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A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me close to you.

Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need, and in so doing re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, and remind me of grace and simplicity.

and remind me of grace and simplicity. May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.



Westminster will be joining other area churches on

Friday, March 6th 2:00pm

for an Ecumenical

World Day of Prayer Service

This year's Service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and will be held at

St. John the Evangelist Parish 903 Giffard St., Whitby

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.

All things break.

And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention.

So go.

Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.

The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

(L.R. Knost)

You are cordially invited to a talk on

Romance and Weddings circa 1840 +

As found in Oshawa and East Whitby

By Ms. Jill Passmore (Oshawa Museum)



On Monday, March 2nd

At Westminster United Church at 6:30 pm.

For more information: contact Elizabeth H. or Susan P.

All are welcome!



An update from the CDMC:

Westminster United Church's Climate Disruption Mitigation Policy

At the recent Annual General Meeting, W.U.C. enthusiastically passed a Climate Disruption Mitigation Policy. This means that all decisions and subsequent actions by staff, committees and interest groups, as well as outside groups using the church, will be taken through the "lens" of climate disruption mitigation. This reflects our alignment with the commitment made by the United Church of Canada to reduce its carbon footprint.

We will all be expected to develop and implement goals, with specific responsibilities and time lines, that we will eventually evaluate. The CDM Committee will act as a resource as we work together putting our faith into action caring for our beautiful planet.



Diversity Embraced Here



Sunday, March 8th

A continuation of our Discernment Process as it pertains to our Mission and Vision. Dr. Betty Pries will facilitate this meeting and will review and discuss survey results.

Lunch will be provided!



Our next Wine, Women and the Word is on Tuesday, March 17th 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.

Topic: My Life Harvest Inventory

Bible reading: **John 15:5**

Please bring your bible, if you have one.



Our next

Game Night
is on

Friday, April 3rd
7:00pm - 9:30pm

Bring your friends and family and come out for a fun, free evening of board games!

This event is for adults and youth (10 years and older).

See you there!





EASTER FLOWERS

Every Easter Sunday, our sanctuary is decorated with beautiful spring flowers expressing our joy that Christ has risen.

The flowers are purchased with memorial donations to Westminster in honour of friends or loved ones and their names are acknowledged in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Following the Easter service, the flowers will be distributed to members and friends who are unable to attend church due to illness or incapacity, who are in hospital or long-term care, or have been experiencing difficult times. The list of recipients is compiled by the Ministry and Office staff, the Wellness Committee and the Friendly Visitors. Any flowers left over can be delivered to someone who is newly identified and needs remembrance.

Please notify the Church Office if you know someone who would appreciate a gift of flowers.

Any memorial funds left over from the purchase of the flowers will go to the General Fund of Westminster. The full amount of your donation will appear on your tax receipt.

Special donation envelopes will be available in March. Please watch for further information in the bulletins and announcements.

C.A.R.E. (Christians Acting with Respect for the Earth)

- **C** Cut up very old clothing for rags to wipe up spills, clean windows, use as wraps if needed. It keeps it out of landfills, and saves trees.
- **A** Arrange to ride share with friends or neighbours. Every time you do, it makes a difference.
- R "Refuse" the new "R"! It saves you coping with the other "3-Rs". Do you really need...that plastic packaging, that paper handout, that fridge magnet? If you don't use it, they don't have to make another one!
- **E** Energy-saving LED light bulbs pay for themselves very quickly and keep on saving you money!





Come and be part of this Awesome Small Group

This monthly "come as you can" group brings adults of all ages together for a time of **Discussion**, **Fellowship and Prayer**.

(Refreshments provided)

Wednesday, March 11th 1:30pm – 3:00pm



11-14 August 2020 University of Calgary uccrendezvous.ca

Rendez-vous is an event like no other!

Every three years the United Church of Canada brings together Youth, Young Adults and their Leaders from all parts of our Country in order to celebrate what it means to be people of faith in our world today.

This gathering includes inspirational speakers, vibrant music, exciting workshops and uplifting worship services.

This year's theme is "**Faith Gone Wild**" and there are three areas of focus that will be woven together throughout the event.

Sign up for Rendez-vous 2020 and join us as together we explore...

Bold Faith Brave Space Brazen Grace

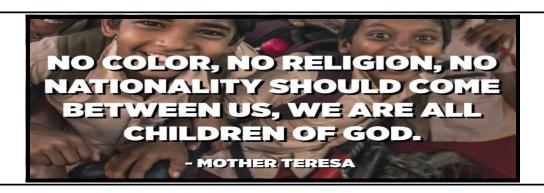
If you are between 14 and 30 years old and this event interests you, then come to an Information Session on

Wednesday, March 11th 7:00pm

(If you are under 18, please bring an adult with you...
If you are over 18, additional adults are optional)

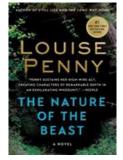
For more information contact: Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation cshaw@westminster-uc.ca or 905-723-6442

Rendezvous is supported by Mission & Service



The next gathering of the Book Club is Wednesday March 25th, 2020 at 1:30pm at the church to discuss the book entitled **The Nature of the Beast**, by Louise Penny.





