

THE WESTMINSTER WORLD

FEBRUARY
2026

A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR 2026

Jesus said, “I Am the Light of the World.” As we strive to follow in his way, let us remember these words:

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love, you’ll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home, the work of Christmas is begun.

Some of our work, as outlined in this beautiful hymn, includes the following tasks:

to feed the hungry; to find the lost and lonely; to heal the broken soul with love; to make the powerful care; to rebuild the nations with good will; to see GOD’S children everywhere; to bring hope to every task; to feel the earth below, the sky above; and to sing to the colours of the earth! (ref. VU 87)

Look forward with resolve to the challenges set before us. With God’s help and guidance, all things are possible.



The first week of February marks
the beginning of
Black History (or African Heritage) Month.
Officially recognized in Canada since 1996,
it is a time to not only honour
and celebrate the many achievements
and contributions,
but also to acknowledge the struggles
of those of African descent.
This month is a powerful reminder
of our shared humanity.



welcome!

A Warm Westminster Welcome to LINDA MOROZUK, our new Children, Youth & Family Ministry Leader

Linda's role is to grow and engage the youth community of Westminster and let them know they are beloved.

Linda aims to provide regular activities and workshops – social outings to create bonds of friendship; guest speakers to encourage their faith journeys; leadership skills and development workshops that meet the practical aspects of their lives as they transition to high school or university.

She is also responsible for engaging new teachers for J.a.M. and Just Jammin'!

About Linda:

Linda became an adult member of the United Church of Canada after finding a spiritual home here, at Westminster, in 2019.

Since her early teens, growing up in the West Island of Montreal, she's lived out her love for helping others - as a camp counsellor, a "Big sister," with Youth Assisting Youth; at after school programs, and one-on-one time with seniors.

Those experiences fostered and fueled a fire in her to continue to do something meaningful with her life, and a belief that doing something meaningful is why she's here.

Living out faith, is the 'something meaningful' she wants to do; as a mother and as a teacher, it's her legacy, a gift that will live on in the lives of the people she's been blessed to have an impact on.

Not only through practice, but through presence.

~ continued. ~

Many people can point to someone who had a lasting impression on them. Who showed up for them - in their lives, their faith journeys: a parent, a grandparent, a mentor, a youth leader, or someone who just listened.

The Children, Youth and Family Ministry is where that lasting impression happens - where a legacy continues. Where faith is carried over from one generation to the next.

Think of a child who comes to church each week and wants to sit a little closer to the front because someone remembered their name. Or a teen who gets out of bed on a Sunday morning and comes to church because there's someone here at Westminster who listens. Without judgment.

Moments and instances like these become part of their story. The story they will tell about God and about their church. Moments and instances like these are why J.a.M. is a pivotal and fundamental light for the children, youth and families of Westminster, and of the community.

We need help to keep this light burning bright; to keep this beacon of our collective faith easy to see and a warm place to be.

Please connect with Linda if you're interested in being a leader of the Sunday J.a.M. sessions once a month.

Check out some of the activities that Linda is planning for the youth this Spring:

Thursday, Feb. 19:

Bowling - 7 p.m.
at Neb's Funworld



Sunday, March 1:

Making Lenten
"Pray"ztles -
after service



Friday, April 10:

Volleyball - 6-8 p.m.
Gym



Thursday, May 14:

Mini Golf - 7 p.m.
Putting Edge, Whitby



Be sure to watch the weekly E-blasts for information and updates about these details.

A Note of Thanks...

The Friendly Visitors team would like to thank **Paul Kneebone** for the many years he has been the Coordinator for our team. Paul will remain as a Friendly Visitor and **Maureen Dingman** will become the new Coordinator.

thank you

The **Friendly Visitors** are crucial to our welcoming congregation.



the roles vary from cooking meals for families who may be experiencing a crisis to visiting someone who cannot physically attend church. Sometimes a phone call, an email or a card may be what is needed.



Whatever the act, the intent is to let someone know that they are a part of our church family. If someone new chooses to visit our church, a Friendly Visitor may be the one to welcome them, answer their questions and invite them to come again.

If you are interested, have any questions or just want to know more about what we do, please contact Maureen by email - m.dingman@rogers.com or through the church office.

Here's the Friendly Visitors Team:

L--> R: Paul K., Jack, Maureen, Ava and Paul P.





All (whatever your age) are invited to the intergenerational (child, parent, or relative) **Paint Evening** where we will be encouraged to paint a Christian praise symbol or two.

Join us on
Friday, February 6th, 2026 from 7 to 9 pm
at Westminster United Church.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please register by Wednesday, February 4th.

For more information, contact Susan P.
Freewill offering only.



Hudson's Chief Scout Project



Hi! My name is Hudson File and I am a fourth year Scout with 18th Oshawa Troop. As a senior Scout I am working on my Chief Scout Award. I have already exceeded my volunteer hours, received over 18 Outdoor Adventure Skills badges and now am working on my community service project.

