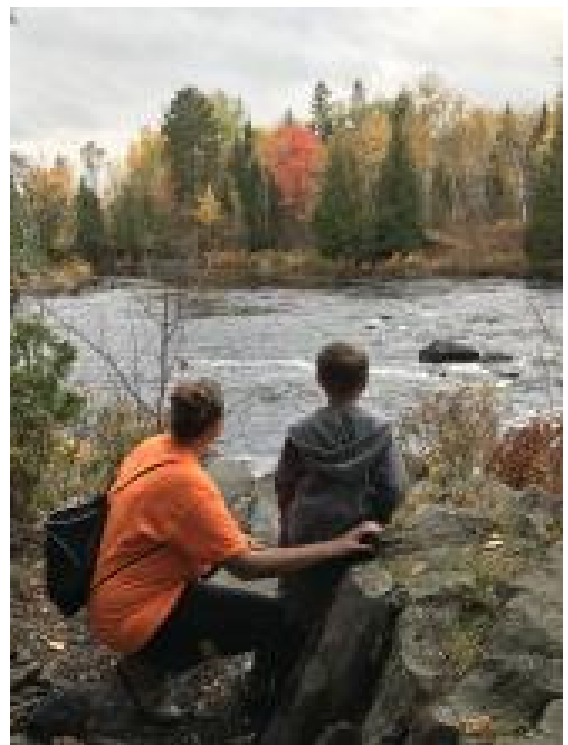

THE WESTMINSTER WORLD

SEPTEMBER

2026





Creation

In the church calendar, the *Season of Creation* begins on **September 13th** and lasts until **October 11th**, Thanksgiving Sunday.

This time is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to be better stewards of God's wondrous creation.

On the sixth day of creation, God created humankind and charged us with the care of everything that had been created: plants, trees, animals, birds, fish and everything that had the breath of life. "God saw everything that he had made and indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

It is our responsibility now to do our part to preserve, to restore, to care for all God's creation. Every light turned off, every tap turned off, every item composted, re-used or recycled helps preserve our planet.



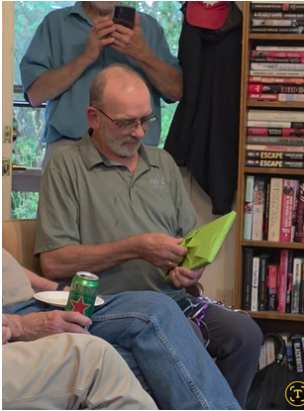
Thanksgiving

Creation Time leads directly into Thanksgiving, reminding us that we have a great number of things to be thankful for: the love of family and friends, the beauty of the changing seasons, the birdsong which fills our ears, lakes and forests, flowers and trees, bountiful harvests.

God of love and grace, we thank you for our many blessings.

Festive Send-offs for the Laycocks

On **July 9th**, 2 groups of friends celebrated the Laycocks before their departure from Brooklin for their new home in the woods of Algonquin Highlands, on Green Lake.



The Property Committee and friends gathered in the Common Room at Manning Mews to honour **Larry** with a pizza (and “beverages”) party and to thank him for his many, many, many years of dedicated service to the building, beautification and maintenance of Westminster United Church in both locations.

He was presented with not only a plaque, but also several souvenirs from various projects, as a remembrance of his time on the property committee.



Some of these items included:

some grass for all the grass he cut at Westminster; some drywall for all the patching he did; a wood chip from when he brought in a wood chipper when he helped cut down some WUC trees; some dry parging material for the parging he did on the foundation; and a piece of brick from the old church on Manning. It was a fun evening of memories!



Past and present choir members and Ministers of Music honoured **Paula** for her many, many, many years of dedicated service to the choir as treasurer and a faithful member of the alto section. The ladies gathered at the home of Sues S for a lovely pot-luck feast.



This dedicated duo will be dearly missed by their Westminster family.
May God bless their new home, and journey forward with them.

YOUTH GROUP



Campfire Cookie Bake

Westminster Youth and Families gathered in the kitchen after service on **July 19** for **Campfire Cookie Bake & Decorate!**

We brought the outdoors in; making, baking, then creating little hearths to eat!

At Westminster we "live in harmony with one another."
Romans 12:16 NIV



Teen Lounge!

