

From Daniel's Den

Beginning with the first day of March, we journey through Lent. It is a time of preparation, consideration, thoughtful waiting. We are getting ready for something.

The name Lent comes through Middle English *lente* and Old English *lencten* or *lengten*, which refers to the season of Spring and the lengthening of days. It is also related to the French word *lente*, which means "to move slowly".

Would you like to get on with Spring, with the lengthening of the days? After a few dull days, I imagine most of us would. I'm going to say it, the "E" word. Wouldn't you like to get right on to Easter? That is the "E" word for me at this time of year. But this time called "Lent" is necessary.

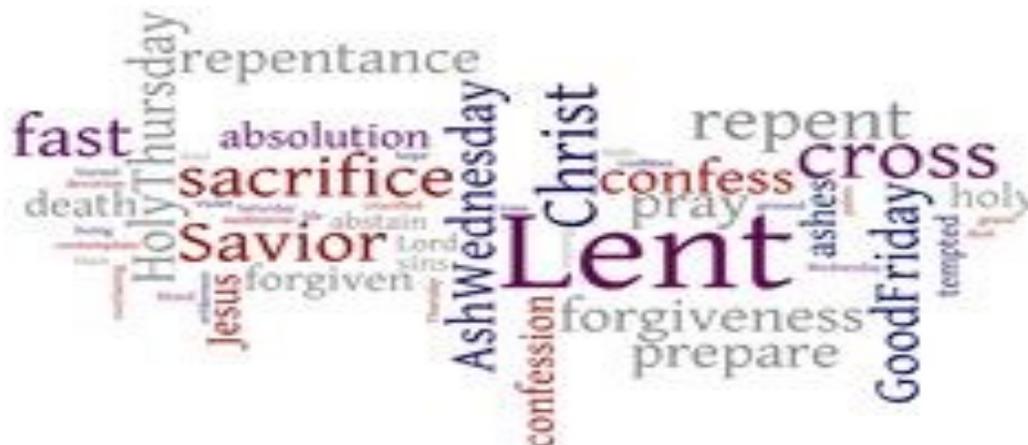
We need this time. We need to experience these days and try to feel through them what it was like for Jesus to have this time of preparation. Jesus is looking forward to sharing the Passover with His disciples. Passover was a great festival of celebration. Freedom was the result of Passover. The people of Israel recalled how they escaped from slavery in Egypt. Every year they would celebrate the same festival. Do you think it was just the same old story each year? But even today, Passover is a very important event.

And we do know how Easter comes out. We've heard about the resurrection of Jesus. Nevertheless, we need to walk through these days first. We need to feel the weight of Holy Week when it comes in April. Will we be able to do that if we have not spent these days preparing?

I can't tell you how you should prepare. This is a personal thing. However, we might just try to understand what it would be like to be with our closest friends for the last time and be misunderstood, betrayed, denied or simply disappointed by them. And what would we do next?

Well, it is Lent. Let's decide how or even whether we will be part of the journey in these lengthening days. Will we be prepared for what is coming?

It is a personal thing. I have decided that I am going to sit with Jesus each day and see how it feels. What will you do? The decision is yours.



New Narthex Window Signage

As you are aware, the Rainbow Flag in the narthex window was approved by our Church Council as a temporary measure. At that time your Parish Mosaic Committee committed to developing a new symbol, proudly communicating the congregation's positive Affirming vote and our entire Statement of Inclusion. We are pleased to share with you, the latest version of a design that we feel captures what our congregation stands for and what we would like to communicate to our local community. Please see a copy of this ``work in progress`` below.

The design features the following principle elements:

The design is based on a strong cross design, leaving no doubt that Westminster is a Christian congregation. The sturdy cross design strongly resembles the cross atop our own Westminster spire, further reinforcing the connection.

Three prominent multi-coloured hands interact at the centre of the design, indicating that we are a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic congregation that is welcoming to all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

A prominent rainbow weaves on and beneath the surface of the design. This represents the fundamental support and welcome that Westminster offers the LGBTQ community as a result of our positive Affirming vote. We feel that the design effectively communicates this.

The different coloured flowers represent the varied talents, abilities and backgrounds that our members bring to our many projects and charities.

