

Minister's Ponderings:



CBC news reported on Nov. 17th that **University of Toronto professor Sajeed John is 2021 winner of \$1M Herzberg medal.** Sajeed John, a professor and scientist who developed a way to confine and control light, similar to the way electrons are controlled in electronics, has been awarded Canada's top science prize. His research has many implications, one of which is that

there is the possibility of trapping light from the sun and using it as an energy source as well as possibly reducing the warming up of the planet. It has the potential to address some of our climate crisis concerns. I read this as B.C. is cleaning up from mud slides and flooding with over 500 people still trapped on a highway. Saskatchewan and the West are being hit with the same storm and we know ourselves that here in Ontario, our climate is changing. I thought it would be valuable this week to share this news and remind all of us that future generations need us to take this climate crisis seriously. We need to do all that we can to address it. Even starting to reduce and reuse our material goods and cut down on our consumerism can make a difference.

Worship:

Our worship service for **Sunday, Nov. 21st** is traditionally called "The Reign of Christ" Sunday. It purposely takes us to the trial of Jesus just before his execution the week before Advent. Christmas is not just the celebration of a birth of a child. It is the celebration of the child who would change the world with his vision of the kingdom of God, both in heaven and on earth. It was his vision of how we live our faith and how that faith could be radically inclusive and push for the dignity, hope, well being of all. Hence music like, "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" and "Be Thou My Vision" resonate in the service. Come join us this Sunday either in person or virtually.

Welcome back



Feedback that we are receiving from those who are attending in-person worship indicates that people feel very safe. We are all wearing masks, socially distancing and are quite separated from one another in the pews. We have not yet reached the number we can accommodate and if we do, there will be additional spaces in the balcony. If you are wondering about coming back, I invite you to come out for a service and see for yourself.

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!



Beginning this week, pre-registration is no longer required; however, proof of vaccination must be shown at the door for entry. One member of the party will complete contact information for those attending with them. Masking, physical distancing and hand sanitizing is still required and singing will not resume. We are required by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to continue active screening, therefore the COVID screening questionnaire is attached. **Please review it before you attend church on Sunday**, as the ushers will be asking you about your current health status.

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.

Discovery Kids/Youth Group:

Welcome back into the building Discovery Kids!

On **Sunday November 28th** and **Sunday December 12th**, we will host in-person Discovery Kids at the church during Sunday worship. Children are encouraged to wear masks when able. Programming will last the duration of the worship service. Please direct questions to Rebecca by phone or text at 226-339-8218 or by email @ rebeccaamadei@gmail.com. We are NOT yet offering in-person Discovery Kids on all Sundays, so stay tuned for the 2022 calendar.

Youth Group: Our Youth Group will be gathering Sunday November 28 at 2:30 at Davidson Estate Alpacas for a tour of the ranch. Spaces are limited, so please contact Rebecca to reserve a spot. All youth grades 6-12 are invited! Text or call 226-339-8218 or email rebeccaamadei@gmail.com

News from our Refugee Committee:

We want to update you and let you know that the **first step** in the approval of our Refugee application for our family from Afghanistan has been met. St. Paul's, along with the Sedaquat family, have been approved as having met the requirements to sponsor this family. We now proceed to the **next step** which is that the Afghanistan family themselves will be interviewed. They are currently in Takistan. After that interview, a decision will be made to see if they meet the eligibility requirements of the Canadian Government to be brought here as refugees. Sponsoring refugees is always a long process, but we are delighted to know that our application has been received, and the first step approved, which is good news indeed. We will continue to keep you informed as we learn more.

Foodgrains Campaign:

Our Canadian Foodgrains Campaign continues until **November 30th**. **So far, we have raised \$6,830** through your generous donations. 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.



Congregational News/Updates:

Update on our Volunteer Associate Minister - Rev. Bev Irwin

I have permission to share with you an update on Bev. As some of you know, Bev had surgery a few months back and had part of her leg amputated. She made the decision to move to Millbrook, Ontario to be close to her sisters who live there. Heather will be moving to a place in Peterborough, which is not far away from Bev.

Unfortunately, ten days after Bev moved, she ended up in ICU in Peterborough. She has some ongoing health issues but is now home. To further add to her burdens, Bev's daughter, Laurie, has been in and out of hospital, at one time not expected to live. She has come through that but is now paralyzed. When doing tests, the doctors discovered that in addition to the illness that put Laurie in the hospital, she also has cancer, which is inoperable. Hence, Laurie is now in palliative care. Please keep Bev and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Her new address is Box 262, Millbrook, ON. L0A 1G0.

Our condolences to Diane Marr and her family on the loss of Diane's sister last week. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you to Paul Henderson: At the close of our Remembrance Sunday, Nov. 7th we showed a "Highway of Heroes" video. Many of you commented that it was a powerful way to end the service. I want to thank Paul Henderson for bringing this video to my attention AND for putting it together. I did not realize that the piper was Paul himself and that he recorded the music, then did all the work to put the music and video together. As Glenn and Victoria can tell you, that is a lot of work. Thank you so much Paul for doing this. It was a wonderful contribution to our service.

The UCW would like to thank everyone who volunteered to bake Christmas goodies and those who purchased the goodie boxes as well. **We are now sold out!** If you've forgotten your pick-up time, please call Barb Carswell at 705 526 5957.



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thank you to everyone who makes Prayer Shawls on behalf of St. Paul's. We appreciate your work. Without you, many people would not have a tangible cloak of God to surround them in time of need. This Ministry was started by Karen in 2014 and exists using donated yarn from our congregants and friends of St. Paul's. The supply of shawls at the church is getting low and donations are welcome. If you are interested in

knitting or crocheting, the size for these shawls is 24" X 60". Please contact Cathy Metzgar at 705-527-5784 if you have any questions.

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

Our next ZOOM Coffee Hour is **Sunday November 28th 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>



A Special Advent Invitation: Come Join Us:

Colleen and I are inviting you to join us for an **"Appreciating Advent"** gathering. Every **Thursday afternoon** during Advent, we plan to meet in the church Parlour for a time of reflection and fellowship. Come join us to ponder advent and reconnect with others! You can choose to attend between **1:30 - 2:30 p.m.** OR **3:00 - 4:00 p.m.** You are invited to come to



one gathering or to come weekly, whichever you choose. Parking is free in December so that's an extra bonus. Our COVID protocols will remain in place, including providing proof of vaccination when you arrive.

Thurs. **Dec. 2** – Hope; Thurs. **Dec. 9** – Peace;
Thurs. **Dec. 16** – Joy; Thurs. **Dec. 23** – Love

Please **pre-register** with Colleen and let her know which day and time you hope to join us. cgareau02@gmail.com or 705-427-9630.

Blessings everyone. Till next week. Karen

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

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