

# THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER

Summer 2018



Westminster Presbyterian Church • 262 State Street • Albany • New York • [www.wpcalbany.org](http://www.wpcalbany.org)

Dear Friends,

By now many of you at WPC may be asking yourselves “What’s happening in the process to call our next pastor?” Here’s some information.

Knowing we were going to be doing a study to help the church take a look at itself and at its future, I asked the Session to approve forming a transition team to manage that process. They did and over the last month the Nominating Committee found 4 people who have said yes. They are Leif Hartmark, Victor Manieson, Linore Southworth and Larry Volk. I am grateful for their willingness to add these responsibilities to the other things they were already doing for the church.

I anticipate that the process of gathering responses from the congregation could begin in August and continue into or through September. We want to have as many people in the church complete the survey as possible. It can be done by hand or online. The Team will be sharing information on how each person can access the form and fill it out.

We will be using the “Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT)” for our study process. The group that developed the CAT, Holy Cow! Consulting, will use the responses to issue a report they call the “Vital Signs” report. This reports the findings and provides some interpretation of the information. The Transition Team will then have time with a Holy Cow! consultant to increase our understanding and interpretation. Good interpretation will help WPC members keep their eyes ahead on what best serves the future of the church. The Team’s next task will be to determine how to share the information and interpretation with the congregation.

While the responses are being gathered and the report then compiled, the Team will be gathering information on the community around the church and in the greater Albany area. What do trends in public perceptions of church, in population growth or decline, in the economic of the area mean for this church in the future? The Team will gather information that can help the church leadership take that into account.

There’s an analogy comparing how we move into the future as an institution to traveling in a rowboat or a canoe. In a rowboat we work hard, but largely gaze backwards on what is behind us. In a canoe, we work hard with our gaze on what is coming. The CAT and its interpretation are meant to help WPC canoe, with your gaze on what is to come. Peace, Rev. Bill



## deCycles Teen Bicycling Ministry Visits WPC July 11- Come to a Pot Luck Supper!

deCycles, a teen bicycling ministry, is headed our way on July 11. A group of 30 teens and their supervisors are on a trip of self-growth, service, and spiritual challenge beyond belief. Riding 1500 miles in 3 weeks, the group of deCycles riders will arrive with weary muscles, growing hearts, and adventures to share with everyone through story and song. They will arrive in time for dinner, sleep at the church overnight and hit the road again on July 12.

**Pot Luck Supper!** WPC will host a pot luck meal at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, July 11 for the riders. All are welcome to come, share the meal and hear about the teens' experiences along the ride. We hope you will attend- food contributions for sharing will be appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet on the Chestnut Street Bulletin Board or sign-up online at the event listing on our website <http://www.wpcalbany.org/upcoming-events>

### The deCycles Mission:

To provide an opportunity for youth to experience the principles of a Christ-centered life. To practice kindness and caring for each other and all we meet along the way. To help us see more ways to serve while becoming stronger in our faith, and, thus believing we can accomplish the seemingly impossible.

### deCycles History:

The Bloomington, Indiana based deCycles is a high adventure interfaith Christian youth program offering challenging summer bicycle trips for teens since 1996. More than 1500 student riders have pedaled 3-million rider miles across the United States & Canada on previous deCycles trips. This summer will be the 25th consecutive annual bike trip for deCycles.





# Capital Campaign

## Capital Campaign: Reaching Out to Our Church Family and Beyond

Good progress is being made toward achieving our Capital Campaign fundraising goal of \$500,000. As of this writing, a total of \$354,751 in gifts and pledges had been received. Good progress is also being made on the steeple repair. The company doing the steeple repairs has reported that repair and preparation jobs needed before the shingles and copper can be replaced are between

80-90% complete.

Next steps for the campaign include reaching within our own church community; reaching outward to various neighborhood associations and other organizations for local support; preparing more grant applications; and encouraging people to visit the “give” page of our website. Next steps for capital improvement work is finishing the steeple; and developing plans and cost estimates for updating the Chapel and Assembly Room spaces.

