

# Minister's Message

I pass St. Luke's Presbyterian on Rossland Road whenever I'm driving to Westminster U.C. About a month ago the message on their church sign made me smile: "Two weeks until spring... we can do it!" It was great encouragement—helpful and hopeful—after a very long winter. And we did do it, just as the sign said we would. We have made it to the season of spring. More than that, we have made it to the season of Easter. That's right! Easter is not just one day but a whole season, seven more weeks of celebration! You could call it a "week of weeks."

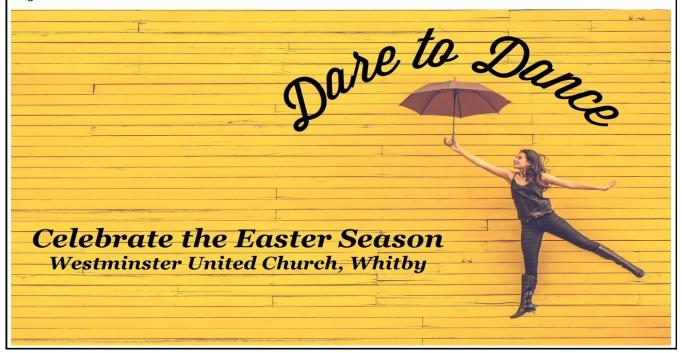
This is the season we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, when flesh and matter are re-deemed. Resurrection tells us that "matter matters" and that creation is important to God. With that in mind, when I came across an idea for an Easter worship series involving dance it seemed like a beautiful fit. With dance we have celebration, movement and embodiment and I loved the image of stretching and unfurling alongside creation after a long winter.

I am delighted that Emma Cullen will be sharing her gifts and talents in dance as part of our liturgy; Margaret Motum is organizing music and hymns that will invite our souls to dance. Post -resurrection stories will point us to the joy of witnessing the Risen Christ in our midst.

Join Westminster for worship this Easter season as we "Dare to Dance."

May this be a season of joy and celebration during a still stressful and wearying pandemic. And may God remind us again how moving together in community...embodying Christ's love... really will get us through.

Rev. Michelle



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People within our congregation have made donations towards these flowers in memory of loved ones acknowledged in this list.

The flowers will be taken as a ministry to people within our congregation as a symbol of our love and support.

Donated by:	In memory/honour of:		
Patrick Artymko	Cheryle Artymko		
	Jim, Chris & Barry McLean		
	Lillian Artymko		
Barb Auchterlonie	Jim Auchterlonie (husband)		
	Jake Auchterlonie (grandson)		
Janice Bortoluss	Evelyn & Alan Martin (parents)		
John & Helen Bowman	Richard & Bernice Bowman (John's parents)		
	Phin & Lela Pressey (Helen's parents)		
Gail Brimbecom	Bob Brimbecom (husband)		
Anne Butler	Ron Butler (husband)		
Cathy & Glenn Cherwinka	Robert (Bob) Rezek (Cathy's father)		
	Lillian & Victor Cherwinka (Glenn's parents)		
Dawn & Ed Craig	Family members we have lost		
Bev Crumb	Frances & Preston Pollard		
	Alice & Alfred Crumb		
	Dorothie & Jack Crumb		
	Elizabeth Crumb		
John & Tena Darroch	All who have suffered tragedy in the past year		

# **Easter Flowers** (continued)

John & Stephanie de Bruijn	Henk de Bruijn (brother)			
	Myra Reiter (sister)			
Maureen Dingman	Jull & Orrie & Marion Dingman			
Derek & Marilyn Dunford	Rena Fay Dunford			
	Doris Dunford			
	Bill Herlihey			
	Stan Endicott			
Jim & Wendy Edwards & Family	Loved ones			
Joanne Gibb	Jim & Mamie Gibb			
	Norman Gibb			
	Roy & Kay Chute			
Catherine Howard	Bob Brimbecom			
Clarence & Joanne MacPherson	Roy MacPherson			
	Ken & Elva McCalden			
Lyn Majoros	Lou (husband)			
June Martin	Beatrice & Kenneth McKee			
Ron Martin	Rama & Jim Martin			
Linda Melanson	Brian Kelly & Dora Melanson			
Ron & Margaret Motum	Tilly & Louis Motum			
	Dorothy & Charles Newton			
Bob & Sue Neil	Palmer & Eleanor Neil (Bob's parents)			
	Romuald & Marie Lesage (Sue's parents)			
Bob & Dianne Noftle, Quinn Noftle	Mark Noftle (son)			
Lauren, Nick, Serafina Bellissimo	Stan & Eileen Noftle (parents)			
	Nathan Roberts (father)			
Angela Odei	Dr. Larbi Odei & Zoe Samantha Odei			
Paul Pierson	Ross Pierson (father)			
Michelle & Jake Robinson	Opal, Aubrey & Ruby Robinson			
Joan Sanderson & Family	Harry Sanderson			
Arthur & Crystal Smith	Douglas Smith (Arthur's father)			
	Morley Stevenson (Crystal's father)			
Margaret Suepaul	Ronald Roopsingh			
Shane Suepaul	Ken & Rosabelle Suepaul (parents)			
	Harold Suepaul (brother)			
	Jacqulin Suepaul Soomai (sister)			

