
THE WESTMINSTER WORLD

JUNE
2025



June 1st
at Westminster



Join us at the
Church Picnic!

June 8th



June 15th



Games Night – TONIGHT!
Friday May 30th from 7:00pm - 9:30pm
At Westminster United Church in the gym

This drop-in event is FREE and is geared to Youth and Adults.
Come check out our Board Games and munchies or bring your own!

See you there!

For more information: contact Susan P or Joanna S.



Please join us for a special worship service to mark The United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary followed by a reception and time of fellowship!

Enjoy a service with participation from Westminster, Brooklin, St. Mark's, Centennial Albert, Kedron and Kingsview United Churches, and featuring guest preacher, *Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly*.

Offering that is collected during this service will be put towards the Backdoor Mission in Oshawa.

June 10th marks the United Church's 100th Anniversary

an opportunity to honour our past and look to the future;
to answer the call to be people of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship
and Daring Justice.

The United Church was inaugurated on June 10th, 1925, in Toronto, when the Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians in Canada entered into a union.

100 years later, as we prepare to celebrate a century of faithful witness, compassion and justice, let us spend a moment in prayer:

*God in whom we live and move and have our being:
From sea to sea to sea we gather in prayer;
from generation to generation we sing;
on this anniversary we give thanks
for your care
guidance
and correction.
In this heritage of trust
we pray for this United Church
and for faithful living on this land,
Our Source of Life, Living Word, and Bonding Love:
Amen.*

(Catherine MacLean, 2008. © The United Church of Canada)



UCW June Meeting – a fellowship lunch on Monday June 2nd, 2025



@ Coco Frutti's (Oshawa) @ 12 noon
(Please note the time change)

@ 1 Warren Avenue (on the north east corner of
Warren & King St)
just east of Teddy's Restaurant

Approximate cost of meal – \$25.00

All women are welcomed and invited.

RSVP to Susan

before May 30th, 2025 @ 905-493-3122





The Labyrinth Circle of Westminster United Church is pleased to announce that the labyrinth will be open **Wednesday June 4 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

A labyrinth walk provides an opportunity for prayer and meditation along a path that has twists and turns not unlike the path of our lives. People walk the labyrinth for many reasons, including curiosity. Some people begin the walk and then discover their reasons along the way. Every labyrinth walk is different.

Come walk the path that has been identified with the Christian church since the Middle Ages. **All are welcome.**

Durham **Pride** Parade

SATURDAY June 7 from 1:00pm - 2:00pm

All are welcome to walk with us in the Pride Parade!

Gather at 12:45, parade starts at 1:00pm sharp.

Where to meet: Falby Court, Ajax



Church Picnic

Sunday June 8, 2025

Please join us for our annual Church Picnic. Everyone is welcome.

Location: Westminster United Church (gym and outside)

What to bring: yourselves and a lawn chair, hats and sunscreen

Food: The Food Guys will be preparing a delicious lunch for us - Thank you!

(If you have a food sensitivity, please let us know)

Free will offering gratefully accepted.



We will have games after lunch.



In order to determine how much food to make, please RSVP.

If you have questions, please reach out to Susan P.

Hope to see you there!



MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Poetry In The Garden



On Saturday, May 10th, our gymnasium was turned into a lovely and elegant garden to celebrate Mother's Day. The theme for this year's event was "Poetry in the Garden".



Thank you to the UCW organizing team, the catering team, the servers and all the workers who helped make this a memorable celebration.

The guests were delighted by the delicious dainties and the opportunity to share their favourite poems with friends.



Rev. Sue offered this poem by *Thomas a Kempis*:

If you cannot sing
like the nightingale or the lark,
sing as the frog or the crow
who sing as God meant them to.



And **Sue S.** recited this delightful and cherished poem written by her *Kindergartener son*:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Some poems rhyme,
But this one doesn't.

AbZolutely Choir Durham

Directed by Abby Zotz



© Ian MacCready

Year-End Concert *in support of* Westminster United Church Community Outreach Programs



Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm
Westminster United Church
1850 Rossland Rd. East, Whitby
Tickets: \$15 in advance | \$20 at the door | \$5 - 12 & under
(Tickets from choir members or at the door)

www.abzolutelychoir.ca
<https://westminster-uc.ca>



www.abzolutelychoir.ca

Pray, Praise, Ponder

Simplify, slow down, be kind.
And don't forget to have art in your life –
music, paintings, theatre, dance,
and sunsets ...

