



The early Christmas sale flyers have arrived! Online sales abound. Christmas music is playing in the stores. Christmas trees are up in some of our homes, and this week I'm going to my first Christmas dinner of the season. We can hardly wait to get to Christmas.

But in the church we are entering the season of **Advent**. Advent is not yet Christmas. It is instead the **season of waiting...preparing....**

In our worship together we might seem out of sync with the hustle and bustle around us as **we slow down and wait.**

*What are we waiting for?*

We **wait patiently and actively in hopeful expectation, watching for the signs** that are indications of **God being born** in our lives. We prepare our hearts to receive a love that first loved us.

I invite you to attend the special Advent and Christmas services offered at Westminster United Church over the next month. May they guide you as you journey along the Advent Way. You will find a schedule of these services within this edition of the newsletter, on our website: [www.westminster-uc.ca](http://www.westminster-uc.ca) and in the weekly Sunday bulletins.

My prayer is that we might all experience afresh, this Advent-Christmas season, the blessing of the waiting time, and the joy of Emmanuel, God with us.

~ Rev. Michelle



<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> "Waiting" <b>December 2</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Family ADVENTure Day</b> <b>December 2</b> <b>12:00 - 2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> "Preparing" <b>December 9</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols Service</b> <b>December 9</b> <b>7:00 p.m. at Hampton UC</b>
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> "Rejoicing" <b>December 16</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Longest Night Service</b> <b>December 17</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> "Blessing" <b>December 23</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>J.a.M. Jesus' Birthday Party</b> <b>December 23</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Christmas Eve Play</b> "Bethlehem Bound" <b>December 24</b> <b>2:00, 4:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service</b> <b>December 24</b> <b>10:00 p.m.</b>



*Lesson and Carols  
Service  
at  
Hampton United Church*

Come out and enjoy a wonderful evening of Christmas Carols for your listening and singalong enjoyment.

The program runs from 7:00pm to 9:30pm in the church sanctuary and is followed by refreshments downstairs in the Christian Education Wing.



This wonderful Christmas program will feature the voices and talents of...

*Hampton United Church Choir*

*Bells of Blessing Choir*

*Northminster United Church Choir*

*Westminster United Church Choir*

*Jonathan Garabedian - Violinist from the Winnipeg Symphony*

You Are Needed!

If we are to live out our motto -  
**Be Welcomed, Be Nourished, Belong**  
– we need your help.

Please sign up to greet and light the candles one Sunday (or more?). Having cheerful greeters at the door to welcome people to worship is an important aspect of our ministry.

There's also a personal benefit – it's a great way to meet people and build relationships!



**BABY NEWS!**

*Lorelai Elizabeth Baker*  
was born at Mount Sinai on  
October 17th  
weighing 7 lbs, 4 oz.

Evan is over the moon about being a big brother and is very protective of his little sister. Ian and Sarah couldn't be more happy with their little princess.



**"A community of faith, loving one another  
a community of grace, reaching out to others,  
a place of hope and caring, togetherness and sharing.**

**This is our legacy, we are one family,  
one great community of faith."**

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in and attended the  
**"We are Family Showcase Evening".**

We laughed a lot, learned a lot and had a great time  
celebrating who we are and what we do.

Happy Anniversary, Westminster!





## FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUPS

Our youth have been busy lending a hand at recent church events... the UCW Christmas Dinner and the Friday Flicks movie night! *Many Thanks!*



### **WHO:**

For J.a.M Kids

### **WHERE:**

In the Gym at Westminster

### **WHEN:**

Sunday, December 23, 2018

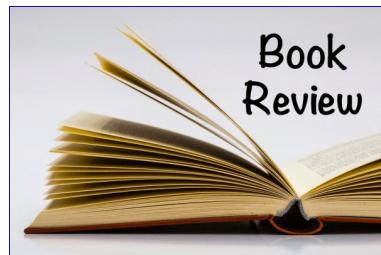
### **WHY:**

To celebrate the birth  
of someone incredibly special!

My take on:

The Reason You Walk, 2015 by Wab Kinew

This is one of the most important books I've read. As a journalist for CBC, Wab Kinew was asked to do a news segment for the launch of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. He takes his camera crew and interviews his father, Tobasonakwut at St. Mary's Residential School in Kenora, Ontario where he was a student for ten years.



Unable to hold back the emotion, his father recounts the horrific transgressions committed against him as a child. With the intent to bring impact to the story, in the last scene the camera focuses on Tobasonakwut and his grandson, Dominik. He was five years old when he entered Residential School, the same age as Wab's son was in that scene.

