



Westminster Presbyterian Church • 262 State Street • Albany • New York • www.wpcalbany.org

Dear Friends,

Our Stewardship theme celebrates “Abundant Life, Joyous Generosity.” In appreciation for the life abundant that comes in Christ, you have responded over the years with joyous generosity. Together we have witnessed great acts of caring, meaningful acts of worship, lives changed by experiencing and knowing our gracious Lord and savior. We’ve done it by sharing with the same generosity God has shown all of us.

This stewardship season, we are asking the you prayerfully reflect on how you can demonstrate the same joyous generosity in the coming year. Investing in Christ’s mission through the church opens us to blessings in return. We keep focused on our relationship with our Lord. We express trust in God’s care for us. We remember God’s generosity and lose some of our fear about the future. Generosity keeps our hands open to God so that God can take what we return and use it to bless us and others.

Generosity not only helps us appreciate our past and present blessings. It is also a way we help shape our church’s future, even more so as we move through the search process. Candidates for called pastor at any church will consider a church’s finances. We are asking that you consider how you might step up your gifts, be they commitments of time, talent or money, over what you gave in recent years.

As the weeks go on, we will be presenting our narrative budget during the congregational meeting on November 4 so you have more information. Pledge cards will be mailed. Our Dedication Sunday will be November 11.

Your planned giving helps us do our planning in Christ’s service. Your investment in Christ’s mission impacts lives with the Good News.

Help us continue to grow great things in faith.

Peace,
Pastor Bill

Report from Session:

Annual Congregational Meeting Called for November 4

A meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY has been called for Sunday, November 4, 2018 following worship in the Assembly Room for the purpose of receiving the report from Session of the adopted 2019 budget, hearing a report on the stewardship campaign for 2019, and electing church officers for 2019. Please plan to join us for this meeting.

The most recently approved Session minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the Chestnut Street entrance between the office and the meeting room.

What Follows the CAT?

Firstly, thank you to those who completed the CAT survey. And thank you to a small team being resourced by Cynthia Molinari that is doing a quick demographic and community study.

Secondly: “So now what?” you may rightly be asking. The report will be compiled. In addition to the survey there is church finance data we need to submit. That will not be readily available until December. Transition Team then will be scheduling a time with our consultant, Keli, to interpret the report to the team.

We will also ask her:

1. What are good methods for interpreting the report to the congregation?
2. What are the questions we should be asking in light of this?
3. How do we combine insights from the demographic report and the CAT report?

This will lead to several conversations open to the whole congregation.

In all likelihood, the scheduling of a time with Keli, the time needed to plan for meaningful conversations with the congregation and the fast approaching Advent/Christmas season will make late January and or February the likely time for the congregational discussions. Watch for the notices.

These conversations and their results will lay the groundwork for discerning the challenges and opportunities for the church’s ministry in Christ’s name. This discernment will be the foundation for looking at what skills and type of person is needed in the next called pastor.



The results of the congregational conversations will be compiled as part of a final report of the study process. This could yet happen in late January or early February. If the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry and Congregations approves the final compiled report, the church will be given permission to proceed with electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

“Abundant Life, Joyous Generosity”

Stewardship at Westminster Presbyterian Church

God’s Resources Managed by God’s People in God’s Way

What is stewardship and why do we give to Westminster? Stewardship discussions often focus on budgetary needs. This year we would like to reflect on what it means to be good stewards of God’s resources and Christian ministry:

- God owns everything. Since God is the creator and sustainer of the universe, everything belongs to him. The sum total of the personal abilities, financial resources, hours and opportunities that make up our lives are God’s gift to us.

1 Chronicles 29:14-18; Psalm 24:1,2; Colossians 1:15-20

- God demands responsibility. God has assigned each of us the task of managing the resources we have been given - including time, money, abilities and care of the earth. God will hold each person responsible for the faithfulness of her/his stewardship.

Genesis 1:27-30; Luke 16:10; Matthew 25:14-30

- Stewardship is worship. Far from being merely an obligation, managing God’s property is an every-minute opportunity to express our thanks for God’s goodness; to affirm our dependence on God in everything; and to return God’s love for us as our expression of our love for God.

Leviticus 22:17-22, 29; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 9:12

- God comes first. God’s priorities define the top priorities in all aspects of life. God rightfully receives the first share of everything we receive, as reflected in the way we organize our time, distribute our money and utilize our abilities.

