
THE WESTMINSTER WORLD



Words of Remembrance:

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.”

“Lest we forget – lest we forget!”



We Remember



September 30th is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

It is perhaps more commonly known as **Orange Shirt Day**, when we honour the victims and survivors of the residential school system by wearing orange shirts with the motto “Every Child Matters” emblazoned on them. The United Church of Canada marks the event on the Sunday preceding September 30th and so, on Sunday, September 28th,



Westminster's sanctuary was ablaze!

However, the work of reconciliation requires more than one day of recognition per year. Our task now is to listen, to hear, to reflect, to make connections and to take action.

WE CARE and WE REMEMBER



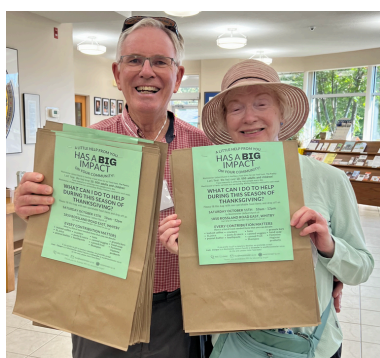


Our food bank has been blessed with acts of generosity that remind us of the power of kindness—both spontaneous and intentional.

On the **Tuesday before Thanksgiving**, something extraordinary happened just outside our church doors. As Pantry clients waited for the doors to open, a woman pulled up in her car and asked who was first in line. She handed that person a turkey. Then she asked who was second, and gave Beverly, a client, \$50. Beverly didn't hesitate—she chose to donate the money to The Pantry so that everyone could benefit. Her selflessness touched us all and reminded us that generosity isn't about how much we have, but how much we're willing to share.



This spirit of giving has echoed throughout our community this fall. On **Saturday, October 4th**, 400 paper bags—generously provided by Sobey's Oshawa—were delivered to homes in our local area by volunteers. These bags invited residents to fill them with non-perishable food items for The Pantry. So far, nearly 70 bags have been returned, brimming with donations. Last year, we continued receiving bags until Christmas, with over 100 returned in total. We're hopeful that this year will be just as fruitful. To our neighbours and church members: thank you for your continued generosity. Your support helps us feed families and offer hope.



FIND OUT MORE 

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It may be a surprise to know how important bags are to the food bank. Not only are they used for donations but also for veggies, and breads and other baked goods, donated by Starbucks and Panera.

The Oshawa Metro store was kind enough to donate two rolls of produce bags so that the baked goods can be divided for clients.



Kindness also came in the form of lemonade this September. Hudson, age 9, and Mirah, who is in Senior Kindergarten, set up a lemonade stand with one goal in mind: to raise money for our Pantry. Their efforts brought in an incredible \$205, which they proudly delivered in a Ziploc bag last week. Their parents are teaching them about kindness. The two Joannes welcomed them with a tour of the food bank and explained how it works. Hudson was curious about how the money would be used, and together with Joanne M, it was decided it should go toward lunch snacks—something simple, yet meaningful for children just like him.

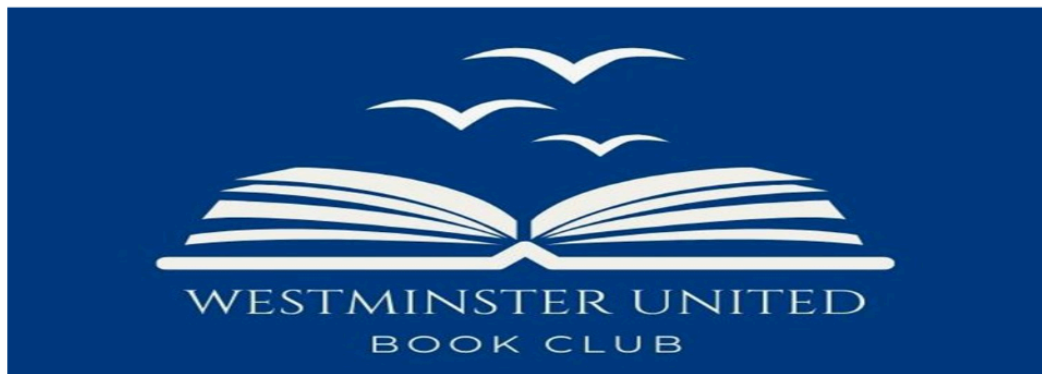
These stories are more than just feel-good moments. They're reminders of the values we hold dear: compassion, community, and the belief that everyone has something to give. Whether it's a turkey, a \$50 bill, a bag of groceries, or a cup of lemonade, each gift carries the same message: **"You matter. We care."**

As we move toward the Advent season, let us carry these stories in our hearts. Let them inspire us to look for opportunities to give, to share, and to uplift. The Pantry is more than a place where food is distributed—it's a place where love is multiplied.

Merci

Miigwech

Thank You



**The next gathering of the Book Club is Wednesday November 26th, 2025
at 1 pm at Westminster UC.**

We will be discussing **The Guncle** by Steven Rowley.



