



PICTUREQUOTES.COM

*Wishing you Easter Blessings!*

## CELEBRATING PASSOVER

As Christians, we are part of an Abrahamic tradition which includes Judaism and Islam, the three monotheistic religions that profess belief in one God. Together, representatives of these three religious faiths are currently working to build bridges and gain friendship among Jews, Christians and Muslims. One goal is to educate and define a common purpose and seek a common mind, particularly with regard to pluralism and common ethical premises of a civil society. (reference: *The Abrahamic Community Program*; <https://www.chautauquafoundation.org/index.php/religion>).

With this in mind, the Parish Mosaic Committee highlights Passover (Pesach), the Jewish holiday which begins on the night of April 10th and lasts for eight days. This holiday commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and marks the birth of the Jewish people as a nation led by Moses over 3000 years ago.

Passover is as much a celebration of spiritual freedom as the physical liberation from slavery. The highlight of Passover is the observance of the Seder, a unique ceremony performed on the first two evenings of Passover. At the Seder, different symbolic foods are prepared and eaten (e.g. matzah, charoset, bitter herbs, hard-boiled egg), the story of the departure from Egypt is re-told, songs are sung and special prayers are said. (reference: [chabad.org](http://chabad.org); [torah.org](http://torah.org)).



And so to our Jewish friends, as you celebrate this important festival, we say  
"Shalom and Happy Passover"

*Parish Mosaic Committee*



**Sunday, April 9th**

Palm Sunday Worship Service  
(Children's Palm Parade)  
10:30am.

**Tuesday, April 11th**

**Wednesday, April 12th**

Labyrinth Open for Individual Prayer Walks  
2:00pm - 4:00pm and 7:00pm - 8:00pm.

**Thursday, April 13th**

Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00pm.

**Friday, April 14th**

Good Friday Service  
10:00am

**Saturday, April 15th**

Easter EGGstravaganza  
10:00am - 12:00pm.

**Sunday, April 16th**

*Easter Morning*

Sunrise Service: 8:15am.

Easter Breakfast: 9:00am.

Easter Worship and J.a.M: 10:30am.

A Little Note... 

**Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday**

We recognize these days of passion and celebration with music!

Many thanks to the special musicians who will enhance our services -

Kathleen Booth, trumpet (Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday) and

Greg Balsdon, French horn (Easter Sunday).

## **BRIDGE TO A NEW HOME**

**BRIDGE TO A NEW HOME** refugee committee has accepted responsibility for sponsorship of a gentleman from Burma - also known as Myanmar. 'Sut' is currently in Malaysia; he is a single gentleman and he speaks a language called 'Chin'.

We are truly looking forward to his arrival in the near future. Can you help us prepare?

Support is needed in 2 areas: Housing and Transportation...

**HOUSING** for Sut may be a challenging task given current housing situations. We are appealing for your help in locating affordable shelter for a single person. Please contact a member of the committee if you are aware of a potential unit.

**TRANSPORTATION** for Sut will be extensive and require a small group of volunteers to help him to a variety of locations, such as English lessons, medical appointments, Ajax Welcome Centre, grocery shopping, banking, etc. We ask for your help during his first year in our community. These needs will be weekdays, weeknights and weekends.

**TRANSLATION** support for Sut will be essential and the committee has been successful in finding a volunteer interpreter. The difficulty in locating an interpreter intensified when we learned that Sut speaks Chin! This is not a common language and is limited to the Chin State of Burma and a small part of neighbouring India. 99% of the Chin state is Christian. They have experienced persecution in the past from the Burmese Government and the army.

We learned this through a meeting with Sang, the interpreter living in Toronto, who is from Burma and fluent in Chin. Sang is very enthusiastic about helping us, but we will have to respect his 9-5 workday. He has volunteered a backup interpreter who lives in Kitchener. Sang told us that there are only 8 Chin families in Toronto and 1,000 Chin people in Kitchener. He spent time informing us of Burmese history and emphasized his desire to help us as much as possible. The committee believes that they could not have found a better resource. Just AWESOME and a "call" answered.

