in classrooms and the chapel. Before the hunt, children had their faces painted, did

crafts and listened to the Easter story. The Easter Bunny was also in attendance! (thank you to Ian Kimberly who inhabited the bunny suit this year).



The egg hunt would not have been a success without all the volunteers who stuffed eggs, donated candy, brought food for the reception, and were at the hunt to assist with activities and make visitors feel welcome! A special thank you to Karen Hammond for coordinating this wonderful event.



# LIFT *Living In Faith Together*

**On the 2nd Sunday of each month we meet together as a church family of all ages to worship, learn, serve and get to know each other.**

**Join us for our next LIFT morning**

**May 12th**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

We'll learn about recent mission trips to Puerto Rico, hear from some fabulous guest speakers and explore ways that we can continue to build relationship with Puerto Rican communities.



## Mission Trips to Puerto Rico

Two teams of Westminster members and friends participated in mission trips to Puerto Rico within the past month. The teams (one traveling March 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, the second from April 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>) worked through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and their partner organizations to restore the homes of three families who survived Hurricane Maria and to help create a free community laundry facility at a Presbyterian Church in San Juan. We had the opportunity to see this beautiful island, develop relationships with people there, learn a bit about life in Puerto Rico and do some meaningful work as the island continues to recover from damage caused by Hurricane Maria in September, 2017. The trips were filled with many emotions and lots of hard work, but God's grace ran throughout.



We hope you will ask us more about our trips – we have lots of stories to share! We also hope that you will join us as we find ways to continue our learning and deepen our relationship with Puerto Rican communities. Plan to come to our May 12<sup>th</sup> LIFT morning as we continue this work!

Thank you for your prayers for us and support for this trip. A special thank you to those who participated in the “Making More of God’s Gifts” \$20 challenge. Money raised allowed us to add additional support to organizations working in Puerto Rico and also to purchase new bathroom fixtures for two homeowners desperately in need.



**2019 Puerto Rico Mission Trip Participants:** Carol Allen, Whitney Amundsen, Nicole Aronson, Tom Buckley, Anne Carney, Ann Cox, Marcia DeBolt, Julie Emery, Greg Hammond, Karen Hammond, Ryan Marks, Heather McBride, Richelle None, Doreen Oshinskie, Emily Oshinskie, Len Oshinskie, Bob Raney, Stacy Raney, Art Riihimaki, Barbara Riihimaki, Henry Savage, Michael Seltzer, Nancy Souza, Art Utay, Janet Wade-Utay.



## **A Word About Worship**

Our vision statement reads: "Westminster is a vital, engaging, and inclusive family of faith." To that end, we seek to provide a worship experience inclusive of all people. We seek to sing music from a variety of traditions, we hope to engage a variety of senses, and we try to offer something for everyone: introvert/extrovert, visual learner/auditory learner, abled-bodied or disabled, fidgety or still. We believe that the fullness of the body of Christ includes all God's people, no matter the age, stage, or story and we live into that fullness best when we do so together. We pray that in this inclusive worship, each beloved Child of God may find some piece of our worship meaningful to them, and that God's Spirit will dwell among us as the living, diverse Body of Christ.

## **New Gender Inclusive Bathrooms**

Westminster has a policy of gender inclusive bathrooms. We invite you to use the bathroom that corresponds to your gender identity. Gender neutral bathrooms with privacy locks are available on the lower level, accessible via the stairwell at the back of the sanctuary. Handicap accessible bathrooms are on the Sanctuary level, accessible via the door near the pulpit. Our ushers are happy to direct you.

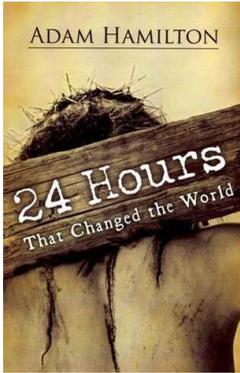
## **Do You Know Me? - New Photo Directory Coming in 2019**

Have you ever had trouble putting a face to a name on a Sunday morning? Church photo directories are a great way to get to know each other so the Engage Team is leading the effort to compile a church photo directory for Westminster.

