



# **BE WELCOMED**

# **BE NOURISHED**

# **BELONG**

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER**  
**2024**



## **Our Mission Statement**

Westminster United Church is a Christian family sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation, the community and the world at large.

We provide a spiritual home for worship, celebration of the sacraments, and Christian Education.

## **Statement of Inclusion**

We embrace people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, ethnicities, social and economic circumstances in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this community of faith.



**Affirm/S'affirmer**  
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Westminster United Church acknowledges being located within the homeland of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, members of the Great Anishinaabeg Nation. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation and to honour the legacy of Indigenous people, we commit to making protection of these lands and working together towards right relations an ongoing priority.



# Introduction

At Westminster we really try to follow Christ's teaching to **love God** and **love our neighbour** as **ourselves**.

These relationships are primary.

In the body of Christ **everyone is important** and has a unique role to play, which means that **YOU** are an important part of this community of faith!

It takes all of us, each bringing our unique presence, questions and gifts, to create a living, vibrant community.

There are many opportunities to **get connected at Westminster**, to **learn and grow in faith** and **deepen relationships with God and one another**.

If you'd like more information on how, give us a call at the office  
(905-723-6442)  
or talk to someone on Sunday.

We hope that this programming guide will inspire you to explore opportunities to get involved, to connect with others and God.

# Overview

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Series Theme: Promises Made, Promises Broken

November 3 - November 24

Series Theme: God Glimpses

December 1 - December 24

Series Theme: Words for the Beginning

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**"What am I remembering?"**

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**Junior Choir**

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**Property Committee**

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**Board of Trustees**

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**Manning Mews**

# Sunday Worship

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## **Series Theme: Promises Made, Promises Broken**

*Throughout the history of God's people, God and the people made promises to each other, and then the people failed to live God's way. Yet, God is faithful and renews the promise again and again.*

**September 22 – Exodus 15: 21–22; 16:1–5 ,To Hope and Act with Creation**

- Celebration of Baptism

**September 29 – Fifth Sunday of the Month --Affirming Sunday**

**Topic "Truth and Reconciliation"**

***Wear your Orange Shirt to worship in honour of***

***National Day of Truth and Reconciliation***

- We welcome Special Guest Speaker Peter Menzies, PhD, RSW. Dr. Menzies is a member of Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation and is in private practice providing mental wellness assessments, intervention/treatment and training. . He is the recipient of the Center for Equity and Health in Society, Entrepreneurial Development and Integration of Services Award (2005), the Kaiser foundation, Excellence in Indigenous Programming Award, (2011) and the Ontario Association of social Workers Lifetime Achievement Award (2018)

**October 6 – Exodus 32:1–14 – The Golden Calf**

- World Communion Sunday
- Stewardship Season Launch with a Special Presentation

**October 13 – 1 Samuel 1:9–11, 19–20; 2:1–10 – Hannah and Samuel**

- Thanksgiving Sunday

**October 20 – 2 Samuel 7:1–17 – God's Promise to David**

- Celebration of Baptism

**October 27 – 1 Kings 5:1–5; 8:27–30, 41–43 – Solomon's Prayer**

- Worship led by Susan Pleasance, LLWL



## **Series Theme: God Glimpses**

*We hear stories about the leaders and prophets  
that reveal God to us in many ways.*

*We, too, can see glimpses of God, if we just look for them!*

**November 3**

**Daniel 6:6–27**

**Daniel in the Lion's Den**

- Special Workshop with Dr. Peter Menzies after worship

**November 10**

**Jonah 1:1–17; 3:1–10 [4:1–11]**

**Jonah and the Big Fish**

- Sunday before Remembrance Day
- Celebration of Baptism

**November 17**

**Isaiah 6:1–8**

**Isaiah's Vision**

- Anniversary Sunday – Westminster Celebrates 66 Years!

**November 24**

**Jeremiah 36:1–8, 21–23, 27–28; 31:31–34**

**A New Covenant**

- Christ the King Sunday

## **Series Theme: Words for the Beginning (from A Sanctified Art)**

*An Advent series filled with blessings with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season.*

### **December 1**

- Advent 1 – Hope “You are a blessing”  
Luke 1:26–38 (The angel comes to Mary)
- Communion

### **December 8**

- Advent 2 – Peace “We can’t go alone”  
Ruth 1 (Ruth tells Naomi, “Where you go, I will go.”)

