

Advent.

The waiting before the arrival.

The pause before the presence (or presents!)

The time of preparation.

We are in the Season of Advent, reminded again to carve out time and space to prepare our hearts, homes and lives for the coming of the Christ.

We prepare our hearts with prayer, contemplations, and resolutions.

We prepare our homes with decorating, gift wrapping, meal planning and card mailing. This time is a gift; a time when we are rushing, yes, but when we are also waiting.

As we worship together in this season of waiting we will be reflecting on the Advent gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. We will use this waiting time to go slow, to breathe, to pause as we center ourselves again in that which restores and rests us.

It is my prayer that this worship season will provide you with a sense of God's presence; a place of joyful calm among caring friends as you hear again the story of God who comes among us. This is a message of hope no matter our circumstances.

I invite you to attend the special Advent and Christmas services offered at Westminster United Church over the next month. You will find a schedule of these services within this edition of the newsletter.

May we all experience afresh this Advent-Christmas season the blessing of the waiting time, and the gifts of God's hope, peace, joy and love!

~ *Rev. Michelle*



*Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord
(Psalm 27:14)*

Place this calendar on
your fridge and use a magnet
to count down the days!



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Advent Calendar 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Light (or colour) a candle and share what you are hopeful for.	4 List 3 places (or times) when you have found hope.	5 Make homemade Christmas cards with personalized messages.	6 Happy St. Nicholas Day! Surprise someone with a simple gift or treat. Or pick a gift from the Gifts with Vision catalogue.	7 Learn ways that you can prevent violence against women.	8 Find something green, something sparkly, and something unique in creation and offer thanks.	9 Make a prayer chain: write prayers for your loved ones on strips of paper and connect them to make a chain.
10 Light (or colour) a candle and pray for peace.	11 List 3 things you can do to bring or share peace.	12 Visit or call someone who may be lonely.	13 Make a "peace pole" for your home or community.	14 Learn about someone who is a peace-builder in your community.	15 Think of one thing that you can do to support a peace-builder.	16 Say or sing a new table grace today.
17 Light (or colour) a candle and share where you find joy!	18 List 3 things you would give baby Jesus.	19 Have a buy-nothing day! Try to make something new.	20 Do 2 "random acts of kindness" today.	21 Do a chore that will bring joy to someone else.	22 Share something that brings you joy with someone.	23 Bless someone with a traditional blessing.
24 Light (or colour) a candle and give thanks for all your loved ones.	25 Share 3 things that you love about someone.	<h2>Merry Christmas!</h2> <p>Remember Mission & Service in your holiday givings. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: #UCCan</p>				

Christmas Diversity

Christianity is the most-practised religion with over 2.3 billion followers worldwide. It is also the most widespread as it is the major religion in North America, South America, most of Europe, Russia, Australia, the Philippines, East Timor, and South, Central and East Africa. There are also large Christian communities in other parts of the world, including Indonesia, Central Asia and the Middle East.

All year long, but especially at this festive time of the year, isn't it wonderful to think that there are so many people in our Christian family celebrating with us? They may be in a different country, they may be from a different denomination, they may be of a different culture or race, they may have different customs or enjoy different festive foods and they may be singing different carols or praying in different languages. They are, however, all gathering at this time of year to celebrate the birth of a little child in Bethlehem. What a wonderful Christmas thought!

Warm Wishes to All for a Blessed Christmas

Parish Mosaic Committee

December Worship & Events at Westminster United Church

Family ADVENTure Day December 3 12:00—3:00pm	Lessons and Carols Service December 10 7:00pm
Scott Woods Old Time Christmas Show December 12 7:00pm	Longest Night Service December 17 7:00pm
Christmas Eve December 24 10:30am	Christmas Eve Youth Play December 24 2:00, 4:00 & 6:30pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service December 24 10:00pm	Worship Service December 31 10:30am



Guiding in Action

Recently, the 33rd Oshawa Guides, their Leaders and Colonel Farewell P.S. dropped by Westminster with their incredibly generous donation of food for our Food Bank. They spent their meeting learning about the needs of their community from Suzanne and Jocelyn, two of our amazing volunteers, and they helped to sort food and stock the shelves.

Many thanks to all who continue to support this tremendous outreach program!



News from the Wellness Committee

Come join us for a lovely and relaxing Sunday evening on **December 10th**.

The Wellness Committee, the Parish Mosaic Committee and the Choir will be leading the 7:00 pm **Lessons and Carols** service. **This year's theme is Inclusivity Around the Manger.**

Then on Sunday, **December 17th** at 7 pm, there will be a **Longest Night** service. This service offers a time for reflection, healing prayer and support for all, and especially for those who find the Christmas season to be a difficult one.