Eric CARLE





GARDENING QUOTES

We must cultivate our own garden.
When man was put in the Garden of Eden, he was put there so that he should work, which proves that man was not born to rest.

~ **Voltaire**

The garden suggests that there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway.

~ **Michael Pollan**

I like gardening --- it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.

~ **Alice Sebold**

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

~ **H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**

Trees and plants always look like the people they live with, somehow.

~ **Zora Neale Hurston**

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.

~ **Alfred Austin**

THE ROSE

Some say, "Love. it is a river
That drowns the tenderr reed"
Some say, "Love. it is a razor
That leaves your soul to bleed"
Some say, "Love. It is a hunger,
an endless aching need"
I say, "Love. It is a flower and you its
only seed"

It's the heart afraid of breaking that
never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking that
never takes the chance
It's the one who won't be taken who
cannot seem to give
And the soul afraid of dyin' that never
learns to live

When the night has been too lonely
and the road has been too long
And you think that love is only
For the lucky and the strong
Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snow
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose.

~ **Bette Midler**

When the world wearies and society
fails to satisfy, there is always the
garden.

~ **Minnie Aumonier**



Bridge to a New Home Update

We first want to express our sincere appreciation to you for all of the generosity you have given to our refugee families over the past years. They truly could not have progressed to their current situation without your kind support.

According to *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada* (IRCC), the federal agency responsible for refugees, they require sponsors to commit to helping their families adjust to Canadian life for a period of one year. One key element of that support is financial which goes to find them accommodation and support for their other needs, like food and clothing. As you can understand, new refugee families also need other significant support which is far beyond just financial. What may appear to be simple things like obtaining Provincial Health Cards, setting up bank accounts and enrolling family members in school require a great deal of time and effort to accomplish.

However, the experience we have had with our families has demonstrated that while the legal commitment is for one year, there continue to be issues that our families, in many cases, need and ask our help in navigating as they occur. As your own experience would demonstrate, many of these issues need to be periodically revisited over time. For example, Health Cards need to be renewed, financial management may need to be taught and report cards need to be reviewed. These, as well as new issues, constantly arise.

All **BTANH** members would say that their own lives have been enriched by being part of this group. This is after helping to manage all the issues associated with settling new families in Canada. Most, if not all, **BTANH** members would further add that they have gotten more out of these relationships than the sponsored refugee families themselves.

Over the past few years, **BTANH** has been trying to attract new members to our group but without success. No doubt, the pandemic is one of many reasons that we have not been able to grow our membership. Regardless of the reasons, the number of people within our group able and willing to take on this work is declining.

~ cont'd

Now, for **BTANH** to take on additional refugee families, we would need to have new people to do the work of settling a new family in Canada and as a result, are not able to accept more refugees at this time. We simply do not have the capacity to take on new or more refugee families knowing what is truly required to do a good and proper job.

While we are no longer able to sponsor new refugee families, we have committed to sponsor three individuals who are direct relatives of one of our current families. These three people are Mebrahtom's wife and daughter who are currently in Ethiopia and his nephew who is currently in Yemen. Through the United Church's refugee sponsorship program, we have submitted 2 last private sponsorship applications for these refugees.

The estimated cost to sponsor these three people for their first year is around \$40,000.

While **BTANH** will provide the bulk of its remaining funds (\$12,000) towards these refugees, and our refugee families also have funds they are prepared to use for this purpose, ***we are asking for donations one last time to help bring these three people into Canada.*** We recently heard that all three of these refugees are close to being able to travel to Canada, but do not yet have a specific date. We are anticipating that they will be arriving sometime in 2025. Our group will help these three settle into life in Canada, but it will be less work for us since they have family members here.

