

BE WELCOMED
BE NOURISHED
BELONG



PROGRAMS & EVENTS
FALL 2025

*there's space for you
at the table*

A close-up photograph of a wooden table surface, showing the natural grain and texture of the wood. The table is composed of several planks, and the lighting highlights the wood's texture.

We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome to the Fall Season at WUC!

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength
and love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these.
Mark 12:30-31*

You matter here.

Each person brings something unique,
and together we create a vibrant, living community of faith.

Relationships are at the heart of who we are.

This guide is full of opportunities to connect, grow in faith,
and deepen relationships with God and one another.

Whether you're new or have been at WUC for years,
there's a place for you.

If you'd like to learn more, reach out to the church office by phone,
email or speak to someone on Sunday. We hope you'll find
something here that *inspires you* to get involved and excited
about the journey of faith!

Upcoming Sundays

Sermon Series: Grounded in Creation



September 7
Week 1 - Earth
Genesis 1-2:3



September 14
Week 2 - Water
Noah and the Flood
Welcome Sunday
Welcome of New Members



September 21
Week 3 - Fire
Exodus 3:1-7
Baptism Sunday



September 28
Week 4 - Air
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Orange Shirt Sunday
Truth and Reconciliation

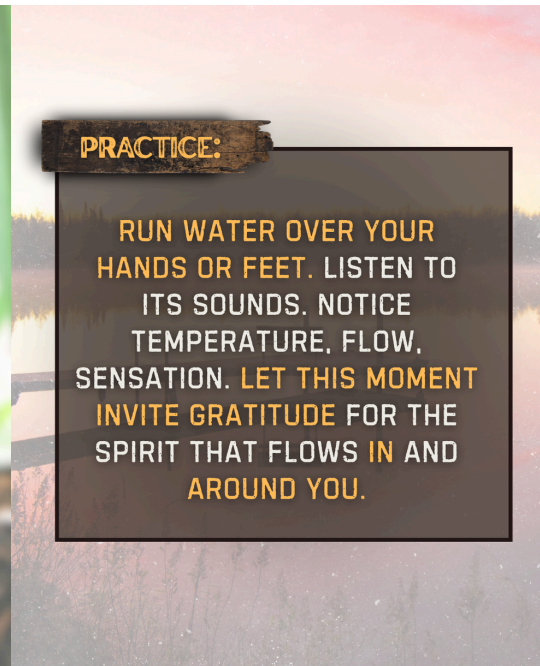


October 5
Week 5 - Flora and Fauna
Luke 12:22-34
World Communion Sunday

Participate Online!

Grounded in Creation

Keep an eye out each week on social media for activities, faith practices, and prayers that follow each Sunday's theme.



Dearest Westminster,

This series invites us to read stories of Scripture as if they were letters from God.

What if the call of Samuel, the anointing of David, or Elijah's burnout were "letters" for anyone on the brink... of calling or collapse or exile or return?

Sometimes God's words bring comfort, sometimes they confront. Yet all carry God's deep longing for justice, healing and hope.



Sermon Series:

Letters To A People On The Brink

October 12 - November 23



IT'S THE ~~END~~ ARRIVAL

Season of Advent
November 30 – December 21

Advent is not only preparing for the birth of a baby, it is preparing for the invasion of God's justice, mercy and presence into our world. To say that Christ is coming means the old ways are ending BUT that ending is an arrival.

Over the four weeks of Advent we'll explore how God shows up, in lament, longing, and ultimately, in the flesh.

Special Sundays

Orange Shirt Sunday

September 28 during Sunday worship

On this Sunday ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we wear our orange shirts to worship. We remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions. Together we commit to the ongoing journey of truth and reconciliation.

World Communion Sunday

October 5 during Sunday worship

On this special Sunday, we gather at Christ's table with Christians around the world celebrating the unity we share in God's love. This day of global communion reminds us that, across all differences and borders we are one body in Christ.

Westminster's 67th Anniversary with Community Potluck

Westminster's 67th Anniversary

November 16 after church

Come and celebrate 67 years of faith, fellowship, and community!
The Stewardship Committee is hosting a joyful Community Potluck
Bring a dish to share, your appetite, and your memories as we gather to give thanks for all God has done through our church family. All are welcome!

"Taste and see that the Lord is good!" – Psalm 34:8

Get involved on Sunday!

Looking for a simple and meaningful way to get involved?
We'd love to have you join one of our Sunday teams!

Read Scripture

Reading scripture during worship on Sunday's is a wonderful way to share the Story of God and connect more deeply with the worship experience.