Following both services, we shall meet in the Narthex for cider and cookies.

Wellness also plans to hold the **Christmas Cranberry Prayer Candle Fundraiser.**

We will be taking orders after church in the gym on Dec. 3rd and Dec. 10th.

You can pick up your candle in the Narthex on Sunday Dec. 17th.

Last year we raised \$700 for General Revenue.



Christmas is a busy, event-filled time of year.

Be sure to wash your hands frequently and try, try, try to get enough rest.

It would not be fun to be sick at Christmas time!!

Maureen Dingman and Sue Neil

On Behalf of the Wellness Committee



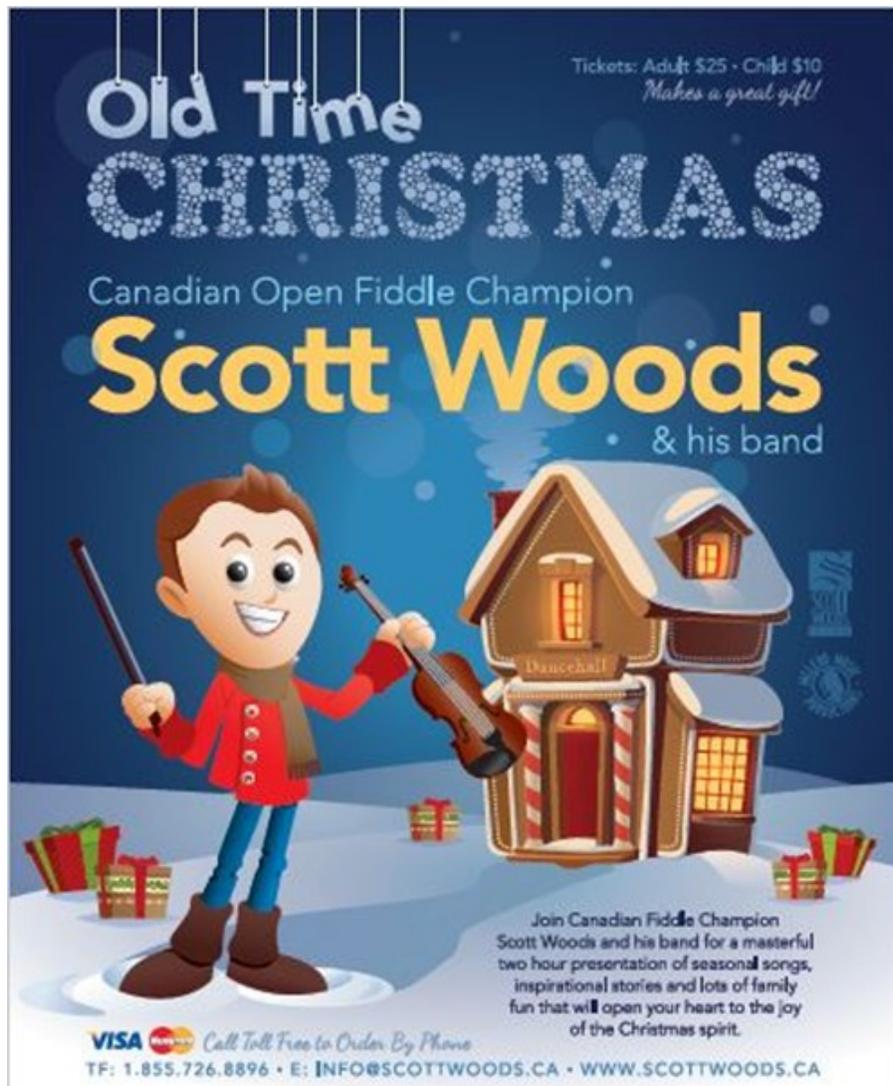
Pray, Praise, Ponder

An Evening Prayer...

Day is done, but love unfailing
dwells ever here.

Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing,
calms every fear.

God, our Maker, none forsaking
take our hearts of Love's own making,
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking,
be always near.



December 12, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Westminster United Church, 1850 Rossland Road East

Tickets may be purchased at **Westminster United Church**
or by calling the church at **905-723-6442.**

Tickets may also be ordered by phone
with a VISA or MasterCard by calling the
Scott Woods Band Office at **1-855-726-8896**



It's **Christmas Hamper** time again. With your generosity, we plan on supporting 75 families again this year at Westminster. The tags for gifts will be available Nov. 26th, Dec. 3rd and Dec 10th if necessary. This year we will also have tags to buy gifts for adult households.