BTANH will continue to be available to mentor / advise those willing to take on the tasks and responsibilities of bringing refugees into Canada. In fact, we are looking for opportunities to pass along our experiences to others, be they newcomers to this field or experienced organizations like ourselves. *Should you know of any individuals or organizations interested in refugee sponsorship, please do direct them to us as we would be pleased to share our experiences and insights with them.*

If you would like to make a donation sometime this year, you can do so in all the regular ways you contribute to Westminster, just indicate it's for Bridge to a New Home (BTANH). You will also receive a tax receipt.

Thank you again from the families we've been able to help start new lives and call Canada home.

Joanne MacPherson

Chair, Bridge To A New Home (BTANH)



St. Mark's United Church has invited members of Westminster to participate in their Vacation Bible School ...

St. Mark's United Church

VACATION Bible CAMP

July 21-25
9 am-12

Limited Spots Available
Register Here:
<https://forms.gle/MHS7FfFkmfpqiXwK7>

FOR JK-GRADE 6
OR "SHEPHERDS IN TRAINING" GRADE 7 AND 8

For any questions email:
sundayschool@stmarkswitby.ca

as a camper

or as a volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR
VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 21-25 14+

St. Mark's United Church Kid's Church is looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible Camp this summer.

Sign Up Here:
<https://forms.gle/8q1eoLsPDpmBqibz8>

REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS NOT MANDATORY, EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Email SundaySchool@stmarkswitby.ca if you have any questions!

SUMMER TIME

Many Hands Make **LIGHT** Work

Indigenous Day of Prayer

June 15

The beautiful and meaningful prayer below was written by the **Rev. Maggie Dieter**, former Executive Minister, Aboriginal Ministries and Indigenous Justice; and **Bill Snow**, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alberta, member of the Indigenous Justice and Residential School Committee.

**God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you for the Sacred Fires
that burn today and for the prayer-filled smoke
that you receive and bless.**

**We offer our deep gratitude
that the Fire's light informs and guides our journey.
We pray, just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the
restoration of beauty to the land and its people.**

**We acknowledge the diverse and abundant gifts of
Canada's Indigenous Peoples.**

**We recognize that their knowledge and wisdom have benefited
generations past and present, and that this blessing will continue
for generations to come.**

**We remember the many who are committed to the healing of family,
community, and nations.**

**We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the
animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us.**

**We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will
walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect,
truth and wisdom.**

**We offer this prayer in humility and hope, and in the name, of our
brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness,
justice and peace.**

Amen



June 21st (Wednesday) is National Indigenous Peoples Day.

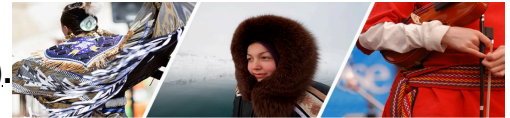
This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples.

Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

Here is a link with further details about this special day ----

[About National Indigenous Peoples Day \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](http://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)



June is also National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Here is something to keep in mind this summer ---- an Indigenous related celebration event right here in the Durham Region.

Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) POW WOW:

Saturday, July 19th and Sunday, the 20th --- is open to the public.

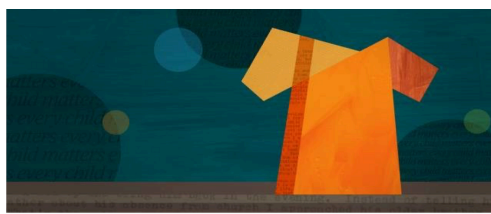
Location is on the Pow Wow Grounds – 22521 Island Road,

Port Perry, ON.

See this website link for further details ---- [Pow Wow \(scugogfirstnation.com\)](http://scugogfirstnation.com).

Pow Wows are celebrations that showcase Indigenous music, dances, regalia, food and crafts. This is an opportunity to learn more about our Indigenous neighbours and take in some of the festivities.

Later in the Fall, **September 30th**, marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Both the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** and **Orange Shirt Day** take place on September 30. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “*Every Child Matters*”. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



In order to help the congregation better understand the work and the workings of the church, each month the Newsletter will be featuring one of the committees which make up the Church Council.

This month, the focus is on the *Christian Education Committee*.

C O M M I T T E E

O What is the Westminster United Church **Christian Education Committee** and what does it do?

