

Minister's Ponderings:

This pandemic has taught some of us that plans can change quickly and hence we need to be prepared to respond accordingly. At this point in time, we are still planning on having in-person worship services. I want to thank those who indicated that they are hoping to come Christmas Eve. We have more people than spaces so the **good news** is that we will have **two** in-person Christmas Eve services. The first is an AllAges Worship service that will include a children's Christmas pageant. It will be at **4:30 p.m.** The second in-person Christmas Eve service will be at **7:00 p.m.** Both services will be live-streamed and available online as well. The second service will see children involved, albeit, by video. The bad news is that with the new COVID variant we are not sure what the future holds right now so all of this could change. We will be monitoring the situation and for sure will keep you up to date as things evolve. We are the church, God's people seeking to live our faith in unprecedented times. God walks with us in all things, including this. We follow the path of Christ and stay true to doing what we can to worship, care for one another and for all creation.

Worship:

2021 Advent Services 10 am

Advent 2 – Dec. 5 – Advent 2

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

Advent 4 – December 19 - Choir Cantata "Winter's Grace"

2021 Christmas Services

Dec. 24 - 4:30 p.m. In-person All Ages Christmas Eve service,

7 :00 p.m. In-person Carols and Readings Christmas Eve service

Dec. 26 On-line service only

Join our on-line worship service at www.stpaulsmidland.org



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 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 December 12th**, we will once again 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 every Sunday so stay tuned for the 2022 calendar. Please note there will be no in-person worship or Discovery Kids on Dec. 26th.

St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour –

Our next ZOOM Coffee Hour is **Sunday December 12th 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 ended on **November 30th**. **We raised \$7,485** through your generous donations. **GREAT WORK ST. PAUL'S.** St. Paul's Special Project Fund will contribute another \$2,500 for a total of **\$9,985**. As well, the Canadian Government matches our donation 4:1. Thank you for your support in helping to reduce world hunger.



Congregational News/Updates:

Ebenezer United Church: As you know from our earlier email this week, the building of Ebenezer United Church burned down in the early hours of November 29th. We have offered them space to worship and meet. St. Paul's will continue to be in touch to help in any way that we can. Please continue to pray for our sister church.

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 , or 705-526-1640 Tuesday to Thursday. She does not work Mondays or Fridays.

St. Paul's UCW will meet in the Parlour on **Tuesday, December 14h at 2:30 p.m.** For those attending, please be sure to bring your proof of double vaccination with you. **A reminder from UCW regarding goodie box donations:** Please drop off donated goodies at the church before 10:00 a.m. on December 9th. If you've forgotten your pick-up time, please call Barb Carswell at 705 536 5957. Goodie box day is December 9th Thanks for supporting St. Paul's UCW

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 Sheila Thompson at 705-526-2186
Blessings everyone. Till next week. Karen

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