

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.



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

For the 40 days of Lent we are invited to reflect..

This season is about the space we create
to notice what we've been
filling our lives with instead of God.

As we journey toward the cross, we carry the awareness of not just our own mortality, but also that of Jesus whose pain was real, just like ours.

Easter is a wonderful celebration
but we can't rush past the hard stuff.
So we go through Lent and are honest about what it
means to be fully human, trusting that hope
is always somewhere nearby.

We hope that this programming guide will inspire you to explore opportunities to enter into this Holy Season, to connect with others and God.

DICHOTONES A Lenten Series in Luke

Welcome to a series where we explore various stories that show us how Jesus intentionally highlighted polarities to emphasize the surprising love of God. For example, he described a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbour. He emphasized the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100. He dined with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion. As we reflect on the dichotomies of "Stranger and Neighbour" "Lost and Found" "Insider and Outsider" we may find our assumptions challenged. We might even be surprised to discover that the dichotomies aren't what we thought they were at all.

(Adapted from "Everything In Between" | A Sanctified Art LLC| sanctifiedart.org)

Ash Wednesday

March 5 at 7pm

Followed by the Lenten Labyrinth at 7:30pm Luke 9:51-62 Jesus Turns to Jerusalem

Lent 1

March 9 at 10:30am "Stranger and Neighbour" Luke 10:25-42 The Good Samaritan

Lent2

March 16 at 10:30am "Rest and Growth" Luke 13:1-9; 31-35 Lament over Jerusalem

Lent 3

March 23 at 10:30am "Lost and Found" Luke 15:1-32 Lost Sheep, Coin, Son

Lent 4

March 30 at 10:30am "Insider and Outsider" Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man and Lazarus

Lent 5

April 6 at 10:30am "Righteousness and Mercy" Luke 18:31-19:10 Zacchaeus



Palm Sunday

April 13 at 10:30am "Shouting and Silence"

Luke 19:29-40

Triumphal Entry: Beginning of Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

April 17 at 7:00pm with communion.

Luke 22:1-27

The Last Supper

Good Friday

April 18 at 7:00pm

Luke 23:32-47

Early Easter Service

April 20 at 8:30am

Outdoor service, weather pending with participation by our Confirmation Class.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Join us for a lovely Easter breakfast between the 8:30am and 10:30am Easter services made by the Food Guys!

Easter Sunday

April 20 at 10:30am

Luke 24:1-12

"Grief and Hope"

lenten Studies

Lenten Bible Study "The Hurt We Carry, The Hope We Find"

Thursdays 7:00pm - 8:30pm In Person Youth Room at Westminster

A 4-week Lenten Study from the Everything Happens Project

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday with the words, "you are dust and to dust you shall return."

For 40 days we face the truth: life is fragile, and so are we. This study will explore the meaning of the season of Lent through scripture reading, video clips, reflection and discussion.

March 20 March 27 April 3 April 10 April 17 Being Human (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10) Resistance (Luke 4:1-14) Lament (Luke 13:31-35) Imagination (Isaiah 55:1-12) Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm

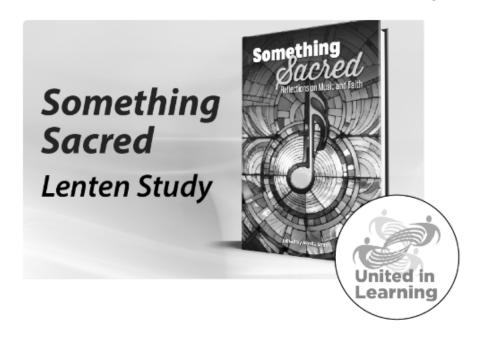




Register To Attend

Online Lenten Study with The United Church of Canada

Something Sacred — Lenten Study 2025 Tuesdays at 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET, March 11 – April 15, 2025 Scan the QR code for more information or to sign up.

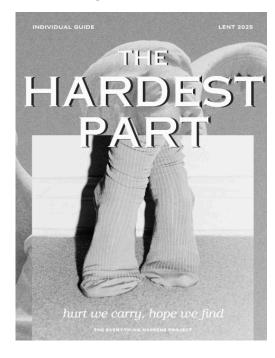




A Lenten Daily Devotional from the Everyday Project

Easter and the resurrection is such a great celebration but we can't rush past the hard stuff--the grief, the regrets, the messes we can't untangle.