# **Easter Flowers** (continued)

Ava & James Tomlinson	Stan Charles Tomlinson (James' father) Geoffrey Watson (Ava's father)			
Anna Jane Sharrard	Kathryn Buxton			
Geraldine Van Steenbergen & Family	John Van Steenbergen (husband) Sheila Van Steenbergen (daughter)			
Terence & Heather Von Zuben	Paul (Rusty) & Anne Marie (Amer) Von Zuben			
Donna Wannamaker	Neil (husband)			
Jim & Joan Ward	Dave Parks			
Jim & Gail Wild	Harold & Victoria; Douglas & Leneita (parents) Marjorie & Viola (aunts) Kevin (nephew) Josiah (grandson)			



# A WORD OF THANKS

Our journey through Lent this year was truly a blessed experience. Thanks to Reverend Michelle's inspiration, members of our congregation created a Lenten Study Guide: *Journey Through Lent with the Gospel of Luke*. Thanks to their inspiration, we were offered thought provoking messages to consider as we studied Luke's stories of Jesus's works and teachings.

Thanks to those who volunteered to be 'small group' leaders, we held weekly meetings on Zoom to connect with others in our congregation and to discuss our thoughts on the scripture readings and the reflections. And, thanks to the commitment of our congregation to continue the work of our church, we were blessed with a rich Lenten experience.

# **Rain Barrel Fundraising Sale**

Westminster United Church

# \$70 Rain Barrels (Includes a \$10 Delivery fee\*)

# Order online effective March 22<sup>nd</sup>

www.rainbarrel.ca/westminster for guaranteed availability

Rain Barrels include a leaf and mosquito filter, spigot, and overflow hose.



# If you wish, you can add any of the following to your purchase:

# \$25 Downspout Diverters:

Redirects water to one or more rain barrels, pools or hot tubs. Prevents excessive overflow and simplifies the winterization process.

## \$10 Flexible Downspout Pipes:

Easily connects downspout to your rain barrel.

#### \$30 Rain Barrel Stands:

Elevates rain barrel to improve watering can access and increase water flow.

# **Rain Barrel Benefits:**

- Healthier gardens
- Environmentally conscious
- Saves money and water
- Protects local waterway
- · Reduces risk of flooding

# **Delivery Details:**

Week of April 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

\*Contactless and Safe Right to Your Door!

# For information, please contact:

Margaretsuepaul@gmail.com Brianwoodlock@rogers.com





# **New Arrival**

Dianne and Bob Noftle are delighted to share this news! On Feb 16<sup>th</sup> they welcomed a new granddaughter, **Serafina Pina Dianne Bellissimo, 8 lbs 11 oz.**Proud parents are their daughter, Lauren, and Nick. Granddaughter Quinn is elated over being a big cousin.



# April is World Autism Month!



Throughout the month of April, Autism Speaks Canada will celebrate our continued commitment to diversity and inclusion by featuring authentic stories of real autistic Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Every week these featured profiles will shine a light on dreams, struggles and strengths of real autistics. We hope they will inspire others on the spectrum. You can demonstrate your commitment to understanding and acceptance of people with autism every day by advocating, sharing stories, and lighting up the world with kindness.

"We believe in empowering every autistic member of our community. This can only be achieved when people truly understand autism and accept people with autism for their unique strengths, challenges, dreams and goals. At Autism Speaks Canada, we're committed to building a kinder, more inclusive world for all people on the autism spectrum in everything we do."

