

# Westminster United Church

## Advent-Christmas Mini-Newsletter



### Upcoming Worship Services

November 28 – Advent 1 “Hope”

December 5 – Advent 2 “Peace”

Quiet Christmas 7pm

December 12 – Advent 3 “Joy”

Communion

No Potluck Lunch – bagged lunch provided

December 19 – Advent 4 “Love”

December 24 – Christmas Eve 3pm & 7pm



The Mitten Tree  
We invite you to bring new homemade or purchased mittens, toques, scarves, and

socks for the tree. These items will be donated to schools and the Indigenous Christian Fellowship. We need more school age sizes and adults.

### Adopt- a -Family

Once again we will be collecting donations of money for our hampers that will go out to families in need. Let us join our hearts together so that children and their parent(s) can have a joyful Christmas. Money can be donated through the variety of avenues shown in the newsletter.



December 19 – Candlelight Concert



### Memorial Poinsettias - \$15

Purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one for our Christmas display. They will

arrive for the December 19 service, and you are welcome to take them home after the 7pm service on Christmas Eve. Your name along with a few words for who it is in memory for will be displayed throughout the time when the poinsettias are in the sanctuary until Christmas Eve. Call the office to order by December 15.



### Fundraising and the Anniversary Unit

Looking back at our financial statements, it was interesting to see the size of the contributions that the Anniversary Unit has made to the church finances.

Since becoming an autonomous group (rather than part of the United Church Women of the wider church) our funds have come from our four big annual projects (two teas and two rummage sales) and from catering for funeral/memorial services, anniversaries, and birthdays. Looking back to 2008, we transferred \$4000.0 to the church. Since then, (and prior to COVID of course), we have given as much as \$13,000.00 in a year. This is quite amazing considering that we are a small group and is only possible because we have such strong support from members of our congregation.

Before our fall rummage sale, a member of the congregation asked me what we did with the money we raise. In response to that question, after our expenses are covered and a few small

donations made to church related agencies like St. Andrew's College, Lumsden Beach Camp, and Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, the balance of our funds are transferred bi-annually to the church treasury.

All this is a lead-in to ask that you continue to support our group by attending our Mistletoe Market on November 20th. We plan on having nine or ten tables with a wide variety of items, from Carlyle Bakery fruitcake, and home baking to church calendars and hand-crafted gift items. We'll see you at the Market!

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**Finance Snapshot:** With gratitude to all of you, we can report that our finances are in reasonably good shape. We are seeing the impacts of the limited ability to do fundraising, so every event and every donation makes a difference to our financial state. We now have three long term rentals through the winter months and several short-term rentals throughout the week. This is giving us some stability. At this time, we are back to our full staff complement - a good accomplishment while in a pandemic. We are noticing that offerings are decreasing, perhaps we are growing weary of the situation. In the words of Dr. Shahab – "We've gone so far. We just have to pull along for the next few weeks or months." Let's have a strong financial finish to 2021!

**Ways of making monetary donations:**

1. E-Transfer

Use your bank or credit union app to send an e-transfer to the church, using this email address: **wucfinances@gmail.com**. E-transfers are especially useful for making donations.

2. Preauthorized Monthly Deposits (PAR)

Provide the church Administrator with a cheque marked VOID and indicate the amount to be taken from your account monthly. PAR contributions are taken from your account on the 20th of each month. You can change the amount or discontinue

payments at any time, by contacting the church office.

3. Cash or Cheques

Westminster United Church welcomes donations in cash or cheques. Please ensure that all such donations are provided in a donation envelope, or any envelope that has your complete name and address on the outside. You would help us by indicating if any portion should be allocated to Mission and Service or any of the other organizations that Westminster is supportive of, e.g., Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, Lumsden Beach Camp, Adopt A family, Food Pantry.

4. Canada Helps – by searching for

Westminster Regina on Canada Helps, you can donate this way. A tax receipt is issued by Canada Helps.

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**What happens to the work of the church if no one steps up?**

At this time our council is facing a shortage of members; there are several vacancies on council itself, as well as on several Task Groups. Some core teams are without chairpersons and/or they are short of members. Many people have been asked to take positions with few results.

As I sit in my usual place in the sanctuary on a Sunday, my eyes are often drawn toward the west window that depicts Jesus standing at the door prepared to knock. I cannot help but wonder how we would answer if Jesus knocked on our door asking us to consider taking a leadership role at Westminster.



"Nov 21 - Details of the Westminster Community Park Project will be shared at the

Congregational Meeting. This will include the vision along with strategies for funding, communication, and volunteers."