Hardly a day goes by when nine year old Laurent Lepage doesn't cry wolf.

From alien invasions, to walking trees, to winged beasts in the woods, to dinosaurs spotted in the village of Three Pines, his tales are so extraordinary no one can possibly believe him, including Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache, who now live in the little Quebec village. But when the boy disappears, the villagers are faced with the possibility that one of his tall tales might have been true.

And so begins a frantic search for the boy and the truth. What they uncover deep in the forest sets off a sequence of events that leads to murder, leads to an old crime, leads to an old betrayal, leads right to the door of an old poet. "And now it is now," writes Ruth Zardo. And the dark thing is here. A monster once visited Three Pines and put down deep roots. And now, Ruth knows, it is back.

Armand Gamache, the former head of homicide for the Surete du Quebec, must face the possibility that, in not believing the boy, he himself played a terrible part in what happens next.

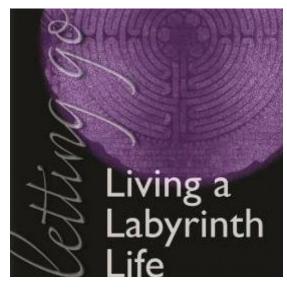
All are welcome. To borrow the book or for more information, please call Susan at 905-493-3122.



You are currently reading *The Westminster World*, our church's newsletter. Through it, we keep you informed about both past and upcoming events at Westminster.

You are invited to submit personal newsworthy items – births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, milestones, adventures, awards, honours **or** thought-provoking articles.

All submissions, from individuals or committees, should be sent in a Word document to bcrumb@sympatico.ca by the 21st of the month for publication in the following month's issue.





Come and walk a candle-lit Labyrinth as we journey through the Season of Lent.

Join us for a time of reflection, sacred music and prayer.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 7:00pm.

The Labyrinth will also be Open during the day for Personal Trayer Walks on

Wednesday, April 1st and Thursday, April 2nd 9:00am - 4:00pm

For further information, contact clarencemac@gmail.com

Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps by a life more marked by routine than by reflection.



Greeters and Candlelighters

If you are looking for a new way to meet your Westminster Church family, please consider signing up to greet and light the candles.

Greeting is a great way to get to know the members of our congregation and to offer a friendly "Hello" on Sunday morning.

If you would like more information, please speak with Patti Lang or Ava Tomlinson. The sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex.

Readers Needed

If our monthly Minute for Mission moments speak to you, why not join the team of Readers and share these important messages with the Congregation?

For see Debbie Joyce for further information.

J.a.M Teachers

Our J.a.M (Jesus and Me) Sunday School is a thriving and vibrant place to be on Sunday morning.

If you have ever wondered what J.a.M is all about and would like to know more about how you might share your gifts with our amazing children, just speak to our Minister of Faith Formation, Cathy Shaw.

There is great flexibility in our program,
as it operates on a Teaching Roster system,
where you get to choose when and what you will teach.
There are no gender or age restrictions, so if this interests you,
we'd love the opportunity to tell you more about J.a.M.

Pray-ers Wanted

Every Sunday morning a volunteer from our Prayer Roster shares in the reading aloud of the Prayers of the People.

As well, that same person leads a time of prayer with the Ministry Team before the Service begins.

If you would like to further investigate this opportunity to serve, please contact Cathy Shaw.

Shamrocks, saint and shillelaghs

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, honors Ireland's patron saint who died on that day in 461. Icons of the Irish holiday and the history of St. Patrick:

Shamrock

■ Small, three-leafed herb appears on United Kingdom's coat of arms with English rose, Scottish thistle

Irish flag

■ Green stands for Catholics; orange for Protestants; white for wish for harmony

Leprechauns

Fairies who work day and night mending shoes of other fairies

Shillelagh (shi-lay'-lee)

■ Walking stick; word is Irish for stout oak club or cudgel; also name of a forest that once stood in County Wicklow









Patrick: Saint and legend

387: Born in Britain to a Roman family; his father served as a magistrate; his original name was Maewyn

Early 400s: Taken to Ireland as a slave; after six years, he escaped to France where he studied for priesthood

Source: "Shamrocks, Harps and Shillelaghs" by Edna Barth, "All About American Holidays," World Book **432:** Sent to Ireland as a Christian missionary by Pope Celestine I, who named him Patricius, which means noble in Latin; he introduced Roman alphabet, Latin literature; Christianized land

Familiar legend He drove the snakes from Ireland by beating a drum

© 2002 KRT







Congratulations!

