



# Westminster United Church

## "Embracing Our Community"

### First Sunday of Advent - Hope

### December 3, 2017

### 10:30am

#### 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



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.

Hymns, responsive readings and unison prayers are displayed on screen.

Please do not leave handbags or valuables unattended.

#### Thank you to those participating in today's service:

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Greeters and Candle lighters</b> | M&P Committee   |
| <b>Scripture Reader</b>             | Yvonne McNulty  |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                      | Team 1 - Lorne Coe, Ron Kurtz<br>Wendy Ekker, Ed Ekker<br>Cathie Howard |
| <b>Tech Booth</b>                   | Paul Cruz, Arthur Smith   |
| <b>Coffee and Tea Servers</b>       | Team 3 - Tom Medlock<br>Karen Kennedy, Janet Hendrikse                  |
| <b>Volunteer Custodian(s)</b>       | Team 1 - Bob Neil, Sue Neil<br>Larry Morrow, Jeanne Yee                 |



(\* Indicates to please stand as you are able.)

## We Gather Together

**Prelude - Come, Lord Jesus - Strathdee (SALT)**

**Welcome and Announcements -  
The Life and Work of the Church**

**Call to Worship**

One: In a story passed on through the ages...

**All: In a love surpassing all loves...**

One: In a God who sacrifices self...

**All: In the birth of a child, Emmanuel, God with us....  
is a flame that will kindle the world.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

One: Jesus is coming and we are preparing to welcome him  
again into the world and into our lives.  
We light the first Advent candle of hope.

This small flickering light of hope can do great things.  
Hold it high to light a path or add it to others to brighten a  
whole room. Hope is an Advent gift given to us that can  
dispel fear, lift despair and offer a promise for the future.

**ALL: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts  
That the God who breathed this world into being  
Placed stars into the heavens  
And designed a butterfly's wing  
Is the God who entrusted God's own self  
to the care of ordinary people  
becoming vulnerable that we might know  
how strong is the power of Hope  
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp  
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.**

Words by John Birch [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

**Sung Response - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus  
(tune Love Divine) vs. 1 & 3**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free:  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

**Opening Prayer**

**Greeting One Another - The Hope of Christ be with you**

**\*Hymn: Gather Us In**

## To Offer Ourselves

**Minute for Mission    Joan Sanderson**

**Invitation to Offering** *(our commitment to support the Life and Work of the church)*

*(Children and youth are encouraged to place their offerings in the offering plate at this time, too.)*

**Offertory - Come Emmanuel - Paris (SALT)**

**\*Sung Response: VU #55**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;**

**if I were a wise man, I would do my part;**

**yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

**Prayer**

## To Hear God's Word

**Time with all God's Children**

**Sung while children leave for J.a.M.**

**MV #33 Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope**

**Jesus came bringing us hope,**

**Jesus came bringing us hope,**

**Jesus came bringing us hope,**

**hallelujah forever more!**

**Scripture Background**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 33:13-22**

**Anthem - Angels From the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel -**

*Baloche (SALT)*

**A Sermon on the Gift of Hope**

## To Respond in Faith

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**\*Hymn: Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

## To Go Into the World

**\*Hymn: VU #424 May the God of Hope**

**\*Blessing and Sending Out**

## \*Sung Response:

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**Postlude - Awake, For Night is Flying - Bach, arr. Gerig**

## What's Happening at Westminster?



The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Ray Hatter who passed away five years ago on December 5, 2012.

### All Welcome

Coffee and tea are served after worship in the gym. Purchases of the organic coffee, tea, and Fair Trade chocolate bars we sell every Sunday enable us to provide the organic coffee & tea after church.



*Reasonably priced Christmas gift baskets are now available at our table in the gym.*

Join us again on **Monday, Dec 4 at 7:00pm** for the **NOOMA DVD Series** as we watch this short film that promotes spiritual reflection and conversation.

## Advent at Home

Read: John 8:12

Notice the displays of lights going up around us this season. Think about the images of light and darkness. Why do you think Jesus described himself as "the light of the world"?

