

## Minister's Ponderings:

Once again, the season of Advent begins. It is a time of waiting and pondering the meaning of Christmas and the place of Christ in our lives and in our world. In the midst of the regular stresses in our lives, we are invited to step back and reflect. We are challenged to hear the true purpose of God in our world. May these Advent days be a time of grace and pondering.

## Worship:

### Advent Services 10 am

**Advent 1** – November 28 – Communion

**Advent 2** – December 5 – Advent 2

**Advent 3** – December 12 - Children's Musical  
"Away in a Mango"

**Advent 4** – December 19 - Choir Cantata

**Dec. 24** - In-person Christmas Eve service, **7 p.m.**

**Dec. 26** On-line service only

Join our on-line worship service at [stpaulsmidland.org](http://stpaulsmidland.org)



This Sunday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> is our Advent Communion Service. It is also the first time that our Discovery Kids will be back worshipping with us and having their time together in-person at the church. Starting this Sunday, until the end of Jan. they will gather at the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, with Zoom gatherings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

I want to thank the members of the Worship committee and Bible Study who helped to decorate the sanctuary and atrium for our Advent/Christmas celebrations.



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. Pre-registration is no longer required.

**St. Paul's policy requires that all eligible congregants, volunteers, user groups and visitors be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and show proof of vaccination 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! 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](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.

## Men's Breakfast Gathering:

Our last men's breakfast group gathering for 2021 via Zoom is **this Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** We hope to start meeting again at the end of January 2022 at Mom's Restaurant. 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

## Discovery Kids/Youth Group:

**Welcome back into the building Discovery Kids!**

On **Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto: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](mailto:rebeccaamadei@gmail.com)

## St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour –

Our next ZOOM Coffee Hour is this **Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> 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>



## Foodgrains Campaign:

Our Canadian Foodgrains Campaign continues until **November 30<sup>th</sup>**. **So far, we have raised \$7,210** 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:

Please note that Louise Therrien, our Office Administrator, **works in the church office from 9:00 am to noon on Thursday mornings only** until further notice. The balance of the time she works from home. She can be reached at [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com), or 705-526-1640 Tuesday to Thursday. She does not work Mondays or Fridays.

**Women's Grief Support Group** will meet Tuesday, November 30th at 2:30 p.m. in the Parlour. Topic will be "The Empty Chair". Please bring proof of double vaccination and identification. Need transportation? Call Colleen at 705-427-9630

**Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for **volunteers to work as ushers** at our Sunday services. At this time, we require seven ushers for each service. If you can assist, please call  
call Sheila Thompson at 705-526-2186



## 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. [cqareau02@gmail.com](mailto:cqareau02@gmail.com) or 705-427-9630.

## This Week's Minute for Mission:

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

Give the ultimate gift—the gift of life



For many of us these days, hope comes in the form of a vaccine. And Giving Tuesday on November 30—just around the corner from Hope Sunday—is a good time to share it. The COVID-19 crisis won't end for anyone until it ends for everyone. And in some parts of the world, no end is in sight.

Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, less than 2 percent reached Africa and less than 7 percent reached South America. Many countries in the Global South and East won't even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022. If this continues, these countries won't reach vaccination goals until 2024...if ever.

Your gifts through Mission & Service continue to contribute food and relief items to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the distribution of personal protective equipment, and supporting programs to prevent and control the spread of the disease. Through the United Church's Gifts with Vision, we are offering an opportunity to give the ultimate gift—the gift of life. For just \$25, you can provide a full vaccination to someone in the world who needs one.

Together we can make a difference. If you are planning to make a special charitable gift this Giving Tuesday, please consider offering the gift of full vaccination at the following link: <https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/gifts/products/pay-it-forward>. And thank you for faithfully giving through Mission & Service. Your ongoing support truly does help save lives.

Blessings everyone. Till next week. Karen

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

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