

Dear Westminster Family

I am filled with joy as I reflect on my first Sunday back after some time off. It was a truly wonderful day, made even more special by the baptism of Shane and his son, Carl. The ceremony was a heartfelt reminder of the grace and love that binds us together as a community.

Carl was a delight to be around. His enthusiasm and joy were infectious, and it was a blessing to witness his commitment to his faith alongside his father.

I have two pictures from the baptism that I would love to share with you all. These moments captured the essence of our faith through family and community. Congratulations Shane and Carl, welcome to the family of Christ.



As we move forward, I am excited to share the theme of the new General Council: **Visions and Dreams**. It is the hope of the General Council that we visualize and dream about the year 2035. How do we envision our church then? What dreams do we have for us to be a significant and faithful presence in our community?

Let us incorporate this theme into our ministry life here at Westminster. Together, we can dream big and work towards a future where our church continues to thrive and make a positive impact.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. I look forward to many more Sundays filled with worship, fellowship, and the love of Christ.

Congregational Retreat and Worship at Camp Duncan



We are excited to invite you to our congregational retreat and worship at Camp Duncan, which will be held on September 6-7. You are all welcome to come and spend the day and overnight on Saturday. This will feature some activities, or you can simply relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the camp.

If you plan to spend the night, please bring a pillow and sleeping bag or linens. Our dinner will be potluck, so please bring a contribution. I will be BBQing some burgers. In the evening, we will enjoy a bonfire with stories and entertainment. Breakfast will be provided as we prepare for worship.

If you are planning to come only on Sunday, please arrive at the camp by 10 am. A sign-up sheet, including volunteering for driving folks, will be available at the back of the church beginning this Sunday. After church, a Beef on a Bun lunch will be served.

This weekend retreat will provide a wonderful, relaxed way of being in community together, where we can share our own visions and dreams for Westminster and the United Church of Canada. Please sign up and join us. For those who prefer to stay home, we will stream the service live at 10:30 am, provided the signal is strong.

This Sunday's Reading: Luke 13:10-17

In this passage, Jesus heals a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years. Despite the criticism from the synagogue leader for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus emphasizes the importance of compassion and mercy over strict adherence to religious laws. This story ties beautifully into our theme of Visions and Dreams, as it reminds us that our visions should be rooted in compassion and our dreams should include the well-being of others. Just as Jesus saw the potential for healing and transformation in the woman, we too can envision a future where our community thrives through acts of kindness and understanding.

Lastly, thank you for the contribution of boxes, tubs, and paper which we are using to pack up our house. It looks like we have everything we need for a successful move.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday.

Blessings

Pastor Steven