Wab shares his father's life story and the turmoil he fought to triumph over. Tobasonakwut teaches us that ultimately, reconciliation begins within our self. Whether his wisdom came from his ability to meld together Indigenous spirituality and Catholic religion or his sense of duty to family, he lived the rest of his life in forgiveness. In 2009 he met Pope Benedict XVI in the Vatican hoping to hear an apology but Tobasonakwut told Wab that he wasn't sure what was going to come of it. However, he was going to offer an eagle feather and if the Pope accepted it then he knew he wanted reconciliation. The Pontiff took the feather and said a prayer.

In telling his father's story, Wab realizes that he had suffered through his father's harsh parenting behaviour that caused him to spiral down into drug and alcohol abuse landing him in jail. He saw that he was becoming his father in how he treated his own kids. In self-reflection and reconciling with his father, Wab shares his Anishinaabe heritage with us through the meaning of Sundance, rituals, values and language. The Reason You Walk is a travelling song Wab sings at the end of his father's life.

This was hard for me to write about because it's such a personal and family story that Wab Kinew tells of the inter-generational effects of the Residential School System. He has given us a gift and I feel honoured to hear his story and sorry that it ever happened. He made me question myself, my own mixed-cultural struggles - as a Canadian? Settler? Who is Canadian? Who am I? It was hard because Wab's story and reconciliation are important right now. It was hard because it's true; it's our Canadian story.

Jeanne Yee, Parish Mosaic

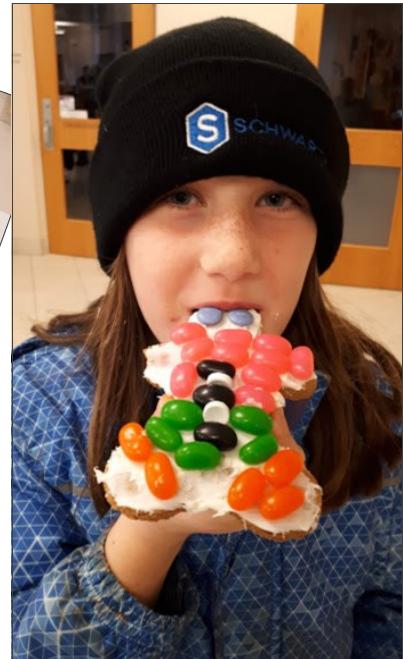


There is a  
NEW ADDITION  
TO WESTMINSTER...

Our new bench arrived just in time for our  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations,  
offering a warm, colourful welcome  
to one and all!



YAY  
for  
ADVENTure  
Day!



## 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!



The Longest Night Service  
will be held on  
**Monday, December 17**  
at 7:00pm.

This service offers a time of care and concern for those who may be grieving or sad during this Christmas Season or for people who are feeling stressed or 'out of sync' with the seasonal emphasis on happiness, togetherness and family gatherings.

If you are looking for a wonderful Christmas Gift idea, then look no further than the Fair Trade Table in the Gym each week.



Not only are there wonderful Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and other goodies to purchase, but at this time of year, June and Ron have designed and prepared some awesome Gift Baskets for that special person in your life.

Monies raised from our Fair Trade sales help with the costs of our Fellowship coffee time after church on Sunday mornings.

Many thanks to everyone who supports this ministry... and a special thanks to Ron and June for their hard work each week.



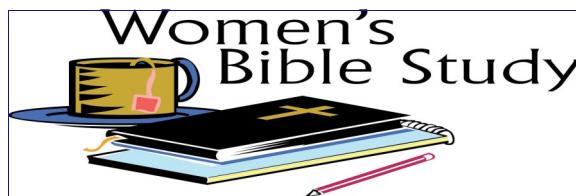


## Christmas Hampers

A huge thank you in advance for all of you who are supporting our Christmas hamper program again at Westminster.

We will be distributing over 70 hampers again this year to those in our community who need help this Christmas. **A reminder that the unwrapped gifts are due back at the church on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> between 1-4 and delivery is Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> after church.** We will be looking for drivers to help with this, you'll get the address and a map to drop off the gifts and gift cards for food, so no heavy lifting!

*Merry Christmas from all who help with the Hamper Program.*



Our next Wine, Women and the Word is on  
**Tuesday, December 18th**  
from  
**7:00pm 9:00pm**

Carol O'Neil is hosting this meeting in her home.  
Please contact the church office if you are in need of directions.

The theme is:  
Are we sharing as excitedly as the shepherds did that night?

Please bring your bibles.

We have begun collecting toiletry items for both men and women in local shelters.

Please place your donated items in the bins found in front of the Church Office in the narthex.

*Please note that only new toiletry items will be accepted.*

Thank you!





# Thank You!

To all the volunteers, shoppers and vendors who took part in our Christmas Bazaar...we Thank You for making it such a success!