### **December 15**

- Advent 3 – Joy “Do the good that is yours to do”  
Isaiah 58:9b–12 (Repairer of the Breach)

### **December 22**

- Advent 4 – Love “Worth the risk”  
Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:46–55 The risky hope of Joseph and Mary

### **December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**

- Family Services (Time TBA)
- Candlelight and Communion (Time TBA)

# Learn Together

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Upcoming study groups,  
spiritual practice opportunities, and workshops

# Bible Study

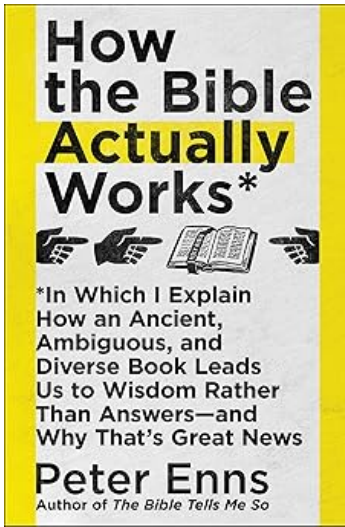
**Book: How the Bible Actually Works by Peter Enns**

**Wednesdays from 10:00am to 11:30am on ZOOM**

**6 Sessions Beginning October 9 and running on the following dates:  
October 9, 16, 30 November 6, 14, 20**

Led by Rev. Michelle Robinson

To register contact: Rev. Michelle Robinson – [rev.m.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:rev.m.robinson@gmail.com)



Author Pete Enns explains “that the Bible is not an instruction manual or rule book but a powerful learning tool that nurtures our spiritual growth by refusing to provide us with easy answers but instead forces us to acquire wisdom.”

Participants can purchase their own copy of the book or get it from a local library. If you need assistance finding a copy, please contact Rev. Michelle.

# Advent Bible Study

from the  BibleProject

**Wednesdays from 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

**4 Sessions Beginning November 27 and running on the following dates:  
November 27, December 4, 11, 18**

Led by Rev. Michelle Robinson

To register Contact: Rev. Michelle Robinson – [rev.m.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:rev.m.robinson@gmail.com)

Christians have long observed the Advent season by meditating on peace, hope, joy, and love. This Advent Study focuses on these rich biblical words: *yakhal/hope, shalom/peace, chara/joy, agape/love*.

Each week we will be inspired by a Bible Project video that explores the word of the week. We will then reflect on passages of scripture, share questions and insights and together journey more deeply into the significance of the Advent season.

# Labyrinth

**1st Wednesday of the Month, 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

**October 2, November 6, December 4**

Contact: Gail Brimbecom [gbrimbecom@gmail.com](mailto:gbrimbecom@gmail.com)

Peggy Allen [dn00345@gmail.com](mailto:dn00345@gmail.com)

The Labyrinth enhances the life of the congregation by offering an opportunity to explore individual spirituality while walking toward the centre of the path in prayerful meditation.

The labyrinth is a curved pathway on the ground that one walks upon as a spiritual practice. Some may find it looks akin to a maze but a core difference is that unlike a maze, a labyrinth has one pathway that will lead you to the centre and one pathway out.

Many find this practice calming, peaceful, or meditative. It can also be a place of reflection and spiritual connection – a metaphor for life's journey. The labyrinth is fully accessible to all.

Come, find the quiet centre.

## Workshop with Dr. Peter Menzies

**Sunday November 3 after worship**

**Lunch: 12:00pm – 12:30pm**

**Workshop: 12:30pm – 2:30pm**

**Please RSVP below so that we can provide enough food.**

During this two hour workshop participants will be introduced to issues confronting Indigenous People in Canada through a public policy framework. Central to this workshop is an overview examination of Indigenous People's experience with colonialism and the struggle for self determination. The impact of Canadian public policy on Indigenous Peoples will be examined with a focus on the Indian Act, residential schools, child welfare, inter-generational trauma and healing and developing partnerships with Indigenous communities.



