

A HYMN of THANKSGIVING

All good gifts around us
are sent from Heaven above;
We thank you God, O holy God,
for all your love.

We thank you, then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.

Accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts, and,
what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts.

(VU 520)





The Labyrinth Circle of Westminster United Church is pleased to announce that the Labyrinth will be open on **Wednesday, October 1st from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.**

Prayer helps us keep life in perspective. Prayer may not keep us from the rise and fall of our fortunes or the inevitable low points in life, but it can help to give us the strength to rise above adversity.

The Labyrinth is a resource to help us explore the expression of God within us through prayer and meditation. All are welcome to drop by for a quiet walk along a healing path.



UCW INVITATION

Looking forward to seeing our members at our October UCW meeting.
We will be gathering on **Monday, October 6th at 2pm in the Founders' Room.**

New members are always welcome.

Fun and fellowship this Fall!

Sues and Cecile



Our kick-off date is **Sunday, October 5th**, also World Communion Sunday!! Our treasurer, Paul Pierson, will have an announcement that Sunday, which will be full of information and simple explanations with narratives of our numbers for this year and next year! After this, during the **week of Oct. 6th -10th**, please look out for your mailed package which will include an invitation letter, a 2025 'donation to date' statement and your intentional response card.

- **Sundays: Oct. 12th, 19th and 26th - special campaign announcements**
- **Nov. 2nd - Last day, please, to return your response cards so we can begin planning for 2026**
- **Oct. 26th - Special announcement to celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100th year anniversary; introducing: 100 years/100 people/\$100 special envelopes!!**
- **Sunday Nov. 16th - Potluck Luncheon to celebrate your responses and results, your \$100 special envelopes returns AND to celebrate Westminster's 67th anniversary Sunday!!**

Your Stewardship/Finance Team,
at work for all of us!!





CALLING ALL BAKERS!!

We are gearing up for the annual Westminster Christmas Market and Café. If you are a baker, please consider donating some of your fabulous baked favourites to the UCW Bake Table.

In 2024, this table was able to raise \$2,400.00 for our community of faith. This was 53% more than 2023 and it was all due to all the bakers! Thank you!

For 2025, please provide the following with your baking:

- name, address and phone number of baker
- list of ingredients OR the recipe (whichever is easier for you)

Why?????

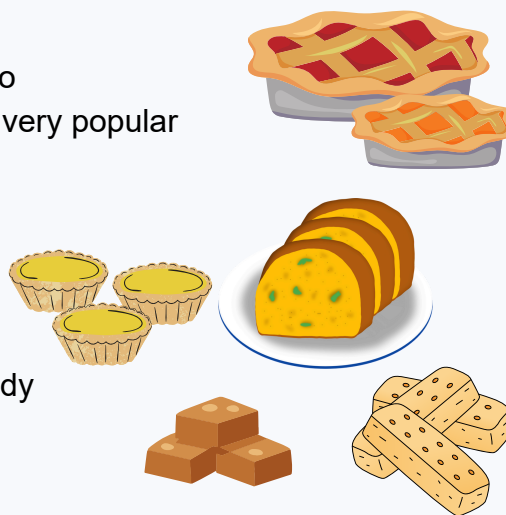
This is a Health Department requirement and we must collect this information for any food items that we are selling. The health department may request it at any time. It is also useful when purchasers are asking about ingredients in the case of allergies or just likes/dislikes. We are not after your secret recipe! (Honest!) After 30 days, this information will be destroyed.

If we do not have this information, we are not able to accept the baking.

Suggestions to bake:

- Pies are always the first to go
- Tea biscuits and scones are very popular
- Squares of any kind
- Cookies of different flavours
- Loaves
- Butter tarts/other tarts
- Shortbread
- Fudge/other homemade candy

~ cont'd





Tips:

Baked goods sell quickly when:

- They are packaged in clear plastic, such as zip lock bags
- They are clearly labelled

Drop off times for baking:

- **Friday, November 7th, 2025 from 2 – 4pm and 6 – 8pm**
(*NOT on the Saturday morning of the Christmas Market, since the bake table is very busy*)
- If this does not work for you, please contact Ava Tomlinson at (905) 728-4436 to arrange another time. Please do not drop off baking without arranging another time.



Our crafters **NEED YOUR HELP!!**

We will be making Christmas Gift Baskets for the Christmas Bazaar

Christmas is coming ... but not to rush it!