The FINAL total is in...
TOGETHER Westminster raised \$4000.92

in our Coldest Night of the Year Walk for The Refuge ...that's a whopping \$2,500 over our original Fundraising Goal.

Thank you for your generosity, your time and your prayers!



THE COMMITTEE

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.



The present Outreach Committee members include: Cathy C.(Chair), Debbie J., Paul K. (Secretary), Dianne N., Gail W., Ashley E., Peter S., Katherine F., Margaret M. and Joanne Y. Special thanks to Joanne MacP., who, after many years of dedicated service, has stepped down as former Chair and then Co-Chair.

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

Christmas Hampers: In December 2019, 83 families/singles and 143 kids (302 total) were given Loblaws certificates for groceries, as well as individual personalized gifts. Joanne MacP. and Ashley E. again coordinated this annual initiative.

Winter Clothing Donation Drive: WUC contributed items to this long-time Oshawa-based initiative. 533 individuals received various winter items. Thanks to Debbie J. for coordinating.

Mitten AND **Sock Tree**: 150 mitts, gloves, hats and scarves have already been passed along to various schools in our area. Socks are the current campaign, being collecting on the same tree. Thanks to Sandra K-C. for coordinating.

Food Bank: 470 individuals visited our Food Bank in 2019. The number of people helped by our Food Bank is considerably higher because many of our clients are shopping for their families, thus increasing the total number of people we helped. In November, when our shelves were almost completely empty, the following groups/people answered our plea: 11th Whitby Scouts (hundreds of pounds), Whitby Wolves Girls' Hockey Team (boxes and boxes), Dianne N.'s Open House (70+ attendees) and our awesome Congregation! Thanks to Dianne N., Corrine S., Joan S. and many others who make this project run so well.

St. Vincent's Kitchen: Westminster continues its 20+ year participation on the first Wednesday of every month. 120-200 are fed a healthy 3-course dinner every day of the year. Thanks to Gail W. for coordinating this group of volunteers and for successfully obtaining a \$5,000 grant from the United Church of Canada's East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC), to be used towards the new Building Fund.

Faith & Fellowship: This new monthly "come as you can" group brings adults of all ages and genders together for a time of discussion, food, fellowship and prayer, in a casual and comfortable environment. Thank to Debbie J. for her leadership.

Bridge to a New Home (BTANH): Our sponsorships are going well, including a single man from Burma, a family of six from Eritrea and a family of four from Syria. Thanks to all WUC participants in this wider-church project, including *Joanne* MacP., Larry M. and Bob and Maureen D.

Parish Mosaic: Westminster's ongoing post-Affirming Diversity Team is now planning for upcoming LGBTQ2 events and other new 2020 diversity initiatives. Thanks to Don F.(Chair) and his team, Gail B., Jeanne Y., Peter S., Paul K. and all other present/past Parish Mosaic members.

We appreciate all who support Westminster Outreach initiatives and always welcome new members to the various (and NEW) worthy and exciting projects. Your Westminster Outreach Committee continues to actively reach out beyond our doors to all in need within Durham Region!



Get your TEAM together and GET READY for an evening of FUN, FACTS and FELLOWSHIP!

Saturday May 2, 2020

Westminster United Church (1850 Rossland Road E, Whitby)

Doors Open 6:00pm, Game Begins 7:00pm

\$100 for a team of 6 or \$20 per individual

Please Note: Individuals will be grouped together to form a team.

Pizza Included
Snacks For Sale
Silent Auction

Door Prizes

FOR TICKETS CONTACT: Cathy Shaw at 905-723-6442 or cshaw@westminster-uc.ca

All proceeds raised from this event will support the ministries of Westminster United Church,

with a focus this year to help our Youth attend **RENDEZ-VOUS**,

a National United Church Youth Conference in Calgary, Alberta.



If you are 12 years old or younger then YOU ARE INVITED to an

Easter EGG-stravaganza

Saturday, April 11, 2020 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join the fun!

Come for the Crafts, Games and Easter Treats and DON'T MISS the EASTER EGG HUNT at 10:15 am

Turns out there are 11 seasons, not 4. winter fool's spring second winter spring of deception third winter Tou Are Here mud season T minus 14 Days actual spring summer false fall second summer (1 week) actual fall



For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
for love and friends,
For everything
Thy goodness sends,
We thank you, God.

Sharing your Offering has never been easier...

The "Old Familiar" Way:

* Via Envelope: cash or cheque.

*Via PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):

- contact the office or pick up a brochure in the Narthex to get signed up.