Whitby Library was homebase for Westminster Youth on **July 22**. Teens gathered in the lounge (off limits to adults 😊) and shared some time with one another in a creative space – Arts & Crafts, Video Games, and Board Games were part of the experience.

Growth in the Westminster community is happening. Roots are deepening. A sense of connection and belonging is being solidified.



To quote Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." NIV



YOUTH GROUP



SPORTS & MORE!



Who needs coffee when the energy from Westminster Youth amps you up more than an Extra Large Double-Double!

On **July 24**, young people and families got together in the Westminster Gym for Pickleball, Ping-Pong, Basketball, and a few other impromptu games "a la carte".

Spirits were high as we jumped, passed the ball, ran the room, and sang some of our favourite songs!

GINGERBREAD BAKE-OFF

A small and happy group gathered in the Westminster kitchen on **August 9** after service for the Gingerbread Bake!



Gingerbread Men and Women were baked, decorated, and even named! Our young culinary artisans also invented a "timbit" of the most unique sort.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another."
Hebrews 10:24-15 NIV



A strike! A spare!!

Westminster Youth and Friends met at Neb's Funworld on **August 20** for 10-pin bowling. A great time was had by all bowlers as well as those of us there to cheer everyone on.

A blessed community get-together for all!

Summertime Celebrations!



Chris S has now passed 10 sessions as a coach for baseball and soccer for Challenge League. He was the first player to become a coach and has been able to encourage other young adults to do the same.

Challenge League is an organization that invites youth and adults with special needs to participate in sports. Here he is receiving his award with Jessie who is also now coaching.



A milestone anniversary deserves an extraordinary celebration!
Bob and Maureen D did a Hot Air Balloon ride to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.
Upward and onward!!



SPORTS NEWS



On **Monday, July 20th**, a group of Westminster sports fans travelled to Toronto for the annual Blue Jays event.

Big thanks to everyone who came out for the Blue Jays game and especially to Heather VZ and Gary C for organizing the outing.

Although the result wasn't what we were hoping for, it was still a fun night for all, filled with laughs.



Westminster Community Baseball team joined together at Palmerston Park Baseball Diamond on **Saturday, August 8!** WOW!!

Led by **Chris S**, a baseball coach in his own right, we played some serious ball! More than a few home runs were hit, outfielders made some fantastic passes infield, runners ran the bases like they were in it to win it!

THANK YOU to community members of all ages and skill levels who came out!

You made this one of the best days of the summer!

Go Team Westminster!



Linda's Immersive Experience

Joanne and Dan Y hosted Linda M at their home on July 27th to celebrate a shared Ukrainian cultural connection.

Linda was raised in a family that spoke Ukrainian at home and honoured Ukrainian traditions; she went to Ukrainian language school at the church, celebrated holidays with Ukrainian food, song and prayer, and listened to music from the Ukraine.

July 27th, however, was the first time that she participated in Ukrainian traditions in a way she never had before.

The Yourkevich family has a treasure chest of authentic Ukrainian outfits and apparel from their days of community dancing, and they dressed Linda in full regalia!



Dan taught her some of the folk dances he and Joanne had done in the past.



Joanne showed her how to make Holubtsi (голубці), Ukrainian cabbage rolls.



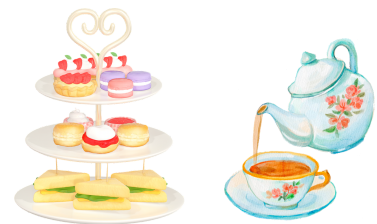
Linda shared with Joanne how much she wished her dad could see her in this moment.

Joanne said, "He's here."

Thank you, Joanne and Dan, for a most memorable day!

Дякую.

Surprise Tribute



On **July 29th**, Sues S and a team of helpers put on a surprise High Tea to honour **Sandra K-C**.

Known for her knowledge and experience in the realm of High Teas and Sweet Teas, **Sandra** has gifted us with several silent auction Tea events over the years.

This was a well-deserved tribute!



In this season of creation and gratitude,
may we take to heart the words of Chief Dan George:

When I pray, I pray for all living things.

When I thank, I thank for everything.



