



Minister's Message...

Already and not yet.

This is something I've been thinking about quite a bit.

This past week my family and I were delighted to discover the first yellow crocus in our front garden as it yawned in the sunlight. Fascinated, my two year old asked to go outside many times throughout the day, each time heading to the garden to crouch and say, "Hello, little flower!" It was thrilling to feel the promise of spring.



Two mornings later we woke up to a blanket of snow under which that cheerful flower, herald of spring, was buried.

Already and not yet.

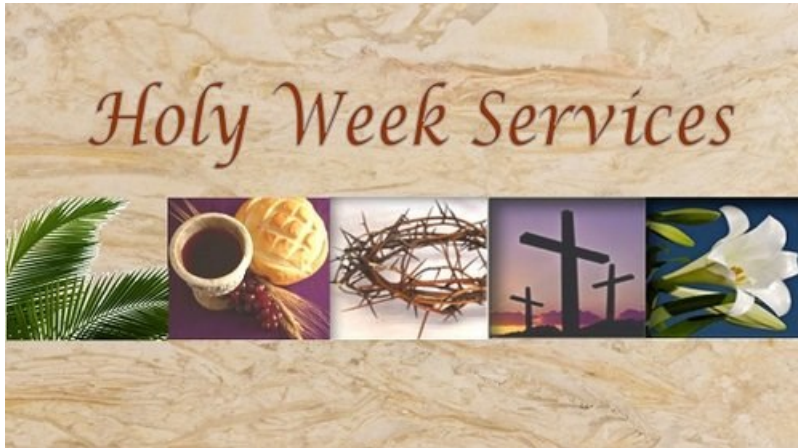
As a family we are also preparing for the birth of our baby due in 2 short months. He's been keeping me awake at night with constant stretches and increasingly powerful kicks. He has been occupying a lot of our thoughts, hopes and energy and is a very strong presence in our lives. Here, and not yet here.

Already and not yet.

We live in this tension most of the time but it becomes even more palpable in the midst of our Lenten journey as we walk toward the warmth of Easter day while knowing the chill of Good Friday still looms. So we wait. The waiting is not passive; it involves movement and action, requiring us to be open to the full experience of life with its sorrow and joy, surprise and disappointment....open to the signs of new life around us even when they become hidden under blankets of snow or are not fully revealed.

In the coming days may you be open to the signs of renewed life around you called forth by the warming sun and the warming of God's love. And during those days of difficulty and of waiting hold onto the hope: resurrection and new life is among us ... ***already, and not yet.***

Rev. Michelle



Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, April 14th

10:30am

(Palm Parade with the Children)

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 18th

7:00pm

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19th

10:00am

Early Easter Morning Service

Sunday, April 21st

8:15am

(Outdoor service, weather permitting)

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 21st

10:30am

(With Children's J.a.M Classes)

***Please note that an Easter Breakfast will be served in the Gym
on Sunday, April 21st, beginning at 9:00am.***

Prayerfully Walking the Lenten Labyrinth



**Scent Free
ZONE**

**LET'S KEEP EVERYONE
BREATHING WELL!**

**FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY
AND WELL-BEING OF ALL ,
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING SCENTED
PRODUCTS WHILE AT WESTMINSTER!**

THANK YOU!

Pray, Praise, Ponder

Lord, let everything I do this day
and in this season of Lent
come from you
and be inspired by you.

Heal me, Lord,
and help me
to acknowledge
my failures.

Let me reach out of the darkness
and into the safety
of your
guidance and mercy.

Amen

Easter Flowers

Every Easter our Westminster sanctuary is decorated with beautiful spring flowers. The Wellness Committee, assisted by our Ministry Team, Office Staff, Friendly Visitors and the many people who make monetary donations to Westminster, purchase flowers in memory of loved ones or to honour friends.

Any amount remaining from donations goes into the General Revenue for Westminster and the full amount appears on your tax receipt.

With this longtime outreach tradition, we express our joy that Christ has Risen. Following the Easter service the flowers are distributed with blessings from Westminster to members and friends who are unable to attend due to illness or incapacity or who are in hospital or long term care facilities. A list of names has been compiled from Ministry and Office Staff and the Friendly Visitors Team. If there are flowers left over on Easter Sunday they can be delivered to someone who is newly identified and needs remembrance.

If there is someone you know who would appreciate a gift of flowers, please inform the Church Office.

NOTE:

The last day to purchase flowers is April 5th, from the Church Office.



HOLY HUMOUR



Faith & Fellowship

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:
April 10
1:30pm – 3:00pm

Hope you can make it!



