

*Hello
Spring!*



Minister's Message...

We are gearing up for the warmth of springtime-sunshine, already enjoying the unfolding scene outside as the earth is renewed and life is reborn; the robins have returned and the trees are beginning to bud again. I sing praises knowing that God is at the heart of it!

I'm writing this with only a few weeks to go before my family welcomes our baby into the world. I'm nervous, excited, at times overwhelmed thinking of all the changes this will bring into our lives. I am also grateful to God, and to you, the people of God, for your company and prayers on this journey.

May 12 will be my last Sunday at Westminster before going on maternity leave. The plan is that I will be back in February of the New Year and will keep you updated in the meantime. Many thanks to Rev. Dan Yourkevich who will be covering while I am away.

May 12 is also Christian Family Sunday. We are all members of the family of God, created in God's image and loved beyond measure. In these polarized and polarizing times it really is a gift to be called by God to create a place of welcome and belonging, a church that is committed to embracing diversity and open to having meaningful conversations even when those conversations are difficult; where we don't feel alone in the happiness or the pain that life throws our way.

There is a prayer that has been keeping me company during this Easter season as I reflect on new life in the world around, within the church and within my personal life in the days ahead. It is from the Iona Community and I share it here with love and as a blessing before I go:

All Shall Be Well

*For the greening of trees
and the gentling of friends
we thank you, O God.*

*For the brightness of field
and the warmth of the sun
we thank you, O God.*

*For work to be done
and laughter to share
we thank you, O God.*

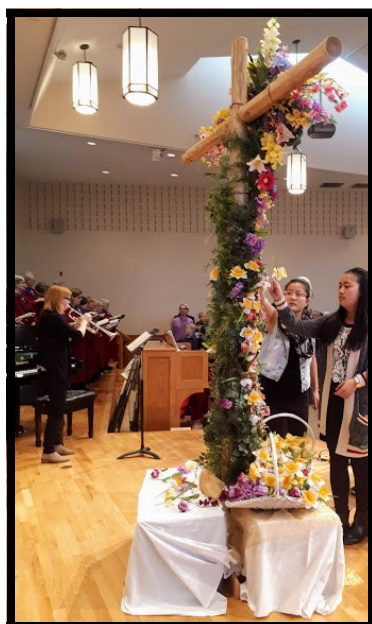
*We thank you, and know
that through struggle and pain
in the slippery path of new birth
hope will be born
And all shall be well.*



Yours in Christ

Rev. Michelle

Holy Week and Easter Services



June is Pride Month

Conservative estimates are that **4.5%** of the general population identify as LGBTQ. Including family and friends, the number personally involved grows to over **18%** of the population. In most cases those individuals, wishing to safely worship and belong, are without a spiritual home. This is a Human Rights issue.

June is Pride Month, an important opportunity for Westminster United to demonstrate our commitment as an affirming community of faith. WE offer a safe and welcoming space. WE are called to respond.

Get involved in celebrating Pride Month as we join with other community groups for several events and activities within our community:

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial: Sunday May 26, 7:00pm – 8:00pm.

In partnership with AIDS Committee of Durham Region, this service will be held in the sanctuary. Members of Westminster, as well as our community are welcome to attend this service, which will involve a short and personal ceremony of remembrance and healing for families and friends of those lost to AIDS/HIV. The service will be followed by a time of gathering and conversation in the narthex. Refreshments will be provided by the Parish Mosaic Committee.

Rainbow Pride Flag:

As is our tradition, we will again be displaying the Rainbow Pride Flag in the Narthex window for the month of June. The flag will be going up after worship on May 26th.

Multi-Faith Pride Service and Parade: Sunday June 2 (Time: TBD)

This year's event will be held in Ajax. More details will follow as they become available. This is an excellent opportunity to support the LGBTQ community
(*AND get a great start on your 10,000 steps!*)

Youth Pride Event: Saturday June 8, 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

This year's event will be held on the grounds of the Durham District School Board
(*Taunton Rd and Anderson*).

