

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND
SUNDAY, February 10, 2013
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*When you see this sign, please stand as you are able.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #577 *I've Got Peace like a River*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Have you not known the God of the downtrodden: the God of Hagar and Ruth and Paul?

All: Yes, we know this God and surely this God knows us.

One: Have you not heard the gospel of the oppressed: the story of liberation, freedom, and salvation?

All: Yes, we have heard this story and surely this story lives in us.

One: We know and we have heard that God is good,

All: all the time!

One: And all the time,

All: God is good. Amen!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ
is in us and in our world.

INTROIT: **Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's Grace.
I can feel the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for creating all of us in your image, even though outwardly we look different. As we come together this day to remember Black History Month, we thank you, because you have made us equal in your sight and you are calling us to serve you in justice and peace. Be with us in our worship.

*HYMN #400 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

THEME CONVERSATION

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN/LORD'S PRAYER

(The children may go up to Sunday school now)

LITANY

One: For 200 years we have lived in a land after the transatlantic slave trade was legally abolished.

For 40 years we have lived in a continent free of legal racial segregation

All: Yet we are still thirsty for equality.

One: For 30 years we have understood the injustices that keep HIV/AIDS from spreading in every corner of the world including our own

All: Yet we are still thirsty for compassion.

One: For 20 years we have gone to workshops on "multiculturalism" and tolerance

All: Yet we are still thirsty for acceptance.

One: For 10 years we have known the importance of role models for our youth

All: Yet we are still thirsty for peace on our streets.

One: For centuries we have cried out

All: "Give us water to drink," wondering if "the Lord is with us or not."

One: And as we asked and as we are now asking, God provides us with living water of hope, so that strengthened we can continue our journey toward equality, compassion, acceptance, and peace.

All: With hope, though thirsty, we will not be parched.

One: One day our yearning will cease and our thirst will be quenched.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

SUNG RESPONSE – VU # 612 There Is a Balm in Gilead

We Hear the Wisdom of the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SAID BY ALL)

May we hear these ancient scriptures with trusting faith and gentle hope, with creative enthusiasm and honest doubt, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and grounded in your love. May we hear your call in scripture today. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 3: 7-12
Luke 4: 17-20

ANTHEM The Well of Salvation Bert Stratton & Stan Pethel

SERMON

We Respond to God's Word

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

HYMN VU# 575 I am Gonna Live so God can Use Me

(please remain seated for this hymn)

**DOXOLOGY: #VU 541*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sung Response **Kumbaya**

Kumbaya my lord, Kumbaya

Kumbaya my lord, Kumbaya

Kumbaya my lord, Kumbaya

O Lord Kumbaya

We Go Forth to Serve

**HYMN # 266 Amazing Grace*

**COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION*

** * SUNG BLESSING*

Go in love; have no fear. God will guide you,

God is always near. Go in Love; take God's hand.

God will hear you and will understand.

May God's light forever shine upon you.

May God's peace be always in your heart.

Go in love; face each day.

God will lead you, and will show the way.

Go in love and live in faith. Amen.

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(Please allow the choir to recess before leaving the Sanctuary)

Postlude

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A special welcome to all new friends as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our lives. If you are a guest, visitor or newcomer, please make yourself known to us. If you have any questions, our greeters would be delighted to help you. Please put your name, mailing address and email address in our guest book so we may have a record of your visit. **Please join us for coffee after the service in the gym compliments of the Circle.**

Ministers: All the People of God with the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Lay Reader: Gerry Payne
Director of Music: Paul Sloan
Pre-Service Music: Rick Taylor
Administrator: Judy McConnell
Custodian: Mary Ellen Petticrew

Captain of the Greeters for February – *Bill & Trudy Coveyduck*
Wilma Plews & Ewing Rae will be delivering
the DVD's for the month of February.
Heather Wilson will be in the Nursery today.
Captain of the Counters for February – *Ria Gerritsen*
Phone 526-6077 Fax 526-4020

Email: stpaulsunited@rogers.com, Website: stpaulsmidland.org
Office hours Monday thru Friday 9-12, 1-4pm

CHURCH MEETINGS THIS WEEK FEB 11TH THRU FEB 15TH

Tuesday	Worship	9:00am	Karen's Office
Tuesday	UCW	12:30pm	Parlour
Tuesday	Scouts Pancake Supper	5:30 to 7:30 pm	Gym
Tuesday	Property	7:00pm	Chapel
Wednesday	Bible Study	11:30am	Parlour
Thursday	Choir	7:00pm	Chapel

Don't forget to let the church know if you're meeting day or time changes!

The Observer: would you like to receive this award winning magazine monthly. If you are presently getting the Observer and wish to continue doing so, you need do nothing. If you are not receiving it and would like please contact the church office. Donations are always welcome to the church to offset the cost of the subscriptions. The cost for one year is \$20.00, but donations of any size are accepted. Please indicate on your envelope that the monies are for the Observer. We reach out to our community by providing copies to nursing homes, and other locations throughout the Midland area. For more information please call the church office at 705-526-6077.

