



# THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER

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

## October 2013

In this issue:

Pastoral Reflections  
Page 2

Congregation Updates  
Page 3

Music  
Page 4

Youth  
Page 5

Mission  
Page 6

Local Mission  
Page 7

Church School  
Page 9

Worship & Second  
Hours  
Page 10

Church Calendar  
Page 11

“The morns are meeker than they were,  
The nuts are getting brown;  
The berry’s cheek is plumper,  
The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,  
The field a scarlet gown.  
Lest I should be old-fashioned,  
I’ll put a trinket on.”  
Emily Dickinson, Nature 27 - Autumn

We invite you to join us this October at Westminster for a wide variety of activities within our faith community. We welcome you find inspiration in the natural beauty of autumn in Upstate New York. Put a trinket on, and come to church; or just come as you are.

The month ahead promises inspiring worship, the chance to hear an international peacemaking voice, opportunities to give of your time, talents, and resources to your neighbor in need.

Turn the page, and welcome to October •

- Pastor Jim Reisner

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

By Pastor James Reisner

I am thinking that maybe Westminster should do away with church membership. Now that I have your attention, let me explain:

When I converse with people who are visiting Westminster and mention church membership, I can see their eyes glaze over, and their enthusiastic smiles freeze in place. Membership may be an idea whose time has passed. Generation Y folks are interested in Christianity. They are interested in community. They are not all that interested in institutional religion. They want to find a place where they belong (as in a place where they fit in and that feels right for them), but they don't want to belong to ... an organization, an institution, an association, a church. The issue is authenticity. Does it feel real? Formalizing relationships by way of membership diminishes their experience of authenticity.

Perhaps our focus and language needs to shift from membership to participation. What if people who come to worship regularly are regarded as part of Westminster, whether they have "joined" the church or not? What if everyone who makes a financial pledge to the church is regarded as the same? If you teach in the church school, or attend the Kerygma Bible study, or attend youth group, you are one of us. What if every year we observed a recommitment ceremony that affirmed the dedication and support of people within the Westminster community. Certainly, it's not hard to think of glitches and complications if we

## What do we call ourselves if we are no longer "members"?

made such a transition. How do we recognize new people? What do we call ourselves if we are no longer "members"? The upside may be worth the administrative headaches. The living breathing church must always be about the work of risking the new, and putting aside that which has become overly formal and stale.

In the months ahead, the Session will be thinking afresh about church membership and how best to support and recognize the good people who make contributions of all kinds to Westminster Presbyterian Church. I encourage you to share your thoughts on this with Session members, and with Pastor Frances and me.

One last thought: The Gospels never mention Jesus and the twelve members.

--Pastor Reisner

# WE GIVE

## FAITH AND STEWARDSHIP

How does your faith continue to lead you to share your blessings of time, talents and financial gifts? Perhaps you have taught young people in Westminster's church school, provided choral or hand bell music to enrich our congregation, served breakfast to community members in need, travelled to Ghana to share knowledge and resources and be enriched by a culture much different than ours, or participated in mission right here in the U.S. Perhaps you have worked hard to make a difference right here in our local community or spent many hours helping to keep our beautiful house of worship in good repair.

As we prepare for our 2014 Stewardship commitment, we invite you to consider where your faith has led you so far and where it might lead you in the next year. Paul set an example of faithfulness for us and called us to be so. "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." 1 Corinthians 4: 1-2

This year our ministry and mission cost an average of over \$2,000 per member to fully fund. As you pray and discern your part in God's mission, please remember that none of our efforts on behalf of the larger Church come without sacrifice. We give because of the inspiration of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We give because through Westminster we can join with friends and family in a common cause and together make a real difference. We give because we are grateful for all the many blessings we have received. And we give so our faithful witness will nurture the faithful of the future. We benefit today from the generosity of the past. Our financial gifts can do the same for our spiritual heirs. Please join us for Stewardship Sunday, November 10, 2013, when we celebrate our personal faith commitments and continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christian Fellowship,

Arthur Fullerton and Susan Schell  
Stewardship Budget Committee ●

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."