Gifts should be returned on Dec 16th between 12:00pm—4:00pm.
Delivery will be on Dec. 17th following church.

Donations towards the food portion of the hamper are still accepted.

Thank you for your support of this Outreach project;
sharing Christmas with those in need is truly a blessing.

Your Outreach Committee

Tin Cans

This busy bunch of volunteers recently spent their evening counting all of the Tin Can Donations.

Together they counted over \$3700.00 to be used for our Christmas Hamper Program.

How wonderful that so many have given so much!
Thank you for your generosity!



THE COMMITTEE

“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 the 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.



Thank You!

Thank you to all the people who supported the UCW Christmas Bazaar on Saturday and Sunday, November 18th and 19th through donations of time, gifts, talents and purchases. We truly appreciated everyone's encouragement, support and patronage and especially all the hard work done by the Coordinators, Tom and Heather McNown.





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

on

Monday December 4th, 2017

In the Founders' Room at WUC

Gathering and appetizers at 5:30pm – Dinner at 6:00pm

Please bring your favourite one of: A main course or a salad or a dessert to share.

*If you desire: Our Christmas Donations project is Back Door Missions
located in downtown Oshawa, which helps feed the homeless.
A box will be provided for one's anonymous cash donations.*





There was a little something extra added to our most recent Blood Donor Clinic.

This incredible young couple were at the clinic with a **One Match** pop-up shop.

One Match is the National Registry for Stem Cells, a crucial component in the treatment of Blood Cancers.

This special event was hosted by a family to honour their mother, who recently lost her battle with blood cancer.

Those who stopped by were able to pick up information about One Match and were able to do a simple, on the spot, swab of their cheek and send it in to be placed on the registry.

Whether you give blood or not, please consider being a One Match donor...for more information, go to www.blood.ca and search under *Stem Cells*.





Sunday, November 19th marked the 59th anniversary of Westminster United Church.

The service of celebration began with a "Mega Hymn Sing" led by SALT, our praise band.

The junior choir performed a rousing and joyful piece, and the congregation joined the senior choir on the last verse of their anthem, Holst's *O God Beyond All Praising*.

We were reminded during the children's story of how important our Westminster Family is to each of us, and sharing communion reinforced both that connection and also our connection as Christians.



Volunteer Custodians are needed for Sunday morning after worship.

If you can help with this important ministry, please speak to Bob Neil, Chair of the Property Committee.

Thanks for giving this your prayerful consideration.



Little Things that make a difference to our planet...

- ◆ Try to forgo using one electronic device for just one day a month.
- ◆ Reduce your shower time by two minutes.
- ◆ Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ◆ Wash clothes in the coolest water possible, and only run full loads.
- ◆ Avoid using aluminum foil and plastic wrap.
- ◆ Take your own mug to work and skip the paper or Styrofoam cups.

Another Terrific Turkey Time!

On Saturday, November 4th, 177 hungry people feasted on a delicious turkey dinner.

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated crew, the gym was transformed into a festive dining hall. Kitchen staff and servers moved with clock-like precision to deliver the hot, savoury food and then it was pie pandemonium.

New and old friends lingered over dessert while the clean-up crew scrubbed their way through the mountains of dishes.

This annual fundraiser raised almost \$2900 through the efforts of our bakers, donors, diners, set-up crew, prep crew, Chairmen, Chef John, servers, clean-up crew, pie people, coffee people and the Turkey Ladies!



Gobble...Gobble...Gobble!





Bridge To A New Home

We are approaching the Christmas season and the wonders of the birth of baby Jesus whom we have all come to know and love. Westminster has a rich history of sharing God's love and acting on the teachings of scripture as we continue on our personal paths of understanding.

Canadians are richly blessed, simply because we can call Canada our home. Five churches connected through **Bridge To A New Home** have been able to welcome Sut in April and Freweyni and her four children (Jirom, Frtuna, Tmint, and Samrait) to Canada this year. We asked for your help, you responded, and six people's lives have been granted new and positive opportunities as a result. Your help has been financial as well as with the gift of time with our new Canadian residents.

Bridge To A New Home committee members have been asked about Christmas gift options as many of you would like to help. We feel it is very important to introduce everyone to our Christmas traditions, their meaning, as well as the tradition of sharing. With that in mind, we would ask that a donation be considered to **Bridge To A New Home** allowing us to insure fairness and equal considerations while always remembering the reason for our Christmas celebrations.

Speaking of giving and gifts, **Bridge To A New Home** is truly delighted to be receiving a gift of approximately \$10,000 from Columbus United Church. Their gift will cover the medical and transportation costs for Freweyni's family, which is a loan payable to immigration Canada for their costs incurred in arranging for the families to come to our Country. We are ever so grateful to Columbus United Church for their spirit of giving and sharing.