Proverbs 3:9,10; Malachi 3:8-10; Romans 1:3-8

- Stewardship is strategic. God calls us to manage his resources faithfully. Not simply giving, stewardship is investing in God’s eternal purposes. Not simply management, stewardship of the earth is fulfilling God’s original creation mandate

Genesis 2:15, 19-20; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 1 Timothy 6:18,19

- Our attitudes matter. God calls us to manage the resources given to us joyfully, sacrificially, and with servant hearts. We are to acknowledge the privilege to be stewards of God’s creation. We enjoy a God-given contentment that God is able to meet our needs and the needs of the Kingdom of God through the work of good stewards.

1 Corinthians 13:3,11, 2 Corinthians 9:6,7; Philippians 4:10-13,19

- Stewardship confronts our culture. The Church is called to be the community of those who put their trust in God, indicting the materialism and self-centeredness of our culture. Yet even as we stand apart from our world, we choose to serve the world as trustees of God’s good gifts.

Matthew 6:25-33; Luke 12:16-21; James 5:1-6

Our 2019 Stewardship theme celebrates, “Abundant Life, Joyous Generosity.” In appreciation of the life abundant that comes in Christ, you have responded over the years with joyous generosity. We’ve witnessed great acts of caring, wonderful acts of worship, lives changed by experiencing and knowing our gracious Lord and savior. We’ve done it by sharing with the same generosity God has shown all of us.

Please join us **November 11th for Dedication Sunday**, where you will have an opportunity to share your pledge with the regular Sunday collection and we will celebrate our collective giving together.

We Are On Our Directory Way!

Thanks to Captains Margaret Conn, Linore Southworth and Nancy Ost together with their crews, more than sixty pictures of members, friends, dogs and cats were taken for inclusion in a new Westminster Pictorial Directory on October 11, 12 and 13. The teams were ably assisted by Peter McKee, Jennifer Schoenfisch and Forrest Holroyd who provided and maintained the records which will form the body of the directory. We are looking forward to having our new directory available soon!

Volunteers Needed for Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter - How Can You Help?

The Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter, operated by the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) at First Lutheran Church in Albany, will open its doors again for the season on November 1st to serve up to 18 men. The Shelter is scheduled to remain open through April. See more details about the Shelter <http://www.wpcalbany.org/capital-region>.

Westminster provides volunteer services on Sunday nights throughout the cold season. Volunteers serve on a rotating schedule. There are two great options for getting involved in this ministry of service to homeless men in our community:

- Provide on-site hospitality: Join the team of WPC volunteers who welcome guests on Sunday nights and serve meals.
- Prepare nourishing dinners: WPC volunteers team up to prepare meals and deliver to the Shelter for guests to enjoy on Sunday nights.

For more information or to sign-up to help, please contact Valerie Shanley at 518-366-8747/ vshanley@nycap.rr.com or Sheila Wrede at 518-419-7324/smwrede@gmail.com

Hanging of the Greens:

Sunday, November 25

Get an early start on Christmas cheer and workout work off your Thanksgiving dinners and leftovers. Join other WPC members on Sunday, November 25 after worship for the "Hanging of the Greens" as we prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The decorating will take about two hours. Your hands will make light work and add to the merriment!



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service:

Tuesday, November 20

Join the annual Union Thanksgiving Interfaith Service on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 pm here at Westminster Presbyterian. This annual Thanksgiving service is held jointly by Congregation Beth Emeth, Trinity United Methodist Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, and Albany Unitarian Universalist. Our joint Thanksgiving offertory will benefit the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry. Monetary donations as well as nonperishable canned and dry goods that can be used by the pantry are welcome.



Church School Happenings

In the month of November, our children in the lower and upper elementary classes will be learning about leadership from Elijah and Elisha's story; bravery, from Esther and protection through the story of Daniel. The WHIRL curriculum uses entertainment and theology-targeted approach to help the children learn to seek faith and understanding through the Bible's message.

The Echo curriculum, which is being used by the youth this year, uses a story-telling, creative reflection and dialogue approach. Through this, the youth find meaning and identity in the biblical narrative.

Worship Plus for children in Kindergarten - 5th Grade, will be held on November 18 in the sanctuary.