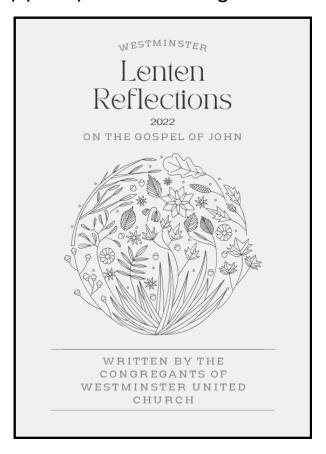
That's what Lent is about. A time we are honest about what it means to be fully human, trusting that hope is somewhere nearby. Here's a daily guide:





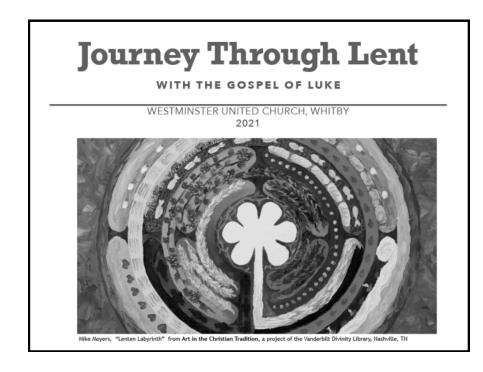
Lenten Devotional Books from WUC for Individual Study

Congregants have participated in writing Lenten reflections that have been compiled into downloadable booklets. Click the button to download a copy for your own self-guided study.











What's Happening at Westminster

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday, March 4 5:30pm - 7:00pm

There will be a Pancake supper in the gym on Shrove Tuesday! Voluntary donations will be accepted the door. All are welcome! There will be pancakes and sausages for all, and activities for the children. See you there!

Lenten Labyrinth

Wednesday March 5 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm

We can sometimes feel ourselves walking in metaphorical wildernesses in our lives. Feeling alone, adrift, apart, or lost? Come find comfort at the quiet centre. Our sanctuary contains a labyrinth. We welcome you to walk the path to the centre in prayerful meditation. The sanctuary will be a peaceful space glowing with candlelight. Space for conversation and reflection is available in the founder's room after your walk.

Easter EGGstravaganza

Saturday April 19 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Our exciting Easter EGGstravaganza will take place at Westminster this year for our children 12 years and under. We will have crafts, games and Easter treats! Don't miss the Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 am!

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Sunday April 20

Join us for a lovely Easter breakfast between the 8:30am and 10:30am Easter services prepared by the Food Guys!

Annual Congregational Meeting

March 2, 2025 at 12:25

Westminster United Church will be holding its Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) on March 2, 2025. We will have a light lunch of sandwiches and soup in the gym following worship prepared by the United Church Women and the Food Man Group. The meeting will begin at 12:15pm in the sanctuary. The 2024 Annual Report will be presented at the ACM and the meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about your faith community. Please register if you will be attending in person.



Register To Attend



Live Stream Link

Westminster Planning Meeting

March 30, 2025 following worship for 1 hour

Learn more about the Westminster draft plan 2025 – 2027 and provide your input and support. Coffee, Tea, Juice and muffins/scones will be served.

To prepare for this meeting, some thoughts on Lent:

Rather than a time of "giving up" things, can we start to take on new things during Lent? Lent is a time to make change in our lives, sometimes by giving something up and also by looking to renew our faith. How do we renew our faith – by practicing prayer, using a devotion or joining a bible study and also through good works or deeds. Consider what you can do for your church, your community, your faith as we move into Lent. Consider that as far as good works or deeds – no work or deed is small.



Register To Attend

Easter Flowers

Donations will be received now until April 13.

Easter is a time to remember our friends and family who have passed on. At Westminster, we honour them with Memorial Donations that are acknowledged in the Easter Sunday e-mail blast and the monthly Westminster World newsletter. This year, we would also like to include photos of your loved ones that keep them forever in our hearts.

Funds raised are used to purchase beautiful spring flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Following the service, these flowers are then distributed to members and friends in need of some cheering up as they may be ill, in hospital or long-term care; have been experiencing difficult times; or recently lost a loved one. The list of recipients is compiled by the Ministry and Office staff, the Wellness Committee and the Friendly Visitors. Any remaining flowers will be delivered to someone who is newly identified and needs remembering. If you know of someone who would appreciate a gift of flowers, please notify the church office, preferably by e-mail at wuc@westminster-uc.ca or if necessary, by phone.

Memorials - New Process!

