

Minister's Ponderings:

As you know, last week was our first official reopening Sunday for in-person worship after 81 weeks. It was quite moving to see people in the pews after a year and half. Some of us even found ourselves a bit emotional as we connected once again. The good news is that we have found that our new process works. People were safely distanced, welcomed by greeters and taken to their seats by ushers. It went so well that the Transition Steering Team has increased the number of people who can come in and worship. Thanks to feedback from the congregation, they have also streamlined the pre-registration process. This was sent out to you via email on Wednesday and is included in the Worship section below. Some came back a bit nervous but found that it felt like "coming home". So for those of you who want to join us in person – welcome back. For those of you who are staying on-line, thanks for continuing to worship with us in this way. All are welcome.

Worship:



This Sunday we will be having our annual Foodgrains Sunday. Learn more about the work that brought many church denominations, farmers and people of good will together in feeding the world's hungry. Thanks to members of our Outreach committee for sharing in the service as prayer readers and always - a thank you to those who read the scriptures. Thanks also to our Pastoral Care visitors who faithfully deliver the bulletins each week to those who do not have access to the internet.

Please note that you are no longer 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 livestreamed 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 YouTube 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!

Based on feedback we have received, we are also **modifying the pre-registration process** to make it easier for you to register, while still allowing us to plan ahead for the right number of congregants. You can now **pre-register simply by emailing that you're planning to attend and the number in your party to stpaulsunited@rogers.com** or you can call **Louise Therrien at 705- 526-1640, by Thursday afternoon.**

When you arrive, you will be asked if you are feeling well, and then you can sign in, attesting to your vaccination status and your good health, as we did last Sunday, with one person signing in for your whole party.

We will review this process again at our next meeting on November 9 and may likely make further modifications as we gain experience with our re-opening process and obtain more feedback. We look forward to seeing more and more of you each week!

I invite you to join us each week for worship. Visit our website at 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.

Men's Breakfast Gathering:

Our next men's breakfast group via Zoom is **this Saturday October 30th at 9:30 a.m.** The Zoom link is included below. Gather with the guys while having your coffee or breakfast at home. All men are welcome to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83289106842?pwd=Y2RvRjg5WTkyR2gwVWxGQ0cwQlFWZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 8910 6842

Passcode: 354660

Congregational News/Updates:

Congratulations to Victoria Warwick and Jim Koch on the birth of a new baby girl in the family, born on Wed. Oct. 27th. Victoria is off this Sunday to be with her daughter and family.

GOOD NEWS- A NEW WEB DESIGN: We are happy to announce that our new website will launch at the end of October, at the same web address - www.stpaulsmidland.org. Currently some pages are still under construction. **Many thanks** to Fran Hill, Linda Wilcox and Ryan Spooner who worked long hours in a short period of time to make this happen. Thank you also to Collaborative Haus Marketing who worked with us to design and build our new website. They are a great team, dedicated to quality and professionalism and we are truly fortunate to have them in our community.

This Sunday will be the launch of our Foodgrains Campaign, which will continue until November 30th. Every dollar you donate will be matched by St. Paul's Special Project Fund, up to a maximum of \$2,500. As well, the Canadian Government matches our donation 4:1. Please make your **cheques payable to St. Paul's United Church. You can also donate via e-transfer.** Thank you for your support in helping to reduce world hunger.

Food and Fellowship dinner: Thank you to everyone who purchased Ham and Scalloped Potatoes dinners in support of the work of St. Paul's. **Special thanks** go out to our cooks and volunteers (Zena Pendlebury, Sheila Thompson, Gail Wilcox, Lenore and Ivan Price, Peggy Wallace, Sue Dorion and Diane MacMenemey) who worked tirelessly to make this happen. **This event raised \$884.75 for church expenses.** Great job everyone!!

Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to assist us in the ongoing work and ministry of the church. On Sundays, for those who can join us for in-person worship, we are looking for the following:

- **Readers** of the Scriptures/Prayers of the People: Please call Julianna Shaw 705-534-7082
- **Ushers:** Please call Sheila Thompson 705-526-2186
- **Counters:** Please call Ria Gerritsen 705-730-4238
- **Drivers:** Several of our "At Home Faithfuls" have asked if we might assist them to find a volunteer to pick them up and drive them to and from church. They would really like to be part of worship. We work hard to arrange drivers who live close to them and can pick them up on their way to church. Please consider this important ministry. Please call Sheila Thompson 705-526-2186 if you can assist.

The UCW are doing a Christmas Goodie box sale again this year. 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 9th 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.

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

Our next ZOOM Coffee Hour will be **Sunday November 14th at 1:00 p.m.** 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:

Skills learned at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan create a teaching farm in Sierra Leon.



GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS

We don't always know the extent of the good we do even when we are giving generously. When we make a gift, we hope to have an impact but often can't foresee how many lives we touch or how far our care extends. Mambud Samai's story is a tangible example of how your gifts through Mission & Service send ripples of compassion across continents.

Mambud is a pastor who lives in Sierra Leone, where an estimated 27,000 citizens became amputees during the civil war that raged between 1991 and 2002. To support amputees that he visited in rehabilitation camps after the war, Mambud turned to soccer, his country's favourite sport. He founded a soccer league for amputees called the Single Leg Amputee Sports Club of Sierra Leone to help restore hope. Now 350 members strong, the league isn't just about helping amputees overcome discrimination, restoring their pride, and providing therapeutic support. As if these alone aren't amazing.

Two years ago, Mambud decided he wanted to make an even bigger difference. So, he flew all the way to the Asian Rural Institute (ARI for short), a unique school in Japan that your Mission & Service gifts support. Thanks to generous supporters like you, ARI trains thousands of leaders like Mambud from all over the world to grow food, tend livestock, and be effective change agents in their community.

After graduating from the nine-month program at ARI, Mambud returned to the soccer fields of Sierra Leone with a new goal: to develop teaching farms where people can learn to grow food sustainably and support themselves financially by selling that food at market.

Mambud and members of the Single Leg Amputee Sports Club of Sierra Leone now run an educational farm, and there are plans to convert more of Sierra Leone's fertile land into gardens and teaching centres. In a country where the average person lives just 43 years, Mambud's extraordinary leadership and the skills he learned in Japan save lives.

From Canada to Japan to Sierra Leone—Mambud's story is just one example of how your gifts do a world of good.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! By supporting leaders like Mambud with education and training, your generosity helps change lives around the world. Thank you!

Blessings everyone. Till next week. Karen

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

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