



# Welcome to Westminster United Church

## Our Mission Statement



Westminster United Church is a Christian family sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation, the community and the world at large. We provide a spiritual home for worship, celebration of the sacraments, and Christian Education.

---

## Statement of Inclusion



**Affirm/S'affirmer**  
UNITED ENSEMBLE

We embrace people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientations, gender identity, abilities, ethnicity, social and economic circumstances, in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this congregation.

---

## Program Directory

**Look inside for:**  
Ministries and Small Groups  
Kids and Youth  
Learning and Growing in Faith  
Our Extended Community  
Ministry Team  
and more...

---

## Welcome to Westminster!

You are Welcome Here!

We are truly delighted that you have chosen to worship at Westminster because we believe that everyone who enters these doors is God's guest.

*All are welcome* to participate in the life of this community of faith regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, ethnicity, faith experience or background. If you are searching for a new church community, we would love to journey with you. So, thank you for being here.

We think that our worshipping community at Westminster is pretty special—a great place to connect, to be comforted and challenged, and to grow in faith. Together we experience that “God is with us, we are not alone.”

If you would like more information, or have questions or needs to which we may respond, please do not hesitate to contact us (Beth, Rev. Michelle or Cathy) at the church office 905-723-6442.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Michelle Robinson

## **Church Council**

Westminster United Church is operated through a volunteer Council. The Council consists of the Chair, the Minister, the Minister of Faith Formation and representatives from each of the following committees: Christian Education, Worship, Outreach, Trustees, Communications, Ministry & Personnel, Wellness, Finance/Stewardship, Youth, Presbytery, Nominations, Small Groups, UCW and Property.

Westminster United Church has thrived because many decided to use their time and talents and become involved. These opportunities have created new friendships and lasting experiences.

Please feel free to contact your Chair of Council or any member of the Nominating Committee should you feel that you are ready to share your talents or would like more details.

Blessings.

Council Chair

## **Ministries and Small Groups**

There are many ways to get involved at Westminster United Church. Whether your interest is worship, music, outreach, pastoral care or learning, there are ways to share your gifts with the community while connecting with others. Here is a bit of information about some of our ongoing committees and groups that offer a variety of ministries. For more information on any of the following groups and committees, please contact the church office.

### **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee is composed of a dedicated group of individuals who take the lead in coordinating a variety of activities that facilitate worship services that are both relevant and meaningful.

Our responsibilities include communion, baptism, ushering, music, recruiting greeters and scripture readers, and coffee and tea service after Sunday worship.

### **Sanctuary**

A sub-committee of the Worship Committee, the Sanctuary Committee members use their creative talents to decorate the sanctuary and narthex to reflect the liturgical calendar. Their efforts result in a warm, inviting, beautiful and meaningful environment at Westminster.

### **Music**

It is our ministry at Westminster "to make a joyful noise unto the Lord". By blending traditional and contemporary United Church hymns, Senior Choir anthems, Junior Choir songs, vocal and instrumental soloists, liturgical dance, the organ and the piano, we hope to inspire all to sing our faith, and to be moved by lyrics and melody.



S.A.L.T., the worship band, sings contemporary praise music accompanied by guitars and piano.

All are welcome to help us expand this enriching segment of our worship experience.

### **Junior Choir**

Westminster's Junior Choir, for children from Kindergarten to grade 6, practises after church every Sunday for 20-30 minutes and then performs once a month. On the Sunday we perform, we do not have a practice. Our music is a great addition to the Sunday service and the boys and girls enjoy performing for parents and the congregation.

## Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee is excited about the variety of faith development programs and opportunities being developed and offered to the children, youth and adults of Westminster and our community.

As a committee, we continue to oversee our vibrant Jesus and Me (J.a.M.) Sunday program, as well as Adult Faith Formation Events and Workshops, Confirmation classes, Youth Group, Church Picnic, Family Events, Easter EGGstravaganza, Vacation Bible School and our ever-expanding Library. The CE committee consists of a dedicated team who believe that Christian Education is life-long learning, regardless of age or where we are on our journey of faith.