- •The memorial listing must be sent to Olivia Wild at oliviacwild@gmail.com
- •For the subject line type: EASTER MEMORIALS
- •Include the name(s) of the donors and who you are remembering.
- •Photos are welcome with your memorial, if you wish please attach a copy.
- •Via e-transfer to www.estminster-uc.ca. Security question = "EASTER" (please use all caps). Security answer = "MEMORIALS" (please use all caps) Please also include the following in the message line: "for Easter Memorials" •Via cheque or cash. Place your cheque or cash donation in an envelope, and with a place of the capture of t
- and either drop off at the church office or place in the offering plate during Sunday Service. Please indicate "Easter Memorials" and your name on the envelope (both are important!)

Any memorial funds remaining from the purchase of flowers will go to Westminster's Local Fund. The full amount of your donation will be included on your 2025 tax receipt.

If you are able to assist with the delivery of flowers on Sunday, April 20, or if you would like more information, please contact **Crystal Smith** at **crystal.a.smith55@gmail.com**.

Receiving the potted plants at Easter brings heartfelt joy and blessings to the recipients, reminding them that they are part of our family. Please consider donating today.

With thanks from The Wellness Committee

for Children and Youth

Nursery

Sunday mornings, during Worship

The nursery is open and ready to welcome our little ones. Volunteers are available to watch young ones during worship. Join us as we learn, share and grow together! We can't wait to see you!

J.a.M. (Jesus and Me)

Sunday mornings, during Worship

Each Sunday this fall there will be unique activities and programming for: Nursery, and our Little Jammers ages 4-5 and 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

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.

Cards For Our Community

March 20 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Youth Event

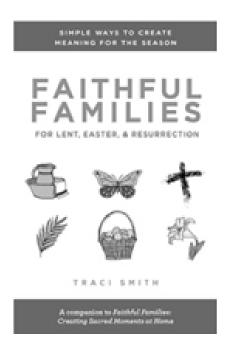
Want to spread some joy to residents of a local nursing home? Come out tonight and make homemade cards to be distributed for Easter! There will be cookies for you too! No experience is needed, just you and your creativity. Sign up and help us bring a smile to a stranger!

Easter EGGstravaganza

Saturday April 19 from 10:00am - 12:00pm - J.a.M Kids Event

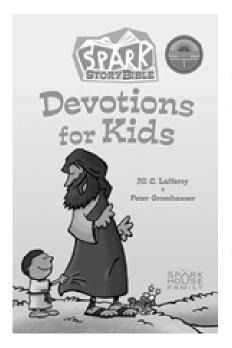
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Lenten Resources For Kids



Faithful Families for Lent, Easter and Resurrection: Simple Ways to Create Meaning for the Season by Traci Smith – January 2022

This is the book I got for my family for this year after I saw it recommended by a few authors I follow. Included are some fun and easy practices for making the season meaningful as we seek to share the deep mysteries of Lent, Easter, and Resurrection with our kids. There are also some theological notes for parents on addressing the violence of the crucifixion and the meaning of Jesus' death.



Spark Story Bible Devotions for Kids Published by Sparkhouse Family August 2016

This gets a lot of use in my house. It can be paired with The Spark Story Bible if you have it, but verses can be read from any bible you have. These devotions journey through 100 different Bible stories with questions for reflection, key verses, prayers, and family activity ideas. The New Testament devotions include stories from Jesus' ministry, including parables, miracles, and his death and resurrection.



Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter by Laura Alary – January 2016

Another favourite of our family. This book invites children to encounter Lent with all their senses, and to experience activities in Lent as part of a life of discipleship. The suggested activities are connected to the story of Jesus and encourage us to make room for God in our lives and in the world around us.

Fellowship

& Other Events

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.

Learning Event with UCC Moderator (in Lindsay)

Saturday, April 5th, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

United Church Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne leads an inspiring learning event: "Flourishing in Faith, Church, Community and Leadership". Location: Cambridge St. United Church in Lindsay, ON

This event is open to everyone from High School age and above. As the event concludes, pizza will be served for those who wish to remain a little longer.

A group will be attending from Westminster including our confirmation class. If you would like to attend please let us know by Friday March 21, 2025 by filling out the online registration form (below) or by calling the church office, 905-723-6442



Register To Attend



Additional information:

- This event is FREE for High School and College/University age people
- Older adults may make a free-will cash contribution to help cover costs



905-723-6442



wuc@westminster-uc.ca



westminster-uc.ca



1850 Rossland Rd. E Whitby, Ontario L1N 3P2



https://www.youtube.com/c/ WestminsterUnitedChurchWhitby



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https://www.instagram.com/westminsterunited_church/