

### **Stewardship Seconds**

*Stewards of the gospel are transfigured through Christ's light shining out of the darkness.*

Greetings!

Westminster United Church will be hosting this year's "World Day of Prayer" on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The service will be **online** with further details closer to the date.

2020 donation receipts have been mailed. Lent in a bag packages are still available at the office for those interested.

The winter accessory trees have been a huge success and will remain up until the end of February. If anyone has any more toques/gloves etc. to donate we will gladly put them out.

Stay warm!

#### **Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry Society Report: 2020**

It has been a difficult year for the Campus Ministry, as it has been for many associations, and society in general. We lost a wonderful member and former Chair, Rev. Jim Hillson, who passed away in September. His role went far beyond Board meetings, as our Chaplain's Advisor and Personnel Chair, and in reality, advisor to us all. He is dearly missed.

In March, students were sent home to study in both virtual and blended formats, due to the coronavirus and for the most part, courses are still being offered remotely today. Our Chaplain Kristy Reimers-Loader has been engaging with the College community, offering her regular weekly Chaplain's Coffee online via zoom, with good attendance and engagement from students, staff, and faculty. She is supporting students, staff, and faculty online, over the phone, and in (extremely limited and carefully managed) in-person conversations.

Kristy has seen poverty, food insecurity, and/or mental illness intensify over the past 10 months. She offers grocery cards to students in need, ran the Campus Care program using Superstore gift cards (placing them in greeting cards, highlighting that the donors are from the Church Community), and has sent students to receive hampers from the program at St.

John's. She belongs to the Mental Health Task Force and was added to the list of personnel to receive training in Violent Threat Risk Assessment.

We are honored to have both a College Administrator and 2 College students attend our monthly Board Meetings via zoom, and the College continues to be very thankful for the addition of the Chaplaincy to their programming.

The Board would like to thank the congregations for their continued prayers and financial support of the Campus Ministry.

Report submitted by:

Helen Snortland: Secretary: Ecumenical Campus Ministry Society

P.S.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 7 P.M. on Thursday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

Meeting Address is:

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484640555>

Meeting ID: 814 8464 0555

Passcode: Pfk7U9

## Minutes For Mission:

### A FRESH START: ARIA'S STORY

*"I never had the start that I would have liked."*

Find this video and others available for streaming and for download on our [YouTube channel](#)(opens in a new tab).

<https://youtu.be/aDnW2zI2MPw>

We all know what it's like to need a fresh start. But some of us have more support systems and opportunities in place to help us get the new beginning we need. Aria was in the third year of getting a law degree when she discovered she was pregnant. Without close family to lean on and limited financial resources, she had to take a break from school and go to work. To support herself and the child she was expecting, she took two jobs, arriving at the first at 6 a.m. and finishing the second at 10:30 p.m.

"I was on the unstable side of things, trying to find stable housing and later, daycare. I just needed a start. I was on my own," she says.

A social worker referred Aria to the Massey Centre, an organization supported by your Mission & Service gifts that helps pregnant and parenting adolescents aged 13–25. At the Massey Centre, Aria enrolled in maternity classes and motherhood programs, received help getting her driver's licence, and found stable housing.



*Credit: The United Church of Canada*

"As a young person, I was thrown into the world. I never had the start that I would have liked. I had to figure a lot of things out. The best part about being at the Centre is that I feel like I am in a safe, supportive environment, and I am around other moms in the same situation. The staff are like family to me. They show up for you, and that's important," she says.

Aria is a proud mother of a happy, healthy 17-month-old boy named Amari. She is finishing the fourth year of her law degree and has important dreams.

"I want to be a good mom. I feel that I am a good mother. But I want a good job so I can support Amari and help other people. I had a rough start in life. That's why I'm studying law. I'm hoping to be of some use as a lawyer to benefit young people who went through things like I did," she says.

*Your gifts through Mission & Service give ambitious, intelligent young moms like Aria as well as their beautiful children the stability they need to thrive. Make a gift to **Mission & Service** today. Choose to give families a fresh start. Thank you!*