- Sarah Ahmed, Director Marketing and Communications



The Westminster Climate Disruption Mitigation
Committee would like to invite you to participate in
the Earth Month Ecochallenge, a month-long online
challenge to pursue individual opportunities to take
measurable actions to address climate change.
The Ecochallenge is a project of Project Drawdown,
a nonprofit organization that has prepared a list of
100 solutions to climate change. This online
challenge runs April 1-30, and its intention is simply
to be a fun and social activity to engage behaviour
change to learn about and address climate change.
For more info on the challenge, see
https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/about/event-info.

When you register, and join our church group on the site (WUC Challengers), you will see a dashboard with your avatar/image, your choice of background image, and your choice of a motivational quote. You can then read through one-time and daily challenges you can participate in (e.g., Under the Electricity challenge area, one one-time challenge is to calculate your carbon footprint, using a tool they provide; OR under the Food, Agriculture, and Land Use challenge area, one daily challenge is to commit to eating a personally selected number of meatless meals during the month). There is information about each sector's contribution to GHG emissions, and each of the challenges has a "Learn More" section with further background info and resources).

There are one-time challenges as well as daily challenges, and when you complete them, you earn points. The points are **JUST FOR FUN**, as is the whole challenge. As you complete challenges, there is a board to share what you have learned with the group, to have conversations on topics, and to congratulate each other on challenges achieved, and another board to see your accomplishments and your team's collective accomplishments.

If you'd like to participate and join us, here are the basic steps:

- 1) Click on the following link: <a href="https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/participants/join?referral\_code=73a34448-0beb-4784-976e-e1303fcb4727&team\_invitation=true">https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/participants/join?referral\_code=73a34448-0beb-4784-976e-e1303fcb4727&team\_invitation=true</a>
- 2) Register as a participant and then proceed to join our team, **WUC Challengers**.
- 3) Click on "Dashboard" to watch the "How-To-Video" located on the left-hand side black column, as the third button below your profile name, under Edit Profile & Edit Challenges.
- 4) Next go to "Edit Profile" to create your own personal profile, with banner, avatar & mission statement really easy and can be updated or changed at anytime!
- 5) Then choose your Challenges give yourself a bit of time for this. Go to "Edit Challenges" and take some time to read through all the challenge areas & possibilities note that some are daily challenges and some are one-time. To start, the system encourages you to choose only 1-3 challenges (you can add more once you get going!).

There is no pressure to do any challenge. Just see what you think, and hopefully we'll have fun. If nothing else, we can learn about options of actions we could take in the future to reduce our carbon footprint and create a more sustainable future.



# Getting ready for the Virtual Palm Parade











#### EARTH DAY – APRIL 22

In December of 1968, an astronaut on the Apollo mission took a picture of the Earth. This historic photo, called "Earthrise," made people realize that we share a tiny blue dot in the universe and we need to take care of it. This was the start of an environmental movement. On April 22·1970, more than 20 million Americans took part in the first Earth Day. Two decades later, in 1990, Earth Day went global with more than 200 million people in over 140 countries taking part in varying activities. Today, this movement has continued to grow,



and now more than a billion people every year celebrate Earth Day by taking some action to improve our environment, live more sustainably, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions can be very simple and be applied all year. Below are some ways you can participate in Earth Day:

- Go meat-free for the day and consider having meatless meals at least once a week.
- Limit how often you use your car. Use your bike or walk for exercise (or to go grocery shopping!).
- If doing yard work, do the work by hand, rather than using gas or electric mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers or edgers.
- Avoid using lights on Earth Day.
- Think about ways to conserve energy in your home and ways you could improve your home's energy efficiency.
- Turn your laptops, tablets and phones off and play board games or cards with your family.
- Limit the amount of food you waste and use your composter for food scraps.
- Watch a documentary on climate change (e.g., 2040, Our Planet, This Changes Everything, An Inconvenient Truth) and talk about climate change with your family.
- Consider planting pollinator flowers to attract bees and other pollinators.
- Plant a tree or native plants in your backyard with your family.
- Commit to not using or buying single-use plastics.
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang them to dry.
- If you have a baby, consider using cloth diapers.
- Avoid using fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides in your garden.
- Use your printer sparingly—only print what you really need to.
- Install a programmable thermostat to turn your heat down at night.
- Share your Earth Day plans on social media to inspire others to participate.

This April 22, how will you make our planet a better and more sustainable place to live?