R The **CE** (Christian **E**ducation) **C**ommittee oversees the various components of Westminster’s faith formation and Christian Education through the development and leadership of programs, activities/events and the church library for children, youth and adults.

N We are in charge of the following: Nursery, J.a.M. (Jesus and Me) Sunday morning children’s and youth programming, Summer J.a.M., Youth Group, Vacation Bible School summer camp for children, Easter EGGstravaganza, ADVENTure Day, Family Supper and Movie Nights, Games Nights and Book Club. All of these programs and/or activities could not happen without your assistance and your participation.

R How can we help you grow in your faith and understanding of God’s call in your life? *Let us know.*

~ *Michelle A, Cheryl N, Susan P, Joanna S, & Sue S*



Diversity Embraced Here



DO YOU LIKE TO READ?

Do you want to discuss the story
and where the story takes you
in your imagination?

The **Christian Education Committee** is interested in starting a
Children's Book Club for children 8 to 13 years old during the summer
~ meeting in June, July and August.

If you are interested, please contact Susan P.

Ways you can
SERVE



**Have you ever wondered or thought about
teaching
a J.a.M. class (our Sunday School)?**

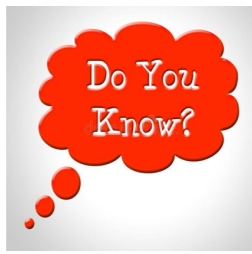
The **Christian Education Committee** is looking for volunteers
from **June 15th to September 7th**
to share the stories of our faith
through story, games and activities with our children.



**All lesson materials and
all supplies are provided.**



For more information, please contact Susan P or Sue S.

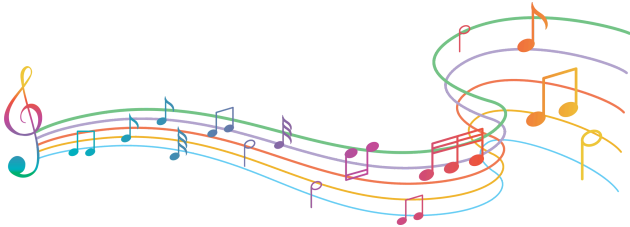


Special Guest Musicians Coming to Westminster



The **Great Heart Youth Ensemble**, from Metropolitan United Church of Toronto, will be taking part in Westminster United's service on **June 22nd**.

As well as collaborating with the Westminster Senior Choir, **Great Heart** will be performing a short set of music after the service.



Sit and enjoy these young and talented musicians perform a variety of rock, R & B and pop songs, with repertoire by Stevie Wonder, Chappell Roan, Pink, Elton John and Natasha Bedingfield.

Please attend that day to see accomplished young musicians and the possibilities for comparable youth music involvement here at Westminster.



Friendly Visitors Team at Westminster

For the last 12 years, there has been a **Friendly Visitors Team** at Westminster.



Primarily, their function is visiting people, who cannot get out to church, to offer spiritual support and keep them connected with the church community. A Friendly Visitor intentionally connects with another person in the Westminster U.C. community with the purpose of getting to know them, listening, and providing encouragement. This includes in-person visits and phone conversations.

Such contacts could include folks in long term care (LTC) or retirement residences – as well as others recovering from recent surgery or other hospital stays.

In conjunction with the church office, the “Friendlies” also send personal care cards to Westminster recipients.



Twice a year, the “Friendlies” coordinate special connections: the **Christmas cookie bag drop-offs** and at **Easter, the personal flower deliveries**, in conjunction with the Wellness Committee.

Contact Paul Kneebone (paul.kneebone@rogers.com)
if you would like to join the Friendly Visitors Team.

Congratulations, Tena!

At the UCW worship Service on *Sunday, May 11*, **Tena D** was honoured with her Lifetime Membership Pin. The following, is the presentation speech:

“Tena, today you are being honoured by the gift of a Life Membership in the United Church Women. This is presented to you by the Westminster UCW in appreciation of your valued ministry.



Tena, you have been active and a blessing in all the churches you have been a part of, starting with your home church of Thorborn Presbyterian in Nova Scotia where you started your journey of faith and attended Sunday School and CGIT, taught Sunday School and married Jack. You followed Jack to Manitoba, Germany, and to Halifax while having and raising 2 daughters – Jean and Michelle. When back in Halifax, while attending the United Church in Sackville, you started teaching Sunday School again while also working and moving up in your career within the Mortgage, Loan and Finance Department at the Bank of Montreal.