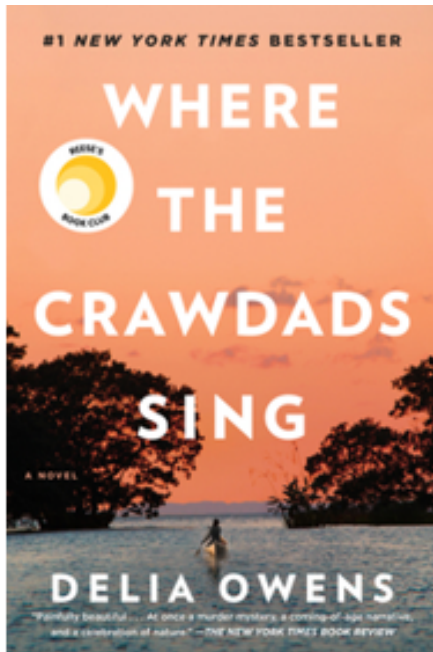
# Book Club

**Wednesday September 25 at 1pm - Where The Crawdads Sing**

**Wednesday November 27 at 1pm - Book TBA**

Contact: Susan Pleasance - [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)

A group of people meet every other month from fall to spring at Westminster to discuss thought provoking books and to reflect on how faith and life intertwine in our chosen book of the month.



The fall gathering of the Book Club is **Wednesday September 25, 2024 at 1:00 pm** in person at Westminster to discuss the book: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by *Delia Owens*. All are welcome! There are a number of books available if you would like to borrow a copy and join in on the discussion. Please contact Susan to borrow a copy of the book.

Stay tuned to find out which book will be discussed at our November meeting!

# Events

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Don't miss out on these  
great opportunities to experience  
fellowship, fun, and faith!

# Dinner Social

**Wednesday September 25 at 7pm**

**Melanie Pringles - 80 Thickson Rd S, Whitby**

RSVP to: Margaret Suepaul [margaretsuepaul@gmail.com](mailto:margaretsuepaul@gmail.com)

There was so much fun and laughter last time that we're doing it again! We will meet at Melanie Pringles where we have a quiet corner at the back booked. Reservation is under "Margaret" or "Westminster". Group appetizers are on us!

There are 20 spots, so kindly RSVP early. A great chance to get to know our friends from the pews!

# Game Nights

**Fridays September 27 and Friday November 22**

**7:00pm - 9:30pm**

Contact: Susan Pleasance [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)

An evening of Board Game Fun! This activity is geared towards youth and adults and is a great way to connect with old friends, and meet new ones. Bring your favourite games or play some of ours. Snacks provided.

# Knit & Crochet Circle

**Sunday September 29 at 11:30am**

Contact: Kirsten Grant [kirsten.grant@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten.grant@gmail.com)

Brand new to yarn-y projects or a seasoned pro? All skill levels welcome!

Please bring knitting needles and/or crochet hooks and any easy-to-learn patterns for scarves, Prayer Shawls, or any other item you're interested in working on. Yarn will be provided. Feel free to bring a lunch, if you'd like! All are welcome to join us (Youth and beyond)!

# Elvis is Back in the House

**Saturday October 19, Doors at 6pm, Show at 7pm**

**Tickets: In the office or after worship on Sunday, \$25 each**

**Contact: Shane Suepaul shanesuepaul@gmail.com**

Due to popular demand, Elvis will be back in the house! Playing the classics as well as some music from other favourite artists. Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. Time to dust off your blue suede shoes!

# Family Supper and Movie Night

**Friday October 25 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm**

Families of one or more are invited to come for a family friendly supper followed by a G rated movie to complete the night out. Come dressed in your most comfy clothes - PJ's are welcome! There is no cost, but registration is required for meal planning and food allergy accommodation. RSVP by Sunday October 20. Movie TBD.

# Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday November 9 from 9am - 2pm**

**Contact: Brian Woodlock bd.woodlock1947@gmail.com**

The Christmas Bazaar has delights and treasures of all kinds! Baked goods, knitting, books, Christmas decor, silent auction, independent vendors, and more! This is the perfect first stop for your holiday shopping.