1 Corinthians 4: 1-2



# GLORY TO GOD

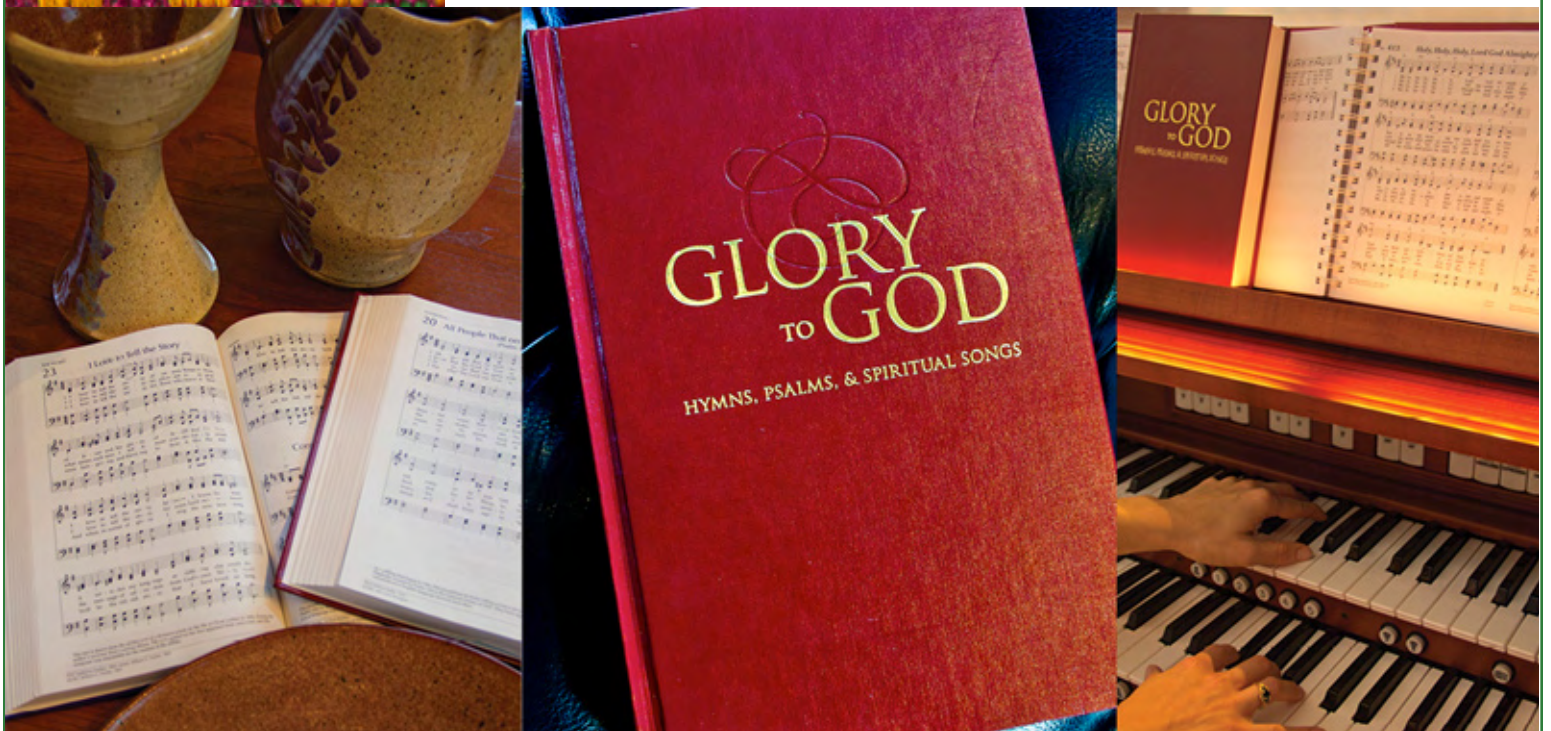
BY: ALFRED FEDAK

## AREA-WIDE HYMN FESTIVAL, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

At 4:00 PM on the afternoon of Reformation Sunday, October 27, the Presbytery of Albany will celebrate the arrival of our denomination's new hymnal, GLORY TO GOD, with a hymn festival at Westminster Church. Our own Westminster Choir will be joined by the choir of First United Presbyterian Church in Troy (Maury Castro, director), as they lead us in a joyful and inspiring program of hymns old and new drawn from the book. Guests from throughout the Albany Presbytery are expected to attend, and we encourage our entire Westminster family to join us for the event. Refreshments will follow--come, and bring your best singing voice!