There are two options for church members to participate. First, you can submit a favorite photo of yourself/your family. It can be e-mailed to the church office at [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org) as a jpeg file, or a photograph can be left at the office to be scanned. We ask that the photo be close up enough that we can make out faces and please identify everyone in the photo!

Second, you can have a photo taken for the directory using the photography skills of Len Oshinskie and Nicole Aronson. A sign-up sheet can be found in the foyer. There will be opportunities for individual or family pictures on May 5, 12 or 19 after church. The directory will be produced in-house and should be ready by September.

Any questions please contact Becky Kimberly in the church office at 860-521-6240 or [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org).



## **Special Lenten Sunday Morning Study Group Continues on April 28 and May 5**

We are offering an additional opportunity for adults to be together in a focused study group. The group will be centered on a study of 24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton. Each week's study will begin with a 10 minute video presentation of a portion of Hamilton's book, followed by time for discussion and questions. Through the study we will travel to the Holy Land as Hamilton walks, step by step, through the last day of Jesus' life.

This study group will be facilitated by Greg Hammond and Nicole Aronson. The group will meet in the Smart Room at 9:00 a.m. today and May 5. This is a very interesting and engaging series and a wonderful opportunity for all.

If you need childcare or have any questions about this group, please feel free to talk with Director of Faith Formation Karen Hammond or Peter Benner, who heads our Adult Education Planning Team.

### **Get Your Purple Bag!**

Recycling is easier with the right bag. Westminster now has reusable grocery bags available for purchase. These purple bags are perfect for shopping for "Food for Body and Soul," with a wide flat bottom and sturdy handles. Bags are \$2 each or three bags for \$5. For more information or to purchase your bag, contact Cyndi Brown at [scbrown11@mac.com](mailto:scbrown11@mac.com).

### **Scripture and the Significance of Water Bringing New Life to Empty Bottles**

During the months of January and February our worship focused around scriptures that included water. As part of this exploration, we were asked to consider how we may or may not take clean water for granted and to especially be thoughtful about our use of disposable plastic water bottles.

As we closed our "water season" we invited Westminster family members to bring in a plastic water bottle. Rather than tossing it in the trash or recycling bin we brought new life to these empty bottles. The results are the colorful "streamers" that hang in our windows to help decorate our sanctuary for the Easter season. We hope you enjoy this visual display of a new creation.

## **Prayers for Westminster Family and Friends**

*Prayer concerns are also available through our weekly e-mail. If you'd like to receive Westminster's weekly e-mail and other updates, or have prayer concerns you'd like to have shared, please contact Becky Kimberly at the church office at 860-521-6240 or e-mail [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org).*

### ***We pray for...***

- Susie Scoville's brother Sam who is in hospice care;
- The people of Puerto Rico as they continue to seek restoration and wholeness after the devastation of Hurricane Maria in 2017. We especially pray for Cecilia, Salvatore and Camilia, and Mercedes, whose homes were worked on by our mission travelers. We pray as well as the Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana en Bayamón (First Presbyterian Church of Bayamon), where we helped to construct a community laundry and Iglesia Presbiteriana Rvdo. Ramón Olivo Robles (Rev. Ramón Olivo Robles Presbyterian Church) who offered amazing hospitality and continue to do God's work in Puerto Rico;
- Georgia Silliman whose beloved dog died last week;
- Cheryl Heilig following her move to Seabury;
- Cliff Moss' brother the Rev. Hibbert Moss, who is in hospice care;
- Sara DeGraff's sister who is battling cancer;
- All the friends and members of the congregation undergoing tests, treatments and surgeries;
- All those who struggle with mental health issues and depression;
- Those who are caring for aging loved ones;
- Communities affected by violence here at home and abroad.

### ***We grieve with...***

- Friends and families of those in recent months who mourn the death of loved ones.

