



#### The church is a people, not a building.

The church is and has always been a community of people who seek to follow the way of Jesus. Whenever the church has gathered in a building it was so the people could go outside again to share the good news.

These last 6 months the church has remained open though the building has been closed. We have together built an addition to our worship place, an online space where we've continued to share joys and sorrows, prayers and hope, relating our story with the story of God. I am grateful for this space and for God's presence within it. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there." (Mat. 18:20)

I feel the excitement and anxiety about the possibility of in-person worship again. It won't be the same as it was before the start of the pandemic but it will be good. And we will have our online addition to keep us connected knowing that everyone will not be ready or able to return to the sanctuary.

That lies ahead is **rich in opportunity**; to be **creative** and **intentional** as we embrace ways to **care for** and **engage** with others in our changing context. God is doing something new!

This fall we will be entering a **season of prayer** exploring what it means to "**Listen to God**" and "**Allow for God**" as we continue with our Mission and Vision renewal as a congregation. This is a critical time for us to be **robust in our missional focus and identity as God's people**, to **deepen our faith**, AND (to borrow a phrase from Brian McLaren) to "make the road by walking."

I look forward to Dr. Betty Pries joining us in early October as guest preacher as she raises key questions that the COVID-19 pandemic has opened for us: What kind of world do we want? What kind of world does God want for us and creation? What is our role in shaping that world?

Because the church is a people, not a building.

Blessed to be the church together,

Rev. Michelle





## Hey Kids... We're Jammin' ONLINE!

Come join us every Sunday morning at 11:00...

...and be sure to **REGISTER** so we can prepare all the supplies you'll need for this awesome, interactive experience!

Just have your grown-ups fill in the Registration Form in this Newsletter and get it back to Cathy Shaw by **Sunday, September 13th**. (westminster.cathy@gmail.com)

This is REALLY IMPORTANT so please register soon... we don't want you to miss out on any of the fun!





(2020 - 2021)

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The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with all applicablefederal 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 UnitedChurch events. It will not be distributed to outside agencies except as statistical data to the United Church of Canada.



It's almost time to head Back to School.

Whether you'll be learning online or in-person,
you will still have all sorts of supplies to help you out this year...

...and that includes love and prayers from your Church Community.

On **Sunday, September 13th** (Welcome Back Sunday), gather all your supplies together and join us Online at J.a.M (11:00am) as we **Bless your Backpack** and all the wonderful learning stuff in it!



#### **Our Youth Group is Amazing!**

We meet on Zoom every **Thursday at 7:00pm**.

If you're in **Grade 6, 7 or 8**, come check us out!

Just contact Cathy Shaw to get started... (westminster.cathy@gmail.com or 905-723-6442)

#### Love is in the Air

Two Westminster couples celebrated August weddings, officiated by Rev. Michelle.

Congratulations to

Natalie Atwood and Jared Daley,
married August 8th



and to

Melissa Edwards and Jason Moreau, married August 8th.



God's blessings to the happy couples!

#### Calling ALL Golfers (of ALL skill levels)

We welcome your participation as we kick off the Fall with our Golf Tournament at Lyndebrook Golf Course on **Saturday**, **Sept. 19**, **2020**. To protect everyone, Lyndebrook has taken exceptional care to ensure strict guidelines and COVID-19 protocol are in effect.

What a great way to *connect*, have some *fun*, enjoy some *sun* and share a few *laughs*.

Shotgun start is at 9:00am, preceded by an Official Blessing from Rev. Michelle, at 8:40 a.m.

Your \$50.00 / person fee includes golf and a light lunch - hamburger (regular or veggie), garden salad, and coffee or tea are included. Lyndebrook has advised that you may purchase drinks on the patio if you wish. Should you choose the veggie option, please let Margaret Suepaul know via email, once you have made your reservation. Her info is below.

Spaces are limited, so you are kindly asked to reserve by Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, as follows:

via **e-transfer to <u>wuc@westminster-uc.ca</u>** – in the message section, please specify that the money is for GOLF and please add your cell phone number (Due to strict COVID-19 procedures at the Golf Course, contact information is required for each player). Then you need to email our Church office (same email address) separately with the answer to your security question; or

by **cheque dropped off to Westminster United Church,** 1850 Rossland Road East, Whitby. The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am. - 3:00pm to receive cheques or process credit/debit card transactions. Please call ahead, if possible.