# Poinsettia Sale

**Orders taken from October 28 until November 15**

**Pick up Friday November 29 from 5pm - 7pm**

**or Saturday November 30 from 9am - 11am**

Contact: Margaret Suepaul [margaretsuepaul@gmail.com](mailto:margaretsuepaul@gmail.com)

Bring some Christmas cheer into your home or as a gift for a loved one with a beautiful poinsettia. A range of options and prices will be available.

# UCW Christmas Dinner

**Monday December 2 at 5:30pm**

RSVP to: Susan Pleasance - [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)

The United Church Women are pleased to invite all the women of Westminster to a Christmas dinner!

Enjoy lovely Christmas decor and a fantastic meal here at the church. Come experience the Christmas spirit among friends.

# Valentines Day Dinner

**Friday February 14, 2025**

Contact: Margaret Suepaul [margaretsuepaul@gmail.com](mailto:margaretsuepaul@gmail.com)

Join us for a romantic evening with a truly delectable dinner. Enjoy the ambience of Valentine's decorations and beautiful music. Why not treat yourself to a Valentines where everything is taken care of for you? Sweep your partner off their feet and let us take care of all the details!



# Outreach Opportunities

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Expressing our faith by  
offering our talents and time  
in service to the community.

# Card Making

**Saturday October 5 from 1pm - 4pm**

Contact: Susan Pleasance [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)

Use your creativity to spread some joy by decorating and writing cheerful cards for the wonderful residents of our local Long Term Care Homes! Together we can make their day just a little bit brighter!

# Food Drive - Flyers

**October 5 from 9:45am - 12pm**

Contact: Joanne MacPherson [jmmacpherson@rogers.com](mailto:jmmacpherson@rogers.com)

Help us walk through our local neighbourhood dropping off bags and flyers to let others know about the upcoming food drive.

We will gather at Westminster just before 10am to receive route maps. Please contact Joanne MacPherson to RSVP.

# Durham Outlook for the Needy

**Tuesdays October 8, November 12, December 10  
from 3:30pm - 6:30pm**

Contact: Paul Kneebone [paul.kneebone@rogers.com](mailto:paul.kneebone@rogers.com)

Durham Outlook for the Needy serves a low-cost, hot, nutritious meal in a dignified manner to an average of 150-200 people in need daily from 4:00pm - 6:00pm, six days a week.

Westminster's team of volunteers help serve the meals and clean up after the patrons leave. Our Westminster team is on duty the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 3:30pm - 6:30pm, alongside other volunteers from Faith United Church in Courtice.

# Food Drive - Drop Off

**October 12 from 10am - 12pm**

Contact: Joanne MacPherson [jmmacpherson@rogers.com](mailto:jmmacpherson@rogers.com)

Items collected will support our local community through our food bank, The Pantry. Please drop off donations at the gym doors. Items currently needed at The Pantry:

- Tea / instant and ground coffee
- 1L Juice
- Rice
- Tuna
- Chickpeas and kidney beans
- Pasta sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Granola bars
- Toiletries - shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste
- Paper products - toilet paper, paper towels, tissues
- Feminine products

# Hats & Mittens

**Sundays December 1 - December 22**

Contact: Joanne MacPherson [jmmacpherson@rogers.com](mailto:jmmacpherson@rogers.com)

Hats, mittens and socks are being collected during the four Sundays of Advent. Items will be distributed to local schools, the Denise House, the Refuge, and the Backdoor Mission.

# Christmas Hampers

**Tags Available Online: Friday November 15**

**Tags Available Sundays: November 17, November 24, December 1**

**Financial Donations: Until Sunday December 1**

**Drop Off Hampers: Saturday December 7 from 12pm - 4pm**

**Delivery of Hampers to Families: Sunday December 8**

Contact: Ashley Edwards [wucchristmashampers@gmail.com](mailto:wucchristmashampers@gmail.com)

Last Christmas, through your overwhelming generosity, we supported 78 families, comprising 265 people, in our community. This included gifts for 125 children and 51 adults living alone. If you would like to help support this long-standing tradition, we would be most grateful for your help. You can purchase items for a hamper for a child, individual, or a whole family by selecting a tag. We are also grateful for a financial donation, and for those who offer their time as a driver to deliver the hampers.



# for Children and Youth

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While children and youth are welcome  
in all aspects of community life at Westminster,  
the following programs and groups  
are just for them!