While you are doing your Fall Clean-up or decluttering, set aside your NEW items like candles, coffee, tea, kitchen stuff, bric-a-brac and other NEW and UNUSED items for our gift baskets. We can use holiday nicknacks, crafty stuff, gift baskets, holiday wrapping and ribbon to make our baskets.

Your donations can be dropped off in the Christmas Wrapped Box in the Narthex on Sundays or in the back office during the week [until October 12th](#).

Thank you for contributions to our creative endeavours.



[Of course, be sure to visit the Christmas Decor section at the Bazaar on November 8th.](#)

Contact Sue Neil for more info at 905-668-7057.

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 Ministry and Personnel Committee.

C O M M I T T E E

O As an employer, Westminster United Church has certain obligations to its employees. In addition to provincial employment legislation and regulations, Westminster is also accountable to the United Church of Canada for employment matters.

R Responsibilities for our staff are delegated to the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee by the Church Council. The M&P Committee meets at least monthly, and depending on what is happening at Westminster, sometimes several times per month.

N The Manual of The United Church of Canada (UCC) prescribes that all pastoral charges (e.g. congregations) must have an M&P Committee. UCC Policies and Procedures identify three distinct roles for M&P Committees: a consultative and supportive role, a healthy relationships role, and a supervisory role.

E **Overall responsibilities of the Committee include:**

- R**
1. being available for consultation and support for matters involving the staff team;
 2. overseeing the relationship of staff to each other and to people in the congregation;
 3. regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all staff;
 4. making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to our Church Council;
 5. revising position descriptions of staff as needed;
 6. establishing annual goals and clarifying expectations;
 7. conducting annual performance reviews with staff;
 8. ensuring staff make use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given;
 9. reviewing our staffing compliment and team structure, and making recommendations to Council to address the shifting needs of our faith community;
 10. assisting in the recruitment and hiring of staff.

Our five member Committee works with the Staff team; each of our Staff has an appointed M&P Representative with whom they work collaboratively on a regular basis.

The current members of the M&P Committee are listed below. If you have a question pertaining to a staffing matter, please reach out to one of our Committee members:

Janet Hendrikse
Katie Bonikowsky
Joanne MacPherson
Lorraine Joynt
Peter Spratt





Our Annual Snowflake Christmas Bazaar

The joy of the Christmas season will soon be upon us, and with it comes one of the most beloved traditions -- our Snowflake Christmas Bazaar! Join us as our church is filled with the sights, sounds and scents of the season.

On **November 8, 2025 from 9am to 2pm**, you'll find handmade crafts lovingly created by church members, home-baked treats that taste just like Christmas memories, and special treasures from local small businesses who bring their gifts to share.

This is more than just a bazaar -- it's a time of fellowship, of neighbours greeting one another, and of preparing our hearts and homes for Christmas.

Come early and enjoy a "wake-up" coffee and delicious mini donuts, which will be on sale from 9am to 10am; browse the tables; do your shopping; visit the Clothing Boutique and the Bookstore and buy something wonderful for yourself or a loved one. Then treat yourself to a delicious, hearty and festive lunch at our Snowflake Café, which will be open from 11am to 2pm!

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating the season together.

MUSIC NOTES:



A wonderful time was had by choir members and family at our traditional “Welcome-Back-to-Choir” potluck dinner **on September 4th**! And while family members tidied up, the choristers got back to preparing music for our worship services.

We are looking forward to another harmonious year!
**Thanks to all for a memorable evening of food, fun
and fellowship to launch the Fall season.**

Choir rehearsals are **Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm** in the Founders’ Room.
New members will be warmly welcomed.

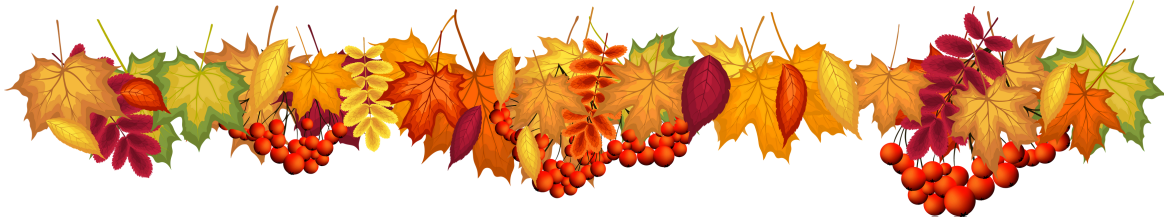


We, in the Westminster Senior Choir and Dr. Ben Stein, wish to acknowledge the many, many, many, MANY years of dedication and hard work of the choristers who have retired in the recent past. Most recently, Paula L. has hung up her gown and collars for the last time. Shortly before that, Steve C. stepped down from the loft. And in the post COVID world of change, Bonnie B. and Lynn M. left our ranks.