Happy Earth Day, everyone! Dennis Sallans, CDMC

# A Westminster Walk Through Holy Week























#### You have to Eat ...

...so why not pay for your groceries with a gift card and help Westminster at the same time?

# Grocery gift cards are still available for purchase.

They are available for Loblaws (No Frills) and Sobeys (Foodland), in denominations of \$50 and \$100.

To support this ongoing fundraiser, contact Ed or Lori Rosdobutko at 905-666-5069 or email <a href="mailto:lorirosdobutko@gmail.com">lorirosdobutko@gmail.com</a>

These cards also make great gifts and for every card sold, Westminster receives 5% of the value.

# Pray Praise Ponder

As we continue to face the challenges arising from the pandemic, let us consider that:

Change comes through challenge and Spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.



# 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**



Manas Saksena turned 29 on March 25th



Analicia Coulson celebrated her (5 +28) birthday on March 30th



Kyle Cowan April 7th



Jim Wild April 7th



Janelle Shaw will be 31 on April 10th



Eileen Whitney
is celebrating
Birthday #? on
April 29th



to
Ed Rosdobutko
on
April 24th



I'm really tired of people who complain about the price of everything...

\$2.00 for a cup of coffee \$3.00 for coat check \$4.00 an hour for parking

I'm just going to stop inviting them to my house.

I'm ready
for the rest of this week!
I have my umbrella,
my flip flops,
my mittens,
my suntan lotion,
my winter coat,
my sunglasses,
my thermals,
my iced tea
and my hot chocolate!

Where do you take someone who has been injured in a Peek-a-Boo accident?

To the I.C.U.

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# **Monday Mayhem Trivia!**

If you're looking for something to do that will connect you with others, make you laugh and maybe give you some fun facts to share at your next party, then give our Trivia Night a try.

Join us on **April 26 at 8:00pm** No skills are required!

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Watch the email Blasts for Zoom Link information or contact Cathy Shaw at westminster.cathy@gmail.com

# **Hymn Sing Plus!**

If you love to sing out loud in the comfort of your home, then join Heather on Zoom every Sunday at 7:00pm.

There is always a broad selection of music – some hymns and some popular songs...and something for everyone!

No musical talent required, but a love of singing and laughter is recommended.

Look for the Zoom Link in the weekly Friday Email Blast.



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

It's springtime and for some of us that means it's time to clean out the closets. What to do with unwanted clothes? Avoid the environmental impact of discarding clothing.

Too much ends up in landfill sites.

- Host a clothing swap with friends and family members.
   (Remember to keep a safe distance and to wear your mask.)
- Donate to charities such as Back Door Mission.
- Upcycle favourite clothing: make pillow covers, produce bags, vests, handbags, upholstery fabric, crafts, jewelry, quilts, toys, wall covering, gift bags...

Get creative. Have fun. Check out the Internet for tons of ideas for upcycling/repurposing your unwanted clothes.



# **Property Committee Update**

2014 was the inaugural season of the Westminster Weed Whackers (WWW's), a group from this congregation who volunteer their time and talents to handle the grass cutting around the church.

This group has thrived for seven years and been a meeting place for the energetic outdoors type.

We maintain four teams of 4-5 volunteers and have outfitted the group with a garden shed, a ride-on mower, two Cub Cadet gas mowers and a gas trimmer. Two of the teams generally meet in the early evening (e.g. Thursday/Friday) and the other two teams, composed of RED members (Retired and Extremely Diligent), work during the day.

In addition to getting some exercise, these teams save the congregation about \$3,000 a year.



As we look forward to the 2021 growing season, we will welcome back about 16 WWWs. But some members have moved/are moving away or have chosen to retire, so there are vacancies that need to be filled.

Please consider contributing by joining one of our teams. If you would like to help out or have any questions, please contact Bob Neil at: robertneil@rogers.com

# What's Happening at

One of our awesome teachers demonstrating how to make a **Palm Sunday Wheel** in the Good News Room (Lesson Workshop)









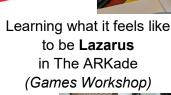
















Look who stopped by to visit us in Temple Tales! (Storytelling Workshop) Zacchaeus

told us how he met Jesus
and the lessons he learned about
cheating and stealing...
and then he gave back
the extra taxes he had taken
from the people!



