

THE WESTMINSTER **WORLD**

**APRIL
2026**

**The spring has come,
let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed
and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day,
new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day, spring has come;
let all the church be part of it!**

(VU187)



A Message from Our Minister

This Lenten season we have been living with all the ways that Jesus turns everything around. **Flipped.** Which really is Easter in a word. The morning when the stone was moved, the tomb empty and a voice asked, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

The resurrection feels like the loudest flip of all. Every year we declare it together: *Love is stronger than fear, stronger than hatred, and death does not get the final word!*

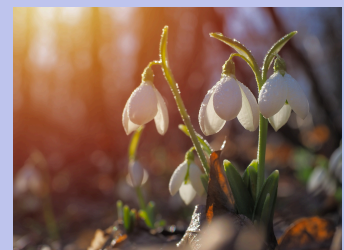
But every year, too, we are trying to sort out what this actually means for us. Does it make a difference to you to know that when something feels overwhelmingly final, God is already at work bringing life out of what seems finished?

Spring. I love this time of year. You know how a garden bed in early spring can look like nothing but cold soil? No sign of life and no hint of what’s coming. And then, one morning, without any announcement at all, small green shoots are pushing up through the dirt. I think with Easter, as with the garden, to really feel the hope of it, we may have to loosen our grip on what we thought the story was, so we can receive the new thing God is doing.

That’s how it was for Mary Magdalene. She arrived at the tomb that morning holding onto a story she was certain had ended on Friday. She was standing in exactly the right place, she just didn’t recognize what kind of story she was standing inside. But then Life called her by name, and everything flipped. One word, and the ending she had been holding onto dissolved into a beginning she couldn’t have imagined. You don’t have to have this story all figured out. Mary didn’t either. Just come. The tomb is empty. The shoots are pushing through the soil. And we would love to celebrate that with you.

Easter worship is Sunday April 5. All are welcome.

In Love and Light,
Rev. Michelle



Bowling with Westminster Youth!

On **Thursday, February 19**, Westminster Youth, their friends, and family had an incredible time hitting the lanes for a night full of laughter, friendly competition and connection. Whether celebrating strikes or bravely recovering from gutter balls, the spirit at Neb's Funworld was one of support and camaraderie. It was especially meaningful to see our young people encouraging one another, stepping outside their comfort zones, and simply enjoying time together in a relaxed and joyful setting.



Moments like these reflect the reminder in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 that we are stronger together and that when one stumbles, another is there to lift them up. Even in a bowling alley, we are reminded that fellowship, encouragement and shared joy are gifts from God.

Thank you for continuing to pray for and uplift our Youth as they grow together in faith, friendship and community.



We look forward to sharing more opportunities for connection in the months ahead. Stay tuned for details about our next Youth Event - we can't wait to do it again!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.



Twists, Turns, and Time Together



After service on **Sunday, March 1**, Westminster children and youth gathered for **Linda's Lenten Pray-tzel Bake**: a special Lenten event. What a meaningful (and delicious) time it was! With flour-dusted hands and plenty of laughter, participants learned how pretzels have long been connected to Lent with their twisted shape symbolizing arms folded in prayer.



As we mixed, rolled and shaped the dough, we took time to reflect on the season of Lent - slowing down, making space for God, and remembering that faith can be practised in simple, everyday ways. Between batches in the oven, conversations flowed, friendships grew, and community was strengthened.

Lenten Pray-tzel Bake ... cont'd



It was a beautiful reminder that faith is not only something we talk about —it’s something we live, create, and share together.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this event so special!

Pray, Praise, Ponder

We must hold the hope of Easter in our heart, knowing that the Risen Christ - our “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” - journeys with us.



Diversity

Embraced

Here



You are invited
To the Church Family Movie Night
(whether you are a child, parent or elder)

We will be watching:
The Princess Bride

On **Saturday April 11th**, 2026 starting **at 6:30 pm**
At Westminster United Church

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult
Please register by Wednesday April 8th.