## The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team says THANK YOU!



The members of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team - Elizabeth Hatter, Arlene Jones, Lori Rosdobutko, Margaret Motum, Pat Artymko, Don Fry, Brian Woodlock, Shane Suepaul and Tom McNown would like to thank everyone who was involved with making the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a great success!

It was a wonderful time for all members and friends of Westminster to gather together and share in celebrating Westminster's Anniversary.

How blessed we are to be part of such a great family of faith!  
Thank you so very much for your participation and support.



*There are still a few  
**Commemorative Pens**  
available for purchase.*

*With Christmas coming,  
and at only \$3.00 each,  
these pens would make  
excellent and affordable  
Stocking Stuffers!*



**pray, Praise, Ponder**

**Dear God,,**  
**Thank you for this**  
**wonderful life.**

**Amen**

## THE COMMITTEE CORNER

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Your Outreach Committee continues Westminster's long-standing tradition of vital outreach ministry to the community, both within and outside our church's walls.

Our Committee is directly active with or provides oversight for the following outreach initiatives:



Annual Tin Can and Christmas Hamper Program  
Advent Sock & Mitten Tree  
Monthly Food Bank  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Blood Donor Clinics  
St. Vincent's Kitchen  
Seniors' Ministry  
Living Alone Lunches  
Bridge To A New Home  
Parish Mosaic Committee

*Over the next several weeks, our Committee is focused on these two outreach programs:*

#### **Advent Mitten Tree:**

We're looking for child and adult-sized mittens and gloves to decorate our tree. All donated items will be distributed during the first few weeks of January to area schools and community groups that have expressed a need.

#### **Christmas Hamper Program:**

Each December, our congregation helps support families and individuals in need in our community to ensure there are gifts and food at Christmastime. Our Christmas Hamper Project Team expects we'll be supporting over 75 families and over 250 people this season. If you're new to Westminster, instructions and guidelines are provided to all!

Here are the key dates to remember:

**Hamper Gifts Drop-off at the Church Gym:** Saturday, December 15 (1:00pm—4:00pm)

**Hamper Gifts Delivery from Church Gym:** Sunday, December 16 (after worship service)

Your Outreach Committee members are:

Joanne M (Co-Chair), Cathy C. (Co-Chair), Debbie J., Sandra K-C., Gail W., Paul K.

Outreach Programs Support: Ashley E., Peter S., Katherine F., Margaret M., Suzanne R.



The Seniors' Fellowship Group  
will NOT be meeting on  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

This group will resume again in the New Year on  
Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

We will look forward to seeing you then.

## Grocery Cards

Here's a great Christmas gift idea, especially for that student living away from home or that hard to buy for person in your life

Grocery gift cards are available for purchase at face value during coffee time after service on Sunday or from the church office during the week.



### HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR NEW BUILDING?



We are Fundraising to Continue the Build of our New Location

It will be fully accessible and able to handle more patrons

The construction has commenced on a new "home" for St. Vincent Pallotti's Kitchen. The new facility will be on one level so that everyone will have access to a low cost nutritious meal every day of the year!

Both patrons and volunteers will appreciate a bright new kitchen, no steep stairs to climb and on-site parking.

Westminster has a team of 30 dedicated volunteers that serve meals and clean up on the first Wednesday of each month. We have been helping at the Kitchen since it opened 25 years ago!

If you would like to help support the construction of this new space, there is an opportunity to do so with the "**Foundation Stones**" Fundraising Pledge Program. All donations will be greatly received and a Foundation Stone will be purchased. A permanent Foundation Stone plaque will be placed to recognize Westminster's commitment to serving others.

**Donations will be accepted until Sunday, March 3, 2019.** Please add your donation to the Offering plate during Sunday Worship or drop it into the Church Office during the week (Mon.-Fri: 9:00am – 3:00pm). *Please make cheques payable to Westminster United Church, with St. Vincent's Kitchen noted on the memo line and/or on the envelope.*  
For more information, contact Gail Wild.



Our J.a.M classes were busy recently making Christmas Cards for each of the Christmas Hampers that will be distributed to families this month.



We're looking for child and adult sized mittens and gloves to decorate our tree.

All donated items will be distributed during the first few weeks of January to area schools and community groups that have expressed a need.

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A contemplative evening...  
A slow down moment in a busy season...  
A time to focus on the true meaning of Advent...

How wonderful  
to have so many  
participate in  
our recent  
**Taizé**  
**Labyrinth**  
**Advent**  
**Service,**



# NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

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

...that there is an Events Guide available on the kiosk in the Narthex to help us keep up to date on all the activities that Westminster has to offer?

...that many of our Small Groups are still running and that more will be available in the New Year? Be sure to check them out!

...that the Mitten Tree is up in the Narthex and ready for your donations? Many thanks to Bruce Cullen for getting us the perfect tree.

