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FROM THE ROBINSON FAMILY

April 26, 2017

Westminster United Church

Dear Friends in Christ:

We give God great thanks for you.

Last Sunday morning we were blessed to join you for worship and the baby shower held after service. Truly, we were overwhelmed by the hospitality and the meaningful gifts given to our daughter, Opaline. The camping items for her are perfect as is the donation in her name to Camp Quin-Mo-Lac. The latter combines key interests of ours: the outdoors, outreach and faith exploration United-Church-style!

With the other part of your gift we are establishing an RESP for Opaline to help her on her adventure of life-long learning. It will be a joy of ours to tell her about your generosity and kindness, the benefits of which she will continue to experience years from now. Thank you!

Since Opaline's arrival, and well before, you have extended love and support in more ways than we can count. From the prayers and well wishes, to the homemade meals, gifts and cards, to all the items that will keep Opaline well-read, well-blanketed and well-dressed for the foreseeable future...all around us are reminders of you, our beloved church community.

Last month, when we came to church it was the first time some of you had met Opaline. People, old and young, greeted her and told her that they loved her. I watched as little Savannah, a child of Westminster, leaned in to talk to Opaline who was nestled in her carrier. After what looked like an important conversation Savannah moved away for a minute. When she came back there was a folded piece of blue paper in her hand which she gave to me. It was a note she had written to Opaline: "Dear Baby. You are cute. You are blessed."

Blessed indeed.

Thank you, all.

With much love and appreciation, Rev. Michelle (Jake and Opaline)



IT'S NEW AND APPROVED!

Westminster Inclusion Cross

Westminster Church Council has approved the new signage design to replace the Rainbow Flag in the narthex window. The new design shown below offers the following benefits:

All are welcome at Westminster and the symbolism of the Inclusion Cross reinforces this message to the community. All of the elements of the cross work together to create a welcome message, while reinforcing the fact that we are a Christian congregation.

- The rainbow element speaks to the LGBTQ community, as per our Affirming mandate. The colours are the specific Pride colours, ensuring the cross is recognized as a welcome.
- The different coloured hands represent the diversity of people that are included and welcomed in our congregation. The flowers are of different colours and shapes, but all are beautiful, as are the diverse people and their contributions to our congregation.
- The dove represents the Holy Spirit. The white of the dove extends outside the cross, as do the rainbow, hands and flowers. This symbolizes that we are both open to the outside community as well as that our ministry extends outside of the walls of our church. It is connected to the white cross which frames the Westminster community. The hands also appear to be reaching for peace through the Holy Spirit.

We hope that the congregation can see themselves represented in the Inclusion Cross and that those in the outside community feel the welcome and safe haven that Westminster offers them

Work is currently underway to implement the design and replace the rainbow flag in the narthex window.

Parish Mosaic Committee



From The Wellness Committee

<u>Hearing Enhancement Equipment Update</u>



We are pleased to announce that the *Hearing Enhancement Equipment* is now installed and operating! Currently two people are using the available apparatus (one with headset and another with neck loop) and both report the system is working well for them. 1 more headset and 3 more neck loops are currently available for other users. For anyone who has hearing aid(s) with a telephone coil (T-Switch), you can use the neck loop option. Also, for anyone who has their own smart phone with Wi-Fi switched on, it can be used directly in conjunction with the new Wi-Fi-enabled base station transmitter.

Training is planned for the Tech Booth operators and Ushers, who can then assist first-time users of the equipment, in addition to the weekly distribution of the hardware. This will greatly increase accessibility for participation and enjoyment during our church family worship together.

Thanks to the many contributors including our UCW for a generous donation, other financial contributions, Paul Kneebone for his steadfast commitment to bringing this to fruition, William Von Zuben, Paul Cruz and Shane Alderdice (Shirley Wallis' grandson) in the tech booth and the Bay of Quinte Conference for recently received grant money to offset half of the cost.