Gifts and pledges may be placed in the offering plate, sent to the church office, or given online at [www.wpcalbany.org/give](http://www.wpcalbany.org/give)

Rev. Bill shared these thoughts in a recent blog article, “Building With More Than Simply Bricks and Mortar.” “As glad as I was to know a capital campaign was already in the works before I got here, I was even more glad to see that plans didn’t stop with the steeple. Providing handicapped accessible bathrooms gives our words of welcoming all a practical application. Other proposed improvements will increase WPC’s ability to host mission groups or even as a resource in times of natural disasters. Improvements to the Assembly Hall and Chapel will make them even more usable for fellowship or educational programs by the church or outside groups.

I was encouraged to see this because a church that is only turned inward and only seeks to maintain buildings rather than serving people, is a church that is likely on its way to dying. As those planning the capital improvements to be done have demonstrated, a church can work on retaining life both by keeping up a structure and by seeing how it can then be used in ministry in Christ’s name.

The vision has been cast for the campaign. Initial donations have been generous. Now we are all asked to see how we might serve WPC’s future both through what people decide they can give and through how people here make use of the improvements in continuing ministry in the name of Christ.”

We are so very thankful for the gifts already received and those we pray are to come. The following *Litany of Dedication* for Capital Campaign gifts was offered during worship on June 10:

Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

You have entrusted us with gifts—time, talent, energy, money—and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.

**We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward.**

We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.

**We dedicate these gifts to the community, the mission, and the hopes of this church, and to the abundant, extravagant, all-embracing reign of God, whose contours we can glimpse even here and now.**

We dedicate these pledges to the vision of our church’s future, and to the continuation of our witness to the Lord.

**We ask your blessing on this church as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.**

**Bless also these gifts, and our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

Thank you from your Capital Campaign Committee.

## Board of Deacons

### Three to Camp Fowler!

The Board of Deacons was pleased to provide scholarships to WPC's Caleb Karikari-Mensah, Emmanuel Karikari-Mensah, and Robert Quaye to attend Camp Fowler this summer. While enjoying the fun and camaraderie of Fowler, all three will brighten the experiences of those around them with their kindness and joy of life.

Westminster can be very proud of these young people and their loving families, and of the loving adults of the Christian Education and youth programs that have mentored and loved them through the years!

### WPC Board of Deacons New Members Needed!

Our current Board is two members shy of the usual 12 members. In December, the extended terms of Claudia Hartmark and Dodie Seagle will expire, leaving the Board with four vacancies as we enter 2019. Your help and support are vital!

The Deacons are an extension of WPC's congregational care. Our work is much more personal than administrative, often forming personal bonds that last beyond a designated term.

- We maintain contact with WPC's members who can no longer attend worship, distribute flowers, send cards, and maintain the Prayer Chain.
- The Deacons are also responsible for the Deacons Fund and the Helen Rising Fund, both of which are Endowment Funds for WPC members who face extraordinary care expenses.

Monthly, the Deacons also provide and arrange the bread and juice for communion, and maintain the communion service pieces.



The Board meets on the third Sunday, September through June, 11:30 AM in the Small Meeting Room on the first floor. We usually finish within an hour.

Over the next few months, please prayerfully consider becoming a Deacon. Contact Session' Nominating Chair Elizabeth Coombe (elizabethcoombe@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

*Cindy Falle enjoys worship with her Westminster family.*

# A Village Updates



## Bringing Healthy Food & Beautifying the South End

It takes a village to accomplish change and progress in the South End of Albany, and without volunteers it's not AVillage. AVillage..., Inc., the offers volunteer opportunities year-round, with summer being a great time to get involved in our South End Healthy Market and our ever-growing garden projects.

Bob DeFelice is our volunteer coordinator.

He can be reached at 518-451-9849 or [avillageaa@gmail.com](mailto:avillageaa@gmail.com)

**I. The South End Healthy Market:** Saturdays starting June 30 and running through October, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Capital South Campus Center, 20 Warren St. Market Manager is **CeCe Horbat**, [southendhealthymarket@gmail.com](mailto:southendhealthymarket@gmail.com)

Volunteer activities include produce pickup prior to the market, set up of tables, tents, etc., operating an Electronic Benefits Transfer machine and dispensing tokens to customers, selling produce and acting as a market host, and end-of-market take down and cleanup.

