
THE WESTMINSTER **WORLD**

MARCH
2026



Season of
Lent

**In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed,
an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies
will soon be free!**

**In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring
that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God
alone can see.**

(VU 703)

**Just as the lengthening of days brings the hope of spring,
so our Lenten journey leads us to the hope of the Resurrection.**



As you know, the **J.a.M. (Jesus and Me) Sunday School** program follows the lectionary used in the Sunday worship service.

Sometimes it's easier to explain things visually, so a few weeks ago, they tried to turn water into wine!

Please check out the **J.a.M. bulletin board** at the end of the hallway for insights into the Sunday School program.



The **UCW** is pleased to invite everyone to the **World Day of Prayer service:**

- **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**
903 Giffard St, Whitby
- **Friday, March 6, 2026, starting at 1:30 pm**
- a Reception will follow the service in the parish centre





Elizabeth Hatter's 90th Birthday Party

On **Saturday, January 31st**, Westminster's gym was festooned for the celebration of **Elizabeth's 90th birthday**. At an afternoon *Come-and-Go Tea*, guests were treated not only to tasty tidbits and tea (prepared by the Catering Committee), but also to delightful music, including a song written in Elizabeth's honour – see *below*.

Happy 90th Birthday, Elizabeth
 (Sung to the tune: "You Are My Sunshine")
 Words by Janette Desousa



On Saturday, January Oh Elizabeth,
 we're glad to know you,
 Ninety years young and shining still,
 You lift our spirits, bring us together
 With songs of kindness and boundless will.

She's spent her lifetime caring for others,
 Volunteering, fundraising, leading the way,
 From community causes to heartfelt giving,
 She's made a difference every day.

Oh Elizabeth, we're glad to know you,
 Your generous heart shows us the way,
 Through all your kindness and happy singing,
 You turn our ordinary into bright days.

Now at Brooklin Court she keeps things moving,
 With tuck shop treats and plans so smart,
 Bottles and cans from door to doorway,
 All gathered with a caring heart.

Oh Elizabeth, we celebrate you,
 Ninety years strong, loved by all,
 May songs and laughter surround you always.
 Happy Birthday, Elizabeth Hatter, one and all!





What do small coloured paper plates, glue sticks, glue guns, a colourful array of paint bottles, paint brushes in assorted sizes and styles, graphite paper, assorted plastic cups and tablecloths, and canvases have in common?



On **Friday, February 6th**, these were the tools that were used by the 23 people (from 4 years old to too old to count) to create their own personal meditative works of art. Some traced and used the designs that were provided, while others created their own works of art.

An enjoyable evening was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to our instructor, Susie Noorlander, for her leadership.

If you are interested in participating in the next **Paint and Praise**, it will be on **Sunday May 31st**, following worship, from noon to 2:00 pm at the church.

Please speak to Susan P to register and/or for more information.

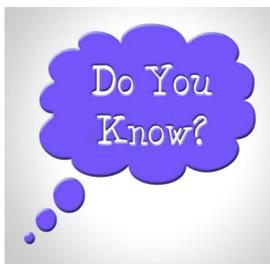




C.A.R.E. (Christians Acting with Respect for the Earth)

In the March/April issue of **Broadview**, there is an article entitled “Lent with Intent” in which “United Church faith leaders share the Lenten practices that help carry them toward the hope of Easter.”

In “Caring for Creation”, by Shawn Sanford Beck, we are reminded that even a small act of devotion on a walk in nature can bring us closer to the divine: greeting the trees and birds and animals; offering a prayer of gratitude to the Creator; blessing the sacred land where our footsteps fall.



...that one of Westminster’s ongoing fundraisers is the sale of grocery cards? With the sale of each **Loblaws** or **Sobeys** card, we receive a 5% payback. **See Ed R. for more info and/or to purchase cards.**



...that our **library**, located in the Founders’ Room, has an extensive offering of books available to borrow?

Check out the selection of children’s and adult books available to sign out.