Your Parish Mosaic Committee will have an information table before and after service on May 19 and May 26. We will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. We encourage you to attend and/or participate in any or all of these events.

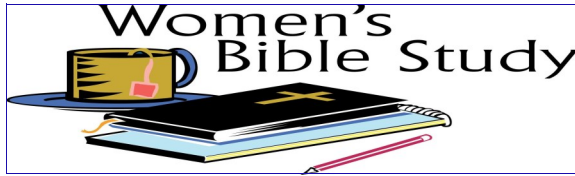
Parish Mosaic Committee



*Celebrating the Good News
of Easter together!*

With thanks to the
Foodman Group
for preparing a delicious
Easter breakfast.





Our next Wine, Women and the Word is on

Tuesday, May 21st

from

7:00pm 9:00pm

Margaret Suepaul is hosting this meeting in her home.
Please contact the church office if you are in need of directions.

Topic:

Coffee, Friends and the Bible... 'Grounds for Improvement'

Please bring your bible, if you have one.

Climate Disruption Mitigation Committee

"What do you love & hope to never lose to climate change?"

That's quite a loaded question, isn't it and one we hope you will explore with us in the coming weeks and months through the various means our committee is tackling the issue.

We're excited to launch our Climate Ribbon Tree Project on April 23rd at the "Time to Choose" screening.

The Climate Ribbon project is an international interactive storytelling visual arts display that gets the conversation going about climate change. It will remind us that we are not alone, and empower us into action against climate change.

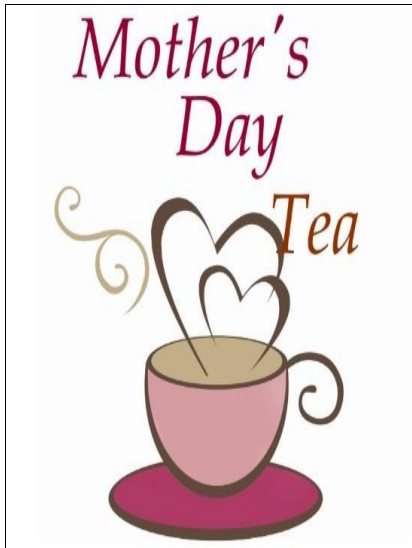


To get started, follow these steps:

1. Take a moment to reflect on what you love & wish to never lose due to climate change
2. Take a ribbon provided or bring your own
3. Write on that ribbon what it is that you don't want to lose
4. Write your first name and the town you live in on that ribbon, too
5. Tie your ribbon onto our tree
6. Take a ribbon to your friend, a neighbour or family member and have them write on it and bring it back for the tree

Stay tuned for further information and activities related to this project, and thank you in advance for being part of the solution.

The Faith Communities Committee (a sub-committee of CDMC)



Looking for a special way to celebrate Mother's Day?

Why not attend Westminster's Annual Mother's Day Tea?

This wonderful event is not just great for Mom,
but for all the special women in your life!

Our Tea takes place on

Saturday, May 11

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Tickets are only \$12.00

and are available through the Church Office,
Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 3:30pm.

For more information, please contact the church at 905-723-6442

C.A.R.E.



This month, *The Westminster World* is launching a new column - **C.A.R.E.**
- which stands for **C**hristians **A**cting with **R**espect for the **E**arth.

Inspired by the Climate Disruption Mitigation Committee,
we are going to offer helpful reminders
about what each of us can do to be better stewards
of God's Creation.

Further to the
R-cycle of **R**educe, **R**euse, **R**ecycle, **R**ethink, **R**epurpose, **R**estore, **R**eplenish,
there are many things we can do:

- ♦ remember to cut all the plastic rings
on milk cartons and soda pop 6-packs
- ♦ remember to shut off the lights
when you leave a room
- ♦ remember to shut off the water
while you are brushing your teeth

We welcome all submissions, so if you or anyone in your family has a suggestion to help us
C.A.R.E. for our environment, please send it to bcrumb@sympatico.ca



Friday May 24, 2019

**from 4 - 6pm at Westminster
from the UCW.**

You pick up your prepared dinner
from the church and eat at home.

