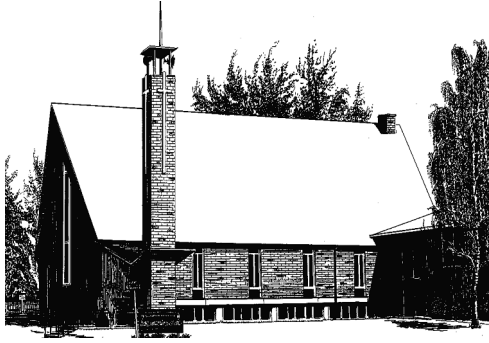


Westminster United Church



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

October 16, 2011 World Food Sunday

ōI know you by name,ō says God to Moses. These five simple words express the deepest desire of the human heart: to know that one is known by the Holy Mystery that resides at the heart of everything. Moses wills that relationship back into being, leaving us breathless at the ease of interplay between human and holy and, perhaps, inspired in our own meeting times with God.

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: God of the past who has fathered and mothered us

All: We know your presentness.

One: God of the future who is always ahead of us

All: We trust your presentness.

One: God of the present here in the midst of us and within each of us

All: We celebrate your presentness.

Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

We have been promised that we are never alone. Holy One of all life let us give thanks for the signs of love and creativity that surround us and bless us, past, present and future. Amen.

More Voices Hymn #161 "I Have Called You by Your Name"

Conversation Time

The Sunday School leaves for their classes.

Prayer for Transformation *(Responsive)*

One: It is sometimes difficult to keep the balance between loyalty to the government, and loyalty to Christian principles.

All: May we reflect carefully on the issues, and keep the faith.

One: It is sometimes difficult to keep the balance between loyalty to a friend and loyalty to the truth.

All: May we talk over our concerns, and seek to go the honest way.

One: It is sometimes difficult to keep the balance between the demands of family and demands outside the home.

All: May we faithfully consider our priorities, and listen to those closest to us.

One: It is sometimes difficult to keep the balance between loyalty to the bible stories we know and love, and new insights into these teachings.

All: May we honour the tradition we have received, but be ready for new ventures...*(time for silent reflection)*

Words of Assurance *(One)*

As we wrestle with our faith challenges peace will be ours. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Exodus 33:12-23 from the Hebrew Scriptures Pg. 94

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today's lections are:
Psalm 99 or Isaiah 45:1-7 or Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.*

Anthem "Praise to the Lord"

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

Reflection

More Voices Hymn #154 "Deep In Our Hearts"

Mission Moment Anna Marie Hancock

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 blessed and brought to life: new hope of healing; fresh ways of coping; a chance to rest; a chance to work; a way to live gracefully. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord's Prayer

Hymn #509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

Commissioning *(One)*

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place. As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and our world. Go in peace. Let us hold in our hearts the certainty that the Spirit of Life is with us always.

Choral Amen

Hymn #298 "When You Walk from Here"

Postlude

Welcome to Westminster this morning. Please gather for coffee and turkey bun luncheon in Memorial Hall, following worship.

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

Sun.	Worship: 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 & 6:00 p.m.	Memorial Hall

Next Week at Westminster (October 23rd – 29th)

Sun.	Christian Development	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Worship: Peace Sunday Dr. Bob Cruickshank	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Jr. Choir Sings	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Tue.	Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Lounge
	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

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.

Thank you to those who support our Local Foods Outreach. We have delivered 289 pounds of groceries thus far to the local Food Bank and this does not include the cash donations received.

Thank you to those who support our Medicine Hat Coop Ltd receipts campaign. We've just received another cheque for \$601.79 to be used for special projects.

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. It is labelled, "In support of Lifeline Haiti."

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.

Qi Gong instructed by Deanna Ries has begun on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will run for another 4 weeks.

2nd Annual Bottle Drive: TODAY between 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. If you wish to donate recyclable bottles, please sign the lists on the bulletin board leading into Memorial Hall TODAY. 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.

Time is running out 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 this Wednesday** and can be dropped off in the large green box on the Chancel.

Our **annual Fall Supper is this Saturday.** 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.

Medicine Hat's MacKenzie Porter in Concert in support of Lifeline Haiti, Sunday, October 23rd at Medicine Hat College Theatre. \$35 of the \$40 ticket price will be used to purchase coffee trees for future funding support of Haitian Children. For more information, please see the poster on the bulletin board leading into Memorial Hall.

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.

The United Church of Canada raised more than \$1 million in donations in our Horn of Africa Appeal, as of the end of September. These are the funds be matched dollar for dollar by the Government of Canada. The outpouring of support is heartening to those who were gifted and those who made a difference.

For those who are interested in viewing/sharing of photos/articles within our Conference, Liz Webster Goddard, Editor for "In Contact," in the *Observer* magazine has set up a Blog at <http://incontactunitedchurch.blogspot.com/>

Celebrations This Week

Birthdays: Judy Nay, Leota Steele, and Wally Bergstreser.

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for South Alberta Japanese Pastoral Charge & the Rev. Aldeen McKay.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Wayne & Arlea Harper Boyd Alcock, Karen Knibbs
Coffee Hosts	Mike & Joan Jantzie, Irene Fekete, Sharon Clay
Scripture Reader	Mina Carlson
Elder-in-Charge	Jackie Carlson

Next Week's Readings for *Peace Sunday*: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 or Psalm 1; Matthew 22:34-46; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

*Everything comes from God and belongs to God; we
give, not in tribute to God's power,
but in gratitude for what we have been given.*

by Kathie Murphy (General Council Office)

Board Report [*3rd Sunday of the month*]