Collective 2026

Between August 12-15, **Linda** and **Jordyn** embarked on a trip to St. Catharines, Ontario for Collective 2026! Collective is a youth conference organized by the United and Presbyterian Churches of Canada.



Linda was a Discipleship Leader and took part in fun, faith affirming, and community building activities.

Jordyn flourished. She found new friends, made meaningful connections, and had so much fun in workshops like Scottish Dancing and cookie decorating



It was a blessing to make this journey together.

SUMMER
time



How I spent my summer vacation...

The “*homework*” assignment given to Council and the congregation was interpreted in many different ways. Some ignored it completely by making turkey pot pies for a fundraiser or using her photography skills to update the church website.

Some took the assignment to heart and went camping, spent time in their gardens, visited friends and family, or even visited a nursing home, during those “dog days of summer”.



MEMORIES



Truth and Reconciliation



To remind us of our commitment to this cause, Westminster was privileged to have the **Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group** (KTRSG) display their quilt in our sanctuary and also send **Pam Hart**, one of their members, on **August 30th**, after service, to speak about the quilt and Indigenous history.

We learned that Indigenous peoples have inhabited Turtle Island (North America and Mexico) for more than 12,000 years and that seers predicted the arrival of white-faced men in tall ships. The Indian Act of 1876 established reserves and residential schools to assimilate Indigenous people. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formed in 2008 and concluded their report in 2015, providing 94 calls to action.

Witnesses (survivors, their families, healers) told their stories and 3 quilts representing their stories were created and are now stored in the Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg.



The quilt we saw (above) was created by the KTRSG and has 24 squares representing 24 witnesses' stories, each bordered by strawberries – symbols of love and hope and forgiveness. **True reconciliation can come only through these actions.**



WELCOME Sunday



The tradition continues...

September 13th, the first Sunday after Labour Day, Westminster launches another year with activities getting back into full swing.

Again this year, the **Food Guys** will be preparing a delicious BBQ lunch (with fresh corn, of course). Dessert will be nut-free cookies provided by the congregation and there will be a free-will offering (to cover the cost of the food), which will be gratefully accepted at the door.

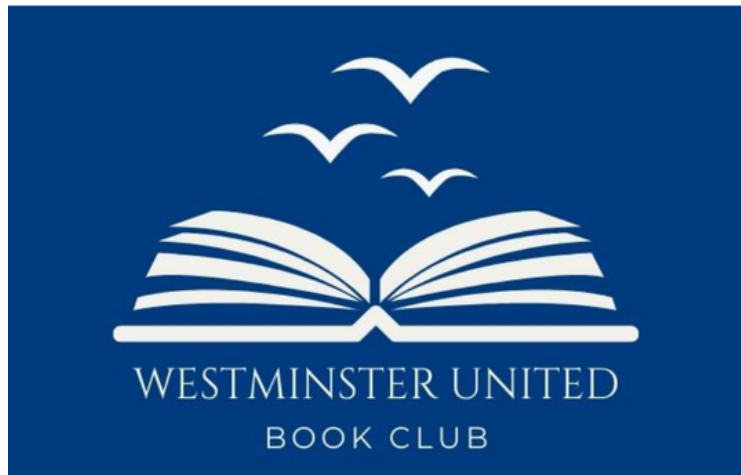
J.a.M. classes resume – please register your children.

And be sure to check the bulletin board in the hallway for the activities Linda has planned for children, youth and families.

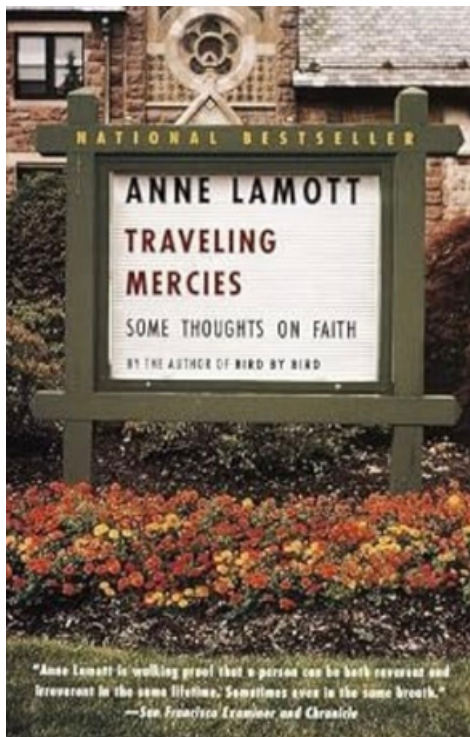
Check the Friday e-blasts every week to see when regular activities resume and new activities start.