When you and Jack retired to Whitby in the early 20-teens, we were and are so glad that you chose to come to and join Westminster United Church. We so appreciated you volunteering as UCW President in September 2017 and being the president for the past 8 years. We thank you for your leadership in the UCW meetings, on the catering committee, on the Mother's Day Teas, on the Yard Sales, on the Mitten Tree Drive, and on the Church bazaar committees. We were truly blessed as you represented us so well within the Westminster church community, and within the UCW presbyterial – locally and nationally. You shared so many things with us – your smiles, your laughter, your generosity, your faith, your organizational skills, your new ways of thinking and especially your baking. At this time, we want to recognize and honour the contributions and gifts Tena has given to the Westminster faith community and to the UCW.



The ***Life Membership pin*** has in its design, the star of the women's organization of the Methodist Church, the circle of the Congregational Church, the St. Andrew's cross of the Presbyterian Church, and the seal of The United Church of Canada which are combined to symbolize the rich Christian heritage that is the UCW's and that signifies the responsibilities of United Church Women and their involvement in the whole work of The United Church of Canada.”



Westminster is a scent-free place of worship.

Please be considerate of others. Many people are adversely affected by SCENT. Even lightly scented deodorant, after shave, hair products, mists and certainly all colognes and perfumes can cause allergic reactions, asthma attacks and respiratory distress.

Let's ensure a "worry-free" worship environment for everyone.

We advertise Westminster as Scent-Free.
Let's honour our signage.



Yea or Nay to applause in worship?

There has been some discussion recently about **applause** in church. Many feel that it disrupts the sense of reverence during worship. Music is meant to underscore and enhance the message being offered – it is not a performance.

Others feel that, as at a concert, one should show appreciation to the musicians.

Something to ponder...

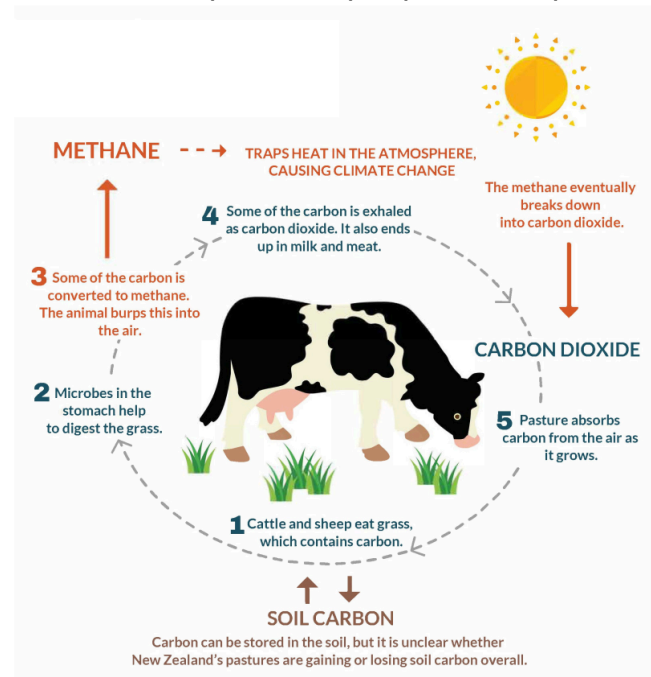
A Message from our CDMC:



Food Choices that Help our Climate

One of the challenges on WUC's recent **Earth Month Bingo Challenge** was to “***eat a meatless meal***”. How does eating even one meatless meal per week per person help the Earth? Let's find out!

By choosing to eat less meat in your diet, you are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide), which are produced in great quantities from meat and dairy farming. According to World Animal Protection Canada, eating one plant-based meal instead of a meat-based meal per week can save nearly 100 kg of CO₂ emissions per year!



Effects of deforestation

Biodiversity loss

Deforestation has a ripple effect on the ecosystem, contributing to the extinction of species.