## HYMNAL DEDICATION SET FOR NOVEMBER 3

At our morning worship service on November 3, All Saints' Sunday, Westminster Church's new hymnals will be formally dedicated. During that service, every individual in whose name a book has been given, either as a memorial or other remembrance, will be specially acknowledged in the bulletin. If you wish to give a hymnal to the church and have it inscribed with a memorial or honorary dedication to a friend or loved one, please use one of the pink envelopes found in the pews to make your donation, or send your gift directly to the church office by October 27. The cost per book is \$15. Besides being a wonderful remembrance, each new hymnal represents a gift we give to the next generation of worshippers at Westminster Church. Glory to God! ●





# YOUTH NEWS

By Rev. Frances W. Rosenau

## YOUTH RETREAT OCTOBER 25TH 7 PM • 27TH 2 PM

Join youth from all over Albany Presbytery for a retreat at Camp Fowler. The theme will be "Team Survivor." Whereas, no one will be voted off the camp, teams will work together to meet challenges that will test their team skills.

Since this is a Christian Survivor weekend we ask that all electronic gizmos be left at home. Youth will be assigned to teams for events that will test your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Do you have what it takes? See Pastor Frances to sign up today ●

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## REPORT FROM YOUTH MISSION TRIP

What every happened to those talented young people who raised money at the hat show? Did they ever go on their mission trip? What happened?

Come find out October 6th during Second Hour. The youth will share their experience, tell about their projects and show you pictures. You may even get a preview of next year's mission trip ●





# INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER TO VISIT WPC

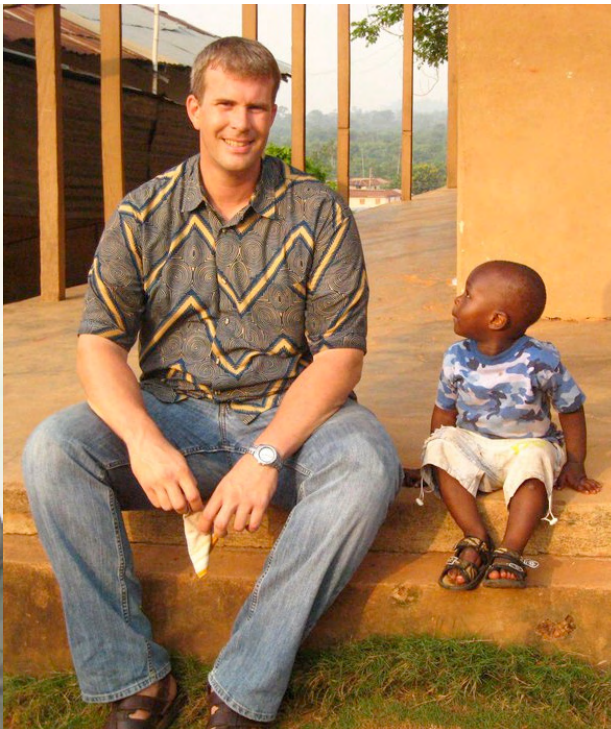
## INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER FROM NIGER TO VISIT WESTMINSTER OCTOBER 12TH-15TH

Rev. Sani Nomaou is President of the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger, the largest Christian denomination consisting of 16,000 members. Only about 1% of the country's population is Christian in a majority Muslim country.