Prayer

God, source of all hope, continue to light the candle of hope in our hearts every day. Come into our lives again. We open our hearts to welcome you. Amen.

## Prayer Requests during the Service

Our weekly worship service provides a time for submitting prayers of concern, thanksgiving and praise. You will find prayer forms in the pew pockets.

Prayer/praise requests are collected along with the offering. Please place the completed prayer cards in the baskets as they are circulated and your weekly offering in the metal plates. The requests are read in the service during our prayer time together and then forwarded to the Prayer Group who will continue to pray for each concern.



## It's Christmas Hamper time again!

Today and Dec 10<sup>th</sup> if necessary we will have tags for gifts for the **75 hampers** that we are assembling this year. We also will have tags available for adults on their

own who are receiving a hamper. The gifts are to be *returned on December 16th between noon and 4:00 p.m.* Delivery will be Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> after church.

Thank you for your generosity, *The Outreach Committee*

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## Westminster Mitten Tree

The Outreach Committee is pleased to continue Westminster's Advent tradition of the Mitten Tree.

Starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, please **hang your donations**

of warm mittens and gloves for both children and adults on the tree that will be in the Narthex. All donations will be presented in January to area schools and community groups that have expressed a need.



## The Annual UCW Collection of Men's & Ladies toiletries ...



for local shelters is upon us. Please find the bins in the Narthex by the office doors for your donation. Only new items will be accepted until Sunday, December 17. Thank you!!

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## The Wellness Committee

Today, and again next Sunday, Dec 10, after Worship we'll be in the gym taking orders for our now "famous" **Christmas Cranberry Prayer Candles**. Stop by to see a lovely sample. The candle vase arrangements are a fundraiser and a joy for us to assemble with a Christmas prayer. They make great centerpieces or host gifts and will be available for purchase and *pick-up on Sunday, Dec 17* in the Narthex after service. Thank you to all who recycled the vases from last Christmas.

And especially, please join the Wellness Committee, Parish Mosaic and the Westminster Choir on **Sunday, December 10 at 7:00pm** for the annual **Lessons and Carols Service**. There is comfort and joy in our Sanctuary as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and inclusivity around the Manger. This holy time closes with "Silent Night" and candlelight, followed by hot cider and cookies in the Narthex.

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## The Scott Woods Old Time Christmas Show is almost here!

This is a fundraiser for Westminster United Church on **Tues, Dec 12 at 7:00pm**. Tickets may be purchased after Sunday service in the gym or from the church office Monday to Friday between 9:00am & 3:30pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children age 6-12, children 5 and under get in free.



## The Committee of the Month featured for December is ... *Ministry and Personnel*

“The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts under the guidelines of The Manual of The United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the congregation with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of the congregation.” (Resources for Ministry and Personnel Committees, July 2017, p. 8)

The responsibilities of the M&P Committee include:

- being available for consultation and support for matters involving the church staff;
- overseeing the relationship of the church staff to each other and to the congregation;
- regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities and compensation of all church staff, and making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to the Council;
- maintaining current position descriptions of staff, as appropriate and approved by the Council;
- conducting annual performance reviews of church staff;
- ensuring church staff make use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given; and
- maintaining close contact with the presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee. (Ministry and Personnel Committees: Policies, Procedures, Practices, July 2017, pp 4-5)

The current members of the Westminster M&P Committee are: Joanne G., Teena M., Peter S. and Eileen W. Members of this committee are elected for a term of five years.



### **Advent**

Advent means arrival and is a time of preparation and waiting. The four Sundays of Advent are Dec. 3, 10, 17, and 24.

The following symbols are part of this tradition: the wreath, a circle reminding us of God’s endless love and the greenery reminding us of new life; the colours of purple or blue remind us of royalty and of hope; the colour white reminds us of Jesus Christ, the light coming into the world. Look for the symbols in the sanctuary and the narthex, ponder them and the light that is within yourself. Allow your light to be a reflection of God’s love in our world.