If you have a foursome already, just one payment for the team is sufficient, however, we still require all names and contact information (for Lyndebrook). In this case, please email Margaret Suepaul directly with your team individuals' contact information.

Even though this is only a 9-hole course, you may wish to rent a Golf Push Cart for \$4 or a Golf Drive Cart for \$10 directly from Lyndebrook (905-655-4653), however, you must reserve/pay for the cart rentals at <u>least 3 days prior</u> to the event - due to COVID-19 rules, these need to be cleaned down, prepped and available.

Please feel free to contact Margaret Suepaul, Stewardship/Finance Chair, either by phone at 416-756-0636 or email: <a href="margaretsuepaul@gmail.com">margaretsuepaul@gmail.com</a> should you have <a href="margaretsuepaul@gmail.com">any</a> concerns or questions.

And by all means, if you cannot play that day but are willing to volunteer before or the day of, please contact Margaret as well.

Blessings and we look forward to Teeing off with you!!



# Anniversary Blessings

### to the following Westminster Couples who Celebrated in August

Patti and Bruce Lang (14 years)





Carol O'Neil and Mark Clarke (27 years)







# Anniversary Blessings (continued)





Joanne and Rev. Dan Yourkevich (46 years)

Brenda and Al Garner (49 years)



Happy 50th Anniversary
Joan and Jim Ward





Thanks to all of you who have been supporting our Food Bank financially and with your food donations over the last months. Since the church has been closed, we have had about 200 people come to our door to receive food. As only one person in the family comes to the food bank we are helping many more in their family. It is a diverse group that come: we have single and couple seniors, single working people, and about half are families with 2 or more children. As well as the food

items and toiletries, we have been giving gift cards to help buy perishable items. Some of you have shared fresh produce from your garden and it has been gratefully received.

We will not be doing any more Monday-only drop offs as the church opens up. Watch the emails for times that you can drop off food items into the food bin in the narthex and if you're coming to church on a Sunday you can drop off then, too. We will update the list of needed items as well. Thank you again for all the contributions; we are definitely serving a need in our community and will continue to do so, as the fall and winter may be even more challenging for many.

# Pray, Praise, Ponder

Prayer cannot bring water
to parched land,
nor mend a broken bridge,
nor re-build a ruined city,
but prayer can water an arid soul,
mend a broken heart
and re-build a weakened will.

In this spirit, let us pray:
For health and healing,
for labor and rest,
for the ever-renewed
beauty of earth and sky,
for thoughts of truth and justice
which stir us from our ease
and move us to acts of goodness,
and for the contemplation of life
which fills us with hope
that what is good and lovely
cannot perish.

Terry Hershey



#### Our Prayer Team is here for you!

Just as you would place your prayers of concern and gratitude in the Prayer Basket during Sunday morning worship, you are invited to put your prayers into our Electronic Prayer Basket and our Prayer Team and Ministry Team will gladly add you to our Prayer List.

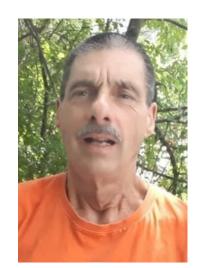
Please email or call Cathy Shaw with any Prayer Requests you might have: westminster.cathy@gmail.com or 905-723-6442.

May you feel God's love and know God's grace as you experience the beauty of God's world each day.

# Birthday Celebrations



Birthday Blessings Bruce!



Happy 90th Birthday Geraldine!



We fondly remember our dear friend, Amy Ponech, who would have celebrated her 97th Birthday on August 30th.



#### **Monday Mayhem Trivia!**

This wonderful event is moving to a MONTHLY time slot!

Join your Westminster Community for a great game of Random Trivia (20 Questions) on the LAST MONDAY of each month!

Look for the Zoom Links in the Friday Email Blasts and mark the following dates on your calendar...

Monday, September 28 and Monday, October 26

Congratulations to our August Winners...

August 17th: Joanne MacP. and her granddaughters, Lylah and Ruby

August 31st: Joanna and Steve Coulter





#### It's Canning Season (Almost)

Are you trying your hand at preserves this summer?

Are you making jams, pickles, chili sauce or other preserves? The church would love to have a jar (or two?), if you can spare it!

We'd love to have your contribution for our Fall bazaar! And, if the bazaar doesn't happen this year, we promise not to waste your hard work. The preserves would then be used for UCW events in the future.