This is our family friend, Alex(Ali). He was diagnosed with cancer on Christmas Eve, 2018. He underwent treatment for the next 764 days before sadly passing away in 2021. My goal is to collect 114 t-shirts and \$650 for Zippaport in his memory. Zippaport is a non-profit organization that adds zippers to t-shirts which provides easy access to ports making treatment more comfortable for kids and adults.

I want to make a difference...help me by making a monetary donation sending an e-transfer to my mom at rissax80@hotmail.com OR donate a new, with tags on cotton t-shirt (long or short sleeve). Please no fancy collars, velvet or dry-fit fabrics. Contact my mom, Marissa File, to make arrangements to receive your T-shirt donations.

Thank you for helping our community and your support!



COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES

O What does a United Church Trustee do?

We are the committee that works in the background, yet is crucial to the operation of the church. As a general rule, we hold all congregational property in trust for the congregation as under secular rule the congregation is not allowed to hold any property in its own name.

N The Trustees must follow the direction of the Church Council.

Trustees are mandatory, but the numbers and duration of the term vary from church to church. We currently have six members who have served various lengths of their ten-year term. The minister is automatically a Trustee.

R In conjunction with other church committees, Trustees are responsible for the liability insurance of the property, mortgages, property maintenance and finances. At Westminster, most of these responsibilities have been formally designated to other individuals or committees.

We are always looking for new Trustees.

If you have any questions, please stop and ask one of the existing members of our committee: *Wendy Ekker, Bob Neil, Christopher Pegg, Ed Rosdobutko, Shane Suepaul and Jim Ward*. We meet a few times a year as required.



Pray, Praise, Ponder

Creator God,

Illuminate our darkness and bring faith, peace, and strength during these difficult times.

Be with us in the shadows of our despair, and make us beacons of light, bringing hope and love to our dark and hurting world.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world.
Amen

C.A.R.E.
(Christians Acting with Respect to the Earth)



New Year, New Resolve

Let's all try harder to be better stewards of God's Creation.

We can:

- compost our food scraps and tissues
- recycle ALL our paper products (paper towel and TP rolls)
- avoid plastic bags and containers — > use reusable/cloth bags
- avoid buying water in plastic bottles (Read an article about Water Watchers: info@wellingtonwaterwatchers.ca)
- learn about Ontario's enhanced recycling system: circularmaterials.ca/ON



An Invitation from the Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee's next 2 events in the 2026 Winter Wellness Series are on **February 8th** and **March 8th**.

The presentations will start at noon, following Sunday worship.

All are welcome!



End of Life Doula. Providing emotional, spiritual and practical care

Presented by Martha Stainton, author of

"Before I Go, My Greatest Gift to You: A Guide for Planning, Peace & Legacy" available on Amazon.



Fraud Awareness and Prevention. Awareness is your best defense

Presented by Det. Martin Franssen, DRPS





PANCAKE SUPPER

Mark Tuesday, February 17th on your calendar!



Westminster's annual pancake supper will take place in our gym
between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.



You're invited to feast on pancakes – plain and blueberry
and sausages, of course!

We'll also be offering gluten-free pancakes.
A free-will offering is taken at the door.



Again this year, there will be Mardi Gras activities for the children!

Hope the weather cooperates and we'll see you there!!



Come Walk with Us on the COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR!

DATE: Saturday, FEB. 28th

PLACE: 357 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa

TIME: 4:30pm - 7:00pm

SUPPORTING: The Refuge Youth Outreach Centre

HOW TO WALK OR DONATE:

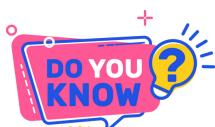
Go to Westminster's Team Page to Register or for Online Donations (preferred)

The link to the CNOY Page is: <https://cnoy.org/location/oshawa>

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Contact Co-Captains:

Lisa Wells or Judy Collard



The property/accessibility committee continues to work on improving our facility.

Larry and his crew have recently completed running all of the wires for live streaming under the chancel floor. Access is now safe from the choir room ramp to the sanctuary.



We have a monthly luncheon for seniors in our congregation and community who live alone?

Started by Barb Auchterlonie many years ago, and now prepared by our UCW Catering Committee, 40-50 seniors gather on the first Wednesday of the month for a tasty 2-course luncheon for a reasonable cost.

Contact Bev or the office if you are interested in this fellowship program.



Jordyn Lesser was honoured last Fall by the United Church of Canada for her volunteer work?

Jordyn was one of the 12 recipients chosen to receive the Baillie Volunteer Service Award in 2025.



PSA

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 bring on an asthma attack. Let's ensure a "worry-free" worship environment for everyone.

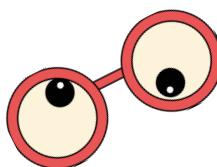
**We advertise Westminster as Scent-Free.
Let's honour our signage.**

Let's Beat the February Blues with a little humour!