### ***We continue to pray for. . .***

Roz Montgomery; Muriel Sherman; El and Elsie Harp; Natalie Lewis; Sarah Mende; Noah; Rachel Lloyd's aunt and mother's best friend, Katie O'Brien; Karen Wagner's friend Ramon; Ed Carney; Marissa Torsiello; Mary and Bill Sand's son Dave; Judy Moss' cousin Jill Palmer; Elaine Tilton; Paul Sigler's childhood friend Sean Shepard; Len Oshinskie's sister Denise and her husband Greg; Janet Wade-Utay's sister Irene; Anne Carney's cousin, Peggy McLaney, her husband Geoff and their daughter DeAnn; Art Riihimaki's brother George; George and Nancy Dewey's daughter Beth; Gary; Susan Thomson's sister-in-law Annie; Cathy White; Flora Duncan; Jen Cormier, Russ Cormier's mother and Ann Osoba's mother Mary Jo.

*Dear Friends at Westminster,*

*Thank you for all the cards, notes, prayers, and messages of condolence and support we received during a very difficult time in our lives. The support you gave us was a tremendous help as we travelled that path, and it continues to help us.*

*Thank you for being wonderful friends.*

*El & Elsie Harp*

## **Thank You to Westminster's Gifted Knitters!**

This past winter Westminster was involved in the Scarf Ministry run by First Presbyterian Church in Hartford. We had four members including Ann Cox, Eliza Cleaveland, Elsie Harp and Jean Summers, who knitted scarfs for the ministry. This was a huge success and we hope to continue Westminster's participation next winter. Two of our knitters, Eliza and Jean, are also busy teaching middle and high school students the basics of knitting each Wednesday at the Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center (HANOC). A huge thank you to these talented ladies. If anyone is interested in joining them, please reach out to Cyndi Brown.

### **This Week's Church Activities**

Sun.	Apr. 28	9:00 am	Westminster Salon	Covenant Room
		9:00 am	Lenten Study Group	Smart Room
		10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
		11:15 am	New Member Class	Covenant Room
		5:00 pm	CHAOS Youth Group	Fellowship Hall
Weds.	May 1	9:30 am	Presbytery Committee on Ministry	Smart Room
		12:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Smart Room
Thurs.	May 2	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Chancel Choir
Sun.	May 5	<b>Confirmation Sunday</b>		
		8:00 am	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Handbell Room
		9:00 am	Westminster Salon	Covenant Room
		9:00 am	Lenten Study Group	Smart Room
		10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
		11:00 am	Photo Directory Photo Shoot	Covenant Room
5:00 pm	CHAOS Youth Group	Fellowship Hall		

## Westminster Presbyterian Church Vision & Mission Statements

*Westminster is a vital, engaging, inclusive family of faith that serves God by: supporting each other on our spiritual journeys, sharing the gifts we have been given, and demonstrating the love and justice of Christ in our community and world.*

*Westminster offers living proof of a loving God.*

### Westminster Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Julie Emery, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Dr. Stuart Paul Duncan, Minister of Music  
Karen Hammond, Director of Faith Formation  
Becky Kimberly, Church Administrator

Mike McElroy, Church Sexton  
Paul D. Sigler, Church Sexton Assistant  
Wanda Bender, Security Coordinator  
Jeannine Stimson, Bookkeeper

### Leadership of Westminster Presbyterian Church

#### Flourish

Nicole Aronson, Elder

#### Worship

Marie MacKellar–Nogueira, Elder  
Janet Wade-Utay, Elder

#### Engage

Cyndi Brown, Elder  
Todd Jarrett, Elder  
Stacy Raney, Elder

#### Sustain

Myles Altimus, Elder  
Anne Carney, Clerk  
Mike DeBolt, Elder

#### Care

Ashley Aronson, Deacon  
Liz Doering, Deacon  
Ma'Lynn Feingold, Deacon  
Denise Noble, Deacon

#### Serve

Len Oshinskie, Elder  
Michael Seltzer, Deacon  
Cora Smith, Deacon  
Nancy Souza, Deacon  
Jeff Sutliff, Deacon