We are extremely grateful for their years of service to the ministry of music at Westminster.

Keep calm and sing on!

Thank you



I am grateful for the bright sun and the refreshing rain.

I am grateful for my life.

I am grateful for my friends and family and the laughter and love we share.

I am grateful for the farmers who toil to provide the food I need.

I am grateful for my home.

I am grateful for the senses which open to me the beauty of all creation:
sight, sound, taste, smell, touch.

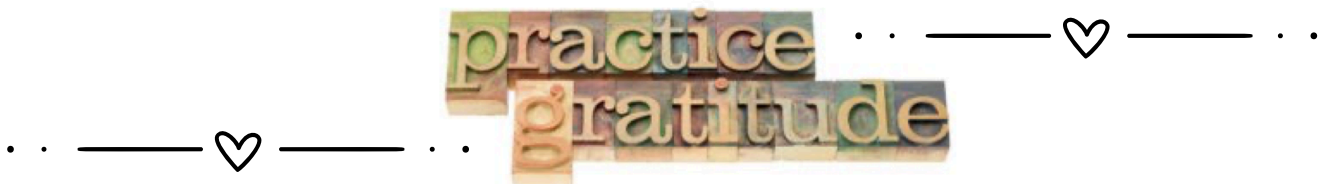
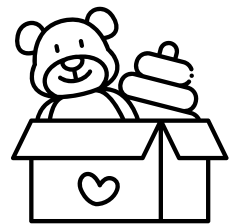


MARKET PLACE

A new column may soon be launched in the Westminster World!

Would you be interested in an opportunity to donate items no longer needed (but in perfect working order) to someone in the Westminster community?

Please send a note to the editor with your thoughts on this initiative:
bcrumb@sympatico.ca



Let's Celebrate!

Congratulations to Maureen and Bob Dingman who are celebrating their 60th Anniversary this month.



Congratulations to Helen and John Bowman who are celebrating 40 years as dedicated LLWLs (Licensed Lay Worship Leaders) and are planning to retire in December.



The UCW Fall Retreat at Camp [quin-mo-lac](https://www.quin-mo-lac.org/)

Did you know that Quin-Mo-Lac, one of our most beautiful United Church retreat/camp centres, is celebrating its 75th year?

If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, I recommend you do. Please check out their website for opportunities to visit. Cecile and I (new co-presidents of Westminster's UCW) had a chance to visit in early September as a part of the UCW weekend. Although the weekend was cut short because of the threat of wild fires, we still had an amazing time.

Our guest speaker, Brian Jones, led us in a workshop called "*A Purposeful Journey*" where we learned about how to create meaningful bucket lists. There were also opportunities to learn about Prayer Circles, Healing Touch, Drumming Circles, and my personal favourite, Geocaching, to explore different types of prayer. As well, we had the opportunity to meet our new United Church Women (UCW) National President, Barbara DeJeet.

I invite more ladies to join us next year.

Sues



Season of Service

**Saturday October 18th, 2025 @ Westminster UC
In the Founders' Room from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.**

You are invited to come and make
Christmas Cards for the Friendly Visitors Christmas cookies delivery
to the shut-in members of our community of faith.



For more information: contact Susan P (905-493-3122)

Grace

The word grace is defined as a “short thanksgiving before or after [a] meal” and comes from the same Latin root as the word gratitude. The familiar childhood grace below has been recited before many meals, teaching children the idea that our Creator has provided for all our needs:

Thank you for the world so sweet;
Thank you for the food we eat;
Thank you for the birds that sing;
Thank you God for everything.

Ralph Waldo Emerson penned this poem of gratitude:

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

Let's all take this **Season of Thanksgiving** to reflect on our many gifts and truly foster an 'attitude of gratitude' in our families.



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!*



**LET'S KEEP EVERYONE
BREATHING WELL!**

**FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY
AND WELL-BEING OF ALL ,
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING
SCENTED PRODUCTS WHILE AT
WESTMINSTER!**

THANK YOU!