A huge thank-you to the County Town Singers for the concert performed on Nov. 18th at St. Mark's church. We had great support from all the churches and have raised approximately \$4,800.00.

Your committee wishes everyone love, peace, hope and joy throughout the Christmas Season, as well as the opportunity to see others revel and thrive in their new lives.

Blessings to all!
Bridge To A New Home

The MAGIC
OF
Christmas
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS
BUT IN
His presence



A Party for Jesus

WHO:
J.a.M Kids

WHERE:
In the Gym at Westminster

WHEN:
Sunday, December 10, 2017

WHY:
To celebrate the birth
of someone incredibly special!



NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

Did you know...

...that the 33rd Guide Troop, which meets at Colonel Farewell P.S., held a special evening to help with our Food Bank? So many thanks to them for the food received and the sorting of the items, etc.

...that the 91st young person and/or child has been registered for J.a.M? Hurray!

...that Melissa Motum, daughter of Ron and Margaret Motum has obtained a full time nursing position in the ICU of the Ottawa Civic Hospital? Congratulations, Melissa!

...that a number of persons using our building during the week (and not from Westminster) have commented on the cleanliness of our building and in particular our washrooms? Kudos to our staff and our Property Committee.

...that Paul Kneebone has looked after the *United Church Observer* subscriptions renewals this fall? He of course has done a fine job. Thanks, Paul!

...that Ron Motum celebrated a 'milestone' birthday this month? He was taken to Montreal for a special weekend getaway to celebrate the momentous occasion. Happy Birthday, Ron!



Getting into the Holiday Spirit at the Kids' Safety Village

Heartfelt thanks to the Westminster Sanctuary Committee for making the Kids' Village Church look so festive again this year!



October 2017 Financial Status

	October 31, 2017 Actual	2017 Year To Date Actual	2016 Year To Date Actual
Monthly Offerings (Local & Bldg. Funds)	\$23,796	\$205,167	\$220,907
Total Revenue	\$59,253	\$353,765	\$342,802
Total Expenses	\$47,927	\$381,200	\$359,617
Net Position	\$11,326	-\$27,435	-\$16,815

October was a strong, positive month with Total Revenues exceeding \$59,000, resulting in a surplus of \$11,326 for October and reducing the deficit trend.

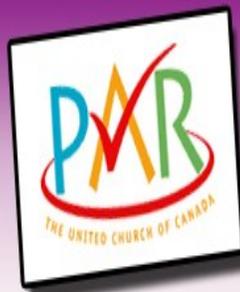
On a year-to-date basis, Total Revenues are up from the same time period in 2016, although Offerings continue to be down from 2016.

Regarding the ***We Sing Thanksgiving*** initiative, 7 individuals or families enrolled in PAR and 15 existing PAR members increased their offerings.

From a financial perspective, these changes will contribute an additional \$8,800 annually to Westminster United Church.

Thank you!

For all members, we thank you
for the consideration of your offerings
and your continued generosity.



How is your stewardship **PARticipation?**

You're invited...

<p>Worship Service - Advent 1 10:30am</p> <p>Blood Pressure Screening 11:45am - 12:15pm</p>	Sunday, December 3
<p>UCW Christmas Potluck 5:30pm</p> <p>NOOMA DVD Series 7:00pm - 8:00pm</p>	Monday, December 4
<p>Living Alone Luncheon 12:00pm – 2:00pm</p>	Wednesday, December 6
<p>Worship Service - Advent 2 10:30am</p> <p>Jesus' Birthday Party <i>(For J.a.M Kids, during worship)</i></p> <p>Lessons and Carols Service 7:00pm</p>	Sunday, December 10
<p>Scott Woods Concert Church Fundraiser - <i>Tickets on Sale NOW!</i> 7:00pm</p>	Tuesday, December 12
<p>Christmas Hamper Gift Return 12:00pm - 4:00pm</p>	Friday, December 16
<p>Worship Service - Advent 3 10:30am</p> <p>Christmas Hamper Delivery Day <i>After worship, in the Gym</i></p> <p>Longest Night Service 7:00pm</p>	Sunday, December 17
<p>Worship Service - Advent 4 10:30am - Intergenerational Service <i>No J.a.M Classes (Nursery only)</i></p> <p>Christmas Eve Family Services 2:00pm, 4:00pm and 6:30pm</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service 10:00pm</p>	Sunday, December 24
<p>Worship Service 10:30am - Intergenerational Service <i>No J.a.M Classes (Nursery only)</i></p>	Sunday, December 31