Volunteers can work two-hour shifts, starting at 9:00 am, or can choose to stay for the entire market and enjoy the festivities. However, CeCe needs to count on you!

**2. Community Cultivators:** In partnership with the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center, AVillage currently operates or supports eight gardens in the South End, with raised beds for growing vegetables and flowers. They range in size from a quarter acre to half of one vacant lot. Our mission is to help residents of the South End enjoy the pleasures of cultivating a piece of land they can call their own, and also to introduce more healthy food into the community.

Garden Manager is **Ben Atwood**, 518-630-7159

[southendgardencoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:southendgardencoordinator@gmail.com)

Here is the current garden work schedule:

- **Creighton Storey** - Hawk Street at Third Avenue  
Mondays 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
- **Trinity Alliance** - 15 Trinity Place  
Tuesdays 7:00 am-10:00 am
- **Our Children's Garden** - 45 Catherine Street  
Tuesdays 5:00 pm-7:00 pm and Saturdays 3:00 pm-4:00 pm (Story Hour)
- **Gabby's Garden/People's Park**, 93 Grand Street,  
Thursdays 6:30 pm-8:30pm and Sundays 7:00 am-11:00 am

Other work hours and projects for larger groups can be arranged by contacting the AVillage office or Ben Atwood.



## WPC Helps Sierra Leone Council of Churches Meet Refugee Needs

In late spring Westminster shipped three large barrels and a box to Ebon James-DeKam, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) since 2011. She was in the US in fall 2017 as a PCUSA International Peacemaker and Westminster members made contact with her via Skype. Since then Fatmata Hilton, the Westminster liaison for projects in Sierra Leone, has received regular updates on the conditions for the survivors of a devastating August 2017 mudslide in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Our 2018 African Spring Dinner Keynote speaker, Kate Breslin, delivered reusable hygiene kits from The MoonCatcher Project to Ebon James-Kam in November.

The shipping company, based in New Jersey estimates delivery of our donations on July 17. We shipped additional reusable menstrual hygiene kits, school supplies, a significant number of the hygiene packets recommended by Church World Service for refugees, and “every additional item” given to Fatmata Hilton for Freetown area refugees.

## Westminster’s Team Liberia Has Highly Successful Visit

The Westminster Team Liberia’s second visit since 2016 to Hope Mission School in Bernard Farm was a great success this spring! The team delivered school, hygiene and clothing supplies to needy and grateful community and evaluate our “investments” over the past 9+ years. This includes purchases and projects funded mainly by our 2017/18 Thank Offering grant from Presbyterian Women.

### Highlights reported by the team:

1. The third classroom building is complete and fully utilized and looks fabulous!
2. We visited both vocational projects, the beekeeping and snail-farming. The bees are now producing honey for harvesting and the snails, while not yet as successful as the bees, are making slower but sure progress. Both efforts are meant to yield future income for the school.
3. The generator and freezer we funded are fully operational and profits from cold drink sales yield an average of \$140./month.
4. At the team’s request Pastor Boniface Diggs created a six-person advisory board of community leaders; the team met with and discussed priorities and the role the teams envisions for the board.
5. The faculty has grown to over 20 teachers and the student population hovers around 300 pupils.



6. The eleven Ebola orphans Westminster supports are happy and healthy!

So much more to report ....later; for now, be assured your support is making a huge difference in the lives of these students and their community.

Thank you, John Kucij.

*Felicia Kollie-Gambles with villagers of Gboto, Liberia where our beekeeping project is thriving with 25 fully colonized hives.*

## September Ghana Mission Events and Opportunities

Westminster is the host congregation for the 17th annual PCUSA Ghana Mission Network (GMN) meeting at Stony Point Center, September 19 through September 22. It has invited partners in Ghana to send up to seven participants to attend the GMN and to make a follow-up visit to Albany through October 1.

Rev. Joshua Heikkila, PCUSA Mission Co-worker in West Africa, will be in Albany for a few days during and after the GMN meeting and will preach on September 23.