If you would like to share your ideas, suggestions or gifts, or would like to know more about our Christian Education Team and programs, please contact our Minister of Faith Formation, Cathy Shaw.

### **J.a.M. (Jesus and Me)**

All children, from Nursery to Grade 8 are considered to be J.a.M Kids! Our Sunday morning church school program offers something for every age and ability. This program is designed as a Rotational Model, which means that it is story-based, fun, hands on and interactive!

The program is sponsored and overseen by the Christian Education Committee and has a roster of dedicated teachers who are willing to lead and guide your child(ren), as they discover the love of God and the teachings of Jesus.

Currently, we have six categories in our program:

Nursery	Grade 2/Grade 3
Junior Kindergarten	Grade 4/Grade 5
Senior Kindergarten/Grade 1	Grade 6, 7, 8



J.a.M. This ministry is a priority for Westminster. If you would like more information about J.a.M, would like to register your child(ren) or would like to join our teaching roster and learn the old stories from a new perspective, please contact Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation.

### **Youth**

If you are in Grade 6, 7 or 8, then we have a Youth Group just for you!

Our program does not run year-long, but instead runs for two, ten-week "sessions" throughout the year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

This awesome group meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00pm – 8:30pm for a time of fun and friendship. The program has a variety of different activities and events, both inside the church building and out in the community - truly something for everyone.

If you're looking for a safe, welcoming space to question and learn about faith, to get involved in your community and to develop lasting friendships, why not give our Youth Group a try? You'll be glad that you did!

## **Prayer Team**

The Westminster Prayer Team consists of a group of dedicated individuals, who, along with your Ministry Team, make time each week to actively pray for the needs of our congregation, our community and our world.



The members of this team are committed to praying for the needs of others. When a prayer request is received, during Sunday Worship or through another avenue, it is immediately passed along to the Prayer Team. This team then prays daily, interceding on your behalf by lifting up in prayer any specific requests, concerns or emergency situations. They also gather monthly to pray in community. Please know that your prayer requests are welcomed and encouraged and all requests are treated as confidential.

## **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee focuses on serving our immediate and wider community through many and varied programs.

## **Food Bank**

The Westminster Food Bank assists those within our community who need non-perishable food products. We assist, in a non-judgmental manner, people who need our help. They are permitted to utilize our Food Bank once per month and for tracking purposes, are asked to provide their name. On average per year we assist over 80 individuals or families. Our numbers are slowly increasing as more are seeking assistance. The Food Bank is open every Tuesday morning (10am – 12:00pm).

## **What to do with your Loonies & Toonies?**

Bring them in along with your Food Bank donation items and drop them into the container at the Welcome Table. Your coins help support those in our community who need assistance.

## **Christmas Hamper Program**

Every year, our Christmas Hamper Program grows out of the needs of our community. In recent years, 75 families received Food Hampers and Christmas gifts, lovingly and joyfully donated, packed and delivered by our congregation. Funds are raised with a tin-can coin collection and other specific donations.

## **St. Vincent Pallotti's Kitchen**

St. Vincent Pallotti's Kitchen serves a low-cost, hot nutritious meal in a dignified manner to an average of 150 people in need daily, seven days a week. Westminster's team of over 20 volunteers helps serve the meals and clean up the cooking, eating and preparation areas after the patrons leave. Our team is on duty the first Wednesday of every month from 3:00 -7:00 pm. Volunteers are always welcome.





## **Wellness Committee**

The Wellness Committee recognizes that our Westminster congregation is a caring and loving community that provides a place for health and healing in body, mind and spirit.

We seek to support and educate one another about the holistic concepts of health care:

- The link between faith and health
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- The integration of body, mind and spirit

Some programs and activities we sponsor are:

- Friendly Visitors who reach out to people through cards, phone calls and personal visits
- A monthly blood pressure clinic after Sunday worship
- Coordinating volunteers for the Stroke Support group
- Promotion of the Labyrinth experience via the Labyrinth Circle group
- Wellness Fair
- Promoting and providing leadership in regard to all aspects of Accessibility
- Maintaining the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) located in the Narthex and ensuring education and training of 12 Targeted Site Emergency Responders

We welcome all inquiries as we strive to follow the way of Christ, the Great Healer.