# on Sunday

## J.a.M. (Jesus and Me)

**Sunday mornings, during Worship**

Contact: Rev. Michelle [rev.m.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:rev.m.robinson@gmail.com)

Each Sunday this fall there will be unique activities and programming for:

Nursery, and our Little Jammers ages 4-5

J.a.M Kids (ages 6-11)

Explore Bible stories, and go deeper with conversations, crafts, experiments and games. Each age group has its own curriculum geared specifically to them! The same stories that are read in worship will be explored in J.a.M. Each week there is an At Home sheet with a summary of the bible story and suggestions for exploring the themes as a family.

## Just Jammin' Youth

**Sunday mornings during Worship**

Contact: Rev. Michelle [rev.m.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:rev.m.robinson@gmail.com)

An engaging curriculum to invite youth to apply faith and theology to issues they are facing. Each week youth will be encouraged to dive into a topic while building stronger relationships and developing a deeper faith.

Take Home sheets help keep the conversation going within families during the week.

# in Fellowship

## Youth Group Gatherings

Contact: Rev. Michelle Robinson rev.m.robinson@gmail.com

Our Youth Groups are a great place to get to know your friends at Westminster. Games, Outreach, Hot Topic Discussions, Fun, Friends and Food – there's something for everyone!

### Express Your Faith Paint Night!

**Thursday October 3, 7pm–8:30pm Grades 6, 7**

**Thursday October 17, 7pm–8:30pm Grades 8–11**

Get creative and let your imagination run wild through this guided painting night. No experience needed.

### Field Trip ahead of Remembrance Day:

“What am I remembering?”

**Wednesday November 6, 6–8:30pm. Grades 6, 7, 8 and High School.**

Meet at the church for a special presentation by a veteran. We'll then go to The Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum for a special tour. Parents are welcome to join (admission is \$5 +HST). Youth admission is covered.

### Cookie Bake Off!

**Thursday December 5, 7pm–8:30pm grades 6 and 7**

**Thursday December 12, 7pm–8:30pm grades 8–11**

What better way to celebrate the season than to bake some Christmas cookies! Come for a fun evening of fellowship and homemade goodies!

# Youth Praise Band

**Rehearsals Thursdays 6:00pm – 7:00pm from September – June**

**Performing during Sunday worship, dates TBD**

Contact: Dr. Benjamin Stein [bstein@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:bstein@westminster-uc.ca)

This band is open to ages 12 to 20. Activities include coaching in keyboard, bass, guitar, and drums, songwriting, solo and group singing. Repertoire includes rock, jazz, blues, hiphop, country, and indie. Beginner and experienced players welcome!

**Special Information Night – Thursday September 19 at 6pm**

Meet in the Youth Room. A chance to meet with Ben, learn more and ask questions.

## Game Nights

**Fridays September 27 and Friday November 22**

**7:00pm – 9:30pm**

Contact: Susan Pleasance [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)

An evening of Board Game Fun! This activity is geared towards youth and adults and is a great way to connect with old friends, and meet new ones. Bring your favourite games or play some of ours. Snacks provided.

## Junior Choir

**Sundays after worship service beginning September 22, 2024**

Contact: Dr. Benjamin Stein [bstein@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:bstein@westminster-uc.ca)

Children are invited to meet with Ben for a brief rehearsal each Sunday after church to prepare songs for performances in worship. All children are warmly invited.

## ADVENTure Day

**Sunday, December 1 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm**

Contact: Michelle Alston [wlessner2112@gmail.com](mailto:wlessner2112@gmail.com)

Susan Pleasance [auntx2@gmail.com](mailto:auntx2@gmail.com)

Let's get ready for Advent! "Let every heart prepare him room!"  
Come for an exciting program and family meal for parents/guardians and their elementary school aged children. No cost but registration is required.

# Music

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Make a joyful noise!  
Brighten our sanctuary space  
with the sound of praise and music.

# Senior Choir

**Rehearsals Thursdays 7:00pm – 8:30pm from September – June**  
**Singing during Sunday worship**

Contact: Dr. Benjamin Stein [bstein@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:bstein@westminster-uc.ca)

Senior Choir is an integral part of weekly worship, performing anthems and supporting congregational hymn singing. A love of singing is the only requirement and new members are warmly welcomed.