# Westminster United Church Statement of Operations

ACTUAL	FORECAST	ACTUAL		ACTUAL Jan - Feb	FORECAST Jan - Feb	ACTUAL Jan - Feb
Feb 2021	Feb 2021	Feb 2020		2021	2021	2020
			RECEIPTS			
19,644	20,500	19,047	LF Offerings	38,512	41,000	39,607
1,280	833	183	Donation - Foodbank	4,944	1,666	272
470	792	4,800	Donations - Other	615	1,584	5,813
3,932	3,900	6,130	Rentals: Long Term	7,864	7,800	11,735
0	0	188	Loblaws Cards Commissions	0	0	438
88	83	60	Other	179	166	808
25,414	26,108	30,407	TOTAL RECEIPTS	52,114	52,216	58,672
			EXPENSES			
19,046	22,169	20,964	Salaries and Benefits	38,400	44,338	48,453
4,954	6,670	5,146	Property	11,220	13,540	10,933
2,670	2,670	2,670	Mortgage Payment (P & I)	5,340	5,340	5,340
709	1,500	0	Outreach - Foodbank	2,529	3,000	64
2,774	3,655	3,656	Other Expenses	3,453	5,352	4,626
30,154	36,664	32,437	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	60,942	71,570	69,416
-4,740	-10,556	-2,030	NET SURPLUS / - DEFICIT	-8,828	-19,354	-10,744
,140	-10,000	-2,000	HET OOK EOO7 - DETION	-0,020	-10,004	-10,144
1,830	1,833	1,753	M&S Offerings	4,125	3,666	3,899
1,830	1,833	1,753	M&S Disbursement	4,125	3,666	3,899
0	0	0		0	0	0

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS = 251,551

LONG TERM LIABILITIES:

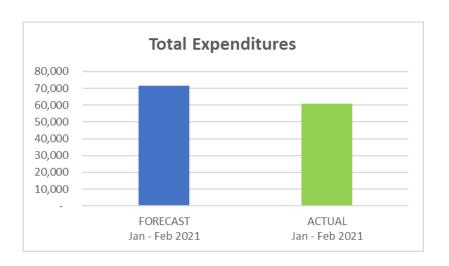
UCC MORTGAGE LOAN = 372,187
CEBA (GOVERNMENT) LOAN = 40,000

Thank you for your continued generous support of Westminster United Church and its ministries!

# **Westminster's Financial Report** (continued)









The Book Club Members met on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> and the following books were selected for the upcoming year:

## Wednesday, May 26- Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by C. Alan Bradley

- it is a WPL book club set so the books will be available from me after April 16 to pick up and read.

## Wednesday, September 22 - The Best Laid Plans by Terry Fallis

- it is a WPL book club set so the books will be available from me after August 16 to pick up and read.

## Wednesday, November 24- Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Gulloway

- it is a WPL book club set so the books will be available from me after October 16 to pick up and read.

#### Wednesday, January 26, 2022 - Our Darkest Night by Jennifer Robson

- you will have to purchase or borrow the book. I have 2 copies available to lend.

#### Wednesday, March 23, 2022

- The Taste of Longing: Ethel Mulvany and her Starving Prisoners of War Cookbook by Suzanne Evans
- you will have to purchase the book or borrow a copy. I hope to purchase the book this spring.

Please watch the bulletin and newsletter for details pertaining to the location and time.

All are welcome to come for one or two or all discussions.

Looking forward to the year ahead

with great reading and discussions.

For more information, please contact Susan at 905-493-3122.

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"The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized our interconnectedness to one another across this country. As a church we seek to care for and uplift human dignity and spirit from birth through death..."

-Moderator Richard Bott

Poverty can happen very quickly to anyone. Aware that some pandemic-related relief programs (such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, CERB) were scheduled to wind up in July, Moderator Richard Bott has written to elected officials encouraging them to seize the moment to roll out a universal basic income program in collaboration with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership.

"It is my belief," he writes, "that our collective experience as Canadians during COVID-19 presents a vital opportunity...Together we can take important steps to protect the health and safety of all Canadians going forward."

A growing movement of senators, Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran bishops, and many more across Canada are calling for a universal basic income. In September, hundreds participated in the Light the Flame for a GLI effort through lighting a candle and sending petitions for a guaranteed livable income program while five vigils were held across the country (Parliament Hill, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Vancouver). The use of "guaranteed" signals a focus on ensuring a level of income for all. Emphasis is on its being available to anyone below a certain income level (universally accessible) rather than necessarily paid out to everyone and then clawed back, which for some is what universal implies. The use of "livable" signals an income that enables people to live with dignity, not just stay alive.