Dinner will be Ham and Cheese Quiche,
Cabbage Salad and Dessert.

Cost:

Dinner for 2: \$10.00

Dinner for 4: \$20.00

There are NO pre-orders.

For more information, contact:
Shirley Penny at 905-430-8122



If you are looking for a group
to call your own,
then why not try
Faith and Fellowship?

This monthly "come as you can" group
brings adults of all ages together
for a time of
discussion,
food, fellowship
and prayer...

...all in a casual and
comfortable environment.

This group gathers next on:

Wednesday, June 12

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Hope you can make it!



Our last **GAME NIGHT** was such a hit
that we've decided to have another one!

Mark your Calendar for
FRIDAY, JUNE 14

and come out for a fun, free evening of
Board Games from 7:00pm - 9:30pm

*This event is for Adults and Youth
(10 years and older)*

SEE YOU THERE!

***Have you noticed the
new addition to our Chancel?***

This beautiful table is new and was made
to match our Communion Table and Pulpit.

All three handcrafted items were made by
Larry Laycock,
a member of our congregation.

This table will be used in worship for the glory of God.
Many Thanks!





**Here's what our
Awesome J.a.M Kids
have been up to lately...**

...celebrating the Resurrection
by making an
Empty Tomb Snacks

...and having fun with a
game on Humour Sunday!



**I teach
Sunday School
what's your
superpower?**

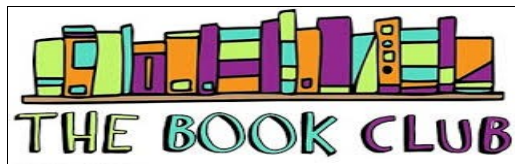
Our J.a.M Sunday School is GROWING, so we need your help!

We are in need of teachers for the Fall
and we would love for you to join the J.a.M Team!

There are no age, gender or experience limits, you choose how often
you teach and we support and guide you every step of the way.

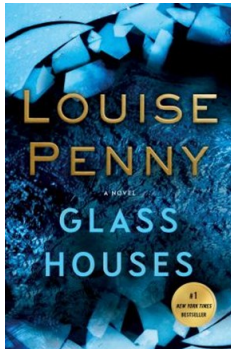
The curriculum is easy to teach and provided for you.

If you would like more information on how you can transform young
lives, please contact Cathy Shaw at cshaw@westminster-uc.ca



The next gathering of the Book Club is **Wednesday May 22, 2019 at 1:30pm**

Sandra Kell Cullen will be hosting the Book Club in her home this month. For more information, to borrow the book or to obtain directions, please contact Susan at the number below. All are welcome!



Glass Houses by Louise Penny.

When a mysterious figure appears in Three Pines one cold November day, Armand Gamache and the rest of the villagers are at first curious, then wary. But when the figure vanishes overnight and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to discover if a debt has been paid or levied.

In Glass Houses, bestselling author Louise Penny shatters the conventions of the crime novel to explore what Gandhi called the court of conscience: a court that supersedes all others.

For the last half of our meeting we will be voting on and choosing the books to read for the next year - September 2019 to May 2020. Each person is asked to submit 3 title suggestions for each of the 3 categories:

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

Book and Movie – a book that has been turned into a movie so that we can 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 20th, so that the suggestions can be typed up for our voting.

For this meeting only, RSVP to Susan at 905-493-3122 by Monday May 20th, 2019.



COMING SOON!

Mark your calendar for
Sunday, June 9th
and join your Westminster family
for fun, games and fellowship!