Be a Greeter

Welcoming people at the door with a warm smile and friendly hello helps others feel seen, valued, and at home as they arrive at Westminster.

Serve Tea & Coffee

Sipping from a warm mug while chatting with your friends after worship is a treasured time for connecting with and enjoying each other's company. Brew a pot of coffee with your friends and feel at home with your community.

These are great ways to connect, serve, and be part of what makes Sunday mornings at Westminster feel so great!

Interested?

Sign up in the Narthex or send us an email.

We'd love to hear from you!

wuc@westminster-uc.ca

for Children and Youth

Welcome
BACK TO
J.a.M!



SCAN HERE >



Nursery / Little Jammers

For children 0 – 5 years old

You little ones will find a welcoming nursery full of fun things – toys and activities to nurture their young spirits. The nursery is also available for personal use with your little ones, giving you a quiet space for feeding and comforting.

Little Jammers, ages 4–5, will enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and play! We focus on building a sense of wonder about God's love while encouraging creativity, sharing, and friendship.

J.a.M. (Jesus and Me)

For children 6–11 years old

Each Sunday this fall there will be unique activities and programming for: Explore Bible stories, and go deeper with conversations, crafts, experiments and games. The 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

For youth 12+ years old

Just Jammin' Sunday School is where teens 12+ get real about life and faith. Not just Bible stories—it's about how faith helps you handle everything from school to friendships to big decisions. Chat, share, and grow with others who get it!

Youth Events

Our youth group ministry is going through a transition as we search for new leadership, but we're committed to keeping youth engaged this fall!

We're actively working behind the scenes to develop ways of connecting and engaging our young people. These programs rely heavily on the support and energy of volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved and helping ensure we maintain our youth programs, we'd love to hear from you! Stay tuned for updates, and thank you for being part of this important ministry

Game Nights

Friday September 26 from 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Friday October 24 from 7:00pm – 9:30pm

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!

Youth Music Group

Practice on Wednesdays 7:00pm – 8:00pm from September – June

Performing during Sunday worship, dates TBD

This group is open to ages 13 and up, offering instruction and performance opportunities for teens and young adults in a Rock Band format. If your child loves to sing, play an instrument or wants to learn how to write songs, then this group will help them grow their skills and confidence!

Westminster Kid Choristers

Practice on Sundays after worship service

Perform for special occasions, including the Christmas Eve Pageant

For children ages 4+. We sing a fun repertoire encompassing everything from thirteenth century carols to modern pop and folk. We also offer basic instruction in sight-singing. All children are warmly invited!

Groups, Workshops, Events

New Members and Inquirers Group (In Person)

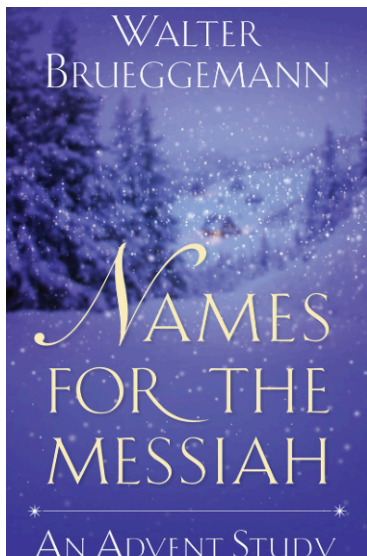
**Sundays after worship October 19, November 2 & 9 from 12:15pm – 2:00pm
Led by Rev. Michelle Robinson. To register: rev.m.robinson@gmail.com**



Are you interested in becoming a member of The United Church of Canada? Curious about what we believe, how we live out our faith, and what it means to be part of Westminster?

This group is for anyone exploring membership or simply wanting to learn more about the United Church's history, beliefs, and practices, as well as the life and mission of our Westminster community. Come with your questions, your curiosity and your story, Everyone is welcome and there is no pressure to join.

Advent Bible Study (Online)



**Tuesdays 7:00pm – 8:30pm December 2, 9, 16, 23
Register: rev.m.robinson@gmail.com**

**Book: Names for the Messiah by Walter Brueggemann
\$21 paperback, \$12 ebook (available at book retailers)**

Led by Rev. Michelle Robinson

This Advent, explore the rich meaning behind the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6 – *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.

Using Walter Brueggemann's book as our guide, we'll study what these names meant in their original context, how they were understood in the time of Jesus, and what they reveal to us today. Join us for a thoughtful, scripture-based journey through the hope and promise of Advent.