# What Is Basic Income?

A guaranteed livable income (GLI) is a payment to individuals or families by government that covers the cost of basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and community participation) and is not conditional on meeting employment criteria in order to qualify for the benefit. It ensures everyone an income adequate for meeting basic needs, allowing all people to live with dignity regardless of work status. Such a program would be part of the national fabric of services that preserve and protect Canadians; or, as Jesus put it, "to love our neighbours as ourselves." Rather than have a rules-based, bureaucratically driven application process (during which applications must prove they are "really poor" before being approved), all Canadian citizens are ensured an automatic top-up when their income collapses for whatever reason. The incomes would be unconditional, automatic, non-withdrawable, individual, and a right of every legal resident.

 A guaranteed livable income is an effective way to support the reduction and elimination of poverty and insecurity; the narrowing of extreme income and wealth inequalities; shared citizenship; and improved democratic and economic functioning.

# **Guaranteed Livable Income** (continued)

# Take Action

- **1.Call or write** to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, and ask them to:
- seize this moment to roll out a guaranteed livable income program in collaboration with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership
- develop and implement a program that provides an adequate living level for everyone and addresses the persistent inequities that exist within the present wage and social benefit structures of our country
- address systemic barriers experienced by Indigenous peoples in accessing relief programs (for example, those related to COVID-19)
- Build a program that is universally accessible, preserves human dignity rather than creates stigma, removes discriminatory barriers, does not penalize people for the work that they do, is available with a minimum of bureaucracy, and exists alongside other social supports, including health care, pharmacare, pension, and education supports. You can write your own letter or personalize the e-mail included in this Newsletter.

Justin Trudeau's e-mail is <u>pm@pm.gc.ca</u> and Chrystia Freeland's e-mail is <u>Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca</u>. Please cc <u>takeaction@united-church.ca</u> and your own member of Parliament.

- **2. Join** the United Church e-mail network, to receive updates and opportunities to connect with others (https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=1b81b07c6f)
- 3. Shine a light on this nation-wide effort on <a href="Thursday">Thursday</a>, April 8, by lighting a candle and posting publicly on social media (#UCCanlivableincome) in solidarity with small outdoor vigils being held on Parliament Hill, at Minister Chrystia Freeland's constituency office, and at other MP constituency offices. Due to COVID-19, the vigils are restricted to locally designated individuals.



**4. Share** this Take Action on your social media networks.

Use the hashtags #UCCan, #UCCanlivableincome, #poverty, #basicincome.

# E-mail Template: Guaranteed Livable Income

NB: The main content can be adapted to send directly to your MP or others inside or outside government. We encourage you to personalize the message, especially if you know the person you are writing to. Justin Trudeau's e-mail is <a href="mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca">pm@pm.gc.ca</a> and Chrystia Freeland's e-mail is <a href="mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca">Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca</a>. Please cc <a href="mailto:takeaction@united-church.ca">takeaction@united-church.ca</a> and your own member of Parliament. You can find your member of Parliament's contact information by entering your postal code on the Parliament of Canada website.

(Date)

Dear Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

Subject: COVID-19 Pandemic and a guaranteed livable income program

As a member of The United Church of Canada, I call on you to build on the positive experience of the CERB and recent cross-party and jurisdictional cooperation and roll out a guaranteed livable income program that ensures an adequate living income level for everyone and addresses the persistent inequities that exist within the present wage and social benefit structures in our country.

I urge you to build a program that is universally accessible, preserves human dignity rather than creates stigma, removes discriminatory barriers, does not penalize people for the work that they do, and is available with a minimum of bureaucracy. Particular attention should address the barriers experienced by Indigenous peoples in accessing relief programs related to COVID-19, recognizing that these are manifestations of a system that leaves Indigenous people out of decision-making and denies their rightful place in Canada's economy.

Our collective experience as Canadians during COVID-19 and the growing momentum for such a program presents a vital opportunity. Drawing on Canadians' realization that poverty can happen very quickly to anyone, together we can take important steps to protect the health, safety, and dignity of all Canadians going forward.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

(your name) (your address)

Cc: takeaction@united-church.ca (your member of parliament)

Reference: Moderator's letter to elected officials re universal basic income May 2020



# You're invited...

# ...to stay home and stay safe!

We'll be thrilled to see you again when we get the all clear!



Until then...Many Blessings!