Rev. Nomaou uses radio to reach out to people in his vast, rural, and largely agrarian country. As president of the country's largest Christian denomination, he is often a voice in the national dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

He will be accompanied in the U.S. by Rev. Josh Heikkila, mission co-worker in Ghana who has hosted our 2011 and 2013 mission teams.

Welcome dinner and program October 12th 5:30 pm - Bring a dish to pass.



Sunday morning,  
October 13th at 10 am,  
Rev. Nomaou  
will preach at  
Westminster and  
lead 2nd Hour.

October 15th 5 to  
8:30 p.m. Program  
on Women's Issues  
at Delmar Presbyte-  
rian Church ●



# MISSION

# EMPTY Bowls



HUNGER ACTION NETWORK OF NEW YORK STATE  
& FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**OCTOBER 24, 2013 5-7:30**

The Linda: WAMC's Performing Arts Studio

339 Central Ave - Albany, NY 12206



CHOOSE A BOWL

ENJOY GOURMET SOUP

- Make a Reservation Now -  
\$25 per person

HANNYS: info@hungeractionys.org or 434-7371  
FOCUS: info@focuschurches.net or 443-0460

Proceeds support our efforts on behalf of the more than two million New Yorkers who turn to the state's 3,000 food pantries and soup kitchens annually to help feed their families.

## PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Peacemaking is very much at the heart of Westminster's prayers and activities this fall. In addition to everything else that you do, here at home and abroad, please consider donating generously to the Presbyterian Church USA's annual Peacemaking offering, which this year will be taken on October 6. Indeed, PCUSA is promoting a Season of Peace right now. Proceeds from this offering are used by the national church to address a range of issues, from human trafficking to the on-going war in Syria and its impact on families.

One quarter of the October 6 offering stays at Westminster, and this year these funds will go to support the Domestic Violence Shelter run by Equinox, a service that our church is well acquainted with. This shelter, coupled with other services at Equinox and its partners, is on the front line in combating an underground epidemic of violence against women (and sometimes men) in the Capital Region. Domestic violence contributes to broken families and kids with reduced chances for school and life success. Equinox helps families through crisis and assists them to get back on their feet ●

--Tom McPheeters, Mission Committee Chairperson

# PEOPLE NEWS

## PEOPLE NEWS

- The twins are in college! Alex Scaptura is running cross country at Hudson Valley Community College this fall. Andy Scaptura is in the SUNY Albany marching band. Congratulations to both of them!
- Pastor Frances Wattman Rosenau was honored on September 19th by the Labor-Religion Coalition at their Faith at Work Awards Banquet as a key leaders of the next generation in the global struggle for worker justice. Pastor Frances serves on the Board of Directors of the Labor-Religion Coalition.
- We congratulate Esther Acheampong, who has been accepted into West Virginia University's masters degree program in public health with a concentration is occupational and environmental health science.
- Allan and Mary Jean Tedrow celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 3rd with a family trip to Gloucester, Massachusetts, where their wedding took place in 1963.
- Judy Hartley has accepted the position of Executive Director of AfterSchool Works! New York, the official state affiliate of the National Afterschool Association and serves as a non-profit membership association for afterschool professionals in New York State. It's mission is to provide leadership for the positive development of school age children and youth by promoting and supporting high quality programs and professionals.
- Norm Andrews will be recognized this month at the Capital District Senior Issues Forum Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony. Among his many service activities Norm was a driver for the Red Cross and a volunteer for FOCUS. He served Westminster as both an elder and deacon. Currently, he coordinates the Sunday worship service at Beverwyck, where he resides. Norm celebrated his 90th birthday this summer.
- Naomi Nakubulwa has taken a position as a nurse at St. Peter's Hospital in the Department of Radiology.
- Thanks to all who contributed \$1,536.97 to the special offering for the Helen Rising Fund, a special fund that goes toward extraordinary medical expenses for people who are a part of the Westminster community. Money is still coming in. Thank you to all who contributed ●



# CHURCH NEWS



## OUR NEW CHURCH SCHOOL ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

We are delighted to announce that Belinda Quaye has joined the staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church as the Church School Assistant Coordinator. In her new role, Belinda will provide resources for church school teachers and children during Sunday morning worship and the 2nd hour education program. Belinda will be working with Pastor Frances Rosenau, who is assuming administrative leadership of our church school. Belinda holds a degree from the University of Ghana at Legon in Library Science. She has also studied French and German.