Queer Space Chat (In Person)

Wednesday October 29 & November 26 at 7:00pm

Register: wuc@westminster-uc.ca

Led by Rev. Michelle Robinson and Kirsten Grant

Parish Mosaic is excited to introduce Queer Space at Westminster, a new small group gathering this fall created for LGBTQ+ identified members of our community. Over five weeks, we'll come together for food, fellowship, and meaningful conversation as we explore Queer lived experience in faith. We will read articles, sermons, and more as we share and reflect with one another.

Witness Blanket

Traveling Exhibition in Cannington

Thursday October 16 – Gather at Westminster at 9:30am to head to Trinity – St. Andrew's, United Church, Cannington

Indicate your interest to attend: wuc@westminster-uc.ca

The Witness Blanket is a powerful art installation created by master carver Carey Newman to recognize the atrocities of the residential school era, honour the children and symbolize ongoing reconciliation. Trinity-St. Andrews is hosting one of only two travelling replicas of The Witness Blanket, (maintained by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg). from September 7 to October 18, 2025.

Admission is free, open daily from 12 noon to 8 PM (closed Mondays). For more information about the original work visit witnessblanket.ca

Children & Youth Mental Health: Fostering Resilience in Times of Stress

September 21 after worship

Register to Attend, childcare available

As a community of faith, caring for the emotional and spiritual well-being of our children is part of how we live out our faith. Right after worship, we invite you to stay for an engaging and practical seminar led by Dr. Karen Brozina- Hawley, Ph.D., C.Psych., a child psychologist with over 17 years of experience working with families.

We'll explore: What is mental health? Where do big emotions and challenging behaviours come from? How can we support well-being through curiosity, compassion and connection.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, teacher, or simply care about the next generation, this is a valuable opportunity to learn and grow together.

Cardiac/Stroke Presentation

September 28 after worship service

Please join the Wellness Committee for an informative presentation on Stroke/Cardiac Rehabilitation. Pam Spence will share 2 journeys in Stroke/Cardiac Healthcare. Resource table available for information purposes. She is currently a Director at Large of the Stroke Survivors Advocacy Group of Canada-SSAGC.

Book Club

Wednesdays September 24 & November 26 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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.

Christmas Bazaar

Drop off donations Friday November 7, 2:00pm - 8:00pm

Christmas Bazaar open on Saturday November 8, 9:00am - 2:00pm

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.

Dinner Social

November 19 at 7:00pm

Melanie Pringles - 80 Thickson Rd S, Whitby

Connect with fellow Westminster-goers over delicious food and great conversation! These evenings offer a relaxed setting to build community and enjoy each other's company. With appetizers on us and options to sip wine or coffee, it's a perfect night out. There are 20 spots, so kindly RSVP early. A great chance to get to know our friends from the pews!

Faith & Fellowship

Wednesdays October 8, November 12, & December 10 from 2:30pm - 3:30pm

This monthly "come as you can" group brings together adults of all ages and genders for a time of discussion, fellowship, refreshment and prayer. We gather in the Founder's Room at Westminster on the second Wednesday of the month from 2:30pm – 3:30pm.

Foodman Group

Thursdays from 9:30am – 12:30pm

A group of men who meet Thursday mornings to cook, learn recipes, share experiences, and build kitchen skills. PLUS enjoy the results and keep improving together.

The Food Guys

Mondays from 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Gather with The Food Guys for a fun time sharing ideas, and refining recipes. We create delicious and exotic meals for various church events and fundraisers.

Game Nights

Fridays September 27 and Friday November 22 from 7:00pm – 9:30pm

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.

Gentle Yoga

Tuesdays – 6 weeks per session from 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Promoting relaxation, flexibility, and overall well-being. Cost is \$60 per 6-week session. A beginner-friendly class perfect for all ages and fitness levels, focusing on mindful movement and deep breathing. The Registration form is in the Narthex.

Knit & Crochet Circle

October 26 & November 23 after worship

Share your love of yarn, patterns, and conversation. Bring your current project or start a new one and enjoy the company of others who stitch with purpose and joy. All skill levels are welcome, and there's always someone happy to lend a hand or share a tip.

Living Alone Luncheon

First Wednesday of the month, September – June from 12:00pm – 2:00pm

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.

Labyrinth

September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Discover this amazing prayer practice! The labyrinth is a curved pathway on the floor of our church sanctuary that we walk upon as a form of prayer and meditation. It has one pathway that will lead you to the centre and back out and is accessible to all.