## September GMN Meeting

The requested deadline for GMN registrations is August 15. Persons willing to be a Westminster host at the GMN meeting are asked to contact the Church office by early August. Phone: 518-436-8544 or [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org). Both Rev. Heikkila and our guests from Ghana are expected to arrive at Stony Point on September 19; all will need rides to Albany the afternoon of September 22.

Group Opportunities for Interaction With Visitors from Ghana. Our invited Tema partner guests are awaiting news about the outcome of their visa applications. Our guests will include Rev. Heikkila and Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti, a longtime WPC friend and key Ghana partner.

Definite plans for the visitors include:

- an extended second hour on Sunday, September 23 with the congregations.
- an event with the women visitors hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Women which will be open to all interested women.
- a partnership meeting (including lunch or dinner) with Rev. Josh Heikkila, Westminster members and all of our visitors to evaluate past experience and discuss future directions
- a session with the MoonCatchers project to show visitors how reusable menstrual hygiene pads are created and to highlight the health curriculum used with African girls who receive kits.

Additional suggestions are appreciated. The schedule will be refined once we hear about the information our Ghana guests heard at the US Embassy.

## Opportunities for One-On-One Interaction with Visitors

Westminster members are invited to volunteer:

- to host one or more of the visitors from Ghana;
- to help with group meals held at the Church;
- to entertain visitors for dinner; and
- to help organize outings for our visitors.

Contact the Church office if you are interested in helping to provide hospitality for our visitors. Phone: 518-436-8544 or [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org)



# Church School

## Church School

Thank you ALL!

Our gratitude goes to all teachers and volunteers who keep playing a vital role in our ministry and education of the next generation.

"Thank you," to all our parents, who continue with the education during the week where Sunday school leaves off.

Westminster children and youth; thank you for being an important part of our church family. We join in celebrating our graduating seniors; Nanano, Robert and Emmanuel. We wish them well as they begin their college careers.

Have a safe and happy Summer! Mrs. Quaye

*(l) Desmond Sowah, (front row, plaid shirt) received the Albany County Executive's "Shining Star" Youth Recognition Award for Artistic Expression.*

*(r) Robert Quaye is one of the two recipients of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship given by the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC)*



*(l) Children presented Church School teachers with tokens of appreciation. (r) Church School June 2018*





## Church News & Updates

### Report from Session

Summer is here, and Session Committees will continue to be hard at work on various aspects of the life of the church throughout the summer. You can see this as you make your way through this newsletter.

Recently, Session joyfully approved the holding of Andrea Holroyd's ordination at Westminster and also the serving of communion during her ordination. We wish her many blessings as she begins a new chapter in her life.

One of the significant projects being undertaken this summer is the reviewing of our membership rolls. We want to make sure that all who have not been active in the last few years have an opportunity to participate and remain listed as active members if they wish to do so. At the same time we should not keep folks on our active membership roll who have moved away, or don't wish to maintain active membership, or perhaps are now active in another church. We recognize all members' histories as a cherished part of our church life. The move from the active member roll does not remove a person from the master list of all past and present church members. It does more accurately reflect current involvement. Please reach out to Sue Schell via the church office or any Session member you might know if you have not been involved with the life of Westminster in recent years and wish to discuss your preference. All are certainly always welcome to come to worship at Westminster and receive pastoral care.

We invite you to read Session minutes posted in the downstairs hallway.

### Thank You For Fellowship Time Refreshments

Many thanks to all of you who have so generously provided the refreshments enjoyed during our fellowship time following worship. We do have some donations in reserve to cover a number of our summer Sundays, but look forward to people signing for open dates in our Meal Train site. Feel free to touch base with Fatmata Hilton if you would like to sign-up, but have not yet used Meal Train. She will be happy to help you.

### New Westminster Church Photo Directory Planned

A new photo directory of the Westminster community is being planned for this Fall. There will be scheduled sitting times those who would like to have photos taken. Stay tuned for more details and scheduling information!