We shall be preparing for our annual Christmas Pageant from the beginning of December. Parents are encouraged to bring their children each Sunday in order for them to pick a role in the pageant. We would like all children to be a part of this. We shall also need adult volunteers so let our Director of Christian Education, Belinda Quaye, know if you will be available to assist.

Thank you to all our teachers and parents who remain committed to this ministry.

Classical November!

On Sunday afternoon, November 4th, at 3:00 PM, the Artist Members and Guest Artists of Albany's venerable Monday Music Club will present a concert of music for piano, violin, voice, and guitar in Westminster's sanctuary. Performers will include pianists Michael Clement and Cynthia Hale, violinist Esther Witherell, guitarist Frederic Hellwitz, and singers Bienvenida Baez and Sandra Schufman. Their program will include works by Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Saint-Saens, and others. The \$10 admission price will benefit the club's ongoing scholarship programs. Refreshments will follow the performance, and all are invited!

Capital District Senior Issues Forum

Senior Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented on October 10, 2018 at Congregation Beth Emeth. Carol Bromley and the Rev. Jim Thompson were recognized for their lifetime experiences: Carol as caregiver and Jim for his Faith Based Service. Seniors who are 85 years or older are able to receive this award.

You can read about Carol and Jim's lifetime contributions in the Gold Program booklet found in the Church Library.



Albany Presbytery Connects With Our Ghana Mission Partners

by Terry Diggory, tdiggory@skidmore.edu;
for Westminster Messenger; 10/15/18

With God's help, the blessings of Westminster's partnership with Ghanaian Presbyterians will soon be magnified through communications with the Albany Presbytery Immigration Network. Since the Network began to form in June of 2017, I have served as one of two coordinators, along with Rev. Gusti Newquist of First United Presbyterian Church, Troy. Through Lois Wilson, I learned of recent concerns among Ghanaian citizens about the denial of visas to travel to the United States on church business. From that initial contact, a productive conversation has begun to evolve.

On September 26, I and another Network participant, Rev. Ted Wright (Honorably Retired), met at Westminster with members of the latest delegation from Ghana headed by Rev. Solomon Adjei. We were able to hear at firsthand about the difficulties of getting timely visa interview appointments at the U.S. Embassy in Ghana and about the frustration of those who were turned down.

On October 11, Lois Wilson and Judy Hartley from the Westminster congregation and Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana attended a general meeting of the Albany Presbytery Immigration Network at the Presbyterian—New England Congregational Church in Saratoga Springs. We agreed that we would make inquiries with PC(USA) and Presbytery regarding advocacy on visa issues.

In support of the Ghana partnership in particular and global partnerships more broadly, we agreed to make two appeals through the Network email list (which currently has 93 subscribers):

1. To encourage congregations to consider "bi-national" ceremonies (e.g. weddings and funerals) for both parishioners and others in the community. Coordinating a ceremony in the U.S. with an observance in another country—even connecting by Internet if possible—can be "the next best thing" for family members and friends who face practical or legal obstacles to travel.

2. To invite congregations to participate in a prayer network sharing concerns with partners in other countries. Through such cooperation we can learn about each other and offer mutual assurance of our unity in Christ.

(Note: Terry Diggory is the co-moderator of the ALBANY PRESBYTERY IMMIGRATION NETWORK)

Memorandum of Understanding Signed by Ghana Mission Partners

During the recent visit by representatives of our Ghana Mission partnerships with Tema Redemption and Greenwich Meridian Presbyterian Churches and the HOCAP agency in Ghana, a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted, agreed upon, and signed. This included a commitment to bring it to the respective governing boards for approval. You can read it below:

Ghana Mission Partnership Memorandum of Understanding Sept. 27, 2018 (draft)

Our Faith: We believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We follow Christ's call to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Our Purpose: Serving Christ, we seek to transform lives and communities in the United States and in Ghana; and to foster and improve cross-cultural understanding.