Enjoy fun times this year with your Westminster family!





The next gathering of the Book Club is **Wednesday, September 23rd**, 2026 at 1 pm in the Founders' Room at Westminster UC to discuss the book: **Traveling Mercies – Some Thoughts on Faith** by **Anne Lamott**.



Whitby library has an e-copy of the book and I have 2 copies of the book that can be loaned out.

"Anne Lamott is walking proof that a person can be both reverent and irreverent in the same lifetime. Sometimes even in the same breath." -- San Francisco Chronicle. Lamott claims the two best prayers she knows are: "Help me, help me, help me" and "Thank you, thank you, thank you." Despite--or because of--her irreverence, faith is a natural subject for Anne Lamott. Lamott's faith isn't about easy answers, which is part of what endears her to believers as well as nonbelievers. Against all odds, she came to believe in God and then, even more miraculously, in herself. As she puts it, "My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers."

All are welcome. To borrow the book or for more information, please **contact Susan P.**



You're invited to...



Games Night !

Friday September 25th, 2026 from 7:00 – 9:30 pm

(Also Friday November 27th, 2026 & Friday January 29th, 2027)

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 variety of games - card and board - and munchies or bring your own! See you there!

For more information: **contact Susan P.**



Fraud Prevention: Part 2



'The **Wellness Committee** is pleased to offer a second session, on **Sunday, September 27th at noon** in the Founders' Room, with retired *Detective Martin Franssen*. Those who attended our last event went away feeling amazed at how informative it was. *Mr. Franssen* will expand our knowledge on internet fraud and other topics we missed due to time constraints.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.



Distraction Theft

The Equity and Inclusion unit of Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) has provided some very relevant information to all its community members in an effort to curb this type of crime.

Distraction thefts involve criminals using distractions by offering fake jewelry or gifts to swap a victim's real jewelry with fake items, often working in pairs or trios and often using a 'getaway' vehicle. DRPS wants us all to be aware that this type of theft exists and is providing us with information so we are prepared to prevent it from happening to us or our loved ones, neighbours or friends.

Early next year there will be another Fraud presentation available after service.

Should you feel that you would like more information about Distraction Theft, please reach out either to me, **Margaret S**, or to any member of WUC's Wellness team.

In the interim, DRPS will also be providing us with pamphlets (both in English and Urdu) for our informational display unit in the Narthex and posters for our entrances to further enhance our awareness of this crime.

The **link below**, includes a short video that you are urged to view as well as this and more information about the tactics the criminals use, and ways that you can protect yourselves, whether you're walking on the streets or using public transportation:

<https://www.drps.ca/community-safety-and-support/crime-prevention/distraction-thefts/>



Orange Shirt Day

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On this day, we wear **orange** shirts to remember and honour the survivors of residential schools and those who never returned to their families; to say that EVERY CHILD MATTERS, and that we want to help create a future that values all Indigenous peoples.

Our purpose, as God's people, is to do good works, to be generous and to build a good life for all: "...so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." (1 Timothy 6:19)

On **Sunday, September 27th**, we will celebrate **Orange Shirt Day** at Westminster, reminding us of our commitment.



Come out and sing a song!

On **October 17th**, the **Von Zuben family** is hosting a fundraiser for **Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre**. Heather's sister-in-law Donna and her nieces Emily and Sarah are hosting the event in memory of Terry's brother, Paul Von Zuben.





Intergenerational Family Games Afternoon

(whether you are a family of 1 or many,
are 4 years old or too old to count)

On Sunday October 25th, 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, decks of cards, blurt, pictionary (to name a few)

You are encouraged to bring your favourite game...

so we can learn a new game!

Everyone is welcome!

Please register by Thursday October 22nd.

For more information, contact **Susan P.**





Diversity Embraced Here

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!*