The stylized image of the Dove obviously represents the Holy Spirit, as well as being universally recognised as a symbol of peace. Intentionally, the image of the dove extends from within the cross (congregation) to outside of the cross, showing our intentional participation within the community at large.

A final version of the design will be presented to Church Council for approval, before any decisions on deployment are made.

Our thanks go out to Cathie Ellis for her work on this project. We appreciate that it is not easy to take many intense, subjective ideas and translate them into a symbol that clearly communicates what we wanted to say.

Celebrating Our Diversity,

Parish Mosaic Committee



BRIDGE TO A NEW HOME

We are so pleased to advise that we have committed to sponsoring a forty (40) year old man from Myanmar (Burma). This gentleman, Sut Khan Thang, has experienced trauma and torture and is currently in Malaysia unable to return to Myanmar. He is scheduled to travel to our community in the next 3 to 11 weeks but we caution that other r refugee groups have experienced delays in the arrival of their sponsored refugees. Approximately \$19,000.00 has been raised with additional funding coming from the Federal Government. We continue to welcome volunteers, and donations can still be made. God Bless!



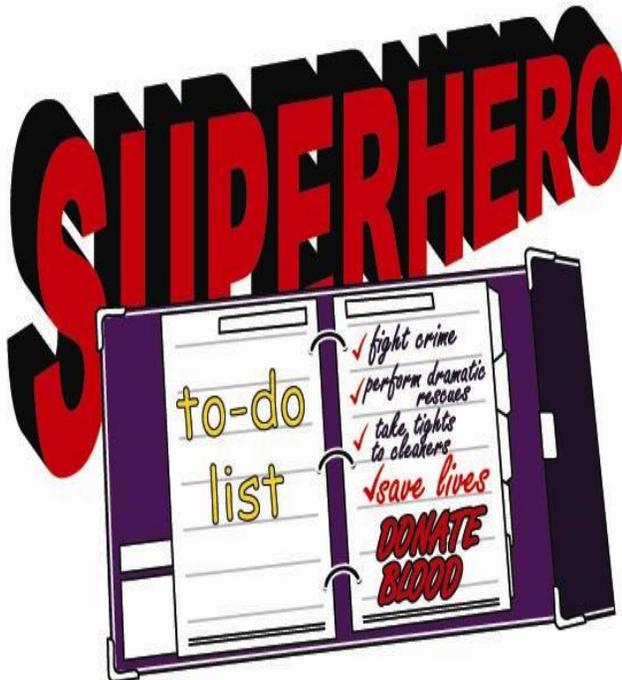
Outreach

Tin Cans - *Refugee Support*

If you took a tin can with an **R** for refugee,
please return it to the church by
Sunday, April 2nd

Tin Cans - *Christmas Hampers*

If you have not already received a tin can for Christmas Hampers,
you can pick one up during April in the gym after service.



**Be a HERO to someone
in need...DONATE BLOOD!**

The next Westminster clinic
is on

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017
4:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Don't pass up this
opportunity to
Save a Life!**

You can book your appointment time
by calling ahead to
Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-236-6283

Shamrocks, saint and shillelaghs

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, honors Ireland's patron saint who died on that day in 461. Icons of the Irish holiday and the history of St. Patrick:

Shamrock

■ Small, three-leaved herb appears on United Kingdom's coat of arms with English rose, Scottish thistle



Irish flag

■ Green stands for Catholics; orange for Protestants; white for wish for harmony



Leprechauns

■ Fairies who work day and night mending shoes of other fairies



Shillelagh (shi-lay'-lee)

■ Walking stick; word is Irish for stout oak club or cudgel; also name of a forest that once stood in County Wicklow



Patrick: Saint and legend

387: Born in Britain to a Roman family; his father served as a magistrate; his original name was Maewyn

Early 400s: Taken to Ireland as a slave; after six years, he escaped to France where he studied for priesthood

432: Sent to Ireland as a Christian missionary by Pope Celestine I, who named him Patricius, which means noble in Latin; he introduced Roman alphabet, Latin literature; Christianized land

Familiar legend
He drove the snakes from Ireland by beating a drum

Source: "Shamrocks, Harps and Shillelaghs" by Edna Barth, "All About American Holidays," World Book

© 2002 KRT

The Story of St. Patrick

 Long ago, St. Patrick 
 taught the Irish about God
 By showing them a shamrock
 he picked from Erin's sod.
 He used the shamrock's leaves
 to symbolize the Three in One—
 The Holy Ghost, the Father
 and His beloved Son.
 St. Patrick Changed the hearts
 and lives of all the Irish race,
 And through the years,
 in all our hearts, 
 he holds a special place.