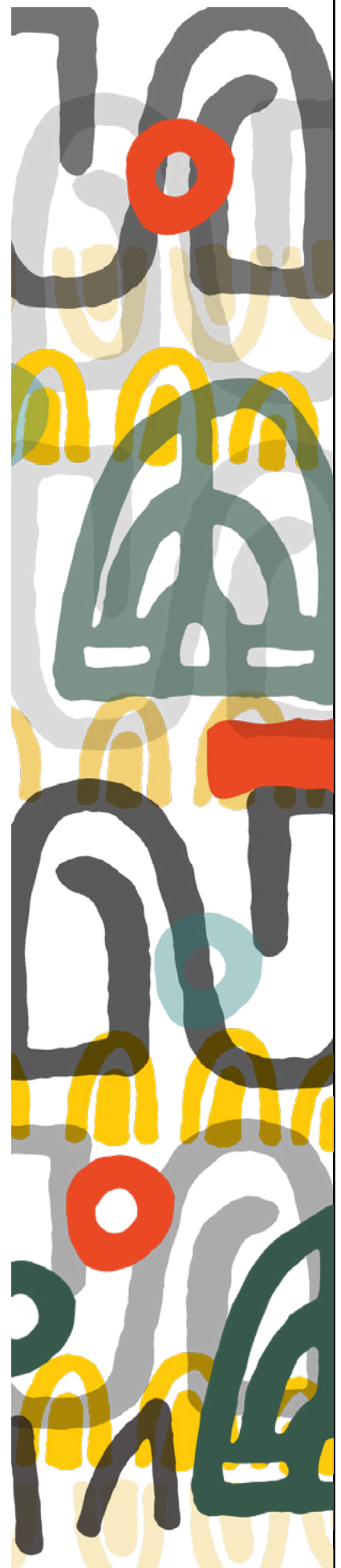
Partnership Membership: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany NY, USA; HOCAP Tema Ghana; Greenwich Meridian Presbyterian Church, Tema, Ghana; Redemption Presbyterian Church, Tema, Ghana.

Mutual Expectations: We commit to the following:

1. Agreeing to a shared multi-year focus of our efforts. The focus will be reviewed annually.
2. Pursuing mutually agreed upon project or projects each year that are consistent with the chosen focus. Project or projects shall be reviewed annually.
3. Designating financial and human resources in support of projects. The type and amount of resources shall be determined by each partner.
4. Maintaining intentional, regular communication among the partners, making good use of all available means. Communication means include but are not limited to prayer concerns, visits among partners, sharing of concerns and successes in ministering to our communities.
5. Sharing experiences and perspectives on topics and concerns that will increase cross-cultural understandings.

Lines of Communication: Official communications are from the pastor of each church, the head of HOCAP and 1 additional person designated by each partner. Informational and friendship communications are considered to be informal.

Duration: This Memorandum of Understanding will be for 3 years starting January, 2019. It may be revised and renewed.





African Family Night

When: Saturday, November 3, 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church

Who: Westminster members and friends; local political representatives; and Albany area members of the African community will come together. Our Keynote Speaker is Dr. Marshall G. Jones of General Electric. He is the subject of the children's book, "Never Give up: The Marshall Jones Story." His philosophy is that good enough is NOT good enough.

Why: Celebrate the African mission work done through Westminster Presbyterian Church with our partners in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Though the generosity of our donors, we have provided funding to improve education; support Ebola orphans; aid mudslide victims; make physical improvements to schools and communities; deliver health supplies for students, enabling girls to remain in school; and are establishing a small twice-a-month health clinic at Hope Mission - a community where no other medical care is available. Generous support of the African Dinner fundraiser will help sustain these efforts to transform the lives of children in West Africa.

Enjoy: A dinner of traditional African foods; meeting new friends and welcoming familiar ones; music, drums and celebration.

How to Donate: Our fundraising goal for this dinner is \$10,000. You may give at our website: www.wpcalbany.org/give or write a check payable to: Westminster Church, designating "African Dinner" in the memo line. We look forward to your support in any way.



Westminster Presbyterian Church's African Family Night

Saturday, November 3, 2018

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Dish-to-Pass Dinner

Keynote Speaker at 6:15 pm:

Dr. Marshall G. Jones

Engineer and Scientist
General Electric Global Research Center

"Never Give Up"

Transforming the Lives of Children
in Ghana, Liberia & Sierra Leone

Sign-up online: www.wpcalbany.org/upcoming-events

A young Ebola orphan in care of the Hope Mission School, Liberia



WESTMINSTER *\$10,000 Fundraising Goal*

Kindly respond by October 30: 518-436-8544 office@wpcalbany.org

Parking & donations: 85 Chestnut St. Albany, NY 12210

Give online: www.wpcalbany.org/give

www.wpcalbany.org

Checks payable to: Westminster Church ("African Dinner" in the memo line)

African Society of Albany Honors Westminster and Lois Wilson

Saturday, December 15, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

At their Annual Dinner on October 13, the African Society of Albany expressed their appreciation to Westminster Presbyterian Church for over a decade of mission work in west African countries and for the welcome and support shown to African immigrant families. There were 15 people present from Westminster. Lois Wilson, Felicia Gambles, Fatmata Hilton and the Rev. "Mama" Alice spoke about the church's mission work and trips to West Africa. Rev. Schram and Gabriel Ofori-Okai helped express the church's appreciation at the honor. The framed certificate of appreciation is on the table in front of the bulletin board between the offices and the small meeting room.