Please speak with Maureen Dingman or Sue Neil of the Wellness Committee if you would like to try out this new hearing enhancement system. They can get you started, so you can test it out first hand.

<u>Dementia</u>

Please join us for a presentation about Dementia on Sunday, May 28th at 12:30 pm in the Founders' Room. Sandwiches and cold drinks will be available starting at 12:00 pm and the presentation will follow. There is no cost but a free-will offering is welcome. The speaker will be from the Alzheimer's Society and your questions will be welcomed.

Blood Pressure Clinics

The Wellness Committee conducts a Blood Pressure Clinic on the first Sunday of each month in the Founders' Room following the church service. Any changes in date will be noted in the bulletin.

Blood Pressure is very prone to change under some conditions and an accurate reading can be affected by many factors. For example, the emotion of the church service or temperature of the environment may cause an inaccurate reading. It is wise to try and sit for 15-20 minutes before having your blood pressure reading done. It is also preferable to wait to have your coffee as one cup of coffee can affect your reading and it can take up to half an hour for your blood pressure to adjust.

If your blood pressure is beyond your normal, you will be advised to follow up by further checking your pressure readings at home and/or by informing your doctor. You will be given a written record of your blood pressure reading so that you are able to recall the result.

The next clinics will be held on May 1st and June 4th. No clinics are held in July or August.

Give it to God and go to sleep.

BRIDGE TO A NEW HOME

What a wonderful month of April we have experienced. Sut Khan Thang, our refugee gentleman, arrived April 5th! After 24 hours or travel, Sut was excited to be here and we were excited to meet him. It was amazing to see the huge smile on Sut's face and then recognize that all his worldly possessions were in one small suitcase.

The refugee committee has been working diligently to orient Sut into our community. Daily English classes have begun, and Canadian and Asian meals have been shared. We have visited the waterfront, biked along community trails, attended church services at Westminster and met our volunteer drivers on rides to school. Oh, forgot to mention pursuing many Government requirements, forms and other essential needs.

Ongoing learning activities and responsibilities for Sut's success require support in the form of volunteers, donations and fundraising. We give heartfelt thanks for:

- Westminster congregation has met this "call" and the committee is so grateful to receive your support. God Bless!
- We also applaud Columbus United Church's donation of \$5,100.00! This was unsolicited and speaks to their community's desire to help the world's refugee crisis.
- The Town of Whitby Mayor's Community Development Fund grant received in the amount of \$5,000.00! They recognize our refugee efforts and were eager to share their support also.
- Our partners Brooklin United, Kingsview United and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Durham have contributed significant donations.

Collectively, we have surpassed \$26,000.00 for Sut's first year's expenses and towards sponsoring a family in 2017 or 2018.

Volunteer drivers to provide transportation for Sut are needed extensively at this time. If you can share a bit of your time, please contact Maureen Dingman (mdingman@rogers.com) and she will welcome your support. A pool of drivers will allow us to meet Sut's travel needs while fitting in with your leisure time.

Bridge To A New Home has been invited to make a presentation to 4 Mosques in Durham. While a date has not yet been firmed up, we are eager to meet with them and share our experiences and mission to help those who have so little.

TIN CANS

Thanks to all who took and returned tin cans for our refugee program. Over \$1,000.00 has been collected. If you still have a tin can marked with an "R" you can return it to the church office. We still have tin cans available for our annual Christmas hamper program.





This year the Property Committee has scheduled our

OUTDOOR SPRING CLEAN-UP

for **Saturday, May 13**th 9:00am to 1:00pm

Please bring your favourite rake, hoe, a couple of leaf bags, garden diggers, etc.

Hot dogs and pop
will be available for an energy break.

Myrtle Funds



How do we use this gift to advance the mission of Westminster?

Recently we were pleased to announce that Westminster was a beneficiary in the amount of \$105,720.22 following the closure and subsequent dispersal of the assets of Myrtle United Church. At the Tuesday, April 25th WUC council meeting, the Stewardship committee was directed to work with the WUC committees to determine how the Myrtle funds should be used to provide for and advance the mission of Westminster.

A letter has been sent to each of the committee chairs requesting their participation in working with the Stewardship Committee to identify potential ideas or recommendations on how these funds can be most effectively utilized. We have encouraged all committee chairs to engage their membership and we encourage you to participate in this. Please contact any of the committee chairs or any Stewardship Committee members to present your ideas. Idea submissions are due by Friday, June 16th.

Upon receipt of all submissions, the Stewardship committee, along with all committee representatives, will review the ideas and develop a recommendation that will be presented to the WUC council at the September 2017 council meeting.

This is an excellent opportunity for Westminster to achieve something great that might not otherwise be feasible in the near term. We anticipate there will be a variety of ideas. We caution that while we have approximately \$105,000, it is only \$105,000 and it is likely that not every idea will be satisfied with this amount.

In the meantime, the funds have been received and will be invested into short term accounts until a final resolution is determined.

We look forward to this great opportunity!

Tom McNown

Chair - Stewardship

UCW NEWS



Looking for that special gift for your beloved family members -

Treat them to a relaxing afternoon of fancy tea, good conversation and delightful music at

Westminster's UCW Mother's Day Afternoon Tea with Musical Entertainment on

> Saturday May 13th, 2017 (in the afternoon).

Tickets (\$10.00/person) can be purchased from any UCW member or after church on Sunday.



Thank you to those who donated, baked, worked, and bought at our Yard Sale on Saturday April 22nd.

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

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. \bigcirc

Wine. Women and the Word

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The next meeting of this monthly Bible Study will be on Tuesday, May 16th, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm Topic:

"I AM"

Bible verses to prepare:

Exodus 3: 1-15

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Upcoming work:

Trivia question #1...**What is a 'separator'?** (Answer...a device for <u>separating</u> liquids of different specific gravities (as cream from milk) or liquids from solids).

Trivia question #2. How many does Westminster have? (Answer...2.)

The parking lot and surrounding driveways drain into catch basins which then drain into a grit separator. These have to be cleaned out periodically and the separator has not been pumped out since 2003. We contracted with Sewer Technologies of Port Perry and this work was completed on Tuesday, April 25th. This \$3,500 project was a 2017 budget item.

We also have a grease separator in the kitchen. This unit handles all of the water from the sinks and dishwasher. This steel unit has rusted to the point where a replacement unit is needed. This work will be done likely in June or July. Users of the kitchen will be contacted to determine a suitable date as the kitchen will have to be closed for about 2-3 days. This is a \$3,500 project, which was approved in the 2017 budget.

Energy Conservation:

Energy conservation at Westminster has been an ongoing concern of the committee. Programmable thermostats are monitored to ensure that we take advantage of the off-peak power consumption hours as best we can. Timers are used to control the exterior building lights and flood and parking lot illumination.

In 2015, we stepped up our program at Westminster with the replacement of all 34, 90W spot lights in the gym with 19W,1350 lumen PAR 38 LED units. There was no cost to Westminster because of a Hydro One initiative. We followed this up in 2016 with an HVAC energy conservation initiative, installing electronic compressor control units on 6 of the AC units. This project cost us \$3,500 and should pay dividends this summer.

In January 2017, The Property Committee reviewed an energy conservation proposal from Pacific Light and Energy. The proposed total project cost was about \$30,000, to be reduced to about \$20,000 with government rebates. It was decided not to recommend this project to Council as it was felt that as most of the work is bulb replacement, it can be done by the committee. An electrical contractor would still be needed for such work as parking lot light replacement. Our next step will be to replace about 40 T8 fluorescent bulbs in the main hallway. These lights are on for about 18 hours a day so moving to T8 LED units would make sense. This initiative has not yet been funded and would cost about \$400.

If you would like to read more about what United Churches are doing, read the "Emission Control" article in the February edition of the UC Observer, http://www.ucobserver.org/faith/2017/02/emission_control/

Yard Works:

Three years ago, we initiated the Westminster Weed Whackers, a group from this congregation who volunteer their time and talents to handle the grass cutting around the church. This group has a great time and its work saves the congregation about \$3,000.

Continued on Next Page

Yard Works (continued):

This year the Property Committee would like to re-institute the Westminster Weed Whackers. As part of the committee budget for 2016, the church Council authorized the purchase of a ride-on lawn mower and our John Deere unit has made the job much easier. In addition, we have two push gas mowers. All the equipment necessary for cutting the grass is stored on-site for use by the volunteers. Donations of some garden tools would be welcomed.



We would like to form 5-6 teams of about 4-5 people. So, if you are an alumnus of the WWW, please consider reactivating your membership. If you would like to join a team, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Narthex table or contact Bob Neil.

Please consider contributing your time and talents. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Neil at: robertneil@rogers.com



The Westminster Book Club will meet from 1 to 3 pm on Wednesday May 24th to discuss <u>Year of Wonders</u> by Geraldine Brooks. **All are invited to join us.**

Geraldine Brooks's, <u>Year of Wonders</u>, describes the 17th century plague that is carried from London to a small Derbyshire village by an itinerant tailor. As villagers begin, one by one, to die, the rest face a choice: do they flee their village in hopes of outrunning the plague or do they stay? The lord of the manor and his family pack up and leave. The rector, Michael Mompellion, argues forcefully that the villagers should stay put, isolate themselves from neighbouring towns and villages, and prevent the contagion from spreading. His oratory wins the day and the village turns in on itself. Cocooned from the outside world and ravaged by the disease, its inhabitants struggle to retain their humanity in the face of the disaster. The narrator, the young widow, Anna Frith, is one of the few who succeeds. With Mompellion and his wife, Elinor, she tends to the dying and battles to prevent her fellow villagers from descending into drink, violence and superstition.

For the last half of our meeting we will be voting on and choosing the books to read for the next year - September 2017 to May 2018. Each person is asked to submit no more than 2 titles for each of the 3 categories:

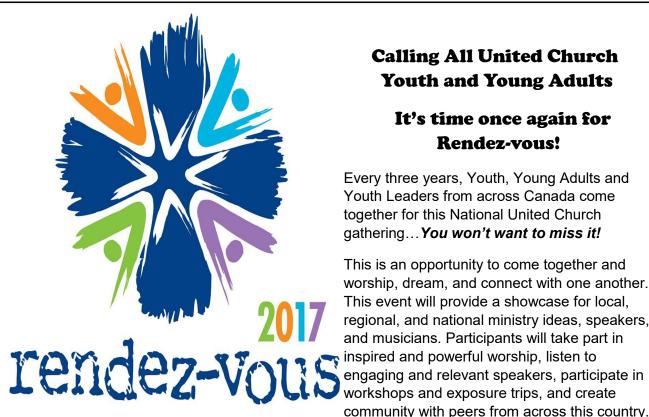
General – the book suggested can be fiction or non-fiction

Book and movie – we are asking for a book suggestion that has been turned into a movie so that we can both read the book and also watch the movie

Classic – A book that you may have read as a youth or in the past that you would like to re-visit

If possible, please email the titles to Susan (auntx2@gmail.com) by Monday, May 22nd, so that the suggestions can be typed up for our voting.

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



Calling All United Church Youth and Young Adults

It's time once again for Rendez-vous!

Every three years, Youth, Young Adults and Youth Leaders from across Canada come together for this National United Church gathering... You won't want to miss it!

This is an opportunity to come together and worship, dream, and connect with one another. This event will provide a showcase for local, regional, and national ministry ideas, speakers, and musicians. Participants will take part in community with peers from across this country.