# SALT Praise Band

**Rehearsals Mondays at 7:00pm from September – June**

**Perform during Sunday worship once a month**

Contact: Dr. Benjamin Stein [bstein@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:bstein@westminster-uc.ca)

SALT includes vocalists, guitars, piano, bass and drums who perform a range of music from praise band repertoire to contemporary jazz, folk & R&B.

# Youth Praise Band

**Rehearsals Thursdays 6:00pm – 7:00pm from September – June**

**Performing during Sunday worship, dates TBD**

Contact: Dr. Benjamin Stein [bstein@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:bstein@westminster-uc.ca)

This band is open to ages 12 to 20. Activities include coaching in keyboard, bass, guitar, and drums, songwriting, solo and group singing. Repertoire includes rock, jazz, blues, hip-hop, country, and indie. Beginner and experienced players welcome.

# Junior Choir

**Rehearsals Sundays after worship service for 30 minutes**

**Perform for special occasions, including the Christmas Eve Pageant**

Contact: Dr. Benjamin Stein [bstein@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:bstein@westminster-uc.ca)

The Junior Choir sings fun repertoire encompassing everything from thirteenth century carols to modern pop-gospel, rock and folk. All children are warmly invited.

# Fellowship and Social Groups

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# United Church Women

**First Monday of the month, September – June**

Contact: Tena Darroch – [jd7213@rogers.com](mailto:jd7213@rogers.com)

The UCW is a group of women who meet for a time of worship, education, business and fellowship. This is an interest and service group of which all women of the congregation can participate.

The UCW's purpose is:

"To unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service"

# Foodman Group

**Thursdays at 11:00am**

Contact: Ed Ekker [edwardjekker@gmail.com](mailto:edwardjekker@gmail.com)

A collection of men who get together for a fun time cooking, learning recipes, sharing experiences, and gaining experience in the kitchen. We enjoy tasting what we've cooked and look to refine it to make it even better. Stay tuned for upcoming events!

# Food Guys

**Mondays at 7:00pm**

Contact: Ken Montague [knmontague@aol.com](mailto:knmontague@aol.com)

Our goals are to prepare meals and share cooking methods and foods. We take these ideas and practices and prepare first class meals for the congregation, and for major fund raising events for large numbers. We want every person who eats our meals to fall in love with what we serve, consider the food to be top quality, and want to try to cook it at their home.

# Living Alone Luncheon

**First Wednesday of the month, September – June**

**12:00pm – 2:00pm**

Contact: Barb Auchterlonie – auchterloniebarbara9@gmail.com

Bev Crumb – bcrumb@sympatico.ca

Living Alone is a group consisting of single people (retired, widow, widower, or single by choice) who meet for a time of fellowship and fun over a catered lunch at Westminster United Church.

# Faith and Fellowship

**2nd Wednesday of the month October – May from 2:30pm – 3:30pm**

Contact: Debbie Joyce via church office wuc@westminster-uc.ca

This monthly “come as you can” group brings together adults of all ages and genders for a time of discussion, fellowship, refreshment and prayer, all in a casual and comfortable environment.

# Pickleball

**Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm – Experienced Players**

**Wednesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm – Beginners / Casual Players**

**Thursdays 10:00am – 12:00pm – Mixed Skill Levels**

**September – May**

*(No Pickleball on Wednesdays on weeks that have Living Alone Luncheon's or Probus scheduled. Confirm with King)*

Contact: King Whitney – kc999@live.ca

Drop in to this weekly activity and see how much fun it is to play Pickleball! No experience is necessary, and equipment is provided, if needed.

Free will donation appreciated. Suggested amount \$5 a month for occasional play or \$10 a month for regular players.





# Committees

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Many committees support  
Westminster United Church's vibrant ministry.

What interests you?

What gifts can you share?

Jump in!

All are welcome.

# Outreach

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Responsible for Social Services and Social Action, and stretches out beyond the church to meet the needs of the wider community. A variety of programs include key initiatives such as "The Pantry" (food bank), Durham Outlook for the Needy, Prayer Shawls, Christmas Hampers, The Backpack Project, and Bridge to A New Home (BTANH).