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee**

The M&P Committee oversees relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees (such as the office secretary and any custodial staff). The M&P Committee may also be involved in setting expectations for work carried out by volunteers.

The M&P Committee has a dual role: it is consultative and supportive.

## **Property Committee**

The Property Committee is charged with ensuring that Church property is maintained, and is safe and secure.

Key responsibilities include:

- maintaining the insurance policy on the property
- maintaining the Fire Safety Plan
- managing contracted work
- overseeing the work of the church's custodian
- organizing volunteers to help maintain the church - cleaning, painting, gardening, repairs



The Property Committee organizes the time and talents donated by members of the congregation to keep our house in good order, in coordination with the church custodian. The jobs are similar to maintaining your own house, except scaled up a bit. Examples include: painting rooms, repairing cupboards, installing storage shelves, custom woodworking, maintaining the flower gardens, exterior clean-up in the spring and fall, and assisting the custodian with larger jobs. Since 2014, Westminster volunteers (the *Weed Whackers*) took on the responsibility of cutting the lawns. The committee also organizes a group of Volunteer Custodians who clean the church after Sunday service.

For Church Council purposes, the Chairman Group and the Tech Booth report to the Property Committee. The former handles the set-up of tables and chairs for both church and rental purposes. The Tech Booth provides AV support for our Sunday services.

The Committee meets about six times a year to determine and coordinate what work needs to be done. All are welcome to sit in on these meetings or join the committee.

### Tech Committee

There are currently 4 or 5 teams of two working 'behind the scenes' to run the microphones and the video screen during Sunday worship services. With an interest in computer technology and sound engineering, they have been fully trained to operate the system in the tech booth.

### United Church Women

Our purpose is **"to unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service"**. This is an interest and service group to which all women of the congregation can belong.

We are part of a national organization which operates at Presbyterial (Lakeridge Presbytery), Conference (Bay of Quinte) and National (National Consultation) levels. Our President and sometimes other members are active at the Presbyterial level. Many attend Presbyterial Programs which happen three or four times a year. These are enjoyable occasions of education, stimulation and fellowship with a large group of wonderful women.

We meet the first Monday of the month (not in summer) at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders' Room to do all the business of the UCW:

- collecting offerings and distributing monies according to our annual budget
- running programs that correspond to "witness, study, fellowship and service"
- organizing Catering, the Yard Sale and the Bazaar
- providing lunches for the "Living Alone group"



Any monies raised are given to programs at Westminster, projects of the wider church or charities in our local community.

## Learning and Growing in Faith

### **Library**

Westminster's library has a wide selection of Christian reading materials for you to enjoy. Generous donations continue to help grow our collection of books and movies for the whole family.

The Library is located in the Founders' Room. To check out a book simply enter your name, phone number and book title in the Sign-Out Book.

To return or donate books, please place them in the appropriate containers in the library. The containers are labelled as Book Return and Donated Books. Many thanks for your contributions.

### **Book Club**

The Book Club meets at Westminster five times a year (September to May) on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00pm. At each meeting, a discussion is held on a previously chosen book.

### **Wine, Women and The Word**

This is a Bible Study group open to all women. Meetings are held in Westminster's Founders' Room from 7:00 to 9:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

### **Westminster Walkers**

Join us for walks and fellowship on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am. Walk at your own pace; there will always be someone who will walk at your speed. During the fine weather, we walk outdoors, setting out from the church. In winter, we meet and walk at The Abilities Centre.

### **Vacation Bible School**

Every July, children (aged 4-12) come to Westminster for a fun-filled week of crafting, cooking, singing, learning and games – both indoor and outdoor.

At Westminster, it is our hope that you will find a community of faith where you will...

**Be Welcomed  
Be Nourished  
Belong**

## **Our Extended Community**

### **Stroke Recovery Group**

The Stroke Recovery Group, which started in September 2001, continues to meet every Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Its mandate is one of support, and to that end, it provides programs and information to the participants. Although the membership fluctuates, we have noted an increase in attendance. We use regular exercises, which involve the body, mind and spirit and have been excited to see some improvements whether big or small in each other's capabilities.