Help Wanted - Some of our church committees are looking for additional members to help share the work-load of St. Paul's. If you are interested in offering some time to support the work of your church please contact Sheila Thompson 705-526-2186 or Louise Leck 705-526-6389. Committees

looking for new members are **Faith Formation/ Christian Education, Communication, Stewardship and Ministry and Personnel**. If we have a volunteer who would work well on either Stewardship or M&P we could suggest that they consider those positions? Sheila

GATEWAY Centre for Learning formerly Midland Reading Council

we offer FREE confidential services to both adults and youth/children in reading, writing, math, computer skills, employability skills and life skills. We want to reach those in need to increase people's quality of life. We also have a demand for volunteers to tutor our learners.

For Further Information Call Contact:

Gateway for Learning, 488 Dominion Avenue, Midland, ON 705-527-1522 or email me at ILVDRESSAGE@HOTMAIL.COM

DVD library of past services is located on the bookshelves in the middle row of the church towards the north side of the sanctuary. If you are unsure, please ask a greeter or Sheila Thompson. The DVD's are copies of past services and are available for anyone who may have missed a service, or enjoyed one so much that they'd like to watch it again, or share it. DVD's can be picked up and returned at your convenience.

Lay Visitor cards are on the back window sill for any of our visitors who need more cards. Thank you to all our visitors for the very important work they do for the church!

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY YOU MAY CALL **KAREN** AT HOME AT **705-355-0224** OTHERWISE PLEASE CALL CHURCH AT **705-526-6077**. **KAREN** NOW HAS HER OWN EMAIL ADDRESS: MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM. YOU ARE INVITED TO EMAIL **KAREN** DIRECTLY AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.

SINGERS wanted! – Missa Gaia

We're planning a performance of Paul Winter's "Missa Gaia – Earth Mass" at St. Paul's in Midland for the weekend of April 20, 2013. Some of you sang it last year with Paul Sloan and Blair Bailey. It seems a shame to let all that good work get rusty so, if you've done it before, or if you haven't but wish you had, or if you just want to sing some really interesting, approachable music celebrating Earth Day, please contact Roger Priddle at [705-533-2052](tel:705-533-2052). Rehearsals 7 p.m., Wednesdays, starting January 30th at St. Paul's, Midland.



The **Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday February 24th** in the sanctuary following the morning service. Everyone member and non members are invited to attend this meeting and take part in the future of your church. Reports for the Annual Report are due in the office! *Louise Leck, Congregational Chairperson*

Newsletters: Please consider receiving your newsletter by email....no paper...if so let Judy in the church office know at 526-6077 or email the church office at stpaulsmidland@rogers.com!

UCW ladies will meet on Tuesday Feb 12th at 12:30pm in the parlour for their monthly meeting. The topic of discussion this month is the “Non-Profit Organizations that the UCW support”. Bring a bag lunch, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided, all ladies are welcome!

Monday February 18th the Circle will be meeting in the parlour at 7pm. The Circle is a group of ladies in the church that support many functions that go on during our Christian year and also take time to meet and chat and enjoy each other’s company. This April, The Circle will be hosting our semi annual talent auction. If you would like more info on The Circle, see any of the ladies in the kitchen on Sunday. We are always looking for new ladies to join us!!!

The next Breakfast for **St. Paul's Men's Group** will be on Saturday, February 23rd at 8:30AM, at MOM'S RESTAURANT, 200 Pillsbury Drive, Midland.

Thank you to **Max Wagg** for the wonderful library cart that he has made for the church. You can see it in the hall outside Karen’s office and it will be a useful resource to hold our books. Thank you Max!!

We would like to thank **Colleen Stocker** for faithfully making sure each Sunday that Karen has a cold, refreshing glass of water to drink from while she is in the pulpit. Thank you! Colleen

Black History Month

February is Black History Month—or African Heritage Month—in Canada. The development of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson (an African-American historian) proposed a Negro History Week for the second week of February. The initial proposal came at a time when Black peoples were legally segregated, exploited, and treated as sub-human. In 1976, the week evolved into the full month of February becoming Black History Month.

Black History Month is now a time to honour and celebrate the historical and present contributions of peoples of African descent. It is also a time to remember the struggles from which Black peoples came and the continued legacy of the Transatlantic Trade in Africans.

Why should we celebrate African Heritage Month within The United Church of Canada?

For a church that is striving to become more intercultural, African Heritage Month provides a unique opportunity to learn more about the lives and legacies of peoples of African descent. This month could also be a time for congregations to make a commitment to becoming more culturally sensitive, racially inclusive, and justice-conscious.

Black history is Canadian history, and the month of February provides us with a unique time to worship, reflect, dialogue, and discuss issues relevant to peoples of African heritage.

In addition to focusing on Black history of the past, churches could also prayerfully consider issues facing the Black community in the present. For example, there are alarming new cases of HIV/AIDS among Black women between the ages of 19 and 40. The current crisis of HIV/AIDS, and historical legacy of the Transatlantic Trade in Africans, can inspire us all for renewed action and faithful resistance.



For more on Black History Month, see:
www.united-church.ca/planning/seasons/blackhistory

The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

 **PANCAKE SUPPER** 
SCOUTS CANADA SCOUTS CANADA

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

St. Paul's United Church - Midland



Adults - \$7.00

Child under 8 - \$5.00

It includes pancakes,
sausages, coffee, tea,
juice and dessert

Proceeds to
4th Midland Scouting
We are raising funds so
that youth can attend
the Canadian National
Jamboree in Alberta
this summer.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR