



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – October 14, 2021

### Minister's Ponderings:

This past week has been about transition as once again we find ourselves adapting to move forward in this pandemic. If there is one thing I have learned this past year and a half it is not to get "my knickers in a knot" as I find a new path forward. You may have read about, or experienced it directly yourself, people in their anxiety and frustration are becoming grumpy. Verbal and psychological abuse is on the rise, not only in homes but in the workplace. People just doing their job are being stressed by angry and inappropriate behaviour in others. It is my hope that we might dial back some of this. How we behave deeply affects ourselves and others. If we are to be the light of the Christ to others, then we need to know that we have to walk the talk. If you are one of the people lashing out inappropriately, I urge you to seek help in dealing with your own issues and stress. Self care is very important. We are in this together.

### Worship:

This Sunday, we have asked the Transition Steering Team, members of the Official Board and the Worship committee to assist us on Sunday morning. The Worship leadership team will have a chance to get used to people in the pews, the Tech Team has been working hard on changing settings for sound in the sanctuary and dropping in our videos "on demand". The ushers are being trained to bring people in with our new health regulated protocols. All is well as we look forward to having the congregation **join us on October 24<sup>th</sup> by pre-registration with the church office.**

**Please note** that **starting this Sunday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>** you will no longer be able to join us online for worship before **10.00 a.m.** This means that if you come in between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., you will join us midway through the service. At 11:00 a.m., we need to upload the service so it may not be available until after 12:00 noon. It takes about an hour to upload it, then you can **watch it anytime** on our St. Paul's Midland You tube channel.

**St. Paul's policy requires that all eligible congregants, volunteers, user groups and visitors be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 before entering the building.** Those who wish to claim a Human Rights-Code exemption (such as a medical exemption), should notify the office of their accommodation request and guidance will be provided about how to proceed. Children not eligible for vaccination are welcome to attend!

**Everyone who plans to return to in-person worship will need to pre-register by phone with Louise Therrien** at the Church Office (705-526-1640) between Tuesday and Thursday prior to the Sunday service you wish to attend. For now, we are limiting participation to 40 people. When you call, Louise will ask you to voluntarily disclose your vaccination status and answer some health screening questions before putting you on the registration list.

I invite you to join us each week for worship. Visit our website at [www.stpaulsmidland.org](http://www.stpaulsmidland.org) and use the direct YouTube link at the top of the page, or simply go to YouTube and subscribe to our channel. Just type in "St. Paul's Midland" and you will find us. If you are on Facebook, you can get St. Paul's updates that way as well.

## Congregational News/Updates:

**CALLING ALL GARDENERS:** For those who have volunteered to care for the coleus plants over the winter, **pick up date is this Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** between 10:00 a.m. and noon. Just drive up to the ramp and we will safely deliver the plants to you. If you're unable to come to the church, please call Carol MacDonald at 705-828-2158 and she will deliver your plant. See you on Saturday.



**UCW PIE SALE:** For those of you who have volunteered to bake and donate pies, drop off time is between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on October 19<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who have ordered pies, pick up date is also on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Sharon Foster at 705-526-7181 for your pick-up time.

**UCW are again doing a Christmas Goodie box sale.** They are looking for donations of squares and cookies – squares need to be on parchment paper and uncut. Please call Barb Carswell with your donations, which are due on Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup> by 10:00 a.m. For those of you who want to place orders for a Christmas goodie box at a cost of \$15, please contact Barb at 705-526-5957.

On October 27, 2021, **Our Food and Fellowship** committee is doing a **Ham and Scalloped Potatoes full take-out dinner** including vegetables, coleslaw, bun and dessert. Dinners are \$20 each and are to be pre ordered and paid through the church office **by calling 705-526-1640**. Deadline for ordering is Thursday, October 21st. Proceeds will be for the work of St. Paul's United Church.

**Congratulations to Ruth Brown** on the birth of her great-grandson, Ozi James Walter Brown, on Thanksgiving Sunday,. All are doing well!

## Transition Steering Team (TST) Update:

The TST continues to meet and monitor our re-opening plans. As noted in the Worship section, we are excited to once again be able to have in-person worship starting Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> as well as continuing our on-line worship. We are happy to have you worship with us either way. There are several groups that have started to meet again in person. The Bible Study, the U.C.W., the Women's Grief group, the Pastoral Care Team, the Congregational Life

Committee, and the St. Paul's Bell A' Peal Handbell Choir have all started back at the church, while many other committees as well as the Theological Studies Group continue on Zoom.

## St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour – please note change in time:

Our next ZOOM Coffee Hour will be on **Sunday October 24th.** Due to in-person worship starting on that date, we will be **changing the coffee hour to 1:00 p.m. from that date forward.** We invite you all to join. You can use the same link as before, which is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>



## This Week's Minute for Mission:

**GOD'S MISSION**  
**OUR GIFTS**

Emmanuel didn't want to just feed the children—he wanted to make sure they could one day feed themselves.



Emmanuel Baya teaches organic farming techniques to children in his care.

Have you ever stood in front of the pantry at 6 p.m. looking for dinner inspiration? For some of us, figuring out what to make for dinner is stressful. The truth is that if our family mealtime dilemma is wondering what to make, we are fortunate. We're fortunate because we aren't asking, "Will we eat?"

One in 9 people around the world go to bed hungry each night and 191,000,000 children under 5 years old are malnourished.

As a young child living in Kenya, Emmanuel Baya went to bed hungry more nights than he can count. Sadly, his parents died when he was a young child, and he worked hard just to survive. That's why his heart stirred when he saw children under the cashew trees near his property. He knew they were too busy looking for food to go to school.

"Most of the children who did not go to school were orphans. It saddened my heart so much that I decided to help," he explains.

In 2008, Emmanuel opened the Magarini Children Centre. Today, over 287 children receive warm, healthy meals and education there. But Emmanuel decided he didn't want to just feed the children—he wanted to make sure they could one day feed themselves.

So, he enrolled in the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), which your Mission & Service gifts support. There, he learned organic farming techniques. Long story short, he opened a demonstration farm next to the Children Centre. It's now a learning hub for seven surrounding communities. "This is my definition of love," he says.

Isn't Emmanuel's story amazing? And isn't it amazing that you have a part in it?

Please make a gift through [Mission & Service](#) this World Food Day. Your gifts will help feed, educate, and advocate for the most vulnerable at home and around the world.

*Your support makes a life-changing difference through extraordinary leaders like Emmanuel, whose lives define love every day.*

Blessings everyone. Till next week. Karen

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Minister, St. Paul's United Church

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