For more information, contact Susan P.
All are welcome.





MAY IS PAR MONTH!!

We pay all our bills via preauthorized remittances - everything from a mortgage and loan payment, to our heat, hydro, insurance and tax payments.

Every month these items come out AUTOMATICALLY from our bank account. So why not add Church givings to that list? **Please speak to Paul, our treasurer, to get this set up for you.** In the meantime, please see our Welcome Centre in the Narthex for more information.

Thank you, Your Stewardship Finance team



Fun

Food

Fellowship

Entertainment



Come and join us for an evening full of great food, fun entertainment and exciting door prizes. We will host our **Dinner Theatre Fundraising Event on April 17th** at Westminster United Church.

The evening's festivities will *commence at 5pm* with a social hour to mingle around the Silent Auction Table, while enjoying yummy finger foods like spanakopita, accompanied by a beverage or a cocktail from the Cash Bar. The Food Guys will be serving an authentic Greek dinner of Avgolemono (a warm lemon chicken soup), BBQ Souvlaki, scalloped Greek-inspired potatoes, tasty Lemon Rice and fresh Greek Salad. If you are a dessert lover, then you're in for a delightful dessert called Citrusopita!

After dinner, sit back and enjoy the interactive performance of "**The Mask of the Golden Gaels**". This is a perfect evening to spend with family and friends while supporting our church community. Tickets are now available for purchase for either \$99.00 per person or \$750 for a table of 8. Tickets are available on Sundays after service, using the QR code for online sales or in the church office.

If you would like to donate a silent auction item or sponsor this event, please speak with *Lisa Stewart* or *Margaret Suepaul*. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Gold Sponsor - Mount Lawn Cemetery in Whitby - for their generosity and support of this event.

We look forward to sharing a fantastic evening with all of you!

The Mask of the Golden Gaels
Dinner & Show
Fundraiser Event



Friday April 17 at 5pm

5pm - Hors D'oeuvres & Cocktails

6pm - Greek Dinner

7:15pm - Show Time

Silent Auction & Cash Bar

\$99 **PER TICKET**

\$750 **FOR A
TABLE OF 8**

Greek Dinner prepared by the Food Guys

Thanks to our gold sponsor:

Mount Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery



WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

1850 ROSSLAND RD. E. WHITBY





A Note from the Stewardship/Finance Committee.

Last May, we introduced 'Wills and Estate Planning' to a well-attended audience.



On **Sunday May 3rd**, we will be providing a follow-up session: '**Making a Meaningful Legacy**'. This will be led by a United Church of Canada Foundation representative, **Glenn Waterman**, Vice President of Fundraising.

Glenn is very well versed on our topic and is looking forward to coming to Westminster on May 3rd.

Kindly save the date and we will see you after service in the Founders' Room!"

Games Night



Friday **April 24th**, 2026 from 7 – 9:30 pm
Friday **May 29th**, 2026 from 7 – 9:30 pm
Friday **June 26th**, 2026 from 7 – 9:30 pm

At Westminster United Church
in the **Founders' Room**

This event is geared to Youth and Adults.

Come check out our Board Games or Card Games and munchies, or bring your own! See you there!



For more information: contact Susan P.

UCW PRESENTS

THE Giant Indoor YARD Sale



April 25
8:00am - 12:00pm
Westminster United Church
1850 Rossland Rd. E. Whitby
Corner of Rossland & Garrard

Would you like to donate items?

Drop off donations April 24 from 2pm-5pm or 6pm-8pm

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 Wellness Committee.

C O M M I T T E E

Wellness Committee

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The Wellness Committee supports the spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing of our Congregation and community. Our members include Joint Chairs, Crystal Smith and Carol O'Neil, and Michele Alston, Mike Nicholson, Olivia Wild and Peggy Allen. The committee meets every six weeks via Zoom to plan and review undertakings.

