

St. Paul's Weekly Update – Nov. 4, 2021



Minister's Ponderings:

I met this week with several of our committees as well as with the Bible Study Group, the Theological Studies Group and with individuals. Amid everything, we have managed to build community and live our faith. Gratitude has been expressed again and again to those who have voluntarily contributed their time making phone calls, baking pies, attending zoom meetings and now to those who are assisting with the re-opening of our building. St. Paul's is still here. We are excited to welcome back those who are ready to come back. We are happy that those who are not yet ready are still worshipping with us virtually. We are thankful for our new website. We even have people sharing our posts on Facebook and helping us get the word out. Thank you for continuing to be the church of Christ.

Worship:

This Sunday is **Remembrance Sunday**. We will be welcoming back our trumpeter, Sadie Bridgeman, as together we remember those who served and suffered in past wars while at the same time remembering the call to work for peace.



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!

As announced in last week's update, we have **modified the pre-registration process** to make it easier for you to register, while still allowing us to plan 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.** Please review the health self assessment questionnaire that is attached to this update so that you are prepared for the ushers to ask about your current health status and if you are feeling well. You will then only need to sign in, attesting to your vaccination status and your good health.

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.



Don't forget to Change your clocks back by one hour on Saturday night, Nov. 6th!

Congregational News/Updates:

Our Foodgrains Campaign was launched last Sunday and 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.

A reminder to all Official Board members that we are meeting next Tuesday, November 9th via zoom. Please plan to attend if you are able.

St. Paul's Visiting Team also meets next week, on Wednesday November 10th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlour. Please contact Colleen at 704-427-9630 to confirm your attendance.

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 at 705-534-7082
- **Ushers:** Please call Sheila Thompson 705-526-2186
- **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 Salvation Army's** kettle campaign is starting up and they're looking for volunteers to help out for two-hour shifts, indoors or outdoors. If you can help, please call their office directly at 705-526-5683 to arrange.

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:

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



This Week's Minute for Mission:

"The grinding equipment helped me increase my income by 40 percent."



Leila presses carob paste thanks to new grinding equipment provided by Mission & Service partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees.

One of the things we can do to promote peace is share what we have, to ensure that everyone has enough. That's why your generosity through Mission & Service supports economic development programs that offer things like micro-loans and business training and support to purchase equipment.

Leila Basheer is a 46-year-old mother of five who lives in a village in the northwestern part of the West Bank in Palestine. Leila's husband is in poor health, which makes it hard to get by. Since she was a child, Leila has been preserving carob paste, which helps with upset stomach. Four years ago, as her family struggled, she had the idea to sell her carob paste. But processing it by hand is labour intensive so she turned to DSPR—the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees—for help.

"As I made some profit from local sales, I decided to expand. DSPR helped me out with buying grinding equipment that facilitated making carob paste enormously," she says.

The outcome is amazing. Not only can Leila produce high-quality paste but her income has also grown. "The grinding equipment helped me increase my income by 40 percent. I look forward to buying a second grinding machine, this time to produce tomato paste," says Leila.

Palestinians in the West Bank are subject to complex systems of control. These systems of control include physical barriers like the Separation Wall, checkpoints, and roadblocks, and bureaucratic ones like permits and closure of areas. These restrict Palestinians' right to freedom of movement. The Israeli occupation has confiscated thousands of dunums (1 dunum = 1,000 square metres) of land from Palestinian farmers to build illegal settlements, bypass roads, and build the Separation Wall.

Moreover, the checkpoints, roadblocks, and crop destruction create extreme challenges for farmers attempting to reach their land and their markets.

Every step we take to support families like Leila's brings us a step closer to peace and justice. Thank you for your generosity through [Mission & Service](#).

Blessings everyone. Till next week. Karen

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