Pray, Praise, Ponder

*Most of the problems in life
are because of two reasons:
We act without thinking
or we keep thinking
without acting.*



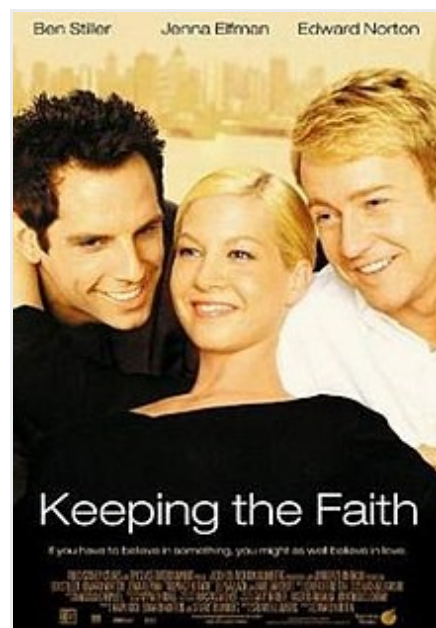
Thank you to everyone who attended the screening of **Time to Choose** and to all the community groups that provided information displays.



Our next movie night for Adults will be on:
Friday, May 31, 2019
7:00pm

*...bring a date,
 bring a friend or step out solo,
 as we watch the comedy...*

(Popcorn Included)



Come team up with us as we JOIN FORCES with GOD at our
HERO HEADQUARTERS
Vacation Bible School

Journey with us as we explore what it takes
to be a HERO...in the BIBLE and in YOUR LIFE!
Come and learn about real heroes in our
Awesome Workshops:

Kapow Crafts

Power Play

Wonder Works

and **Super Snacks...**



Hey Kids, if you're in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 5
and you like to have fun and learn new things,
then talk to your parents and ask if you can join us at
Westminster United Church from **July 8th -12th**
9:00am – 12:30pm
for our amazing Vacation Bible School!

To join the FUN, just have an adult fill out the registration form
on the other side of this invitation.

The completed form, along with the registration fee,
may be dropped off or sent to the church office at:
1850 Rossland Rd. E, Whitby, Ontario, L1N 3P2

Cost
\$50/child

Registration Deadline
Sunday, June 2

If you or your parents have any questions,
or you need extra forms for your friends, just have them contact
Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation.
She can be reached by phone at 905-723-6442
or by e-mail at cshaw@westminster-uc.ca

Registration Form

Westminster's Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 8 – Friday, July 12, 2019
9:00am. - 12:30pm.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Full Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Concerns: _____

Allergies/Sensitivities: _____

Special Needs/Learning Concerns: _____

Behavioural Concerns: _____

Child's Name	Birth Date (MM/DD/YY)	Last Grade Completed	Health Card Number
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I hereby give the VBS Leaders and Westminster United Church permission to:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Procure emergency medical assistance if I cannot be reached. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use my child's work in displays or media promoting Westminster United Church. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use photographs/ videos of my child in Westminster United Church displays or on social media (Fb, Twitter, etc.), promoting church programs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Who will be picking up your child? _____

*We ask that all children be picked up in the Narthex.
For safety reasons, no child will be permitted to leave without adult accompaniment.*

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

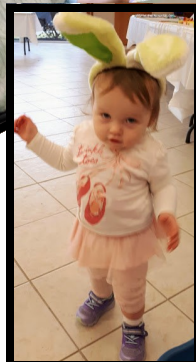
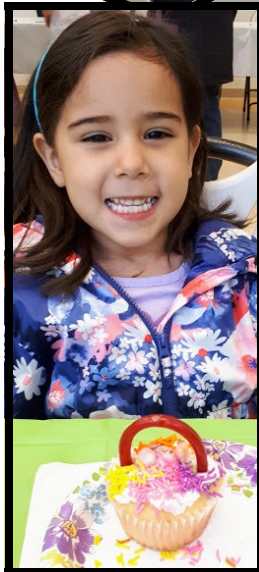
Please make cheques payable to Westminster United Church

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with all applicable federal and provincial legislation including but not limited to, the Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act. Information gathered can and will be used for the purpose of administering Sunday Church School programs as well as sharing information pertaining to other Westminster United Church events. It will not be distributed to outside agencies except as statistical data to the United Church of Canada.

Our Easter



was a Huge Success
Thanks to All of You!





