

Watch your email for the Zoom links to all events. If you are not currently receiving our email blast and would like to, please contact the church at wuc@westminster-uc.ca and we will add you to our mailing list.



It is the Fourth and final Sunday of Advent! We will reflect on the gift of Love (Isaiah 11:1-3; Matthew 1:1-25) **Livestreamed Sunday Service, December 20, 2020 at 10:30am.** We are excited to welcome Kristine Dandavino, Soprano. Come and worship with the following link: <https://youtu.be/BOWPo7zjy6Y>



We're having a Birthday Party at J.a.M this Sunday on Zoom!
The fun starts at **11:00am**

You won't want to miss out, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! For those who have registered please check your email for the Zoom link and all the information you will need for this Sunday. All others interested in registering for our online Children's Program, please contact Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation at westminster.cathy@gmail.com

Send your prayer requests to Rev. Michelle (rev.m.robinson@gmail.com) or Cathy (westminster.cathy@gmail.com) to be held in prayer by our active prayer team.



Through our Regional Church Prayer Cycle we lift up Faith United Church in Kingston this week.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Longest Night Service
December 21 at 7:00 pm
(livestreaming only, not in-person)
<https://youtu.be/0MYsp3iuGeM>



A service open to all that honours those who have experienced loss in some way and who are carrying that this Christmas. It is our hope that this service will provide an opportunity to acknowledge all we are feeling (grief, disorientation, frustration, worry) as we're reminded that the Christmas story contains a message of hope no matter our circumstances.



Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant **December 24 at 7:00 pm** (pre-recorded, premiering on YouTube) Print off lyric sheet found on-line.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service and Pageant December 24 at 10:00

pm (in-person/livestreaming). If you join us at home, please have a candle and elements for communion.

The **New Year Begins** Sunday, **January 3 at 10:30 am** (on-line service only – more to follow). There will be **no in-person** for this service.

See the **Advent & Christmas page** on our website.

<https://westminster-uc.ca/connect/worship/advent-christmas-events-2020/#page-content>

Christmas Carol Sing-Along!
Friday Dec 18 at 7:00pm and Wednesday, Dec 23 at 7:00pm, Heather Von Zuben will be your host. Zoom links to be coming via email!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Westminster United Church Book Club

Wednesday January 27th, 2021 at 1 pm

on Zoom (internet or via phone)

The book being discussed:

The Nature of the Beast by Louise Penny.

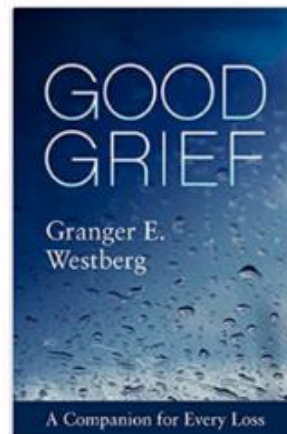
All are welcome! To borrow the book or for more information, please call Susan @ 905-493-3122. **If you have not attended a previous book club gathering please let Susan know so that she can email you the zoom link and information.**

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From your Health and Wellness Committee...

GOOD GRIEF - A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND HEALING

Whether we are mourning the loss of a loved one, a job, a marriage or connections with family and friends, this book can serve as a useful companion guide. Want to know more, and join the discussion: Go to: <https://crosstalk.wucfellowship.ca/>



Westminster Health & Wellness Committee

FOOD BANK



Thank you for your ongoing support to this important ministry. **Donations will be accepted Wednesday from 10:00am-12:00pm.**

NOTE: Westminster's office is closed December 25 to January 4.

The following items are needed at the food bank:
canned meat, instant coffee, whitener, jam, rice, Kraft dinner, canned green beans, canned fruit, chicken noodle soup, toilet paper, kid's snacks, Kleenex, crackers, paper towels, pudding, juice, granola bars, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste.

THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to everyone who has reached out in support of our Christmas Hampers, both through selecting virtual tags and through financial donations and deliveries. Your support has been overwhelmingly generous. This year you helped bring Christmas for 70 families, including 154 children and 25 adults! Your generosity makes a difference.

Thank you for your generous support of the Westminster UC Christmas Hamper Outreach Ministry.



Westminster's 1st Drive-By Donation Day

Your Outreach and UCW Teams are pleased to let you know that due to the deep generosity of our congregation and friends of Westminster, we were able to safely receive, package and will complete delivery of over 800 new items to the following support centres in our community:

- **3 Local Schools and YWCA** (mittens, gloves, socks, hats/toques)
- **Back Door Mission and Cornerstone** (socks, undergarments, wallets, coats, boots, men's toiletries)
- **Denise House** (mittens, socks, children's undergarments, knitted & crocheted sweaters, scarves, afghans, toys, toiletries)

Thank you for your tremendous response, friends -- stay tuned for info about our end of January Drive-By Donation Day!

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Church office hours - Christmas Season

Monday Dec. 21: **Closed** *(weekend phonecalls and emails will be responded to on Tuesday)*

Tuesday Dec. 22: **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Wednesday Dec. 23: **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Thursday Dec. 24: **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

December 25 to January 4: **Closed** *(for pastoral emergencies during this time, please call 289-685-1165)*

***Sun. Dec. 27** worship as usual, online and in-person

Becky, our Office Administrator, is currently on leave for personal reasons. The office will be supported by volunteers in the interim.

To reach Rev. Michelle Robinson or Cathy Shaw at the church, please use their direct office lines.

Rev. Michelle — 905-493-6706

Cathy — 905-493-6712



If you need to come in to the church office for any reason, please remember to call ahead and make an appointment.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for your support in following the safety protocols at Westminster UC over the past few months.

The Return to Building Committee continues to meet weekly to review current medical health information and our existing safety protocols. Durham Region health category is red/ control. Based on published guidelines we continue to be able to offer in person worship.

We need your help to ensure Westminster continues to be a safe place for in person worship. While attending in person services at Westminster United, we are asking everyone to be mindful of the following:

- DO remember to reserve seating before attending each Sunday to ensure appropriate numbers and to provide contact information should a COVID-19 outbreak occur. You can reserve on the Westminster website or by calling the church office, 905-723-6442.

- DO wear your mask covering your mouth and nose and leave it on throughout your time in the church.
- DO maintain a minimum distance of six feet apart of other families when in the church and in the parking lot. Please sit only with members of your household.
- DO remember to have ushers show you to your seat before service and wait for them to direct your exit from the sanctuary. This greatly assists us all with physical distancing.

Thank you again for your support.
With blessings and gratitude for everyone,
Your Return to the Church Building Committee