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Participating in ongoing outreach ministry activities
- Season of Service
- Participating in monthly planning sessions
- Participation in outside activities, meetings (visiting other United Churches, educational seminars, community programs)
- Supporting ministries under our Outreach Committee "umbrella"

## The Pantry (Food Bank)

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

**Tuesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm**

Westminster's food bank, The Pantry, assists those within our community in need of non-perishable food and basic hygiene products. Clients are permitted to visit our Pantry (Food Bank) once a week, on Tuesdays. In 2023, we served 2,049 clients and fed 6,508.

We average 65 visits per week. In 2024, we have already surpassed these numbers.

- Assist with organizing the food donations
- Provide support and assistance to the weekly Pantry customers

# Friendly Visitors

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

An ongoing group of Westminster volunteers that visits and contacts people within the church community that have current health events or aren't able to get out of their home. This includes folks that are living in their own homes, Senior Retirement Residences and Long Term Care facilities. The team also sponsors the annual Christmas cookie bag drop-offs and Newcomers' Potluck luncheon, as well as being involved in the Easter flower deliveries. Volunteers must have a current Police Vulnerable Sector Check. The Friendlies are another team at Westminster doing their part so that everyone is included and valued.

# Prayer Team

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

The Prayer Team is a group of dedicated people who take prayerful action for the needs of the congregation, our community, and global needs. When a prayer request is received, it is sent out to the prayer team members. This network of people will intercede on behalf of others by lifting up in prayer any specific requests, concerns or emergency situations. Prayer requests are welcomed and encouraged, and all requests are treated as confidential.

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Prayer shawls are made by volunteers and are given out to anyone in need of comfort, prayer, and a sense of community. They are also presented to all those receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Join a Westminster knitting/crocheting circle
- Pick up yarn to knit/crochet at home
- Assist the coordinator with the inventory and distribution of shawls

# Christian Education

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Christian Education is about life-long learning. This committee provides activities, events, and programs for all ages, encouraging and empowering children, adults, and families to explore and grow in their faith. The Christian Education Committee offers opportunities for social gatherings and outreach to our local church family and to the wider community.

# Wellness

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Seeks to supports the spiritual and physical well-being of our congregation and community.

- Provides health education and awareness to foster well-being of the whole person – body, mind, spirit, and relationships
- Monitors Westminster's safety, accessibility, and emergency process
- Friendly visitors team connects with those unable to attend church regularly, others that are recovering from recent surgeries/hospital stays or in Long Term Care Homes.
- Plans presentations and special events
- Easter memorial donations are used to purchase flowers for Easter Sunday and distribute them to those in need of emotional support

# Tech Team

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Volunteer teams of two operate sound and lighting equipment and presentation software that provide audio/video support for worship services and live-streaming. Volunteers are provided hands-on training to operate Livestream and Tech Booth equipment.

# Climate Disruption Mitigation Committee (CDMC)

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Within the United Church of Canada we believe that “Caring for God’s Gift of Creation” is a spiritual commitment. Our faith calls us to live with respect in Creation. We are concerned that climate disruption negatively affects the rights of living beings to clean air, water and food.

Volunteer opportunities with the Climate Disruption Mitigation committee include:

- Encourage and engage the congregation in the mitigation of climate disruption.
- Act as a resource to the Council in the development and implementation of Westminster’s Climate Disruption Mitigation Plan.
- Facilitate climate disruption mitigation by other faith communities.
- Participate in opportunities for advocacy in the public square.

# Parish Mosaic

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Parish Mosaic works to foster overall inclusion within the congregation, concentrating on issues of 2SLGBTQ+, Multi-Culturalism, Anti-Racism, Indigenous Justice, and Respectful Relationships. as we live into our ministry of radical welcome and inclusion.

We also actively communicate our Affirming message to the community at large and work with support agencies in the region. Westminster’s Parish Mosaic coordinates Affirming Worship Durham, a multi-faith group comprised of 24 Affirming places of worship in Durham Region.

Specific volunteer opportunities include:

- Participating in the annual Multi-Faith Pride service, Durham Pride Parade, Youth Pride event, North Durham Pride, etc.
- Hosting informational tables at various community events, etc.
- Producing newsletter articles, bulletin board postings and bulletin inserts to inform and motivate our congregation on Affirming and Inclusion issues.