The Quaye family has been attending Westminster since when they moved to Albany in 2010. Belinda has taught in our church school and along with her family has been involved in all facets of the Westminster community. Her husband, Ben, is serving on the Board of Deacons. Her children, Maxine and Robert, are active in the youth group and are often ushers in worship. Maxine is a freshman at Albany High School and Robert is in 8th grade at Meyers Middle School.

## CHURCH SCHOOL IS BACK!

We are excited about getting back to the 3rd floor this year. The first few weeks have been going great with fantastic teachers and enthusiastic learners. What more could you ask for?

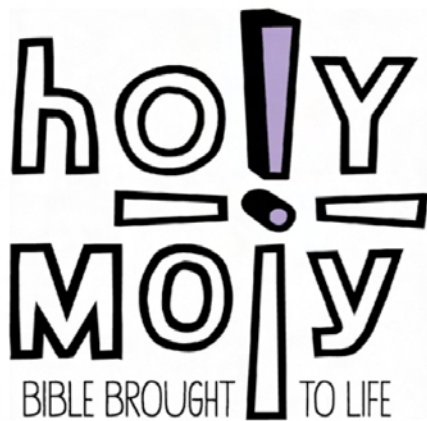
This fall, the Godly Play class is trying something new. A curriculum called Holy Moly, complete with a DVD, activities and a story book they can take home at the end of the unit. If you hear laughter coming from the 3rd floor, it is likely the children shouting, "Holy Moly!" ●

## CENTERING PRAYER

What ever happened to Centering Prayer? You remember: the summertime worship service during lunch hour.

Well it turns out that there are a lot of people in downtown who could use a place of calm and prayer in the middle of their day. We opened our doors every day for two weeks this summer. Many people came in and stayed as long as they could. After the service, we gathered on the sidewalk in the sunshine. Some said they wished we would hold the service every day, or at least have our doors open for those who want to pray.

We are happy to continue Centering Prayer for another round during Advent. Look for more information in the coming months and come find some peace in the middle of your day ●



*Westminster Presbyterian Church*

Drop In  
**Centering  
Prayer**

12:05  
to 12:30

	June	July
Monday	24	22
Tuesday	25	23
Wednesday	26	24
Thursday	27	25
Friday	28	26

*Bring your lunch & find some quiet*

# OCTOBER 2013

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Celebrating** the following  
birthdays in **October:**

● Pacia Ferrell Vamvas	Oct. 1	● Laura Hartmark	Oct. 12
● Reed G.	Oct. 2	● Susan Elbow	Oct. 15
● Forrest Holroyd	Oct. 2	● Ben Fedak	Oct. 16
● Amy McPheeters	Oct. 2	● Ruth Russell	Oct. 19
● Grant H.	Oct. 6	● Caleb K.	Oct. 20
● Harvey Prins	Oct. 6	● Ann Fraser	Oct. 22
● Matthew Scaptura	Oct. 6	● Andrew Scaptura	Oct. 26
● Carol Johnson	Oct. 7	● Alex Scaptura	Oct. 26
● Bill Mayer	Oct. 7	● Dr. Robert Faust	Oct. 29
● Spencer Ryan	Oct. 7	● Ken Moore	Oct. 30
● Tim Gordon	Oct. 9		
● Sue Schell	Oct. 9		

Sorry if we missed your birthday. Please send your birth date into the church office so we may have it on record ●

## Worship Services and Second Hours:

**October 6**

**World Communion**

Isaiah 56:6-8

“Bring an Ethnic Food”

*Pastor Rosenau*

2nd hour: Youth Mission & Triennium

**October 13**

**Pentecost XXI**

International Peacemaker: *Rev. Sani Nomaou*

President of the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger

2nd hour: *Rev. Sani Nomaou & Rev. Josh Heikkala*

**October 20**

**Pentecost XXII**

Isaiah 58:12

“In the City for Good”