Thanks for thinking of your church this canning season!

#### Gratitude

It is important to acknowledge grace when we receive it. Our Westminster church family continues to be blessed by the generosity and love of many people. Paul and Clarence continue to connect us to the Sunday worship service and fellowship time. Reverend Michelle is back at work after enjoying a well-deserved respite from technology, having developed and honed her skills to tape a multi-faceted service throughout our COVID isolation. Cathy has continued to offer a meaningful Sunday J.a.M. program and Thursday night youth group meeting, and even dared to develop a thoughtful, exciting and inter-active VBS. (And also creates our bi-weekly Monday-Mayhem Trivia Nights!) And it appears that her brief holiday re-energized her – she's back and forging ahead with an exciting Fall J.a.M. program. Margaret skillfully tapes the hymns and music for Sunday worship and organizes 'Special Music' to enhance the service. Heather has offered us a chance to sing three times every week. Committees continue to meet: to plan for our safe return to the church building; to maintain the facility (interior and exterior) where we will once again gather to worship when it safe to do so; to care for our staff; to connect the members of our church family. This community of faith flourishes because of the love we share: "...And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

#### A Moment in History

Submitted by Arthur and Crystal Smith

Recently we had my mom and Fern Schad over to watch the Sunday Worship Service at our home. Fern thought to bring her bible with her, which contained the attached newspaper clipping.

Her husband Richard Schad presented the window for dedication and she was thoughtful enough to share this with us. We thought we would share it with you, with Fern's permission.

On Sunday, April 21st, the Rev. Eric McIlwain officiated at the Dedication of a stained glass window, sacred to the memory of the late Victor Fudge, a faithful elder and presbyter and a man known and loved by thousands who have met him through his work at the Oshawa General Hospital. The window was presented for dedication by Mr. Richard Schad, Trustee and member of the original Westminster building committee. A very large number of Fudge family and friends attended the Deducation Service. With the installation of the fourth and fifth panels of the window by the noted designer, Mr. Russell Goodman of Toronto and Ottawa, the window, begun in 1970, is completed. The total design concept, the vivid interplay of colour, the skillful use of material and the crisp execution of the work must place this window in the forefront of any in a wide area. Indeed, having just returned from viewing much 'glass' in the cathedrals, churches and colleges of England Mr. McIlwain states that the Westminster (Whitby) window will stand comparison with any. You are invited to view it any Sunday morning, or by appointment.



#### **Christmas Hampers**



It may be September, but plans for Christmas Hampers 2020 are already underway! Like everything else in 2020, our hamper program may look different, but rest assured this vibrant ministry will be available to support our community this Christmas.

We anticipate a high level of need within our community this winter as we continue to live in these times of uncertainty. Applications will be available at the Foodbank in September 2020.

If you don't have a tin can (to collect coins), sanitized cans are available to be delivered to you (thanks, Paul K!). If you would still like one, and need to have one delivered to you, please contact Ashley Edwards at wucchristmashampers@gmail.com.

More information will be shared as we see how things progress in the coming weeks and as our hamper program evolves to meet the needs of our community in a safe manner.

#### **LET'S LAUGH**



I hate it when you see a sign and suddenly your plans are ruined



IF 2020 WAS A MATH PROBLEM.

YOU'RE GOING DOWN A
RIVER AT 2 MPH AND YOUR
CANOE LOSES A WHEEL, HOW
MUCH PANCAKE MIX WOULD
YOU NEED TO RE-SHINGLE
YOUR ROOF?



The manager at our local IKEA is retiring, so I sent him this cake...

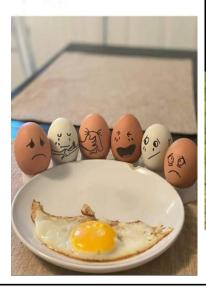


"It's nice outside I think I'll sit out on the patio"



207 mosquitos liked your post

He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.



FOR SALE
Social Distancing Service Dogs
\*Only 4 left, message me!



This isn't the mask you wore to school this morning.



No, this one is way cooler. I traded mine to Taylor who traded with Hunter.



# You're invited...

...to join us for Worship online or in-person starting on Welcome Sunday, September 13!

Registration Information can be found on our Website (www.westminster-uc.ca) or by phoning the Church Office (905-723-6442).

Watch for Email Updates

Blessings as we continue to worship together!