Patrick, or Gay Uncle Patrick (GUP, for short), has always loved his niece, Maisie, and nephew, Grant. That is, he loves spending time with them when they come out to Palm Springs for weeklong visits, or when he heads home to Connecticut for the holidays. But in terms of caretaking and relating to two children, no matter how adorable, Patrick is, honestly, overwhelmed. So when tragedy strikes and Maisie and Grant lose their mother and Patrick's brother has a health crisis of his own, Patrick finds himself suddenly taking on the role of primary guardian. Despite having a set of "Guncle Rules" ready to go, Patrick has no idea what to expect, having spent years barely holding on after the loss of his great love, a somewhat-stalled acting career, and a lifestyle not-so-suited to a six- and a nine-year-old. Quickly realizing that parenting--even if temporary--isn't solved with treats and jokes, Patrick's eyes are opened to a new sense of responsibility, and the realization that, sometimes, even being larger than life means you're unfailingly human. With humour and heart,

The Guncle is a moving tribute to the power of love, patience, and family in even the most trying of times.

All are welcome. There are a number of books available from Susan P. if you would like to borrow a copy and join in on the discussion.

Please contact Susan to borrow a copy of the book or for more information.

Remembering Thanksgiving ...



On **Sunday, October 12th**, we celebrated Thanksgiving in worship. We offered hymns of praise and thanks for our blessings, for the bounty we enjoy and for the beauty which surrounds us.



The chancel décor exemplified the bounty and beauty we experience every Fall.

Let's carry our thankfulness into the next season by developing an attitude of gratitude in our daily lives: say Grace, remember someone or something that touched your heart, look out your window ...

WE CARE and WE REMEMBER



On Saturday, October 18th, 9 people showed up in the Founders' Room to make Christmas cards. It was an intergenerational event with whole families taking part – grandmother, mother and daughter – all gathered around the table crafting.

It was a wonderful and delightful afternoon creating special cards to remind people that they are not forgotten.



They made a total of 94 cards that will be given to the Outreach Committee for the Friendly Visitors Cookie Exchange and for the Christmas Hamper project.

WE CARE and WE REMEMBER



GAME Night



On **October 24th**, a small group gathered in the Founders' Room for our monthly evening of fun - playing board games and cards – and snacking on tasty treats.

As usual, there was much laughter as we challenged ourselves to stay focused on the games. We were missing some of our regulars but hope that November's Games Night will see all the oldies and some newbies out for Friday Night "Fun and Games".

Please join us!



An invitation from our UCW

Why not come and join The Westminster United Church Women (UCW) on **Monday, November 3rd at 2:00pm** in the Founders' Room?

We are excited to announce that our **guest speaker this month will be veteran Ed Ekker**. Ed will be sharing his experiences and what it meant to serve his country overseas.

Please join us. All are welcome.



Remembrance Day

On **November 11th**, we pause to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to safeguard our rights, our values and our freedoms. We commemorate those who have served and who continue to serve, giving freely of themselves.

In gratitude and respect for their service, let us cherish peace and strive to treat all with dignity, respect and consideration.

Let us embrace diversity, fight against racism and discrimination, and protect the vulnerable.

The ceremony at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month should be a 'call to arms' for all of us.

What will each of us be remembered for? Our kindness? Our generosity?
Our respect for others? Our acceptance of diversity? Our sharing of resources?
Our service to the poor and powerless?

Let us leave a legacy of love.



Christmas Hampers



It's that that time of year again... Westminster Christmas Hampers! We have been accepting applications at the Pantry and we are on pace for our goal of 100 hampers this year, reflecting both the generosity of our congregation and the high level of need within our community.

Families receive a grocery gift card and gifts for children under the age of 18. As well, adults living alone receive a token gift with their grocery gift card. Recipients have the option of picking up their hampers or having them delivered.



If you would prefer to make financial donations instead of purchasing gifts, you can do so by cheque, e-transfer or through the church office – please mark financial donations for “Outreach”. We anticipate a high amount of need this season and are working to balance this with the sustainability of this ministry.

Important Dates:

- Tags Available Online: November 14
- Tags Available In-person (at church): November 23, November 30, December 7
- Gift Return: December 13: 10am-12pm
- Gift Delivery/Pick-Up: December 14 after church

If you have been saving your change for this project, please ensure you return it to the church by November 16 (either at service or drop it off to the church office), labelled with your name and phone number.



In addition to selecting a tag or making a financial donation, we will also need volunteer drivers to help deliver hampers, as well as other tasks/roles in the lead-up to delivery/pick-up day.



Each year we receive many messages of gratitude from our community, noting the difference hampers make in their lives.



Should you have questions please don't hesitate to contact wucchristmashampers@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Westminster United Church Christmas Hamper Outreach Ministry.