The Westminster Nursery recently received a stuffed Jesus along with a toddler friendly book, "The Easter Story" .

These items from Hallmark came from a collection that also carried a stuffed Mary holding baby Jesus, several story books and some wooden toys including a lovely Easter set.

If you are thinking of sharing your generosity this season, the Nursery children would appreciate any of these items to be donated.



And if you are worried that someone else may have already donated the item you are interested in, never fear, there is enough love in the nursery to be shared with duplicate items. Our program runs primarily on previously loved items, but new ones will be graciously welcomed. For more information, please speak with Crystal Smith, Celeste Bones or Kaireen Adamson.

*Our Just Jammin' class
discussing what SIN looks
and feels like...
...it's dark and it spreads and
it can seep into every aspect
of life...*

*...but then there's
Jesus, washing us
clean from the
Cross!*



Have we got a Youth Group for YOU!

JUNIOR Youth - Grades 6 - 8

SENIOR Youth - Grades 9-12

Upcoming Meetings

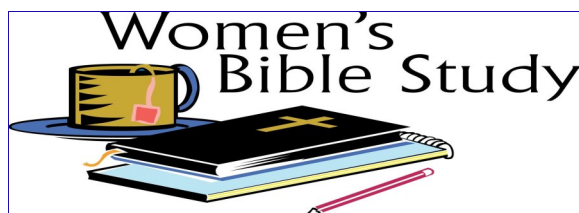
7:00pm—9:00pm

April 12 - (Baking/Cooking)

April 26 - Helping with Family/Dinner Movie Night (eating too!)

May 10 - Greeting Card Making Workshop

May 24 - Bowling (Year-end Celebration)



Our next Wine, Women and the Word is on
Tuesday, April 16
from
7:00pm 9:00pm

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

Topic: Jesus, Joy and Laughter

Scripture: *Psalm 2:4*

Please bring your bible, if you have one.

*Are you trying to reduce your use of plastic?
An easy way is to buy second-hand...
at thrift stores, of course,
BUT especially at...*

WESTMINSTER'S YARD SALE

DATE: April 13, 2019

TIME: 8:00am to 12:00pm



Do you need to downsize or just unclutter your home?
All good condition, useable items will be greatly appreciated, including clothing.

Unfortunately we CANNOT accept the following items due to regulations:
Baby items, stuffed toys, sharp knives, electronic equipment.

**If you have time to help on either the afternoon of Friday, April 12
or the morning of Saturday, April 13, please let us know.**

For more information, please call:
Mary Shepherd at 905-728-7346 or
Barb Auchterlonie at 905-430-1715



Our Next GAME NIGHT is on
FRIDAY, JUNE 14
Mark Your Calendar!



Friday, April 26th
(Movie is still to be determined)

Dinner: 5:45pm.
Movie: 6:30pm.

Join the CE Committee for a Hassle-free night of food, fun and fellowship!

MENU:

Make your own Nachos
Veggies/dip
Ice cream sandwiches
Beverages

Let us know you'll be there so we have food for you!

Contact Cathy Shaw at cshaw@westminster-uc.ca.



Did you know ...

...that there are many events occurring before Easter? Don't miss out. Check the weekly bulletins, the *You're Invited* page of this newsletter, Westminster's website and the *Upcoming Events* fridge flyer.

...that Susan Pleasance and Crystal Smith were acknowledged and thanked during the service on Sunday, March 24th for the many, many years that they have given of their time and talents to lead our annual Vacation Bible School? These roles will now be taken over by Jolene Baker and Cathy Shaw. Thank you to everyone for your part in this important ministry!

...that the congregational workshop, Having Healthy Conversations, was held on Saturday, March 23^d. Led by Betty Pries, it was a successful beginning step in Westminster's vision for the future.

...that Westminster raised \$2000 to help with the building of the new St. Vincent's Kitchen? Well done!

...that Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation, recently attended a two-day Preaching Conference at Emmanuel College in Toronto as part of her Continuing Education?

...that we thank Suzanne Renkiewicz for her lengthy and excellent care and leadership of our Food Bank? She is appreciated by all our clients. We welcome Corinne Smith and Gail Robinson to the team.

...that if the church parking lot is full and the 'grassy knoll' is inaccessible, you can park on the road on the west side of Garrard?



If you are 12 years old or younger
then **YOU ARE INVITED** to an
Easter EGG-stravaganza

Saturday, April 20, 2019

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



Westminster's Climate Disruption Mitigation Committee
will be hosting a FREE screening of
Time to Choose,
a film by Academy Award-Winning
documentary filmmaker, Charles Ferguson.