...that the 60th Anniversary Celebration Weekend is over...but the festive mood still lingers? What a wonderful weekend! Thank you to all who worked on the different events.

...that many of our Westminster community are beginning to plan for their trips to warmer climates? If you fall into the Snowbird category, please know that you will be missed!

...that those involved in the upcoming Christmas Eve Play and Service have been practicing every Sunday afternoon since October? Thank you for your dedication!

**What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?**  
*Freeze a jolly good fellow!*

**What is the best Christmas present in the world?**  
*A broken drum, you just can't beat it!*

**How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?**  
*One that's deep pan, crisp and even!*

**What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree?**  
*Nice gnawing you!*

**What did Adam say to his wife on the day before Christmas?**  
*It's Christmas, Eve!*

**One door closes, another opens...**

**One door closes, another opens...**

**One door closes, another opens...**

**...the life lessons of an Advent Calendar**

**The Bedrock of Faith...**

**Yabba dabba doo,  
God loves you!**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**Available Funds (cash & GIC) at CIBC and DUCA as at October 31, 2018 = \$86,590**

<b>FOR THE PERIOD ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2018</b>				
<b>*** Excluding ALL Roof-Related Transactions ***</b>	<b>JAN - OCT 2018</b>	<b>PROJECTED YEAR END RESULTS</b>	<b>2018 BUDGET</b>	<b>ARE WE ON TARGET?</b>
Offerings - Local Fund	182,284	255,080	265,000	\$9,920 UNDER
Offerings - Building Fund	21,563	25,456	25,000	\$456 OVER
<b>TOTAL LOCAL AND BUILDING FUND OFFERINGS</b>	<b>203,847</b>	<b>280,536</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>\$9,464 UNDER</b>
Offerings - Mission & Service	18,931	22,749	23,000	\$252 UNDER
Total Receipts	340,047	456,508	453,900	\$2,608 OVER
Total Disbursements	390,955	488,691	473,957	\$14,734 OVER
<b>2018 Generated Surplus / -Deficit</b>	<b>-50,907</b>	<b>-32,183</b>	<b>-20,057</b>	<b>\$12,126 UNDER</b>

***Other Transactions Affecting Cash Flow:***

Net Cost of Roof to WUC - see below	-23,922
Presbytery Loan for Roof	15,000
Repayment of Roof Loan (Dec 2018)	-15,000
Net Proceeds from Manning Mews	65,000
<b>Net 2018 Cash Flow</b>	<b>8,895</b>

**Net Cost of Roof to WUC**

Cost of Roof (including HST)	67,800
GST/HST Refund	-5,436
Presbytery Grant	-16,950
Special Appeal Roof Donations	-21,492
<b>Net Cost of Roof to WUC (reserve funds used)</b>	<b>23,922</b>

**October year-to-date** disbursements were \$51K higher than receipts. This is due to timing of offerings, which trend higher towards the end of the year.

**November and December** receipts are projected to be \$18.7K higher than disbursements, resulting in a 2018 deficit of \$32K. (This includes the \$9,920 shortfall in the Local Fund. If this shortfall is closed we will come in at a deficit of \$23K, which is in line with the 2018 Budget of a deficit of \$20K).

When we consider the net cost of the roof to WUC and the Manning Mews net proceeds, we are projecting a 2018 generated cash flow surplus of \$9K.

*Thank you for your continued support of  
Westminster United Church,  
financially and otherwise!*

*This faith community and its ministries  
would not be what they are without you!*

# You're invited...

<b>Senior Youth Group</b> 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Friday, December 7 (Off-site meeting)
<b>Worship Service - Second Sunday of Advent</b> 10:30am	Sunday, December 9
<b>Lessons and Carols Service</b> 7:00pm	Hampton United Church
<b>Junior Youth Group</b> 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Friday, December 14 (Off-site meeting)
<b>Christmas Hamper Gift Return</b> 12:00pm - 4:00pm	Saturday, December 15
<b>Worship Service - Third Sunday of Advent</b> 10:30am	Sunday, December 16
<b>Christmas Hamper Delivery Day</b> <i>After worship, in the Gym</i>	
<b>Longest Night Service</b> 7:00pm	Monday, December 17
<b>Wine, Women and the Word Bible Study</b> 7:00pm - 9:00pm <i>Offsite: Contact Office for Directions</i>	Tuesday, December 18
<b>Worship Service - Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 10:30am	Sunday, December 23
<b>Jesus' Birthday Party</b> <i>(For J.a.M Kids, during worship)</i>	
<b>Christmas Eve Family Services - "Bethlehem Bound"</b> 2:00pm, 4:00pm and 6:30pm	Monday, December 24
<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service</b> 10:00pm	
<b>Worship Service</b> 10:30am - Intergenerational Service <i>No J.a.M or Nursery Classes today</i>	Sunday, December 30