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Our committee collaborates with ministry staff and other Westminster committees and groups to promote its mandate. The committee had its roots at a time when the church had a Parish Nurse. Since that time, the focus has shifted from healthcare to promoting wellness.

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Our committee undertakings include **Friendly Visitors** coordinated by Maureen Dingman, **Labyrinth** - hosted the first Wednesday of every month by my sister Jane Allen and me (Peggy Allen), **Gentle Yoga** - with Romain Pereira on Tuesdays, and **Easter Memorial Flowers** - organized by Crystal Smith. The committee runs a **Winter Wellness Series of workshops**. This year, topics included alcohol and addiction, fraud awareness, and end-of-life services.

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The Wellness Committee is proud to have raised funds for the replacement of the AED (Automated Emergency Defibrillator) through our yoga classes. We now donate a share of the proceeds from each yoga series to the church. The AED and First Aid Kits are maintained by Jordyn Lesser.

We thank you for your support, and look forward to continuing to find creative ways to promote wellness in our church community.





Intergenerational Family Games Afternoon

On Palm Sunday, after service, a group of game enthusiasts - young, old and in-between - gathered in the gym for a time of food, fun and fellowship.



We ate our sandwiches, enjoyed the veggies and fruit provided by the CE Committee and then gathered around card tables to play games.



Much laughter ensued as people introduced their favourite games to others, and the children popped by to lend their expertise.



It was an afternoon well spent, getting to know new friends while enjoying some very interesting games.



AHOY!

THE WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
ASK YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR MOTHERS' DAY TEA

SATURDAY MAY 09 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

our theme is

TEA BY THE SEA

tickets \$25 per person

TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER SERVICE ON SUNDAYS
OR VIA THE OFFICE
PAYMENT IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE PAYABLE TO
WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Westminster United Church
1850 Rossland Rd., E, Whitby
905-723-6442



All are invited (whether child, parent or elder)

To the intergenerational Paint Afternoon

On

Sunday May 31st, 2026 following worship **until 3 pm**

At Westminster United Church

Please bring a brown bag lunch

(veggies & fruit will be served)

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Please register by Wednesday May 27th.

For more information, contact Susan P.

Freewill offering only.



Our journey into **Holy Week** began with the **Palm Parade**, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. What follows is a week of sorrow and poignant events: Jesus and the disciples experience their Last Supper together on the night before the festival of the Passover; Jesus is betrayed, arrested and tried; and on Friday is hanged on the Cross.

We can travel this same road through a meditative **Labyrinth walk on Wednesday**, a Communion service on **Maundy Thursday** and a thought-provoking and emotional service on **Good Friday**.

Palm Sunday & the Palm Parade





Wednesday Labyrinth

Walk a sacred path of quiet prayer, symbolizing the journey inward to God's presence at the center. A gentle, reflective practice inviting stillness, discernment, and spiritual renewal during Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday

April 2 at 7:00pm

Gather for an intimate evening remembering Jesus' last supper and his call to love and serve one another.

Around a shared table, we serve and are served as we mingle in community, echoing the warmth and connection of the upper room meal.

Unable to attend in person? [Download the liturgy to worship at home.](#)

Good Friday

[April 3 at 7:00pm](#)

A solemn service marking Jesus' crucifixion, as we reflect on the depth of his suffering and love for the world. Through scripture, reflection, and the wrapping of the cross, we enter a story of deep sorrow and abiding love. The choir will lead John Ireland's *"My Song is Love Unknown."* If it's unfamiliar, you may enjoy listening here: [My Song is Love Unknown](#). All are welcome to sing along.

Early Morning Easter Service

April 5 at 8:30am

Greet the Risen Christ at daybreak with a short, joyful service of song and communion (held outdoors, weather permitting).

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Join us for Easter breakfast between the 8:30am and 10:30am Easter services.

Easter Celebration Service

[April 5 at 10:30am](#)

Join us for a vibrant service of resurrection joy, filled with lots of music, flowers, and celebration! Together we proclaim new life and the promise of resurrection hope.