Did you know ...

...that our parishioners who have 'been South' are back? And we say, "Welcome home!"

...that *The United Church Observer* has been redeveloped and is now called *Broadview*, edited by Jocelyn Bell? Have a look; it is quite different.

...that Holy Week services were well attended? Deep appreciation to our staff who worked so hard to plan meaningful services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

...that our sanctuary and narthex bloomed with Spring flowers and butterflies? Many thanks to the Sanctuary Committee for their beautification of these special spaces. And many thanks to the Wellness Committee for arranging the purchase of the flowers and to those whose donations in memory of loved ones paid for the lovely tulips.

...that an excellent breakfast was enjoyed by our congregation on Easter Sunday? The delicious feast of breakfast delicacies was prepared by our Foodman group. Thanks, guys!

...that our 6th annual EGGstravaganza event on April 20th was a huge success? Kids, parents and 'bunnies' all had a fun morning. Thanks to Cathy Shaw, the CE Committee and all who helped!

...that off our West Coast and the West Coast of the United States, in the ocean there is "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch"? What can we do to help eliminate this awful problem?

UCW NEWS

Thank you to those who donated, turned chaos into order, baked, worked, brought, cleaned up and bought at our Yard Sale on Saturday, April 13th.

A special thank-you to Mary Shepherd and Barbara Auchterlonie who co-ordinated this year. Our fundraiser would not have been the success it was without your effort.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Committee Corner

Christian Education Committee



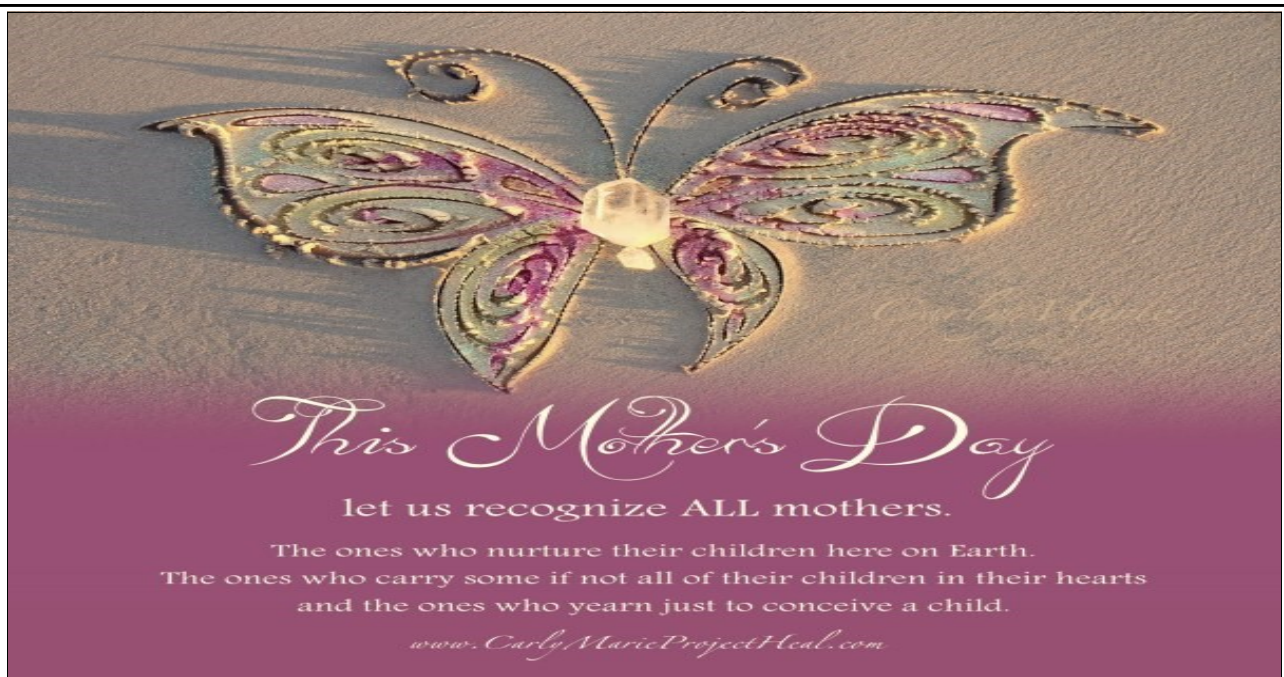
The Christian Education Team at Westminster believes in Life-Long Learning and that everyone, regardless of their age or where they might be on their faith journey, should have the opportunity to explore their faith in a variety of settings. To this end, we strive to offer faith forming programs and events, with an emphasis on fun and fellowship.