## Summer Sundays

### WORSHIP at 9:30 am

July 8, 15, 22, 29 & August 12, 19, 26

### Worship with FOCUS CHURCHES AT 10:00 am

July 1: The First Church in Albany

August 5: Delmar Reformed Church - Delmar NY

September 2: Westminster Presbyterian Church

# Worship & Second Hours

**Sunday, July 1**  
10:00 Worship

**FOCUS Churches Combined Worship**  
@ The First Church in Albany

**Sunday, July 8**

9:30 Worship

*True Freedom*

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

Acts 16:16-40, John 8:31-36

**Sunday, July 15**

9:30 Worship

*Creative Interdependence*

Jeremiah 2:4-13, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

**Sunday, July 22**

9:30 Worship

*The Bible's Dumbest People- Esau*

Genesis 25:29-34, Luke 10:38-42

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

**Sunday, July 29**

9:30 Worship

*The Bible's Dumbest People - Samson*

Judges 16:1-31, Luke 23:34-35

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

Prayer in the African Way

**Sunday, August 5**

10:00 Worship

**FOCUS Churches Combined Worship**

@Delmar Reformed Church in Delmar

**Sunday, August 12**

9:30 Worship

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

**Sunday, August 19**

9:30 Worship

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

**Sunday, August 26**

9:30 Worship

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

Prayer in the African Way

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

**Sunday, September 1**

10:00 Worship

2nd Hour: Refreshments & Fellowship Time

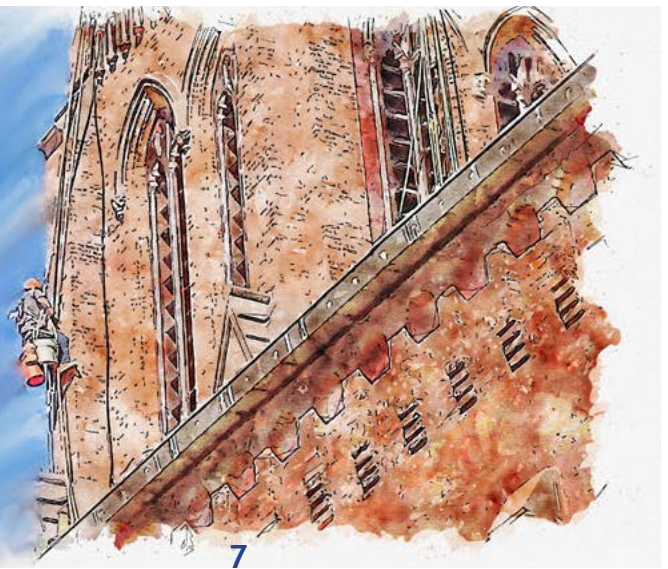
**FOCUS Churches Combined Worship**

@ Westminster

Note: *Second Hour topics may be added. Watch for updates online in our weekly news emails and on the website: [www.wpcalbany.org](http://www.wpcalbany.org)*



# SUMMER CALENDAR 2018



## JULY

### SUNDAY July 1

10:00 am FOCUS Combined Worship  
@ The First Church in Albany  
110 N. Pearl Street

2 12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

3 7:30 am FOCUS Breakfast  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

4 7:30 am FOCUS Breakfast Express  
Office Closed

5 12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY July 8

9:30 am Worship

9 12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

10 7:30 am FOCUS Breakfast  
11:00 am Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Tai Chi  
7:00 pm Session Meeting

11 7:30 am FOCUS Breakfast  
6:00 pm Pot Luck Supper  
deCycles Christian Teen  
Cycling Group  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

12 12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY July 15

9:30 am Worship

16 12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

17 7:30 am FOCUS Breakfast  
6:30 pm Tai Chi  
7:00 pm Compassionate Friends

18

7:30 am FOCUS Breakfast  
6:00 pm Pine Bush Dinner  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