When:

August 16 to 19, 2017.

Where:

Rendez-vous 2017 will be held at the Concordia University, conveniently located in Montreal. Participants will be staying on campus for the plenaries, workshops, social activities, meals and accommodations. If selected, optional group exposure trips will be conducted at local sites.

Who:

For youth (entering grade 9 to 12 in September), young adults (ages 18 to 30), and their leaders.

Cost:

Early bird: \$325 (until May 30, 2017)

Regular: \$360 (from May 31, 2017 to June 30, 2017)

Home Groups:

Home Groups are communities of 5 to 12 participants that will build relationships, share ideas, and provide structure and accountability. They are mandatory for youth under 18, and optional for young adults and leaders. A group from, for example, one congregation or youth group can ask to form a Home Group of their own.

For More Information:

Visit: www.uccrendezvous.ca

Contact: Cathy Shaw, 905-723-6442 or cshaw@westminster-uc.ca

I Called on the Lord

But I was explicit when I said a miracle, I meant a cure!

I did my part – rumbled through researched papers, stumbled onto herbs from chamomile to cannabis; I did not judge.

I called on drug companies and experts wide and far!

I spoke to gurus, ministers and zen masters too but in the end, somehow (I should've known) I was led back to You.

Looking through the sky, I prayed, I cried, deeply, O God, please grant me this miracle! Please grant me this miracle!

This is the miracle he said, this is the miracle!

In all the fuss you made, have you missed it in the papers and the herbs and the friends that you made.

In all that is done for you:

Have you felt my love, when you're warm in your blanket asleep, I AM with you.

Have you felt my love pass your lips in your hunger and in your thirst, I AM with you.

Have you felt my love, in the hugs and the smiles you receive, I AM with you.

I was the crocus, peeking through the soil this Spring; Hello, hello I said, to brighten up your day.

And as I blew through the tree tops swaying to and fro that was me; I waved to you watching. I AM here with you, eternally.

Eternally I AM.

Ieanne Yee



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 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:	. <u></u>
E-mail Address:	
Mobile Number:	Home Number:
Date of Birth (if student)	Security Clearance (adults only)
	eck including a Vulnerable Sector Clearance from Durham ease ask at the church office for a letter for DRPS if you do
	is "Jamboree" and looks like it is going to be another fun event 5 p.m. You are welcome to join us the entire time or just for a
 Will you be available the entire time period? Yes or (If not, please give more information on your available) 	
♦ Which role are you interested in? Group Leader, Ass	sistant Group Leader, Programming Support, other.
♦ What would you like to get out of volunteering?	
♦ What skills or experience could you bring to your ch	osen role?
Is there any other relevant information that you thin	nk we should know?
Please provide 2 character references (no more than 1 j	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.



Our Spring Session of Youth Group has begun!

If you're in Grade 6-8, this group is for you!

Every FRIDAY NIGHT until

JUNE 9th





MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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This year our Church Picnic will be on Sunday, June 11th, immediately following Worship

Please plan to stick around for the fun, food and fellowship!

More information to come.

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



All proceeds raised from this event will support the ministries

Of Westminster United Church

NEWS FROM THE PEWS....

Did you know...