Our team not only takes care of our excellent church library, but it oversees our J.a.M Sunday School program, from Nursery to High School and our mid-week programs for our youth.

CE believes in learning for all ages, and so programs for adults are also available. Our team strongly believes in families and the importance of community connections, and so events such as Family Dinner and Movie Nights, ADVENTure Day, the Easter EGGstravaganza and Friday Flicks are offered to bring people together.



This hardworking, dedicated team is Chaired by Jolene Baker and made up of Michelle Alston, Cheryl Nicholson, Susan Pleasance, Sue Shkolnik, Ava Tomlinson, and Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation.



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Margaret Motum, our Minister of Music, recently came upon this *Observer* article from 60 years ago which recounts the building of St. Paul's United Church in Sudbury. Her father, Rev. Charles Newton, was the minister at St. Paul's at the time. Having recently celebrated our 60th anniversary, in our second church building, it is especially interesting to note how this Sudbury congregation was inspired to pull together and build their place of worship.

*Publisher's Note:
This article has been typed verbatim,
including any spelling, spacing
and grammatical errors*

Sudbury congregation builds A Do-it-Yourself Church

OBSERVER, JUNE 1, 1959

by M.B. Pengelley

In the nickel city of Sudbury, the mining and smelting hub of northern Ontario with a population of 50,000, they specialize in doing things the unusual way—even when it comes to building churches.

A year ago when the building committee of St. Paul's United Church looked over the lowest tenders they were startled. The rock-bed estimates were \$45,000 more than the congregation could afford. It looked as though St. Paul's, whose basement had been built 10 years before, was going to have to wait another 10 year for a sanctuary.

But after the Rev. Charles R. Newton delivered a few lively sermons about Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, St. Paul's was able to recruit a work force of 200 male volunteers.

Last fall St. Paul's Church, in west-end Sudbury, was dedicated a month ahead of schedule and this spring the finishing touches will be completed and the landscaping done. Mr. Newton says the church was build for \$185,000 but that hired labour would have shot the completion cost up to \$250,000.

Actually, St. Paul's Church was built in three separate stages, all by volunteer help. The basement was built in 1949 for \$28,000 (at a saving by volunteer labour of \$13,000). The church gymnasium was built three years later for \$15,000 (at a saving of \$5,000). Then the main sanctuary was erected last year at a cost of \$153,000 (and a saving of about \$47,000). Mr. Newton says that the total saving in labour costs has saved the congregation at least \$65,000.

To get the ball rolling on the last lap of St. Paul's build-it-yourself plan, the congregation staged its own fund-raising campaign, pledging \$60,000 toward the new project and paying off \$15,000 which was still owing on the gymnasium.

The congregation produced an additional \$60,000 in two bond issues taken out by members of the church in \$100 amounts bearing interest of 4.5%. St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury produced \$25,000 towards St. Paul's building fund, half of which was an outright gift, and further smaller loans and gifts were negotiated.

(Continued on the next page)

Sudbury congregation builds *A Do-it-Yourself Church*

(Continued)

When it looked as though the money were in the bag, St. Paul's members rolled up their sleeves. 200 volunteer workmen signed pledge cards promising to devote five hours a week to the job. They hired a foreman at \$150 a week, took their orders from him and empowered him to hire a handful of skilled men at union rates.