### **Blood Donor Clinics**

At Westminster, Canadian Blood Services holds a Blood Donor Clinic on the first Tuesday of every second month throughout the year. A person between the ages of 17 and 71 who is in good health can become a valuable donor. You can book your appointment by calling 1-888-236-6283. Clinic months are January, March, May, July, September and November.

### **Children's Montessori Day Care**

Children's Montessori Day Care is licensed and we are subject to annual licensing standards. Our School is regulated by both provincial and local licensing agencies that require compliance in the areas of health, fire building code, etc. As well, we are regulated under the Early Years Act which requires high standards of compliance when dealing with children.

### **York Durham Aphasia Centre**

At York-Durham Aphasia Centre we offer services and programs for people affected by aphasia, apraxia, dysarthria and other social communication disabilities due to stroke, traumatic brain injury or neurological diseases.

Our group communication programs offer clients a way to re-enter community life, one step at a time. On a wider scale, our agency promotes aphasia awareness, education and research. A March of Dimes program, York-Durham Aphasia Centre helps to knit local and wider-ranging groups and interests into a broad aphasia community.

For more information about programs at Westminster please contact  
York-Durham Aphasia Centre  
c/o March of Dimes  
Toll Free: 1-800-567-0315

### **Girl Guides of Canada**

Guides	Monday	6:30PM
Brownies	Tuesday	6:30PM
Pathfinders	Tuesday	7:00PM
Rangers	Wednesday	7:00PM



**Girl Guides  
of Canada  
Guides  
du Canada**

For more information or to register your child, please visit the Girl Guide website; [www.girlguides.ca](http://www.girlguides.ca) or [www.guidesontario.org](http://www.guidesontario.org)

## Youth Employment Readiness Program

The Government of Canada, through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) funds the Youth Employment Readiness Program (YERP) in Durham Region to benefit young people between the ages of 18 and 30.

During the program, participants take part in a work experience placement with an employer. The ultimate goal or outcome of the YERP program is employment (either part-time or full-time) or participants find their way back to schooling so that they have a solid foundation from which to pursue their career and life goals.

## Taoist Tai Chi

Taoist Tai Chi arts reduce stress and have a beneficial effect on many conditions, from sore backs to mental health issues. Taoist Tai Chi arts involve deep stretching with a full range of motion and continuous turning of the spine. They exercise the whole physiology including muscular, skeletal, and circulatory systems, as well as tendons, joints, connective tissue and organs. Classes are held Monday mornings from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

## Family Karate School

We study a traditional open style of Japanese/Okinawan Karate called 'Kazoku Kai' - this translates to 'The Association of Family.'

As our name suggests, we cater to a family-oriented environment. Membership is open to individuals and families alike - classes are all ages (starting at 7 years and up).

Classes are held Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

For more information visit: [www.fksa.ca](http://www.fksa.ca) or contact Lou DeAdder at [loudeadder@hotmail.com](mailto:loudeadder@hotmail.com)

## Whitby/Brooklin Probus Club

The Whitby/Brooklin Probus Club meets at Westminster the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

The Club is open to men and women 55 years and up. Its purpose is to provide meetings and fellowship opportunities for retired and semi-retired people; there is no charity work or fundraising involved.

For more information on Probus please visit: [whitbybrooklinprobus.com](http://whitbybrooklinprobus.com)

**Westminster United Church**  
**The United Church of Canada – Lakeridge Presbytery**  
**1850 Rossland Road East, Whitby, L1N 3P2**  
**Phone: 905 723-6442 FAX: 905 723-0653**  
Email: [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca)  
Website: [www.westminster-uc.ca](http://www.westminster-uc.ca)

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Michelle Robinson <a href="mailto:mrobinson@westminster-uc.ca">mrobinson@westminster-uc.ca</a>
<b>Minister of Faith Formation</b>	Cathy Shaw <a href="mailto:cshaw@westminster-uc.ca">cshaw@westminster-uc.ca</a>
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Margaret Motum