Pickleball

Tuesdays: Experienced Players

Wednesdays: Beginner / Casual Players

Thursdays: Mixed Skill Levels

10:30am - 12:30pm

Drop in and see how much fun it is to play Pickleball! No experience is necessary, equipment provided, if needed. Free will donation appreciated. Suggested amount \$5 a month for occasional play or \$10 a month for regular players.

Seniors Fitness Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am - 10:30am

Seeking a gentle, full-body workout with light cardio, resistance training, and stretching? Tailored for older adults and adaptable to any fitness level.

\$5 per class.

United Church Women (UCW)

First Monday of the month from 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Open to all women of the congregation, dedicated to worship, education, service, and fellowship. Come together for gatherings and shared spiritual growth.

Outreach Opportunities

Friendly Visitors

Friendly Visitors offer care and connection through regular check-ins with members of our church including those in long-term care, those navigating various life circumstances, or anyone needing encouragement. This ministry helps strengthen our sense of community through care of one another. We're looking for more volunteers! If you're someone who values connection and has a heart for others, consider joining the Friendly Visitors.



Prayer Team

First Tuesday of the month at 10:00am

The Prayer Team is a group of volunteers who meet with Rev. Michelle to pray over the concerns and joys shared by our community. Together, they hold space for others through faithful, compassionate prayer. If you feel called to support others in this meaningful way, we invite you to join the Prayer Team.



Durham Outlook for the Needy

Tuesdays October 14, November 11, & December 9 from 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Westminster's team of volunteers help serve low-cost, hot, nutritious meal in a dignified manner to an average of 150–200 people in need.

Food Drive – Flyers

October 4 from 9:45am - 12:00pm, meet at Westminster

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. Contact Joanne MacPherson to RSVP.

Food Drive – Drop Off

October 11 from 10am - 12pm, drop off at gym doors

Food Drive in support of the Pantry. Please drop off donations at the gym doors.

Card Making

Saturday October 18 from 1:30pm - 4pm

Use your creativity to spread some joy by decorating and writing cheerful cards for the recipients of Westminster Poinsettias. Together we can make their day just a little bit brighter!

Winter Wear Drive

Sundays December 7 - December 21

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

Online Tags: November 14, In-Person Tags: November 16, 23, December 7

Drop Off Hampers: Saturday December 13 from 12pm - 4pm

Contact: Ashley Edwards wucchristmashampers@gmail.com

Last Christmas we supported 96 families (29 adult only families, 67 families with children). Representing a total of 371 people, including 175 children under the age of 18. Gifts may be purchased for a child, individual, or a whole family. We are also grateful for a financial donation, and for drivers to deliver the hampers.

Music

Senior Choir

Rehearsals Thursdays 7:00pm – 9:00pm from September – June

Performs during Sunday worship

Senior Choir is an integral part of weekly worship, performing anthems and leading congregational hymn singing. The choir uses sheet music, welcoming and supporting singers interested in building their sight-reading skills, but also uses improvised harmonies as appropriate.

SALT Praise Band

Rehearsals Mondays at 7:00pm – 8:30pm from September – June

Performs during Sunday worship once a month

SALT includes vocalists, guitars, piano, bass and drums, performing a range of music from praise band repertoire to contemporary rock, folk, jazz, and gospel.

Youth Music Group

Practice on Wednesdays 7:00pm – 8:00pm from September – June

Performing during Sunday worship, dates TBD

This group is open to ages 13 and up, offering instruction and performance opportunities for teens and young adults in a Rock Band format. If your child loves to sing, play an instrument or wants to learn how to write songs, then this group will help them grow their skills and confidence!

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For children ages 4+. We sing a fun repertoire encompassing everything from thirteenth century carols to modern pop and folk. We also offer basic instruction in sight-singing. All children are warmly invited!

Committees

Many committees support Westminster United Church's vibrant ministry.

What interests you? What gifts can you share? Jump in!

*Want to learn more
about what these
committees do
or how to offer your
talents?*



Scan the code to see more!

Outreach
Christian Education
Wellness
Tech Team
Climate Disruption Mitigation
Parish Mosaic
Property
Worship
Sanctuary
Communications
Stewardship / Finance
Board of Trustees
Ministry and Personnel
Church Council
Manning Mews

<https://westminster-uc.ca/committees/>

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.



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



905-723-6442



<https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterUnitedChurchWhitby>



wuc@westminster-uc.ca



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



westminster-uc.ca



1850 Rossland Rd. E
Whitby, Ontario L1N 3P2



**SCAN
HERE
TO
SIGN
UP!**

Are you subscribed to our
weekly email blast with
upcoming worship and events?