*Come one, Come All -  
Women of Westminster United Church –  
You are invited to the  
U.C.W. Christmas Potluck Dinner  
Monday December 4th, 2017*



*In the Founder's Room at WUC*

*Gathering and appetizers at 5:30pm – Dinner @ 6pm*

*Please bring your favorite of a: main course or salad or dessert to share.  
If you desire: Our Christmas Donations project is Back Door Missions  
located in downtown Oshawa, which helps feed the homeless and a box  
will be provided for one's anonymous cash donations.*

## December Worship & Events

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Family ADVENTure Day</b><br><b>December 3</b><br><b>12:00—3:00pm</b>                            | <b>Lessons and Carols Service</b><br><b>December 10</b><br><b>7:00pm</b>                |
| <b>Scott Woods Old Time Christmas Show</b><br><b>December 12</b><br><b>7:00pm *Tickets \$25.00</b> | <b>Longest Night Service</b><br><b>December 17</b><br><b>7:00pm</b>                     |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b><br><b>December 24</b><br><b>10:30am</b>                                       | <b>Christmas Eve Youth Play</b><br><b>December 24</b><br><b>2:00, 4:00 &amp; 6:30pm</b> |
| <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service</b><br><b>December 24</b><br><b>10:00pm</b>         | <b>Worship Service</b><br><b>December 31</b><br><b>10:30am</b>                          |

**Westminster United Church**  
**The United Church of Canada – Lakeridge Presbytery**  
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Margaret Motum

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## Westminster Weekly Calendar

### ***Monday December 04***

**08:30 AM - 04:30 PM**-YDAC (Room I, Youth & Computer)  
**09:30 AM - 12:30 PM**-Taoism Tai Chi (Gym)  
**01:00 PM - 09:30 PM**-UCW Christmas Mtg (Founders Rm, Narthex, Kitchen)  
**06:30 PM - 08:30 PM**-Guides (Gym)  
**07:00 PM - 09:00 PM**-Foodmangroup Meeting (Kitchen)  
**07:00 PM - 08:00 PM**-Nooma DVD series (Youth Room)

### ***Tuesday December 05***

**09:00 AM - 03:00 PM**-Luncheon Food Prep (Kitchen)  
**12:30 PM - 03:00 PM**-Stroke Recovery Group (Gym/Kitchen)  
**06:30 PM - 08:00 PM**-Whitby 31st Brownies (Gym)  
**07:00 PM - 08:30 PM**-Communications Cmte Meeting (Founders Room)  
**07:00 PM - 09:00 PM**-Parish Mosaic Cmte (Youth Room)  
**07:00 PM - 09:00 PM**-11th Whitby Scouts (Computer Room)

### ***Wednesday December 06***

**12:00 PM - 03:30 PM**-Living Alone Luncheon (Gym, Kitchen)  
**03:00 PM - 07:00 PM**-St. Vincent's Kitchen Volunteers (at St. Vincent's)  
**07:00 PM - 09:00 PM**-Wellness Cmte (Founders Room)

### ***Thursday December 07***

**07:00 PM - 08:30 PM**-Family Karate (Gym)  
**07:00 PM - 08:30 PM**-Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

### ***Friday December 08***

**08:30 AM - 04:30 PM**-YDAC (Room I, Computer Rm, Gym)  
**05:30 PM - 09:30 PM**-Espressivo Singers Concert (Sanctuary, Founders Room)

### ***Saturday December 09***

**05:30 PM - 10:00 PM**-Espressivo Singers Concert (Sanctuary, Founders Room)

### ***Sunday December 10***

**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**-Sunday Worship  
**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**-Jesus' Birthday Party (J.A.M) (Gym)  
**11:45 AM - 12:15 PM**-Orders for Christmas Cranberry Prayer Candles  
Fundraiser & Sale of Christmas Gift Baskets (Gym)  
**01:00 PM - 06:00 PM**-Melody Music Centre Recital Rental (Sanctuary)  
**07:00 PM - 09:00 PM**-Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)