

***Celebrations This Week***

**Birthdays:** *Al Pols, Lois Clarkson, Eleanor Townsend, Pete Hirsch, Andrew Maier, and Janice Neigum.*

**Anniversaries:** *Doug & Margaret Henderson and Leroy & Donna Angle*

**Flowers** are placed in the Sanctuary this morning *in memory of father, Bob Patterson and in celebration of mother, Katie Patterson's 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday* by the *Connell, Berndt, and Patterson families.*

**South Alberta Presbytery:** *Our prayers this week are requested for South Alberta Presbytery and its Executive Committee members.*

***Our Order of Ministry This Morning***

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Lana Blatz, Karen Knibbs, Stan & Pat Bohnet
Coffee Hosts	<i>Willing Gardeners:</i> Boyd & Grace Alcock, Sharon Clay, Frieda Hiller
Scripture Reader	Pat Connell
Elder-in-Charge	Al Olson

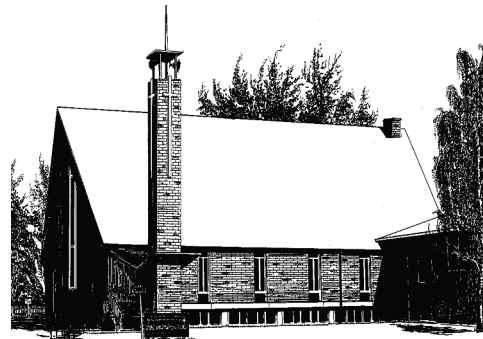
**Next Week's Readings:** *Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17; Psalm 104:27-33; Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 28:1-10.*

***Stewardship Thought for Today***

*How often does fear prevent us from giving as much as we are able to give? Stewardship allows us to choose to be free from fear by using our gifts to free others from what enslaves them.*

*by Kathie Murphy (General Council Office)*

***Westminster United Church***



Ministers: All the people  
 Clergy: Rev. James Farrell  
 Director of Music: Chris White  
 Jr Choir: Anna Marie Hancock  
 Secretary: Kim Sherring  
 Treasurer: Murray Bell  
 Custodian: James Karpch  
 101-6<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
 Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1G7  
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 Website: www.westminsteruc.com

*“We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people, and our world.”*

**September 11, 2011**

***Recovenanting Sunday***

We welcome Dr. Angie Irvine as our Worship Leader this morning.

***Season of Creation - Land Sunday***

Look at this amazing Earth! It's not just God's sacred garden; it's our daily immersion into the truth that God is with us in all things, including the land on which we live. When we listen to the land with deep respect, we know more of God's wisdom and ways. God's good land, with all its sacredness and scars, still loves and cares for us.

*If you would like to stay seated for any or all of the “standing” parts of the service, please feel free to do so.*

*Need a refuge? Our Nursery is located off Memorial Hall, has a speaker system through which to hear the service, and exists for all who may need this space. Memorial Hall approach is via the pulpit side exit.*

## Prelude / Sharing Announcements / A Time of Greeting

### A Time of Silent Preparation—Lighting the Christ Candle

#### Call to Worship *(Responsive)*

One: We invite the forests to worship with us:

**All: Mountain Ash and Poplars, quivering ferns and glistening moss!**

One: We quiver with the trees as they shake before the universe:

**All: when tempests and tornadoes hit, and raging winds invade the forest.**

One: We invite tall trees to celebrate life:

**All: Sumac, Pines, and Spruce, tall timber where lizards and lichen find their home!**

One: We invite the forest night-life to sing:

**All: Green tree frogs and timid moths, ancient owls and swirling bats!**

One: We join with the fauna of the forest in singing their praises to the Creator:

**All: Robins and chickadees, snakes, crickets and butterflies!**

One: We celebrate the song of the forest!

**All: Sing, forest, sing!**

#### Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

**Our sighs and groans, the sadness that weighs us down when our lives are heavy, and the world is in pain, is heard by the Holy Universe. May we be inspired by the delights of creation. May our hearts be lifted like the wind in the trees, the birds that soar, and the ascending hills. Amen.**

**Hymn #340 “Jesus, Friend of Little Children”**

### *Conversation Time*

*The Sunday School leaves for their classes.*

#### Prayer for Transformation *(Unison)*

**Author of the Universe: how often in the midst of our busyness, our getting and spending, our planning and delivering, we find ourselves tired and listless. We have lost a sense of joy and gratitude for the simple beauty of the Earth. May the dullness of our minds be removed, and may we awaken again to delight in the Holy throughout creation...*(time for silent reflection)***

#### Words of Assurance *(One)*

Behold: there is a new heaven, a new earth and a new city, where the river of life flows, where the tree of life bears fruit in every season. This heaven, this city, this river, this tree are a vision of our lives reborn, restored, and renewed. Amen.

#### Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

**Psalm 139:7-12**, Pg. 617

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today's lections are:  
Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16; Matthew 12:38-40.*

#### Anthem “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*”

**Romans 5:12-17** from the Epistles, Pg. 194

#### Reflection

**Hymn #310 “God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty”**

**Mission Moment** Dawn Skogen

#### Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

**Dedication Hymn #544 “In Gratitude and Humble Trust”**

#### Prayer of Dedication *(One)*

We have been given these gifts to share. May our offerings be accepted as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord's Prayer

**Hymn #713 “I See a New Heaven”**

#### Commissioning *(One)*

Let us go from this place, letting our anxious worries cease. May the lilies of the field and birds of the air inspire us to see Holy Love in all we do.

#### Choral Amen

**Hymn #964 “Go Now in Peace”**

#### Postlude

*Welcome to Westminster this morning.  
Please gather for a luncheon in Memorial Hall, following worship.*

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**This Week at Westminster** (September 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Sun.</b>	WorshipóReconvenanting	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Sunday School Registration Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
	Beef on a Bun Fundraiser	11:45 a.m.	Memorial Hall
<b>Tue.</b>	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Board of Elders	7:00 p.m.	Lounge
<b>Wed.</b>	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
<b>Thu.</b>	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

**Next Week at Westminster** (September 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Sun.</b>	Trustees	9:00 a.m.	Shalom Room
	Christian Development	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Worship	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Sunday School Begins		Westminster
<b>Tue.</b>	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
<b>Wed.</b>	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
<b>Thu.</b>	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

**Friendship Rosters:** Please sign the Friendship Roster this morning. It is a helpful record of your worship presence and a way to share special concerns.

Anyone interested in **Confirmation Classes**, please speak promptly with James.

**Westminster's "Child/Youth/Family Group"** invites you to join us after worship for a "Welcome Back" luncheon. We will be serving Beef on a Bun with Caesar salad and hotdogs. A good will offering will be collected with profits being forwarded to funding this year's "Family" events.

**Groups/Committees:** It is that time of year to let the office know when your first meetings will be held, so they can be added to the calendar and posted in the bulletin.

**Qi Gong** instructed by Deanna Ries will begin on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will run for eight weeks. An honorarium will accompany this program.

**2011 Pictorial Directory:** Our Directory is an important way to keep in touch with each other within our Church Community, while creating an historical document for Westminster United. We have a new company contracted for the Directory and Photos. A committee has been set up to handle the booking of appointments, which will occur following worship each Sunday in September. Or if you wish, you can book your own appointment on line through the ölinkö on Westminster's website homepage, located in the Calendar box.

**The United Church of Canada continues an emergency appeal for the Horn of Africa and the East Africa Drought Relief Fund.** Please join the church in providing financial support for this humanitarian crisis. Donations can be made **electronically** through the UCC website at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca) or **mailed directly** to the General Council Office: The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 300, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4 *\*Please be sure to note "Emergency Response-Horn of Africa" both on the envelope and on the face of the cheques.* Cheques should be made payable to the United Church of Canada. **All gifts given BEFORE September 16<sup>th</sup> and received by the General Council Office by September 26<sup>th</sup> will be matched by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).**

**"Here I Am"** is the theme for **2011 Banff Men's Conference, October 21-23. New location: The Banff Park Lodge.** To register and/or obtain more information check out [www.banffmen.org](http://www.banffmen.org).

**Thank You** to all who participate in the **Life & Work of the Church**—your contribution is to be celebratedô and we continue to need your help! If you are interested in: Greeting & Ushering, Hosting Coffee, Reading Scripture, Counting the Offering after Worship, singing with the Junior or Senior Choirs, or Assisting with Hospital Visitation, please **volunteer your time on the sign-up sheets** by Memorial Hall and remember to mark the date on your calendar! In the event that you cannot keep the commitment, please contact Lil Iwanicki at 403-527-8430 and Sharon Clay at 403-527-5681, so replacement volunteers can be obtained.

**Congregational Life Committee** is appealing to the congregation again, for goodies for Sunday morning coffee time. Please mark your items öFor Sunday Coffeeö and include the current date before storing in the auxiliary freezer.