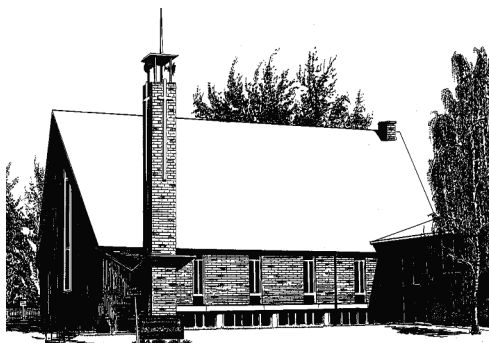


Westminster United Church



Ministers: All the people
Clergy: Rev. James Farrell
Director of Music: Chris White
Treasurer: Murray Bell
Custodian: James Karphe
Secretary: Kim Sherring
Jr Choir: Anna Marie Hancock
101-6th Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1G7
Tel: 403-526-5247
Fax: 403- 526-5983
E-mail: westminsteruc@gmail.com

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

October 9, 2011 Thanksgiving Sunday

The Season of Creation immersed us in the reality of forest, land, river, and wilderness/outback. As we continue in the Season after Pentecost, we find ourselves accompanying the people of Israel in their immersion in wilderness. Like their 40-year journey, the Season after Pentecost is a long, faith-forming time that shapes the character of those who are in it, and reminds people of faith of what nurtures our journey.

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: This is a time for giving thanks, a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

All: May we be thankful for all we have.

One: Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us many loving ways.

All: May we be thankful for those who show us love.

One: We find a home in creation and the earth gives us food to nourish us.

All: May we be thankful for what creation gives us.

Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

In this time together when we sing and pray, listen and teach, may we recognize and celebrate sacred goodness in all people—everywhere. May we learn to see the good in everyone we encounter, and may all see the divine goodness in us. Amen.

Hymn #291 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Conversation Time

Coloring packets for the children are available in the first pew on the pulpit side of the church.

Prayer for Transformation *(Unison)*

May we awaken the spirit within and fill our nostrils with the smell of creation. Let us fill our eyes and ears with the sights and sounds of the beauty around us. Let us touch the tenderness of those for whom we share life. Let us give thanks for our breath, our senses, our singing, and our silence. May we know intimately the presence of the Divine within and allow that presence to influence the way we see our lives and the lives of others ... *(time for silent reflection)*

Words of Assurance *(One)*

The Holy presence within each of us allows for a new beginning of peace always. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 *from the Hebrew Scriptures* Pg. 179

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today’s lessons are:
Psalm 65 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.*

Anthem “Let Everything Praise God”

Matthew 22:1-14 *from the Christian Scriptures* Pg. 32 *(NRSV)*

Reflection for Thanksgiving Sunday

Hymn #520 “We Plough the Fields”

Mission Moment Video

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #227 “For the Fruit of All Creation” *(v. 2)*

Prayer of Dedication *(One)*

May these gifts be received in hope and thanksgiving, as we offer them out of the good of this community and to the good of our neighbours, our city, our world. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord’s Prayer

Hymn #242 “Let All Things Now Living”

Commissioning (One)

May you always stand tall as a tree. Be as strong as a rock. As gentle and still as the morning mist. Hold the warmth of a campfire in your heart. And may you allow the Creator Spirit within to walk with you as Spirit Guide.

Choral Amen

Hymn #298 “When You Walk from Here”

Postlude

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

This Week at Westminster (October 9th – 15th)

Sun.	Worshipô Thanksgiving	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Board of Elders	7:00 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Qi Gong	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Next Week at Westminster (October 16th – 22nd)

Sun.	Worshipô World Food Sunday	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Qi Gong	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Sat.	Fall Supper	4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	Memorial Hall

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.

Five Minute Parking Reminder: These two areas, located near the Sanctuary and Glass doors are ONLY to be used as DROP OFF zones. Please refrain from using them as parking spaces.