*Pastor Reisner*

2nd hour: Congregational Meeting

**October 27**

**Reformation Sunday** *Baptism of Caleb Bojnowski*

Judges 7:1-22

“Too Small to Fail”

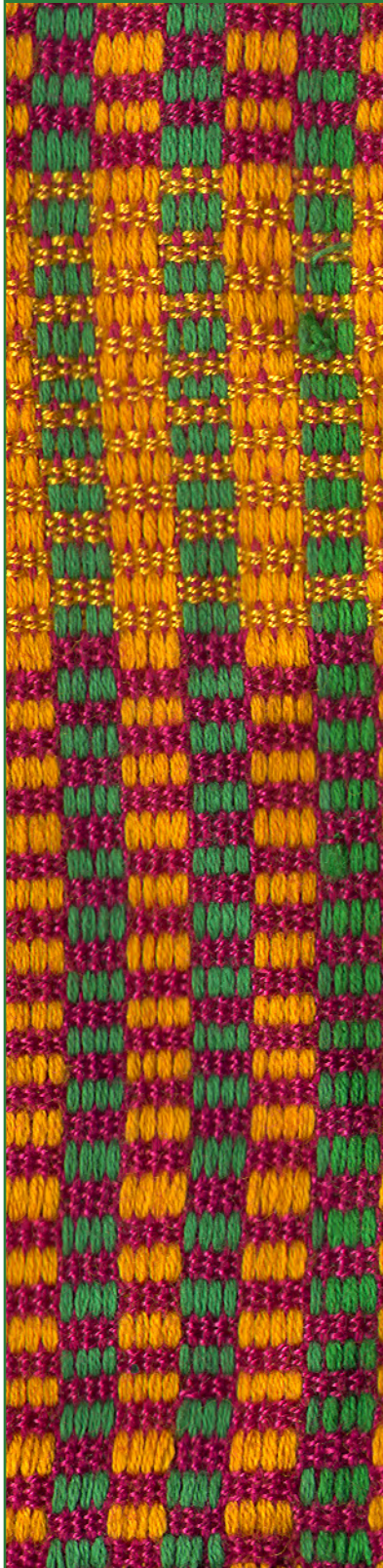
*Pastor Reisner*

2nd hour: Convocation on African Ministries



OCTOBER  
2013

# CHURCH CALENDAR



## OCTOBER

2  
7:00 pm Christian Life and Learning

3  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

6 **SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
10:30 am Worship Plus  
11:15 am Church School

8  
7:00 pm Session

10  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

12  
5:30 pm Welcome Dinner and  
Program from Rev. Sani Nomaou

13 **SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
7:00 pm Youth Group

14  
All day Office Closed

15  
7:00 pm Deacons  
7:00 pm Trustees

17  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

20 **SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School

24  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

25  
7:00 pm Youth Retreat  
with Albany Presbytery

26  
All Day Youth Retreat  
with Albany Presbytery

27 **SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:30 am Young Adult Brunch

31  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal



### SUNDAY GREETERS:

October 6: Ruthanne Brod,  
Marie McClumpha, Peter McKee,  
Willie White

October 13: Eve Ryan, Alex Scaptura,  
Andy Scaptura, Valerie Shanley

October 20: Carol Bromley,  
Cindy Dwyer, Judy Hartley, Arden Leach

October 27: Tim and Lisa Dodman,  
Ben Quaye, Robert Quaye



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

### CHURCH OFFICE- Hours

9 am- 3 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

**Pastor:** James L. Reisner

**Associate Pastor:** Frances Wattman Rosenau

**Parish Associate:** Paul Randall

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

**Associate Minister of Music and Arts:** Susan Hermance Fedak

**Church School Assistant Coordinator:** Belinda Quaye

**Administrative Secretary:** Nancy J. Sokil

**Sextons:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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**Facebook:** Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany

**Twitter:** WPCAlbanyNY

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Send submissions to: [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com)