Quickly St. Paul's work force was divided up into work-teams and one man was made responsible for telephoning volunteers when a big job was coming up, such as pouring the forms from 7.30am on a Saturday morning to 9 o'clock at night.

The basic building job took eight months with construction under way an average of 75 hours a week. Mr. Newton says: "We saved the contractor's profits on plumbing and brickwork. Two firms offered us considerable discounts providing we bought 70% of our materials from them. A heating engineer gave us free advice on heating problems; an expert in construction scrutinized all our tenders and saved us from pitfalls, and an auto dealer offered us a truck free of charge whenever we needed it".

Throughout the whole campaign, says Mr. Newton, the congregation's morale has been high - even in the midst of the Nickel Company strike that sent 14,000 mining and smelting workers home from work for 81 days last fall. Church attendance is up and envelope and loose plate givings increased even under the strain of capital outlays. Missionary and Maintenance givings doubled after the church's pledge campaign.

St. Paul's Church today seats a congregation of 450 but there is a small chapel which will seat another 50 people and adequate accommodation for all organizations.

The interior of the sanctuary is in white oak paneling, and although the pulpit and lectern are wired for amplification, the acoustics are so good the apparatus is not needed under normal circumstances.

The New Church

This Is Our Church, But yesterday a
gleam
Of visionary hope, and now behold
The glorious fulfilment of a dream
Conceived in minds by faith and trust
made bold.
Here we foregather to united In praise
Of Him who hovers near us to reveal
The purpose and direction of our days,
And wounds of inner conflict cleanse and heal.

A welcome waits for all who pass these
doors
To be of Christian fellowship as part
And share the joy of service that restores
The share drooping spirit and the wayward
heart.
Life is enriched and no one walks alone
Who finds a Church and takes it for his
own.

- Isa Grindlay Jackson

Here's Something New...



Westminster has a new debit/credit card terminal which will be available each Sunday in the gym after service and Monday through Friday in the office during office hours.

Use the debit/credit card terminal to make an offering, to purchase Loblaws Cards or tickets to events (*Trivia Night, Mother's Day Tea, etc.*)

FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP / FINANCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - CASH BASIS

	ACTUAL 2019 JAN - MAR	BUDGET 2019 JAN - MAR	VARIANCE JAN - MAR
Offerings - Local Fund & Building Fund	65,247	68,192	-2,945
Offerings - Mission & Service	7,042	5,750	1,292
Other Receipts	30,310	31,574	-1,264
Total 2018 Operating Receipts	102,598	105,516	-2,918
Total 2018 Operating Disbursements	109,426	110,780	-1,354
2018 Operating + Surplus / - Deficit	-6,828	-5,264	-1,564

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS as on Mar 31/2019 = \$177,797

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!

Diversity Embraced Here



You're invited...

Youth Groups - Junior and Senior 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Friday, May 10
Mother's Day Tea 2:00pm - 4:00pm	Saturday, May 11
Worship Service - Christian Family Sunday 10:30am <i>Rev. Michelle's last service before maternity leave</i>	Sunday, May 12
Worship Service 10:30am <i>Welcome to Rev. Dan Yourkevich</i>	Sunday, May 19
Wine, Women and the Word 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Tuesday, May 21
Book Club 1:30pm	Wednesday, May 22
UCW Dinner to Go 4:00pm - 6:00pm	Friday, May 24
Worship Service 10:30am International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service 7:00pm - 8:00pm	Sunday, May 26
Friday Flicks - Keeping the Faith 7:00pm	Friday, May 31
Worship Service - Led by the UCW 10:30am Multi-Faith Pride Service and Parade (Ajax) <i>Time to be determined</i>	Sunday, June 2
Youth Pride Event 2:00pm - 4:00pm <i>(Durham District School Board)</i>	Saturday, June 8
Worship Service - Pentecost J.a.M led Worship Service and Church Picnic 10:30am	Sunday, June 9
Faith and Fellowship (Small Group) 1:30pm - 3:00pm	Wednesday, June 12
Games Night 7:00pm - 9:30pm	Friday, June 14