

Put on your aprons and your creative hats, it's gingerbread house time! We are encouraging you to decorate a gingerbread house and send in pictures of it to the church for us to post in the newsletter and on Facebook. Get creative, use your imagination, have fun, and send pics!

Beginning mid-December we will be placing wooden Christmas trees made from pallets in the church yard. We ask that if you are able, you gather together hats, mittens, scarves, etc. that we can hang on the tree for those in our community who may need them.

There is a Christmas packet of colouring, puzzles, activities available for pick up if anyone would like one for a child or child at heart. It can be a great idea if you want to send a surprise package in the mail to loved ones. Call the office if you want one and we will put it together for you.

Because of the pandemic, the Medicine Hat College food supply is not able to have students come in to get groceries. Instead, they are giving out \$25 grocery store gift cards. If anyone would like to donate cards for students in need, they can be dropped off at the church and we will get them to the campus chaplain.

As the year is winding down, it is time again for our committees to submit their annual reports. Please email completed reports to [reception@westminsteruc.com](mailto:reception@westminsteruc.com). The requested deadline for submission will be December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The United Church calendars have arrived. Calendars are available at the church office for \$10.00

For the duration of Advent, Reverend Lynn has compiled a daily scripture reading and corresponding prayer. These will be included in our weekly communication as a printable attachment.

### **This week's Minutes for Mission:**

Growing at Golden Lake Camp Our gifts for Mission & Service make United Church camps places where many lives are transformed. Let us hear from Amy, a young adult leader at Golden Lake Camp in the Upper Ottawa Valley.

*"This year will be my second as Program Director for Golden Lake Camp and my fourth year in total. I started my GLC journey as a volunteer, spending two and a half weeks there my first summer. I could go into lots of detail about all the amazing things I experienced—the equally amazing staff and campers I met, the personal and spiritual growth I went through, and the deeper connection with God I fostered—but I don't think you want to hear an essay-length story! In short, by the end of my time volunteering I had been having so much fun that I didn't even remember to cash my honorarium cheque. The Executive Director (the one-and-only lovely Beth Payson) told me the following summer when I applied for a permanent position how I had kind of messed up the budget that year by not cashing it...whoops! Working at GLC literally (and I don't use that word lightly) made my life better, and I've met some lifelong friends there. The atmosphere and love in this place are infectious, and you truly make a noticeable difference in children's lives."*

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

A couple tidbits from the United Church of Canada Website (<https://www.united-church.ca/>)

#### Gifts with Vision:

Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with [Gifts with Vision](#)! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission & Service ministries and programs.

*Gifts with Vision* has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones!

The gift catalogue is updated online regularly, and is fully refreshed every fall. It is also distributed in print with *Broadview* magazine, and mailed to each Pastoral Charge.

To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit [GiftsWithVision.ca](https://www.united-church.ca/gifts-with-vision) today!

#### Advent 2020 Moderator Richard Bott's 2020 Advent Video Message:

<https://www.united-church.ca/news/moderators-advent-message-2020>

Take care everyone!