...that a small team of volunteers recently did a big tidy-up of the Founders’ Room? It is one of the most used rooms for meetings of church groups and for rentals. **Come have a look and admire the atmosphere!**



...that there is a **monthly Games Night**? Open to youth and adults who enjoy cards and board games. **We meet the last Friday of the month for games, laughter and treats.**

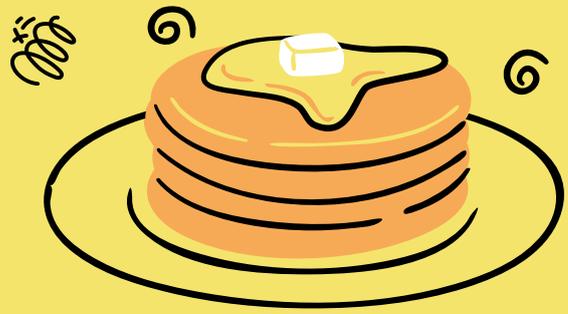


...that there is a dedicated group of people who work creatively every month to prepare a welcoming luncheon for people in our community and our community of faith who live alone?

Please see Bev C. if you would like more info on this tasty time of fellowship.



☪ PANCAKE DINNER



What a fun evening we had on February 17th, at our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. About 140 guests enjoyed the food and fellowship.



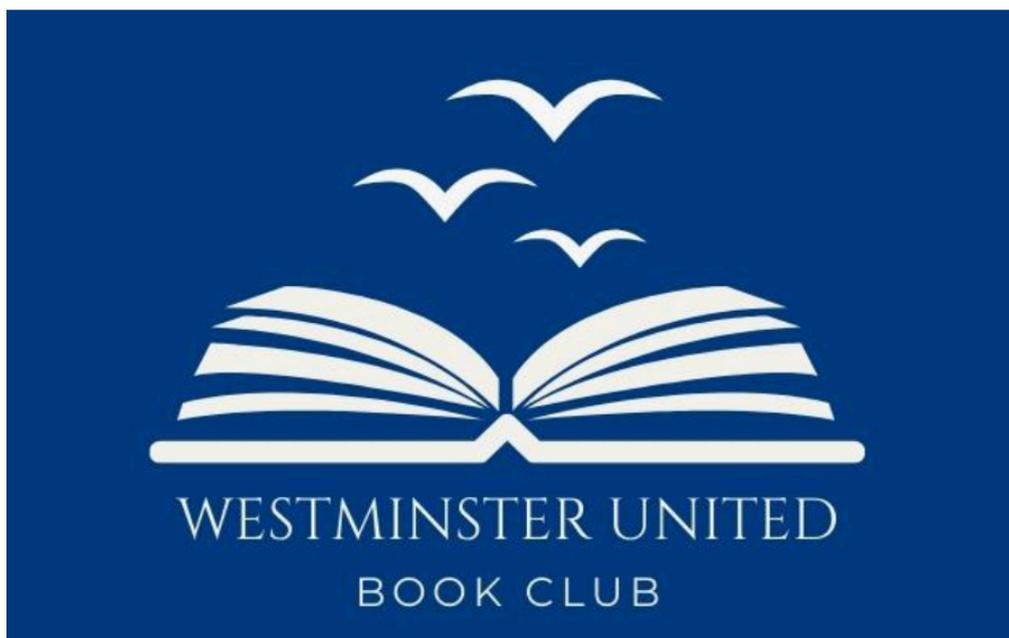
Kudos go to our amazing volunteers for the event: set-up crew, decorating team, pancake makers and servers, bussers and clean-up crew.



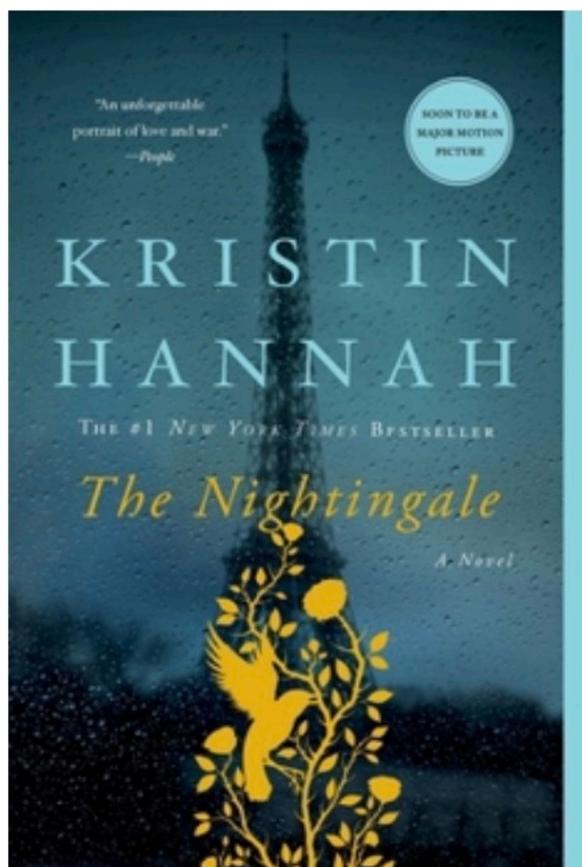
During the event, many had a fun time dressing up, creating or just watching the imagination flourish of others, thanks to Crystal Smith's Mardi Gras activities.



Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the pancake dinner such a success this year! We were truly grateful for the generosity of our diners, receiving just under \$1000 at this event. These good-will donations will help fund future activities.



The next gathering of the Book Club is **Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 1:00 pm** at Westminster UC. We will be discussing the book **The Nightingale** by **Kristin Hannah**.



With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II, and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France - a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

All are welcome.

To borrow the book or for more information, please contact Susan P.

C O M M I T T E E

What and who is the UCW?

O Westminster's UCW (United Church Women) is a group of women who meet the first Monday of the month (except for July and August) for a time of worship, entertainment/educational programs, business and fellowship.

R Some of our activities include: participation in the World's Day of Prayer, holding a congregational Yard Sale, holding a Mother's Day Tea, leading the worship service on Regional Council Sunday, celebrating Christmas with a potluck supper, and catering each month to the Living Alone Luncheon. (There seems to be a lot of chatter and laughter in the kitchen when we are preparing food. 😊) We also cater funeral receptions, showers, dinners and various fundraisers – *pies, anyone?*

E We collect stamps, hearing aids, eye glasses, pop tabs and devotional books that are used to fund worthwhile projects locally and worldwide. *We would welcome your contributions of these items and they can be placed in the wooden box in the narthex.*

R The money we raise is then donated to various organizations such as: Denise House, Gate 3:16, Cornerstone, Muslim Women's Welfare Centre, Grandview Kids Centre, our own Westminster United Youth, Durham Outlook for the Needy (formerly St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen), Back Door Missions in Oshawa, Mission and Service Fund and 6 UCW Presbyterian and conference projects, but the majority of our fundraising is given to Westminster United Church's General Funds (over \$16,000.00 in 2025).

Come join us.

We would love to have you join us whether for a visit or your assistance in an event – and please know that you are always welcome.

Executive: *Co-Presidents: Susan Shkolnik and Cecile Willert, Past President: Tena Darroch, Treasurer: Shirley Penny, Secretary: Susan Pleasance*





Intergenerational Family Games Afternoon

(whether your family is 1 or many; 4 years old or too old to count)

On Sunday March 29th, 2026

At Westminster UC following worship from noon to 2:30 pm

Please bring a brown-bag lunch for you and your loved ones.

The church will provide vegetable and fruit trays.

Some of the games to choose from:

checkers, dominoes, I Spy cards, banana grams, twister, party sticks, monkeys-in-a-barrel, battleship, scattergories, monopoly, Canadian trivia, blurt, Pictionary (to name a few)

You are encouraged to bring your favourite game.

Everyone is welcome!

Please register by Thursday March 26th.

For more information, contact Susan P.

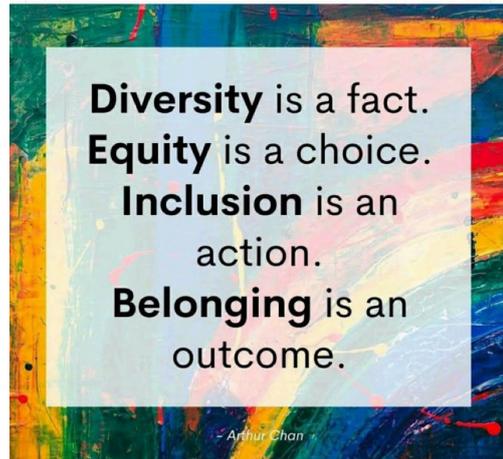


Pray, Praise, Ponder

God to enfold you,
Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you
In heaven's sight.

So may God grace you,
Heal and embrace you,
Lead you through darkness...
Into the light.

(An old Scottish hymn)



As we enter this season of reflection, may we renew our commitment
to the common good and dignity of all.
Peace to you this Lent.

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!*