# Property Committee

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

The Property Committee meets about six times a year to organize the time and talents donated by members of the congregation to keep our house in good order, in coordination with the church custodian.

The Property committee ensures that the Church property is maintained and is safe and secure.

Key responsibilities include:

- Manages capital projects approved by Council, such as: HCAC replacement, roof repairs/replacement.
- Managing contracted work such as snow clearing, preventative maintenance on HVAC systems, certification of the fire safety systems and building security system.
- Schedules routine maintenance on church infrastructure such as kitchen sanitizer, stove and grease separator, grit separator (exterior).
- Maintaining the Fire Safety Plan.
- Overseeing the work of the church's custodian.
- Organizing volunteers to help maintain the church – cleaning, painting, gardening, repairs.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Weed Whackers of Westminster maintain the lawns – cutting and trimming.
- Lawn and garden maintenance: maintain the flower gardens, exterior clean-up in the spring and fall.
- Light maintenance: painting, repairing cupboards, installing storage shelves, custom woodwork, parking lot repair.
- Volunteer Custodians clean the church after Sunday service.
- Chairman group handles the set-up of tables and chairs for church events and rentals.

# Worship

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Provides an opportunity to give back to the church community by helping organize the following aspects of worship:

- Decorating the sanctuary
- Communion
- Baptism
- Ushering
- Making tea/coffee for fellowship time
- Scripture readers & candle lighters
- Greeting at the door or online

# Sanctuary

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Helps to create a warm and inviting space for worship by decorating the narthex and the sanctuary for all the seasons of worship and for special services.

# Communications

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Facilitates, promotes and improves communication at Westminster United Church. This group is responsible for

- Compiling the monthly newsletter, "Westminster World"
- Updating the e-sign, bulletin boards, and the kiosk in the narthex
- Handling subscriptions to The United Church magazine Broadview



# Stewardship / Finance

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Stewardship is Discipleship. The Stewardship committee meets monthly and has the joyful responsibility of encouraging the sharing of resources: time, talent and treasures. The Stewardship committee also oversees the financial activities of Westminster.

Key responsibilities include:

- Help plan, co-ordinate and/or organize special fun events for community connection and for fundraising
- Share, learn and nurture a holistic year-round stewardship approach at WUC
- Bring new ideas to grow and encourage stewardship, sharing time, talent, and treasures

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping prepare for, organize, or support on the day of various fundraising events such as the Christmas Bazaar, the Elvis show, the poinsettia sale, and the Valentine's day celebration

# Board of Trustees

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

The Board of Trustees holds the property for the use and benefit of the congregation for such religious, charitable, educational, congregational or social purposes as the congregation may direct, for the support and maintenance of public worship and the propagation of Christian knowledge, according to the policies of the United Church.

# Ministry and Personnel

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

The Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee is responsible for overseeing the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to people in the congregation. The M&P Committee helps ministry personnel, lay employees, members of the community of faith, and adherents build and maintain healthy relationships.

# Church Council

**Contact [wuc@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca) to get involved!**

Church Council is comprised of the Committee Chairs. Council meets monthly to discuss issues concerning the ministry, activities and direction of Westminster United Church. Church members or adherents may make a submission to Council. All church members and adherents may speak at the council meetings provided they are recognized by the Chair.



# Manning Mews

**Contact [prof.ajsmith@gmail.com](mailto:prof.ajsmith@gmail.com) to get involved!**

Manning Mews Non-Profit Homes Corporation is an Outreach of Westminster. It began in 1978 to provide 20 affordable housing units for seniors including half of the units as rent geared to 30% of taxable income. Directors are required to volunteer their time to provide governance and oversight for the operations, management and audited finances of the Corporation. Directors' liability insurance is provided by the Corporation and Director's expenses are also covered by the Corporation. Meetings on Zoom are at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month September to November and January to June, and a short annual meeting of members (Westminster United Church Council and the Directors) is held in May.

Directors do not need to be members of the United Church. Interested persons should contact Arthur Smith at [prof.ajsmith@gmail.com](mailto:prof.ajsmith@gmail.com) .



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