



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
July 12, 2026  
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**



**Welcome to Westminster!** We're glad you're here. If you're visiting us this morning, we would love to meet you and greet you. After worship, please join us as we continue our fellowship at our coffee hour.



**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

Jeff Calistri, Trumpet  
Brian Halliday, Piano

For the Beauty of the Earth (Conrad Cochler)  
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (John Roberts)  
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Martin Luther)



**Call to Worship**

Carolyn Smith

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Let us worship God.



**Opening Hymn #610**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**Call to Confession**

Carolyn Smith

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. *John 7:37-38*  
Out of the believer's heart  
shall flow rivers of living water.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.



**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Carolyn Smith

**All: Merciful God,**  
**We confess that we have sinned against you**  
**In thought, word, and deed,**  
**By what we have done,**  
**And by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you**  
**With our whole heart and mind and strength.**  
**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,**  
**Help us to amend what we are,**  
**And direct what we shall be,**

That we may delight in your will  
And walk in your ways,  
To the glory of your holy name.

(Time of silence)

**Hymn #422**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Carolyn Smith

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**All: Amen.**

**Response Hymn #582**

Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Passing the Peace**

Carolyn Smith

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Special Music**

Just A Closer Walk With Thee/When The Saints Go Marching In

### **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**



**Prayer for Illumination**

Carolyn Smith

One: God of All Power,  
Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts with a spirit of wisdom and revelation.  
Help us to hear your voice, to see your ways, and to receive with joy your truth.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.



**Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**Sermon**

Good Soil

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer Hymn #834**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

**Gathering Celebrations and Concerns**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff



**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**



**Invitation to the Offering**

Carolyn Smith

**Offertory Music**

**Hymn #710**

We Lift Our Voices

**WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME**



**Closing Hymn #700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

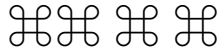
**Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Postlude**

On The Sunny Side of the Street

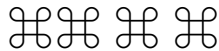
Jimmy McHugh



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- Get weekly news email messages by providing a current email address to the church office at [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org) or calling (518) 436-8544
- For more about Westminster's online communications, please contact us: [communications@wpcalbany.org](mailto:communications@wpcalbany.org)



#### About Our Guest Musicians

##### Brian Halliday (Piano)

Brian Halliday is a pianist, composer, and educator from Clifton Park, New York. A classical and jazz prodigy from a young age, he participated in elite regional and national honors ensembles before earning his degree *Summa Cum Laude* from SUNY Purchase College's prestigious jazz studies program. While in NYC, Brian studied under premier pianist Donald Vega and regularly performed with renowned jazz veterans. A former instructor at the Skidmore Summer Jazz Institute, he represented the institute at the Saratoga Jazz Fest. Today, Brian is a staple of the Capital Region music scene, performing as the pianist and arranger for *Soul Session* and serving as the musical director for the popular Radio Gold and Sinatra Sunday shows at Panza's Restaurant in Saratoga Springs.

##### Jeff Calistri (Trumpet)

Jeff Calistri is a veteran Capital District musician and dedicated music educator. His musical roots run deep, inspired by his grandfather, Gino Calistri, who was a big band leader for over 50 years. Jeff performed with the Empire State Youth Orchestra in the 1980s and has since lent his talents to many of the region's top commercial and jazz ensembles, including the New York Players, The Refrigerators, and the Empire Jazz Orchestra. Currently, Jeff plays trumpet alongside Brian in the high-energy band *Soul Session*. Alongside his active performance career, Jeff has served as the band director at Tamarac High School since 2000, where he has a long history of leading his student ensembles to top ratings at NYSSMA Majors and the Great East Music Festivals.

## 2026 CHURCH OFFICERS

### Session

*Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session*

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles

2027: Nancy Holroyd, Nate Powers, Susan Schell

2028: Ephriam Adjei, Jessica Chamberlain, Willie White

### Deacons

*Carolyn Smith, Chair*

2026: Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

2027: Lily Mercogliano Easton, Maxine Quaye

2025: Shernette Grant, Ruth Mendoza, Julia Haywood-Dadzie, Carolyn Smith

### Trustees

*David Nti Adjei, Chair*

2026: Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

2027: David Nti Adjei, Fatmata Hilton, Mark Manieson

2028: Jeramias Castañeda, Kelly Crisfield, Laura Moody

### CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor

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Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education

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Emma Mrowka, Organist

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### CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Kim Deal, Communications Manager

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John Fox, Exterior Maintenance

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

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Moses Kunda, LaundroZone LLC, Interior Cleaning

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher,  
Assistant to the Music Director

Eugene Sit, Assistant Treasurer

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

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