This film explores the scope and magnitude of climate change
and possible responses to the crisis.
Stay after the film to network and learn
how you can get involved in climate action!

Date:

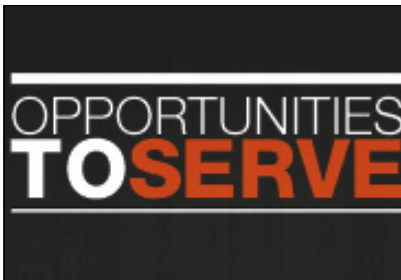
Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Time:

Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Screening begins at 6:30 pm.

We hope you can come!



Greeters and Scripture Readers

Please take a moment to check your calendar and sign up to greet at the door on a Sunday morning. It's a great way to meet people, and extending a welcome to one another is an important part of who we are. Also consider being a scripture reader during Sunday worship. Both sign-up sheets can be found on the table outside the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Beth, our office administrator, at 905-723-6442 or Patti Lang at patti.lang@outlook.com

Coffee and Tea Teams

Are you looking for an opportunity to get to know your church family? Then please join one of our coffee/tea/juice teams. We have 5 teams that share the preparation, serving and clean-up of the coffee/tea/juice once every 5 weeks. It's a great way to meet your community, share some laughs and be part of the family. Please contact Heather Montague at bichon5700@aol.com or (905) 430-8230 if you would like more information or would like to join a team. Everyone is welcome.

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 & FEB	BUDGET 2019 JAN & FEB
Offerings - Local Fund & Building Fund	41,840	41,355
Offerings - Mission & Service	4,687	3,959
Other Receipts	19,214	20,167
Total 2018 Operating Receipts	65,741	65,481
Total 2018 Operating Disbursements	70,085	71,745
2018 Operating + Surplus / - Deficit	-4,344	-6,264
<i>A deficit of this amount is typical for the beginning of the year. The timing of payment of some property bills have resulted in a smaller deficit than budgeted.</i>		

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS = \$177,192

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



Committee Corner



Stewardship Committee

Under the one umbrella of Stewardship/Finance, this Committee is responsible for educating the congregation on the mission of the Church and for generating awareness of and responsibility for Westminster's financial requirements.

This is all accomplished by:

- ◆ Promoting individual Ministry and Stewardship within the Church
- ◆ Communicating and educating our congregation via monthly Stewardship Moments and monthly Budget Narratives
- ◆ Receiving and disbursing monies for church expenses
- ◆ Assisting the Treasurer (Monica Veenstra) with the accounting and financial matters of the Church, including preparing the monthly and annual budgets
- ◆ Collecting, recording and depositing all offerings to the bank
- ◆ Promoting the Mission & Service offering (currently in the care of Debbie Joyce)
- ◆ Planning and promoting fundraising activities in a fun and all-welcoming environment.

We are always seeking new volunteers, especially if you are creative and love planning activities. Even if you only have a limited amount of time to volunteer for a small project, together, we will make it work.

Currently, Brian Woodlock and I (Margaret Suepaul) help with the Stewardship part of the Committee while Monica Veenstra and Alan Dunn work on the Finances. Together, the Committee meets monthly.

As the new Chair and on behalf of the other members of our Committee, I wish to thank Tom McNown for his amazing leadership, guidance, patience and true Christian spirit during his tenure as Chair of the Stewardship/Finance Committee. In true "Tom" fashion, he reminded us that he is only a phone call away! Thank you very much Tom for your service!

And our thanks to you, the Congregation, for allowing us the opportunity of serving you on this Committee. Should you wish to become a member of the Stewardship/Finance Committee or have any specific enquiries about this Committee, please contact: margaretsuepaul@gmail.com



Congratulations! The FINAL total is in...

TOGETHER Westminster raised **\$4535.00**

in our Coldest Night of the Year Walk for The Refuge
...that's a whopping \$3,535 over our original Fundraising Goal

Tickets are available after Worship every Sunday
or by contacting Cathy Shaw at the Church Office

Get your TEAM ready and Don't Miss Out on the FUN!

It's time for another...

TRIVIA NIGHT!