The African Society is an organization that promotes awareness of African culture, support for immigrants, efforts to aid development in African nations and education assistance. That evening they also awarded scholarships to two students. People from at least eight countries were present at the dinner.

Save the Date!

Schuyler Inn Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Westminster is joining with other organizations to sponsor a Christmas party with Santa and Mrs. Santa for all Schuyler Inn residents on December 15. There will be a separate event to distribute hats, gloves, and scarves. Look for details about how to donate \$10 gift cards. We are seeking greeters, craft table leaders, people to serve refreshments, a clean-up committee, photographers (including anyone with a Polaroid camera and film) and organizers for specific sections.

To volunteer, please look for a clipboard at Westminster, contact the Church office: 518-436-8544 / office@wpcalbany.org, or speak to a member of the Committee. Current Committee includes: Lois Wilson, overall coordinator; Nancy Ost, organizer for event to distribute hats, gloves, and scarves; Gail Garrison, books from Santa; and Margaret and Paul Randall, liaison with Santa.



Worship & Second Hours

Sunday, November 4

9:00 Bible Study and Worship Preparation

10:00 Worship

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

“Beanie Babies, Scarcity and Abundance” Ecclesiastes 1:13-14, Luke 12:13-21

Second Hour: Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 11

9:00 Bible Study and Worship Preparation

10:00 Worship

Pledge Dedication Sunday

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

“Love: A Commandment”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Mark 12:28-34

Second Hour: led by David McMillan

“The War Poets” English Poetry from World War I

Sunday, November 18

9:00 Bible Study and Worship Preparation

10:00 Worship

Sunday Before Thanksgiving

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

“Thanksgiving With the Volume Off”

Deuteronomy 8:6-17, Matthew 6:1-8

Worship Plus

Second Hour: led by Nate Powers

“Many light bulbs, one socket: the puzzle of religious diversity.”

Tuesday, November 20

7:30 pm Union Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at Westminster

Reception to follow

Sunday, November 25

9:00 Bible Study and Worship Preparation

10:00 Worship

Christ the King Sunday

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

“Ways Jesus Changed the World”

Colossians 3:12-17

Second Hour: Advent Workshop (Church School children to attend)

Prayer in the African Way

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 2

9:00 Bible Study and Worship Preparation

10:00 Worship

First Sunday of Advent - Hope

Rev. Bill Schram leading worship

“Come Home to Hope”

Second Hour: TBA

Church School Pageant Rehearsal

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



November CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

1
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

2
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

3
5:00 pm African Family Night

SUNDAY November 4

Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Congregational Meeting
1:30 pm Monday Musical Club Concert

5
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

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

7
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:00 pm African Network Forum

8
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

9
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

SUNDAY November 11

9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:30 am 20s & 30s Brunch
2:00 pm Recitals

12
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

13
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Tai Chi

14
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:00 pm Pine Bush Dinner
7:00 pm Session Meeting
7:00 pm Trustees Meeting

15
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

16
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

17
6:00 pm Neighborhood Assoc. Dinner

SUNDAY November 18

9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Worship
Worship Plus
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Deacons Meeting

19
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

20
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:00 pm Compassionate Friends
7:30 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service and Reception

21
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

22 **THANKSGIVING DAY**
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

23
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

SUNDAY November 25

9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Advent Workshop
Hanging of the Greens
12:30 Prayer in the African Way

26
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

27
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Tai Chi

28
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

29
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

30
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

SUNDAY December 2

9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School

3
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class

4
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Tai Chi

5
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

6
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

7
12:15 pm EBA Seniors Class



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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

Parish Associate: Rev. Paul Randall

Sextons: Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge, John Fox

Communications: Kim Deal

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Graphic Design: Jeanne Bianchine

Newsletter submissions are due by November 15
Send submissions to: newsletter@wpcalbany.org