Soil erosion

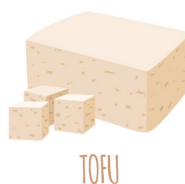
Deforestation destroys the plant cover, allowing the soil to dry out and erode.

Climate change

Deforestation releases excess CO₂ into the atmosphere, warming the Earth's temperature.

As well, choosing to eat less meat in your diet, you are helping to reduce deforestation - the clearing of forests - which is done to provide land for grazing animals and for growing animal feed. When trees are cut down, the carbon they store is released, adding to global warming.

In other words, by choosing to eat more plant-based meals (such as meals that include tofu, legumes and nuts), you are protecting biodiversity and the earth's ecosystems.



Continued on next page ...

Food Choices that Help our Climate (cont'd)

Making the choice to eat less meat in your diet may be a simple decision or one that is not a welcomed choice. To navigate cooking with less meat, you can begin by looking for recipes either online or in various cook books at the Whitby Library.

My family began our journey to eat less meat by starting the popular routine of having “Meatless Mondays”. For us, we began by reimagining traditionally meat-heavy dishes like meatloaf, meatballs and shepherd’s pie. Instead of using all ground meat in our recipes, we cooked some lentils or chickpeas and combined them at first with about 3/4 of the usual amount of meat. Over the weeks of having our “Meatless Monday” dishes, we reduced the amount of meat, while increasing the amount of legumes, until we now eat those dishes with only plants. And over many months, our Meatless Mondays led into choosing to eat less meat or no meat on most days of the week.

One new cook book my family discovered recently at the Whitby Library is called, “Mostly Meatless”. It has a wonderful variety of recipes that include either modest amounts of meat or no meat at all in them. Vegetables, herbs and spices are used in innovative ways to help create the very flavourful dishes that have been inspired from cuisines around the world.



Wherever you are on your journey to eat less meat and to make a positive impact on our climate, you can find many recipes that will provide you and your family with exciting new flavours and textures to try.

Challenge yourself to find a meatless recipe that your family enjoys and share it with the rest of us at Westminster!



~ with potato gnocchi & cannellini beans (protein)



~ with farro grain & feta cheese (both are protein)

And here's a tasty one to get you started...

A Meatless Dish that Helps Us 'C.A.R.E.' for our Earth



Wild Rice, Lentil & Orzo Salad

Makes 6-8 servings. It can be made ahead and refrigerated up to 1 day.

Salad

1 C wild rice
1 C green or brown lentils
1/2 C orzo pasta
1/2 C currants
1/2 C diced red onion
1 C diced red or orange pepper
(or 1 whole pepper)
1/2 C frozen corn, defrosted
feta cheese - to be crumbled

Dressing

3 T white/red wine vinegar
1 tsp each cumin, Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp each white sugar, salt,
ground coriander
1/4 tsp each nutmeg, paprika,
turmeric, ground cardamom
pinch each cinnamon, cloves, cayenne
5 T olive oil

Preparing the Salad

In a large saucepan of boiling salted water, cover and cook the wild rice until tender to the bite, about 35 minutes.

In a separate pan of boiling salted water, cover and cook the lentils until tender, about 25 minutes.

In a third pan of boiling salted water, cook the orzo just until tender, about 5 minutes.

Drain the rice, lentils and orzo and let each cool. Then combine in a large bowl with the rest of the salad ingredients, except the feta cheese.

Preparing the Dressing

In a medium bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients except the oil. Whisk in the oil.

Pour the dressing over the rice mixture to taste, and toss gently. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.

Before serving, crumble feta cheese on top of the salad in the bowl.



Westminster's Heat Pump Project!



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

The '**Trillium project**' started in January 2024, when the Westminster community had to address two important but very costly needs:

(1) to replace the three aging HVAC systems (over 20 years old) while ensuring a continuous uninterrupted access to the community space; and (2) to repair and upgrade the sidewalk entryway to ensure a safe and accessible entrance. An application for a grant to cover those two needs was submitted to the Ontario Trillium Foundation in March 2024. The Ontario Trillium Foundation provided the Westminster community with a \$126,500 Capital Grant.