In times of peace, in times of war, in times of conflict, we pray:

**Eternal God,
whose image lies in the hearts of all people,
we live among peoples
whose languages are different from our own,
whose faiths are foreign to us,
whose ways we fail to understand.**

**Help us to remember
that you embrace all people with your love,
that all religion is a response to you,
that the yearnings of other hearts
are much like our own, and are known to you.**

**Help us to recognize you
in words of truth, things of beauty,
and actions of love about us.**

**We pray in the name of the One who calls us
To be neighbour and friend.**

Amen

You are invited to start the **Advent Season**
with a family lunch and **Family Advent Program**.
@ Westminster United Church

On **Sunday, November 23rd**, 2025 (noon to 2 pm)
Lunch will start 15 minutes after morning worship concludes
(between 11:45 – noon)



Crafts and activities to take place immediately following lunch.



**This is a free event sponsored by the Christian Education Committee
and all are welcome.**

**But you must *register* to ensure there is a place for you
and your family of 1 or 2 or 5
*before Wednesday, November 19th, 2025.***

For more information, contact: Susan P.



See you there!

Pray, Praise, Ponder

O God of many names,
Lover of all nations,

we pray for peace
in our hearts,
in our homes
in our nations,
in our world.

For the peace you willed, we pray.

Amen
(VU 693)



Games Night

Friday November 28th from 7:00 – 9:30 pm

At Westminster United Church in the Founders' Room



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.

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 Westminster's Outreach Team.

C O M M I T T E E

O It could be said that everything we do at Westminster is a form of Outreach, so we're all part of this ministry.

R ***The programs managed by the Outreach team are the following:***

R **The Pantry** - our food bank- We see 55-80 clients each Tuesday morning and do a cooking class once a month

N **The Backpack program** - 75 backpacks are given out to children in elementary school

N **Christmas Hampers** - 90-100 families and adults living alone are helped each Christmas

E **Faith and Fellowship** -meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Westminster

R **Hats, Mitts and Socks** - collected during Advent for distribution to local shelters and schools

E **Living Alone Lunch** - held the first Wednesday of the month at Westminster

R **Durham Outlook for the Needy** - volunteers help serve dinner the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Coldest Night of the Year Walk- raises money for The Refuge

Prayer Shawl Ministry – shawls are knitted for baptisms, people in need of support, and graduating high schoolers

Bridge to a New Home - a group of 5 churches that have supported bringing refugees to Canada

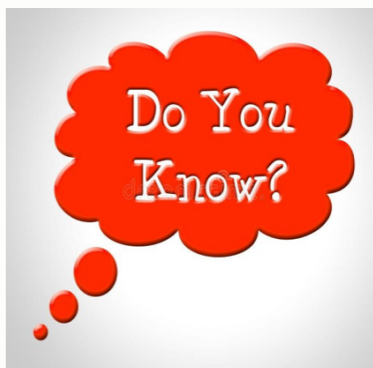
A couple of projects we're working on this year are a garden to grow vegetables for our Pantry clients and a lending library.

Parish Mosaic Committee is also under Outreach and its purpose is to provide leadership, education and support within our congregation and community as we live into our ministry of inclusion. Kirsten G is the chair of this team.

Manning Mews - a non-profit providing housing for seniors on Manning Road is an Outreach program of Westminster but has its own board.

Current members of Outreach are: Maureen D., Debbie J, Joanne Y, Ashley E, Susan P., Joanne M, Beth S

We couldn't do any of these programs without many other volunteers and financial support for all these initiatives. Speak to any of our team for more information.



* that our ***Sunday morning worship service*** is supported by 30+ volunteers? 4 people are on Tech duty, 6 are ushering, 4 are making and serving coffee, 2 have set up chairs in the gym, 4+ are working with the J.a.M. kids, 20 are singing in the choir (the S.A.L.T. complement is a bit smaller)

* that the monthly **Living Alone Luncheons** need 18 to 20 volunteers to prepare and serve the two course luncheon?

* that a ***Celebration of Life reception*** requires more than 30 volunteers?

* that the **Mother's Day Tea** has more than 40 volunteers working on the event?

* that the ***Snowflake Bazaar*** will be run by more than 70 volunteers?

* that our volunteer base is shrinking?

**Where might you share your gifts and talents
to help Westminster continue to be the vibrant community of faith
we strive to be?**

Can you help out with an upcoming event? Do you enjoy cooking?
Are you handy? Do you want to meet more people in your church family?

WE CARE. WE STRIVE. WE SERVE.





To commemorate the service, courage and sacrifice of Canada's veterans, we will hear the heartfelt words of Laurence Binyon recited on November 11th:

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
... At the going down of the sun and in the morning we
will remember them."

We Remember

In his poem, *Recessional*,
Rudyard Kipling wrote these immortal words:

"Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet.
Lest we forget - lest we forget!"



It falls to us to strive for peace
as we strive to follow in the way of the *Prince of Peace*.

What does the Lord require of us?
To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

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!*