The "New" Way:

* Via Text:

- -Text "give" to 833-963-1387 to set up your account.
- Once you have set up your account, you can text your offering amount at any time. It's that simple!

* Via the Tithe.ly app:

- Download the app for free and set up your account within minutes!

* Via Debit or Credit (Hand-held Unit):

- Visit the Gym after Worship or stop by the Church Office Monday through Friday between 9:00am - 3:00pm to use the Debit/Credit machine.

The "Newfangled, but Really Easy" Way:

* Via e-transfer to wuc@westminster-uc.ca:

- Please make the security question and answer the same.
- For example, both could be "Offering".
- In the message section, please specify what the money is for (i.e. Local Fund, Building Fund, Mission & Service, Foodbank, Special Appeal, etc.).
- If you require a tax receipt, please include your mailing address if your contact information is not already on file with the church office.

* Via Debit or Credit card (Online Givings/Donations):

- Go to westminster-uc.ca/give/ and click on the "GIVE ONLINE" button.

Please Note:

Donation receipts for offerings/donations of \$20.00 or more (cumulative) will be issued in February of the following year in which the offering/donation is made.

If you have questions regarding any of these options, please speak with our Treasurer, Monica Veenstra after service or contact our Office Administrator, Rebecca by phone at 905-723-6442 or by e-mail at wuc@westminster-uc.ca





UCW NEWS



When you are spring cleaning this year – please keep the church in mind. We are looking for gently used materials – goods and/or merchandise for the Church Yard Sale

Saturday April 25th 8:00am - 12:00pm

(Please note the change in time)

For more information, please speak to Mary Shepherd or Barbara Auchterlonie.



Please save the date and buy a ticket for you and your loved one.

UCW Mother's Day Tea Party Saturday, May 9th

Musical Entertainment - Sweet Adelines

Cost: \$15.00/person





15+ GTA Locations; including Westminster United Church

Rooks to Cooks Summer Cooking Camps

for Kids, age 4+.

Learn from experienced chefs
Classes are hands-on, team-based and FUN!
20 students per class; 1:6 staff to camper ratio
9 sessions to choose from.

June 29 to Aug. 28

Learn 4-5 recipes per day; kids take home samples every day Lunches, chef uniform, safety glove included in registration fee.

For more information:
Web: www.rookstocooks.ca
Tel: 1-833-243-3862
Email: info@rookstocooks.ca

Volunteers!
We are currently looking for summer camp volunteers; please contact us by email for more info.

Publisher's Note: This program is not being run by Westminster United Church



I slept, and dreamt that life was JOY;
I awoke, and saw that life was SERVICE;
I acted, and behold, service was JOY.

(Rabindranath Tagore)



Westminster's Annual Christmas Bazaar will be back on November 21, 2020

If you are changing up your Christmas décor this year, please keep us in mind. Our goal is to offer you an entire room of Christmas!

We have decided to change things up a little and will be looking for gently used clothing, books, puzzles, CDs, jewellery and children's toys only. Please consider donating all other "White Elephant" items to the Yard Sale this spring!

We will also be expanding our café - offering coffee/tea and doughnuts all day.

As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help out. Please consider joining the committee, helping out with prep on the preceding Friday (Nov.20), getting things done Saturday morning or even cleaning up on Saturday afternoon!

Everyone is welcome and appreciated!

You're invited...

UCW Meeting - Guest Speaker 6:30pm	Monday, March 2
Living Alone Lunch 12:00pm	Wednesday, March 4
Youth Group (Grades 6 - 8) 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Thursday, March 5,12,19 and 26
World Day of Prayer 2:00pm - St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby	Friday, March 6
Worship Service - Second Sunday of Lent 10:30am Congregational Meeting Following Worship - Lunch provided CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD	Sunday, March 8
Faith and Fellowship 1:30pm - 3:00pm RENDEZ-VOUS Meeting 7:00pm	Wednesday, March 11
Worship Service - Third Sunday of Lent - Communion 10:30am	Sunday, March 15
Wine, Women and the Word Bible Study 7:00pm - 9:00pm Offsite: Contact Office for Directions	Tuesday, March 17
Worship Service - Fourth Sunday of Lent 10:30am	Sunday, March 22
Book Club 1:30pm	Wednesday, March 25
Friday Flicks - Movies for Adults 7:00pm - More info to follow	Friday, March 27
Worship Service - Fifth Sunday of Lent 10:30am	Sunday, March 29
Lenten Labyrinth Service 7:00pm Labyrinth Open for Personal Prayer Walks 9:00am - 4:00pm	Tuesday, March 31 Wednesday, April 1 Thursday, April 2
Games Night 7:00pm - 9:30pm Free Event (Adults and Children over 10)	Friday, April 3
Worship Service - Palm Sunday 10:30am	Sunday, April 5