Doten Steiner Rice



*May your troubles be less
 and your blessings be more
 And nothing but happiness
 come through your door*

An Irish Prayer:

May God give you, for every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile,
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.



From the Wellness Committee

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in our survey about Topics of Interest.
The overwhelming response was an interest in the Dementias.
We will do our best to find a speaker and will plan a spring luncheon event.

Thank you as well for your contributions toward the Hearing Enhancement project.
It has been installed and we eagerly await feedback from participants.

The Wellness Committee is very grateful to the UCW for their large donation to this project.
We are also grateful to Paul Kneebone who guided us through the research and purchase of the necessary equipment. Our Tech Committee installed the equipment and we thank them for giving their time to do this.

From the Wellness Committee

Seeking Peace of Mind?

Meditation may be the answer! If you find that you need a greater sense of calm in your life or feel as if you are constantly caught up in worrying about the future or reliving thoughts from your past, learning the practice of meditation may provide you the techniques to help you focus more on the present, and bring some “peace” to your mind.

There are many resources available, some of which are online [for a minimal cost]. If you would like more details about how to bring increased clarity and wisdom, resilience and love to your life, please speak to your Wellness Committee who can provide you with the names of world-renowned mindfulness teachers.

There are free guides on meditation at the following site: <https://www.tarabrach.com/>

Stepping out of the busyness, stopping our endless pursuit of getting somewhere else, is perhaps the most beautiful offering we can make to our spirit.”~ True Refuge (2013)

HOLY HUMOUR - LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God,
In Sunday School they told us what You do.
Who does it when You are on vacation? - Jane

Dear God,
I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying. - Elliot

Dear God,
Did You really mean "do unto others as they do unto you"?
Because if you did, then I'm really going to fix my brother. - Darla

Dear God,
I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday.
That was cool! - Eugene

Dear God,
I read the Bible. What does "begat" mean? Nobody will tell me. - Allison

Dear God,
Are you really invisible or is that a trick? - Lucy

Dear God,
Is it true my father won't get in Heaven
if he uses his bowling words in the house? - Anita

Dear God,
Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? - Norma

Dear God,
Who draws the lines around countries?- Nan

Dear God,
I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? - Neil

Dear God,
Thank You for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. - Joyce

Dear God,
Why is Sunday School on Sunday?
I thought it was supposed to be our day of rest. - Tom

UCW NEWS

Do you want a quick and deliciously easy supper?

On Tuesday March 7th from 5:00pm - 7:00pm, come to the church (front doors) and buy a freshly baked 4-inch turkey/chicken pot pie (gluten free pies also available) or a pint (2 cups) or a quart (4 cups) of homemade soup that you can just put on the table!

We are taking some early orders (just 100 pies) but there will still be lots of pies available for sale on March 7th. The pies will be \$4.00 each and there is a **pre-order limit of 4 only**. You can pre-order your pies on Sunday March 5th from Susan Pleasance or phone her at 905-493-3122 between 8:00am - 11:00pm. Please speak to Susan directly as the UCW will not be accepting any pre-orders by message.



An Invitation from the UCW

UCW is planning a Pocket Prayer Square Workshop for our March 6th meeting at 7:00pm in the Founders' Room.

Can you crochet or would you like to learn? Join us with a crochet hook, if you have one; we will supply the yarn.

We need 160 of these for the Presbyterial Annual Meeting table favours! This counts as fellowship as well - one of the purposes of UCW!

All women are welcome. Questions to Mary at 905-728-7346.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 15th
10:00am—12:00pm

Stay tuned for more information...

Wine, Women and the Word

The next meeting of this monthly Bible Study will be on
Tuesday, March 21st,
7:00pm—9:00pm
in the Founders Room.

Back By Popular Demand...

Looking for a fresh way to explore your faith?
Want a new and compelling look at the teachings of Jesus?

Then set aside some time to attend the
NOOMA DVD Series

Monday Evenings
7:00pm - 8:00pm

March 13, March 27, April 10 and April 24



NOOMA is a series of short films that promotes spiritual reflections on individual life experiences. Each of the four DVD's is presented in a highly relatable manner, that invites you to search, question and join the discussion.

The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα, meaning "wind", "spirit", or "breath".

Each of the films is written and narrated by Rob Bell, an American author, motivational speaker and former pastor.

Please consider joining Cathy Shaw, your Minister of Faith Formation for any, or all of this faith forming series.

EASTER FLOWERS

We will be decorating the sanctuary with memorial Easter flowers again this year.

This is a lovely way to beautify our church as well as to remember family members and friends.

If you wish to donate to the purchase of flowers, there will be donation envelopes available on a card table outside the sanctuary on March 12th, 19th and 26th.

Following the Easter service, the flowers will be distributed to people who are shut in or who are having difficult times.



Vacation Bible School

July 10- 14th from 9am - 4pm

Theme: J*A*M*B*O*R*E*E*

We need your help – we are in need of adult and teen helpers – for a day or two or three or all five days for our camp.

Our theme this year is J*A*M*B*O*R*E*E* - celebration stories found in the Bible – the birth of Jesus, Jesus as a child found in the temple, the feeding of the 5000 +, the four friends helping their friend, the prodigal son, and the story of Zacchaeus.

If you can help, please fill in the Camp Volunteer Application Form within this newsletter and hand to or send to either: Crystal (905-725-0074) or Susan (905-493-3122).





Westminster's Kid's Church Camp

July 10 - 14, 2017

For Kids Ages 4 to 12 - Teen Volunteers Welcome

9am to 4pm (before and after care may be arranged)

Music - Games - Crafts - Cooking - Outdoor Activities

Cost/child \$100/week.

Additional family members at \$50/week

Pre-registration required a.s.a.p with payment due by June 30th

For more information Contact:

Crystal Smith, 905-725-0074

Or

Susan Pleasance, 905-498-8122

Kid's Church Camp@ Westminster

Registration Form

Family Last Name: _____ Family email: _____

Child's preferred name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Gr. in Sept 2017 _____

Child's preferred name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Gr. in Sept 2017 _____

Parent # 1 - First and Last Names: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Parent # 2 – First and Last Names: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Family Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Allergies/Sensitivities/ Concerns: _____

Behavioural Concerns:

I give the Church Leader permission to procure emergency medical assistance if I cannot be reached. Yes ___ No ___

I give permission for photos of my child to be used in relation to promoting Westminster United Church. Yes ___ No ___

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Children are to bring own lunch. Snacks will be provided.

Camp runs from 9 to 4. Before and after care may be arranged on an individual basis.

Cost: \$100/week per child

(\$50/week per each additional child in same family)

Cheques made payable to Westminster United Church.

Registration form to be submitted a.s.a.p. / Payment must be received by June 30, 2017

For more information, please contact Crystal at 905-725-0074 or Susan at 905-493-3122

Office Use Only Time: Full week

File Number _____

Payment Received: Cash / cheque

Amount: _____

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with all applicable federal and provincial legislation including but not limited to, the Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act. Information gathered can and will be used for the purpose of administering Sunday Church School programs as well as sharing information pertaining to other Westminster United Church events. It will not be distributed to outside agencies except as statistical data to the United Church of Canada.

Westminster United Church Camp Volunteer Application Form

“By sharing your time and talents, you can help others, meet new friends and learn new skills.”

Name:

Home Address:

E-mail Address:

Mobile Number:

Home Number:

Date of Birth (if student) _____

Security Clearance (adults only) _____

Adult volunteers must provide a Criminal Reference check including a Vulnerable Sector Clearance from Durham Regional Police as per Westminster’s Security Policy. Please ask at the church office for a letter for DRPS if you do not already have clearance.

2017 Camp will be the week of July 10 to 14. The Theme is “Jamboree” and looks like it is going to be another fun event for all involved. Volunteers are required from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You are welcome to join us the entire time or just for a portion of a day or only on specific days.

- ◆ Will you be available the entire time period? Yes or No
(If not, please give more information on your availability).
- ◆ Which role are you interested in? Group Leader, Assistant Group Leader, Programming Support, other.
- ◆ What would you like to get out of volunteering?
- ◆ What skills or experience could you bring to your chosen role?
- ◆ Is there any other relevant information that you think we should know?