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019
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 & Pop For Sale, Silent Auction, Door Prizes

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

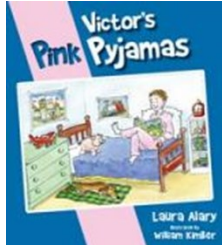
Cathy Shaw at 905-723-6442 or cshaw@westminster-uc.ca

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

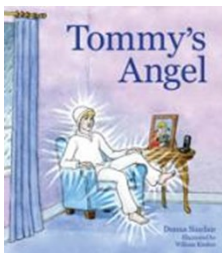


Library News

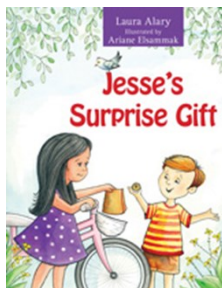
The Christian Education Committee purchased the following books for the library:



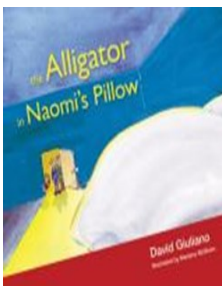
Victor loves his pink (accident-in-the-washing-machine) pyjamas. But not everyone does. His father and sister think pink is just for girls. But Victor knows that lots of wonderful things are pink – like strawberry ice cream, bubble gum, and walrus basking in the sun – and they're not just for girls. What will happen when Victor outgrows his pink pyjamas and needs a new pair? This engaging and humorous book explores what it is like to make choices that are different from the cultural norm.



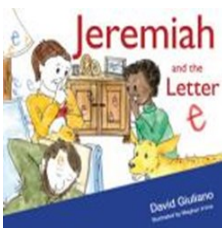
When Tommy's dog, Paddy, dies, Tommy is sad. He doesn't want another dog. He just wants Paddy. Then an angel visits Tommy. The angel reminds Tommy that he was a great dog owner, and that Paddy loved him very much – as much as Tommy loved Paddy. Tommy finds that his heart can hold even more than his enormous love for Paddy.



What Jesse wants most is a guitar. But it seems beyond his reach. His mom can't afford to buy him one, but she gives him an ocarina instead. Jesse is grateful and disappointed at the same time, so he goes out for a walk. Along the way he meets others who need his help. He gives what he can and learns that we can't always predict the results of our actions. Author Laura Alary's charming story is full of unexpected twists and is based on a well-loved tale from India about giving (and receiving).



It's the middle of the night and Naomi runs down the hall to her parents' bedroom screaming, "EEEEEEE!" There's an alligator in her pillow and she needs mom and dad to make it go away. Over a few nights, Naomi's parents groggily try different approaches to rid Naomi's pillow of the alligator, but in the end it is Naomi who comes up with a way to face her scary nocturnal visitor. Naomi's parents gently and sleepily allow her to explore her fear of the alligator in a supportive way that is neither sentimental or harshly dismissive. What can be seen as a troubling and upsetting event (for both parents and child) is sensitively and realistically dealt with by a deft and light hand.



When Jeremiah starts kindergarten, he is good at learning lots of things. But no matter how hard he tries, he can't seem to make the letter "e." And his name has two "e's" in it! Author David Giuliano and illustrator Meghan Irvine team up to create an engaging and humorous look at facing the ongoing challenges of life. There is always something new to learn, including how to listen to the small voice inside that encourages us to keep trying – with surprising results.

Westminster United Church Women present:

MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Saturday May 11, 2019

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Westminster United Church

1850 Rossland Rd, E., Whitby

To purchase tickets, please call

905-723-6442

***Victorian Tea, Desserts, Entertainment
and Door Prizes***

Cost: \$12.00

You're invited...

Worship Service - Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30am	Sunday, April 7
Lenten Study with Rev. Michelle 11:00am Faith and Fellowship 1:30pm - 3:00pm Mindful Meditation 7:30pm - 8:30pm	Wednesday, April 10
Yard Sale Set-up Afternoon Junior and Senior Youth Groups 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Friday, April 12
Yard Sale 8:00am - 12:00pm	Saturday, April 13
Worship Service - Palm Sunday Children's Palm Parade 10:30am	Sunday, April 14
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm	Thursday, April 18
Good Friday Service 10:00am	Friday, April 19
Easter EGGstravaganza - Community/Church Event 10:00am-12:00pm	Saturday, April 20
Easter Sunday - Early Service with Communion Outside, weather permitting 8:15am Easter Breakfast 9:00am-10:00am Easter Sunday Worship Service/J.a.M classes 10:30am	Sunday, April 21
"Time to Choose" Environmental Movie Screening Doors Open: 6:00pm, Movie Begins: 6:30pm	Tuesday, April 23
Family Dinner and Movie Night 5:45pm	Friday, April 26
Worship Service 10:30am	Sunday, April 28
Trivia Night Fundraiser 6:00pm	Saturday, May 4
Mother's Day Tea 2:00pm - 4:00pm	Saturday, May 11