The equipment that was selected (new furnaces and heat pumps) has now been installed and the 14 user groups / over 400 local community people who use the space on a monthly basis were not interrupted throughout the installation process! Our new heat pump - furnace HVAC system will reduce natural gas consumption by 2700 cubic meters and our carbon footprint by 19 tons yearly!!

Our 'green' action makes Westminster United Church one of the first large commercial buildings to install heat pumps in Durham.

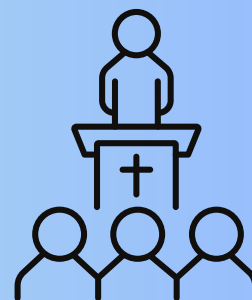


The sidewalk area at the entrance to Westminster's community space is now renovated / upgraded, providing a safer and improved barrier-free entrance.

The '**Trillium project**' has been completed and under budget. The actual cost was \$85,000!

Many thanks to **Bob Neil** and **King Whitney**, and the **property team** for their efforts in successfully completing this project.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs) at Westminster



A **licensed lay worship leader** is a full member of the United Church of Canada who has been determined to have gifts and a sense of call to the ministry of worship leadership and preaching, and who has developed these gifts through participation in a course of study, and is licensed by a regional council.

LLWLs provide pulpit supply at any ECORC community of faith. This can include while the minister is on vacation, illness, study leave, compassionate leave, etc., and also at churches that presently do not have a minister, amid a new call process or otherwise.

Presently there are 22 approved LLWLs in the **East Central Ontario Region (ECORC)**. There are also 7 other people in the 4-module 2-year LLWL course of study. Like other UCC regions, ECORC has a LLWL Forum that provides support: ECORC's Covenant Support Team and the ECORC Pastoral Relations Minister in recruiting, training, interviewing, and recommending the licensing of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs). Paul Kneebone and Susan Pleasance are now both members of this Forum, with Paul as the secretary. There are 5-6 LLWLs on the Forum, as well as 2 ministers (one who serves as chair).

There is also a LLWL Network, for all currently approved LLWLs and any students in the United-in-Learning course of study. Online gatherings are held 3-4 times each year, with the opportunity to share ideas and feedback for the LLWL Forum. There are also 2 PD learning opportunities every year organized by the LLWL Forum, usually in the Spring and Fall. Susan Pleasance is the current LLWL Network chair and Paul Kneebone is the secretary.

Presently, there are 4 approved ECORC (East Central Ontario Region) LLWLs that are members of the Westminster community of faith, including their inaugural year as a LLWL:

- Susan Pleasance (2004)
- Helen Bowman (2011)
- John Bowman (2011)
- Paul Kneebone (2014)

Carol O'Neil also became a LLWL in 2018, but decided not to renew her 3-year license this spring.

As part of their annual requirements, each LLWL is required to preach one Sunday in their home community of faith. The 3-year renewal process includes an interview – as well as submission of an annual pulpit supply log, up-to-date Police Vulnerable Sector Check & Boundaries Course every 5 years, PD/Learning log, sample sermon-opening prayer, prayers of the people, etc.

See this ECORC website link to find out more about LLWLs --- [Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum - East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada](#)

From



Thanks to your ongoing support of *The Pantry*,
its volunteers are planning for
“The Pantry People Picnic Party”.

This picnic will be held for 75 pre-registered clients of *The Pantry* - adults and children - on **Tuesday, July 8th between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm** - *rain or shine!*
Halal hot dogs and sausages will be on the menu with a salad and a dessert.
The Foodman Group will be barbecuing.

There will be some games for the kids with prizes for all who play -- maybe we can entice some grown-up kids to play...

Without you and our communities of support, we could not offer this summer fun.

To everyone who lends a helping hand in whatever way they are able...

MERCI MIIGWETCH THANK YOU



Kind Hearts are the Gardens

Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind words are the roots,
Kind thoughts are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
And keep out the weeds;
Fill it with sunshine,
Kind words and kind deeds.

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

HAPPY
Pride
MONTH



**"My mission in
life is not merely
to survive, but
to thrive."**

—MAYA ANGELOU

RS



You're invited...

*...to join us for Worship,
In-person or Online*

*If you're new to Westminster,
we're so glad to meet you!*

*If Westminster is your church home,
we're so glad to see you again!*