Your Committee members,

*Joanne MacPherson, Gail Wild, Maureen Dingman and Larry Morrow*



## **LENTEN LABYRINTH JOURNEY**

***“a spiritual journey of renewal and reflection”***

The journey through Lent invites us to identify with Jesus, to face the desert inside us, to feel our smallness, feel our vulnerability and feel our fears.

Join us as we journey together on the labyrinth to receive God’s guiding love.

**Wednesday, April 5th**  
**7:00pm - 8:30pm.**

Our labyrinth will also be open for individual prayer walks:  
Tuesday, April 11th, 2:00-4:00pm and 7:00-8:00pm  
Wednesday, April 12th, 2:00-4:00pm and 7:00-8:00pm



## **Something New...**

The Sanctuary continues to host symbols of the Lenten Season. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lenten* meaning length of days. These days see an increase in sunlight and are associated with spring. For Christians, it is a time of reflection and spiritual renewal.

In the Narthex, please take note of two new additions. Before you enter the Sanctuary, look up! “Embracing Our Community” has been the Westminster slogan for several years. The Sanctuary Committee believes that the Westminster community extends beyond the confines of the Whitby/Oshawa town limits. It is our belief that our community is a world without borders. This is supported through various initiatives such as “Minute for Mission”, our participation in “A Bridge to a New Home” project and the UCW commitment to the World Development and Relief Fund.

As you leave the Sanctuary, look toward the church office. In our local community, Westminster wishes to be seen as a safe place where paths converge and all who enter are welcomed, nourished and have a sense of belonging. This is evidenced by the Westminster Mission Statement and Statement of Inclusion. Please take some time to reflect upon these images and our role as a congregation to demonstrate our commitment to these ideals.

### *The Sanctuary Committee*



# UCW NEWS



Thank you to those who came  
and prepped for pie and soup making,  
those who made the pies and soups,  
and those who bought the pies and soups.

Our fundraiser would not have been the success it was without everyone's efforts.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. 😊

Be sure to come and visit the church's  
**Yard Sale**  
on  
**Saturday April 22, 2017**  
8:00am - 1:00pm.



Please save the date and buy a ticket  
for you and your loved one.

**UCW Mothers' Tea Party**  
with Musical Entertainment on

**Saturday May 13, 2017**  
*(in the afternoon)*

## **In Honour of our UCW and our WUC Kitchen Helpers**

I'm not sure how many of us have taken the time to really think about what goes on in our lovely BIG kitchen – do we ever wonder about who's in there, who's doing what, who's doing the dishes, who's cooking the pie(s), who's peeling the potatoes ... okay, you see where I'm going with this. And while many groups use the kitchen, including our FoodMan Group and others, I can only speak on behalf of what I have experienced there.

Because I have now had our UCW ladies cater 2 special events for over 100 of my friends and relatives, I feel compelled to tell "the kitchen story" from my point of view. I feel I should tell you because I have seen it – our kitchen, that is – in true action. Well, what I mean is, I have seen all the action that goes on in there, and then some, culminating in some great results!

They make the whole process appear so seamless, I am amazed that we do not host many more of these catered affairs. Let me tell you how this has worked for me. It has always begun with a phone call to the office, where Garth has confirmed the availability of the room (Founders' or the gym, in my case) for the time and date. He then quoted me an hourly rate for the room rental, noting also the insurance requirements. After that, he passed me to Shirley Penny, "chief cook and bottle washer", if I do say so myself!! Shirley and I then met, discussed how many, the seating plan, the theme, the setting, the costs, the decorations/colours, and finally, THE FOOD. Oh my gosh, these ladies just seem to have a knack for and a love of cooking – or maybe, like me, it's a love of the fun, the ribbing and kidding around, and just being with a lovely team of people working together, for the sole purpose of getting the job done WELL!

And because I have had the privilege of helping in the past, I can tell you that the whole process begins way before the actual event date. The shopping is done early enough to take advantage of any sales and a few weeks before, Shirley would have her clipboard ready for the names of those volunteers who would help the day before with all the food prep, hall set up (coordinated with the chairman group) and anything else that could be done the day before. Then, on the day of the event, there are several groups of volunteers for the last-minute prepping, for cooking, for serving, for replenishing and for packing up, washing dishes, putting things away and the final clean-up!! If that sounds dizzying, it truly is and yet all this runs like a well-oiled machine! Our food was served on time and at the right temperature and always with smiles and graciousness.

If you haven't thought about having your event catered here, then you should. If you have any concerns about the results, then don't. If you care about quality and great presentation, then please consider giving the ladies a chance.

Even though I have thanked Shirley and her team(s) of helpers, as I said, I felt compelled to say it again – "Thank You" for doing what you do, so very well!

And this is just a sample of what's been cooking in our kitchen.

Respectfully,

*Margaret Suepaul*

Hey Kids!

If you are 12 years old or younger  
then YOU ARE INVITED to an

**Easter EGG-stravaganza**

Saturday, April 15, 2017

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Join the fun!**

Come for the Crafts, Games and Easter Treats  
and **DON'T MISS** the **EASTER EGG HUNT**  
at 10:15 am

Westminster United  
Church 1850 Rossland Rd, E  
Whitby

**Two Sessions Left...**

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

**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.



Please consider joining Cathy Shaw, your Minister of Faith Formation  
for one, or both of the remaining sessions of this faith forming series.



# 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, 905-493-3122

# 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 UCW Yard Sale is coming soon...**

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please help us by donating your clean yard sale items and we'll turn them into cash for Westminster! We appreciate your help to ensure items donated are in good condition, complete, and in the case of games, fully operational.

Drop-off day is the day before when volunteers will be available to accept your donations.

**If you can help with time, muscles or deliveries, please call Tom or Heather McNown at 905-666-4961. Thanks!**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

***We cannot accept old electronics, stuffed toys, baby cribs, strollers, car seats, jolly jumpers, knives or out of season sporting goods. For items donated that we cannot use, unfortunately, each load of trash we take to the dump costs \$50.00.***

***Wine, Women and the Word***

The next meeting of this monthly Bible Study will be on

**Tuesday, April 18th, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Topic:**

**"Exploring the role of women in the resurrection story."**

**Bible verses to prepare:**

**Matthew 26: 6 - 13/Mark 14: 3 - 9/John 12:1 - 9**

**Outreach**



**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.

## February 2017 Financial Update

	2017 Year To Date Actual	February 28 2017 Actual	2016 Year To Date Actual	
<b>Monthly Offerings</b> (Local & Bldg. Funds)	\$39,795	\$18,080	\$45,557	
<b>Total Revenue</b> (Excluding Loblaws and M&S)	\$61,318	\$32,669	\$76,925	
<b>Total Expenses</b> (Excluding Loblaws and M&S)	\$69,084	\$34,825	\$78,251	
<b>Net Position</b> (Excluding Loblaws and M&S)	-\$7,766	-\$2,156		
<b>Available Cash and Bank Balance</b> (as of 2/28/2017)		\$44,652		

February was a great month at Westminster United Church with all the activities that occurred. Although we experienced a small deficit of \$2,156, this was due, in large part, to a decline in non-PAR offerings for the month. On a positive note, expenses were "spot on" with our month of February expense forecast.

The deficit of \$7766 through February is manageable and one that we are comfortable with at this time of the year. We continue to ask you to consider enrolling in PAR to provide increased consistency in monthly offerings. The February results are an example of how increased PAR contributions could mitigate such an impact on the overall church finances. Thank you for your continued generosity in time, talent and resources.

### Vacation Bible School

**July 10- 14<sup>th</sup> 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).



# Canadian EH?

## TRIVIA NIGHT

*Celebrate 150 years with this all Canadian Trivia Challenge!*

*How much do you know about Canadian music, history, geography, science, and more?*

# SATURDAY MAY 6, 2017

## Westminster United Church

1850 Rossland Road E, Whitby, ON, L1N 3P2

Doors Open 6:00pm, Game Begins 7:00pm

**Step 1)** Gather some friends

**Step 2)** Buy your tickets

**Step 3)** Have a fun night out



**\$100 for a team of 6 or \$20 per individual**

*Please Note: Individuals will be grouped together to form a team.*

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT:** Cathy Shaw at 905-723-6442 or [cshaw@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:cshaw@westminster-uc.ca)



All proceeds raised from this event will support the ministries of **Westminster United Church**

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

## ***Did you know...***

...that Carol O'Neil preached on April 2 at WUC as part of her Licenced Lay Worship Leader program? She did a fine job and we are grateful.

...that the above mentioned Carol and her husband, Mark Clark have delivered hundreds of pairs of socks to various shelters in Durham Region? These socks were donated to Westminster through a connection of one of our members, Liz Robinson. We give thanks to all.

...that Maisie Morrison, with the help of her husband Fitz, has been in charge of preparing Communion and tidying up for more than three years? This is one of those unseen jobs in a church that "just gets done". Maisie has done it more than well and perhaps that is why there now must be teams of people to replace her. We are filled with gratitude to Maisie and Fitz.

...that Catherine Howard had an artificial tulip display in the Narthex in order to draw attention to donations for Easter flowers? A young child noticed them as she walked by and went up to smell them and strolled away satisfied.

...that there is a clipping on our church bulletin board in the back hall highlighting a column in the Toronto Star newspaper written by Cathy English using words by our own Mary and Bill Shepherd? Hurray!

...that Sandra and Bruce Cullen have been in Egypt to see the sights and be guided by their son Kyle who lives and teaches there? How wonderful to have a personal guide who speaks the language in such a fascinating country.

...that Rev. Dan and his wife Joanne have returned safely from their well-deserved vacation?

...that members of our congregation have been commenting on the wonderful sound and contribution to our worship by our Praise Band, SALT? Keep up the great work!

...that prayers have been answered for Brenda Mountain and her family?

...that the Christian Education Committee hosted another successful Family Dinner and Movie Night?

...that Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation, took a tumble recently and hurt her shoulder and arm? Although you may see her in a sling periodically, including during the worship services she led in Rev. Dan's absence, she's not letting it slow her down!

...that our CE Chair, Jolene Baker and her husband Keith, have just returned from a 33 day cruise around South America?

...that the children in our J.a.M Sunday School program made signs to welcome our sponsored Refugee (Sut Khan Thang) to Canada? One sign had his name on it and the other had a greeting written in his language of Chin (dialect: Falam). The message said *LUNG AWI IN KANLO HMUAK*, which means, "*Welcome you with happiness!*"

...that Westminster is gearing up for it's first Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, May 6th? So, get your team together and sign up soon for a fun evening out!

# You're invited...

<b>Lenten Labyrinth Journey</b> 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Wednesday, April 5
<b>Worship Service - Palm/Passion Sunday</b> <b>Children's Palm Parade</b> 10:30am	Sunday, April 9
<b>NOOMA - DVD Series</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm No registration required.	Monday, April 10 April 24
<b>Labyrinth is open</b> for Individual Prayer Walks 2:00pm - 4:00pm and 7:00pm - 8:00pm.	Tuesday, April 11 Wednesday, April 12
<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> Communion 7:00pm.	Thursday, April 13
<b>Good Friday Service</b> 10:00am.	Friday, April 14
<b>Easter EGGstravaganza</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm.	Saturday, April 15
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>Sunrise Service</b> ( <i>Outdoors, weather permitting</i> ) 8:15am <b>Easter Breakfast</b> ( <i>Prepared by the Foodman Group</i> ) 9:00am. <b>Easter Worship Service</b> ( <i>with J.a.M classes</i> ) 10:30am.	Sunday, April 16
<b>Wine, Women and the Word</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	Tuesday, April 18
<b>Yard Sale</b> 8:00am - 1:00pm	Saturday, April 22
<b>Worship Service - Holy Humour Sunday</b> 10:30am <b>Celebration/Baby Shower for Opaline Robinson</b>	Sunday, April 23
<b>Worship Service</b> 10:30am	Sunday, April 30
<b>Canadian EH? Trivia Night Fundraiser</b> <i>Tickets Required</i> Doors open: 6:00pm. Game begins: 7:00pm.	Saturday, May 6
<b>UCW Mothers' Tea Party</b> Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details	Saturday, May 13