Please provide 2 character references (no more than 1 family member):

Name

Name

Relationship

Relationship

Phone #

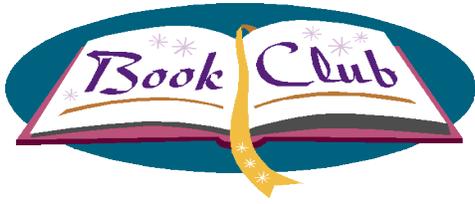
Phone#

Applicant’s Signature

Date

Forms may be dropped off at the church office to the attention of Crystal Smith.
For more information, please contact Crystal at 905-725-0074 or Susan Pleasance at 905-493-3122

***As per Westminster’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy,
the information given will be used only for this specific program.***

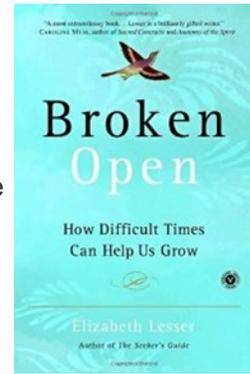


The Westminster Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday March 22nd at the church at 1:00pm to discuss Broken Open by Elizabeth Lesser.

All are invited to join us.

For more information please contact Susan at 905-493-3122.

In a beautifully crafted blend of moving stories, humorous insights, practical guidance and personal memoir, Elizabeth Lesser offers tools to help us make the choice we all face in times of challenge: Will we be broken down and defeated or broken open and transformed? Lesser shares tales of ordinary people who have risen from the ashes of illness, divorce, loss of a job or a loved one - stronger, wiser and more in touch with their purpose and passion. And she draws on the world's great spiritual and psychological traditions to support us as we, too, learn to break open and blossom into who we were meant to be.



Ever wonder what your pet does or says when you're not around?

If so, then come to the church and find out on **Friday, March 31st**. That's the night your CE Committee will be hosting their next **Family Dinner and Movie Night!**

Join them for a Hassle-free night of food, fun and fellowship!

You don't have to bring a thing, except yourself...and your family!

Hot dogs, veggies/dip, chips, ice cream, juice...and ANIMAL CRACKERS are all on the menu, along with the awesome movie, "The Secret Life of Pets"!

So, bring your favourite Stuffed Animal and come and join the fun!

Dinner: 5:45pm.

Movie: 6:30pm.

If possible, please let us know you'll be there by contacting Cathy Shaw at cshaw@westminster-uc.ca.

Thanks so much!



NEWS FROM THE PEWS...DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know...

...that some of our Westminster members are on the move - visiting far away places such as Cuba, Ecuador, China, Cayman Islands, Spain, etc.? Do share your experiences on your return.

...that the Scout and Guiding service on February 19th was a wonderful event? The Scouting and Guiding groups participated in the service, complete with a Colour Guard Flag Processional and Abraham stopped by in place of Rev. Dan to share the sermon. Westminster, as sponsors of these movements, thanks its leaders and our link to them who is Cathy Shaw.

...that if you attend Sunday Service you will get exercise singing "Hallelu"? Do try it.

...that ladies in our congregation are knitting tiny body suits for newborns in Africa? They are made of very bright colours at the request of the babies' mothers. We know they will be gratefully received. Thank you, ladies.

...that the sock tree in the Narthex has been filled and emptied several times? These socks are taken to the YMCA, schools, counselling services for children, etc. Our gratitude to you our congregation and to our organizer, Sandra Kell-Cullen. We also acknowledge a large gift of men's and women's socks through a connection from our own Liz Robinson. They will also find a good home.

February Presbytery Report

It was an amazing evening listening to the stories shared by Pickering Islamic Centre and Durham Muslim Moms – stories that startled you and brought tears to your eyes. Thank you to Jeff Doucette and Lakeridge Presbytery for making this evening possible.



Are you interested in volunteering at Westminster but are too busy and short on time to make a big commitment? Consider joining a Communion Team!

Your Worship Committee is establishing Communion Teams in the same manner that we have Coffee/Tea and Ushering Teams. We are hoping to recruit a minimum of six individuals, which means each team would be responsible for Communion approximately once every three months.