19

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY July 22

9:30 am Worship

23

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

24

11:00 am Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

25

6:30 pm Tai Chi

26

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY July 29

9:30 am Worship

30

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

31

6:30 pm Tai Chi

## AUGUST

1

6:30 pm Tai Chi

2

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

3

6:30 pm Tai Chi

### SUNDAY August 5

10:00 am FOCUS Combined Worship  
@ Delmar Reformed Church

6

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

7

11:00 am Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

8

6:30 pm Tai Chi

9

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY August 12

9:30 am Worship

13

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

14

11:00 am Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

15

6:00 pm Pine Bush Dinner  
6:30 pm Tai Chi

16

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY August 19

9:30 am Worship

### August 20, 21, 22

Building closed for floor cleaning

23

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

### SUNDAY August 26

9:30 am Worship

27

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

28

6:30 pm Tai Chi

29

6:30 pm Tai Chi

30

12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class  
4:45 pm EBA Kids

## SEPTEMBER

### SUNDAY September 1

10:00 am FOCUS Combined Worship  
@ Westminster



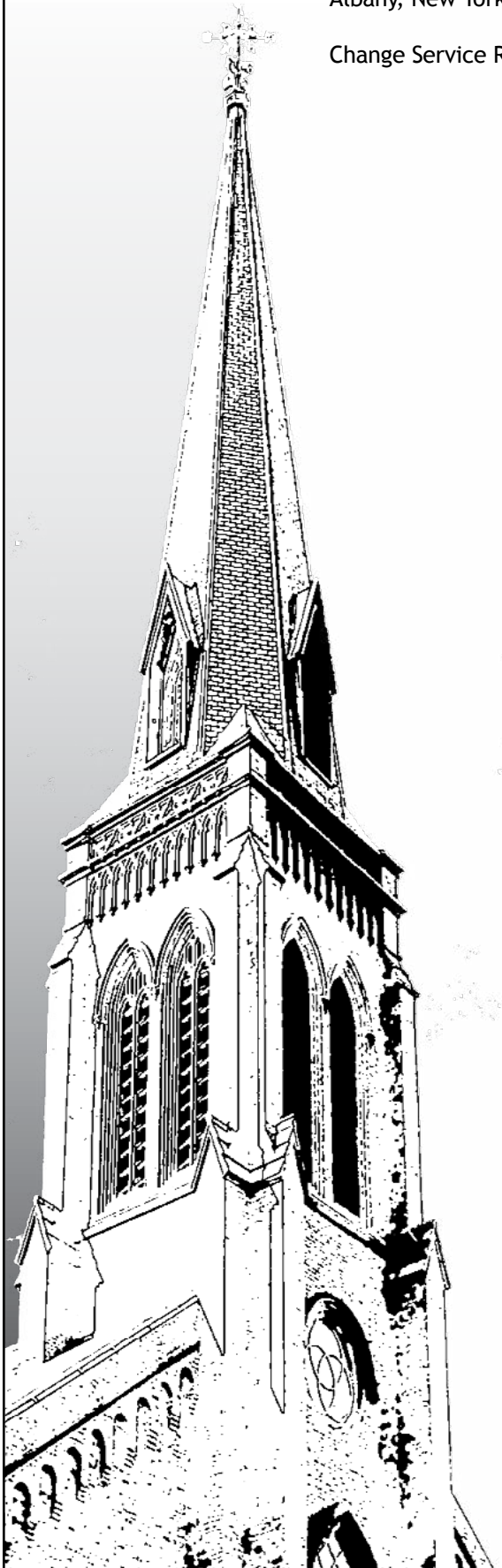
# WESTMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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## Westminster Presbyterian Church

### CHURCH OFFICE- Hours

9:00 am-5:00 pm Tuesday & Thursday; Friday 9:30 am-12:00 noon  
Phone: 518.436.8544

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. William Schram

**Office Administrator:** Jennifer Schoenfisch

**Director of Christian Education:** Belinda Quaye

**Minister of Music and Arts:** Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM

**Choir Director:** Susan Hermance Fedak

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Paul Randall

**Sextons:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge, John Fox

**Communications:** Kim Deal

**E-Mail:** [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org)

**Web:** [www.wpcalbany.org](http://www.wpcalbany.org)

**Facebook:** Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany

**Twitter:** WPCAlbanyNY

**Graphic Design:** Jeanne Bianchine

Newsletter submissions are due by August 16  
Send submissions to: [newsletter@wpcalbany.org](mailto:newsletter@wpcalbany.org)