- ...that Avery Artymko, granddaughter of Pat and Cheryle, was fortunate enough to be able to go to Vimy Ridge this past month? She found it to be a wonderful experience.
- ...that Karen Kneebone is now at home, recovering from heart surgery at the Peter Munk Centre? We wish her well in the days ahead.
- ...that Hope Gunn, of the 18th Whitby Guide Unit, which meets at Westminster, was instrumental in having the Guides in her group give food to the Westminster Food Bank? We thank all of you for this much needed contribution.
- ...that all copies of the April *Westminster World*, which were printed in colour and placed on the Welcome kiosk in the Narthex, have been taken? We are told that many have found the newsletter useful and entertaining. Appreciation is extended to the Communication committee and in particular to Cathy Shaw for her care and inventiveness.
- ...that Meagan Kennedy has been chosen to be a competitor in the Eastern Canadian Gymnastics Championship? As well, she placed excellently playing the flute in the Kiwanis Music Festival.
- ...that Kathleen Booth and Greg Baldson greatly enhanced our Easter Service by playing their brass instruments? Many thanks to them and also to the Sanctuary Committee for the meaningful display on the chancel. The empty tomb with potted flowers left us all with a profound message.
- ...that the Rhody family may have their new dog by now? They are hoping for a Labradoodle so that Leah and Aiden can have lots of fun.
- ...the this year's Worship Service and Pride Parade for the Durham Region will take place in downtown Oshawa on Sunday, June 4th?
- ...that there are 78 children enrolled in Westminster's J.a.M (Jesus and Me) Program?

He Prayed

He prayed upon the mountain, He prayed for you and me, He prayed in humble dwellings, He prayed beside the sea. He prayed in early morning, Prayed with all His might, He prayed at noonday and at dusk, He prayed all thro' the night.

He prayed for those who scorned Him, For those who killed Him, too, He prayed, "Father forgive them: They know not what they do." He prayed when He was lonely, He prayed when He was sad, He prayed when He was weary, He prayed when He was glad.

He prayed for those in sorrow, He prayed for those in sin, He prayed for those in trouble, that they might come to **Him**

Prayer is Powerful!

If you feel called to join the Prayer Team, they meet on the first Tuesday of the Month from 11:00am-12:00pm in the Founder's Room.

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, our oldest daughter Janelle will be Ordained as a Minister within the United Church of Canada during the Bay of Quinte's Annual Conference on May 28th.

Normally, I would not include my personal life within the pages of the Westminster World, but I have been approached by many who have come to know our two daughters (Janelle and Jordan) during my four years as your Minister of Faith Formation, and have subsequently asked that I share this information.

Although Janelle will be ordained in Brockville, we will be having a local celebration the following week. The details are in the invitation below and if you would like to celebrate with us, we would love to see you in Ajax on June 3rd.

On behalf of our family, I thank you for the continued love and support you offer to each of us. How wonderful to be part of this incredible community of faith!

Many Blessings, Cathy Shaw

Join us in celebrating the Ordination of Janelle Alexandria Shaw

An **Open House** will be held in the Fellowship Room of St. Paul's United Church 65 King's Cres., Ajax

Saturday, June 3

1:00pm. — 4:00pm.

Please join us for an afternoon of celebration and fellowship.

Best wishes only.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



You're invited...

Canadian EH? Trivia Night Fundraiser Tickets Required Doors open: 6:00pm. Game begins: 7:00pm.	Saturday, May 6
Worship Service 10:30am	Sunday, May 7
Outdoor Spring Clean-up 9:00am - 1:00pm	Saturday, May 13
UCW Mother's Day Tea Tickets Required 2:00pm - 4:00pm	
Worship Service - Baptism Christian Family Sunday 10:30am	Sunday, May 14
Wine, Women and the Word Bible Study 7:00pm – 9:00pm	Tuesday, May 16
Worship Service 10:30am	Sunday, May 21
Book Club 1:00pm - 3:00pm.	Wednesday, May 24
Bay of Quinte's Annual Conference Weekend Rev. Dan and Cathy will be attending.	Friday, May 26 - Sunday, May 28
Worship Service Led by the UCW 10:30am	Sunday, May 28
Early Bird Deadline for Rendezvous Applications	Tuesday, May 30
Worship Service - Pentecost Communion 10:30am	Sunday, June 4
Durham PRIDE Worship Service, Parade and BBQ Downtown Oshawa Time: TBD	
Living Alone Lunch 12:00pm	Wednesday, June 7
Worship Service Year-End J.a.M Celebration and Church Picnic 10:30am	Sunday, June 11