Each team would be responsible for obtaining servers, purchasing and preparing the elements, and cleaning up after service. There is an approved procedure which details the steps to follow, and training will be provided.

If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to members of the Nominating Committee, members of the Worship Committee or to your Worship Chair, Kerry Delaney. Kerry can also be reached by email at headsupkd@rogers.com.

*By the way, ushers are needed too!
Consider signing up to become a member of one of the Ushering Teams.

Thanks for considering this wonderful volunteer opportunity!



BRRRR!!!
It's COLD OUT!!!

Thanks to you and the generosity of all our supporters,
our Coldest Night of the Year Team
surpassed their fundraising goal of \$1500.00

Together our Westminster Team raised
\$3198.00

for the Refuge Outreach Centre!

We couldn't have done it without you!

ANSWERS

to the

BLACK HISTORY IN CANADA QUIZ

(from the February Westminster World Newsletter)

1. The experiences of fugitive slave Reverend Josiah Henson, who escaped to Canada in 1830, were the subject of what famous novel?
Roots Beloved Confessions of Nat Turner **Uncle Tom's Cabin**
2. William Hall won the first Victoria Cross ever awarded to a Black Canadian for his bravery in which conflict?
First World War, 1914-1918 Second World War, 1939-1945
Indian Rebellion, 1857 South African War, 1899-1902
3. Born 1744 in Bondou, Senegal, and brought to North America at the age of 16, Richard Pierpont was a soldier and militiaman who served during the American Revolution, as well as at the battle of Queenston Heights during this conflict:
The Seven Year's War The French-Indian War
The War of 1812 King Philip's War
4. Maroons is the name given to approximately 550 to 600 individuals who lived in Nova Scotia after being deported from this place, only to be later sent to Sierra Leone in 1800:
Cuba Louisiana **Jamaica** Brazil
5. This man of African extraction is thought to have come to Canada some time before 1603, using his visit to learn the Mi'kmaq language and French papers record him working for the government of Port Royal in 1608:
William Hall Delos Davis **Mathieu da Costa** Maurice Ruddick
6. This child brought to Québec in 1628 by the English invader David Kirke, is the first person recorded as coming directly from Africa and the first African slave known in Canada:
Harriet Tubman **Olivier Le Jeune** Jan Rodriguez Josiah Henson
7. Michaëlle Jean, the first black person to serve as Governor General, was born in this country:
Jamaica Kenya French Guyana **Haiti**
8. Sir James Douglas, a Hudson's Bay Company officer and governor, referred to as "Scotch West Indian" as his mother was Creole and he was born in Demerara (now part of Guyana) was also known as:
"the father of British Columbia" "the father of the railroad"
"the father of Free Trade" "the father of the Métis"
9. Rosemary Brown, born in Jamaica, became the first black woman to run for this in 1975:
Mayor The Canadian Track and Field Team
The leadership of a federal party The fight against Cancer
10. The greatest track star in Canadian history, with gold medals in the 100 metre sprint and 4 by 100 relay, was:
Harry Jerome Michael Smith Angella Issajenko Donovan Bailey

Thank you for taking this quiz about some pretty remarkable Canadians!

Parish Mosaic Committee

You're invited...

UCW Meeting Crocheting Pocket Prayer Squares 7:00pm	Monday, March 6
Blood Donor Clinic 4:00pm - 7:00pm UCW Pot Pie Sale Available for purchase at the Front Door 5:00pm - 7:00pm	Tuesday, March 7
Clocks Move Forward Today 2:00am Worship Service - Baptism Second Sunday in Lent 10:30am	Sunday, March 12
NOOMA - DVD Series 7:00pm - 8:00pm No registration required.	Monday, March 13, March 27 April 10 and April 24
Worship Service - Communion Third Sunday in Lent 10:30am	Sunday, March 19
Wine, Women and the Word Bible Study 7:00pm – 9:00pm	Tuesday, March 21
Book Club 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Wednesday, March 22
Worship Service Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>Cathy Shaw</i> 10:30am	Sunday, March 26
Family Dinner / Movie Night Dinner: 5:45pm Movie: 6:30pm	Friday, March 31
Worship Service Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Cathy Shaw</i> 10:30am	Sunday, April 2
Worship Service - Palm Sunday Children's Palm Parade 10:30am	Sunday, April 9