A few unresolved questions to ponder:

- At a movie theatre, which armrest is yours?
- In the word “scent”, is the S or the C silent?
- Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?
- I am pretty certain that the person who put the first R in February was the same one who decided how to spell Wednesday.

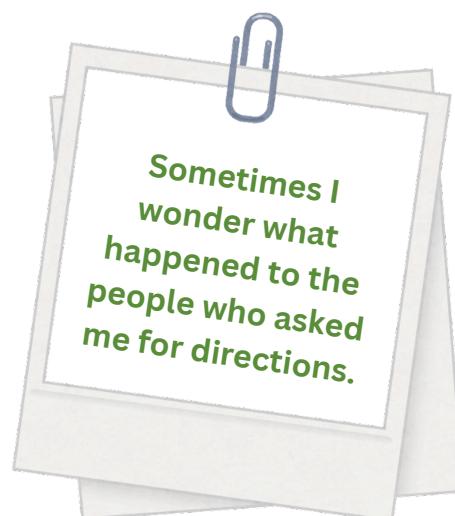


Overheard at choir practice:

“I can sing tenor or solo – **ten or** so miles away, **OR so low** you can’t hear me.”

Did you know that Moses was the first techie?

He downloaded from a
cloud to two tablets.



Games Night



Friday February 27th, 2026 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.

COMMITTEE

O STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE

R **N** **E** **R** It's February and it's Stewardship/Finance month at Westminster. We have the privilege of talking about what we have done and what our plans are for 2026. But before we do that, as your Stewardship/Finance team, we have the responsibility of educating ourselves and the congregation on the mission of the Church by hosting Stewardship Moments as often as we can. We are also responsible for generating awareness of and responsibility for Westminster's financial requirements.

Yes, we plan and host most fundraising events, we write the cheques, we count Sunday offerings and make the deposits, we approve and pay budgeted expenses, revise the Mortgage agreement, look after the budget(s), do long range planning, and obtain audited financial statements!!

We are "Called to be the Church" on a Stewardship journey searching for and learning about "discipleship". Yet sometimes all we notice is the busyness on the highway, the oncoming traffic, the flashing red lights, the hardships, the missed opportunities, and on and on.

Your Stewardship/Finance team is asking you to take the time now, to just be still, to go deep, to simply be, and to take a breath.

Let us recognize our many accomplishments, the many joys and celebrations along the way, the many friendships we have nurtured, the many times we embarked on another route or took a detour to try something new, to wave, say hello or to welcome a neighbour...simply being good stewards.

Together, we have done all these things and so much more in 2025:

- Raised over \$12,000 at our first ever Valentine's Day Dinner;
- Presented a "Wills and Estate Planning" information session where 17 people attended;
- Hosted 3 Dinner Socials to enjoy each other's company 'outside' of church;
- Attended an ECORC-sponsored day for discussion on the future of the United Church of Canada;
- Planned and supported one of our most successful Bazaars, raising over \$11,500;

~ cont'd ~



COMMITTEE

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE ... 'What we have done' cont'd

- Created another Fall Stewardship Campaign with new PAR participants and 75 responses to date;
- Combined that with a 100/100/100 campaign celebrating UCC's 100th and WUC's 67th anniversaries, inviting 100 families to each donate \$100 in special envelopes;
- Held our 3rd annual Poinsettia sale in November
- Celebrated all our successes with a well-attended Potluck luncheon, where all were heartily fed;
- And began earnest conversations for education pieces on Drag 101, eventually to co-host with Parish Mosaic, information sessions and panel discussions on the topic.

We have already met and are planning, with LOTS of volunteer help needed, for the following 2026 activities:

- Friday April 17th – Dinner Theatre
- Sunday May 3rd – follow up to the Wills and Estate Planning session: "Creating a Meaningful Legacy"
- Friday June 26th – BBQ Pick up
- Spring Golf – late May/early June 2026
- 'stewing' on themes for our Annual Fall Stewardship Campaign
- Saturday Nov. 7th – Annual Bazaar
- Many of you love coming out to our quarterly dinner socials to meet and greet others in an informal setting so we thought we'd try something new this year. We are planning for one (maybe 2) potluck BBQ or garden/backyard get-togethers so look out for more info on that!!

Nothing at Westminster happens unless you volunteer and we really do hope that you continue to do so and ask others to come along!!

We are always so grateful that you share your many talents of time, financial support, knowledge, skills, and stewardship with us all. We recognize, with deep gratitude, how richly blessed we are at Westminster and we in turn always humbly look forward to serving you.

THANK YOU for showing us what true discipleship really means!!



Respectfully submitted by *Margaret Suepaul*, Chair Stewardship/Finance.



WHEN THE WORLD
says, "give up."
HOPE WHISPERS,
"try it one more time."

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!*