Thank you to those who helped with decorating the Sanctuary for Thanksgiving and autumn. Looks great!

Free trade coffee has been purchased from Lifeline Haiti for their efforts to make life easier for Haitian children. Anyone wishing to support this worthwhile cause, through a free-will offering, the coffee will be brewed separately to prevent waste, and labelled, “*In support of Lifeline Haiti.*”

Congregational Life Committee is appealing to the congregation for goodies for Sunday morning coffee time. Please mark your items “For Sunday Coffee” and include the current date before storing in the auxiliary kitchen freezer.

The Visitation & Membership committee is appealing for volunteers to assist with Hospital Visitation, an important ministry of pastoral care. Please contact the office for further information.

The Finance Committee is in need of Offertory Counters on Sundays on a rotation basis. If this is of interest to you, please contact the office or Murray Bell, Treasurer.

Financial Report: Westminster has received \$112,980 in the **General Fund** to the end of *September 2011*. For the same period in 2010, we received \$119,890 realizing a current shortage in contributions of about \$6,910. Westminster has received \$17,433 for the **Mission & Service Fund** to the end of *September 2011*. For the same period in 2010, we received \$16,586 realizing advances of about \$845. Although we are grateful for and appreciate the contributions already gifted, we invite you to consider, if able, in helping eliminate the shortfall. Thank you. *Murray Bell, Treasurer*

Qi Gong instructed by Deanna Ries has begun on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will run for 5 weeks.

Unisphere invites you to “World Food Day Dinner 2011” this Friday at St. Patrick’s Church Hall at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale in the church office. Additional information on Bulletin Board, leading into Memorial Hall.

2nd Annual Bottle Drive: Sunday, October 16th between 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. If you are able to donate recyclable bottles, please sign the lists on the bulletin board leading into Memorial Hall. You may leave your bottles on your front step if you will not be home. All proceeds will go towards funding future Westminster Child/Youth/Family group activities.

To assist **Project Connect**, the **Mission & Outreach** committee is collecting **NEW** warm socks, men’s underwear (all sizes), toques, warm mittens, and bath towels to share with our most vulnerable neighbours in Medicine Hat. **Donations are needed by October 19th** and can be dropped off in the large green box on the Chancel.

We at Westminster will host our **annual Fall Supper, Saturday, October 22nd**. Meal times are 4:30 & 6:00 p.m. Advance tickets only. Prices: \$12-Adult, \$6-Children (12 & under), or \$35-Family. Tickets are available in Memorial Hall after Worship or in the office throughout the week. **Sign up sheets** are located in Memorial Hall for volunteering time or food donations.

November 30th is the deadline to register for the 10th Anniversary of **Epiphany Explorations** held January 19-23, 2012 at First Metropolitan United, Victoria, BC. Marcus Borg and Richard Rohrbaugh are the key speakers, along with other speakers, excellent music, and drama sessions. For additional information, talk to Boyd or Grace Alcock at 403-527-6753.

Celebrations This Week

Ministry was extended into the community this past week as James conducted the graveside service for Violet Worth. Our condolences go out to Vi's family.

Birthdays: *Jean Riggins, Walter Link, Doug Pearson, Irene Cunnings, and Ralph Roth.*

Anniversaries: *Gordon & Dianne Schneider.*

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for all people serving on Conference & National Committees within the United Church.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Lorine Liebelt, Katie Konrad, Everett & Clara White
Coffee Hosts: <i>Willing Gardener's</i>	Sharon Clay, Anna Marie Hancock, Wayne & Arlea Harper
Scripture Reader	Janice Croissant
Elder-in-Charge	Dawn Skogen

Next Week's Readings for World Food Sunday: *Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99 or Isaiah 45:1-7 or Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13); Matthew 22:15-22; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

Everyone is welcome at God's banquet table.

Good stewards use their resources to ensure

that no one feels left out of God's abundance.

by Kathie Murphy (General Council Office)
