

# St. Paul's Weekly Update – Jan. 6, 2022



## Worship:

This week is Baptism of Jesus Sunday. You are invited during this service to have a bowl of water handy so that at the appropriate time during the worship service, you can renew your baptismal vows. Pre-pandemic we would invite people to come forward during the worship service to place their hands in the water and renew their baptismal vows. Now that we are on-line, you are being invited to do so at home. The music is lovely this week as it reminds us that in baptism we are called and named by God. To renew our vows is to confirm for ourselves that commitment was made at our baptism to be followers of Christ.



Attached to this email is the bulletin. Come join us for worship!

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.

## St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour:

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour will be on **Sunday January 9, 2022 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>



## An update from the Transition Steering Team (TST) January 5, 2022

The TST met by Zoom today and made the following decisions, given the magnitude of the OMICRON variant surge and in keeping with government requests to limit exposure in non-essential activities:

1. In-person church services will remain suspended indefinitely as per our December 17, 2021 decision. The Worship Team will continue to produce on-line services for at home viewing

2. Any funeral or wedding requests are to come to the TST for consideration against current public health information
3. Staff and volunteers are asked to suspend in-person visits on behalf of the church until further notice, except in palliative or emergency situations as determined by Karen
4. In-person meetings for our church groups are suspended until further direction from SMDHU and the TST
5. Use of our building is suspended for all user groups with the exception of Midland Small Set Nursery School until further notice

At this time, it is impossible to make any definite plans about when we will be able to resume in-person activities; however, the TST will be closely monitoring progress against this variant in Simcoe-Muskoka and will keep you informed of changes to the above decisions as the situation unfolds.

Please stay home, keep warm and stay well!

Louise Leck, Chair TST

## Congregational News/Updates:

Our sincere condolences to Rene and Colleen Gareau on the passing of Rene's mother in late December, to Janet Rudyk, on the passing of her brother and to the Adamson family on the passing of Nancy Adamson who was one of our "at home faithfuls". Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

## The Theological Studies Group Invites You to Join Us on Wed. Jan. 26 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom:

The Theological Studies Group has been meeting now for 10 years! This past fall, we discussed a book called "The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations. The Orillia Museum of Art and History is offering an evening Zoom lecture by a local historian, Dave Town, who will be discussing this piece of local and national history. In 1846, the **Beausoleil and Rama Chiefs** stood against the residential school plan. They were the only two chiefs who did. This is a free lecture. Below is the link where you can learn more about it and you can register to attend on. **Wed. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** You need to register to get the link that will enable you to take part in the lecture. The story was in Midland Today.

[https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/in-1846-beausoleil-rama-chiefs-stood-against-residential-school-plan-4909140?utm\\_source=Email\\_Share&utm\\_medium=Email\\_Share&utm\\_campaign=Email\\_Share](https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/in-1846-beausoleil-rama-chiefs-stood-against-residential-school-plan-4909140?utm_source=Email_Share&utm_medium=Email_Share&utm_campaign=Email_Share)

The Theological Studies Group will meet by Zoom on **Wed. Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** by Zoom to discuss the above lecture. We invite you join us. Let Karen know you

want to join us for the discussion the following week so she can send you a Zoom link to join.

## This Week's Minute for Mission:

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

### David shares what your support means to him



Christmas is one of the loneliest times of year for David. In a series of tragic accidents, David lost his wife and children. And when it seemed things couldn't get any worse, life got even more painful.

"Ten years ago, my wife and I were living our dream, running a successful catering business in Vancouver. But that was before a drunk driver took my wife's life," says David. And that was just the beginning.

"The heartbreak was still fresh for me when, six weeks later, a work accident claimed the life of my 23-year-old son. In the blink of an eye, he was gone. A few months later, I got a call that my daughter's car had veered from the road. By the time she was found, she'd frozen to death." In five months, David's entire family was gone, and he turned to substances to numb the pain.

"My rock-bottom came when I was arrested for carrying drugs. In jail, I had a lot of time to think about the man I wanted to become. I knew I needed to make some huge changes if I wanted to be happy again and become the man my beloved wife and kids knew me to be."

The Bissell Centre—supported through your Mission & Service gifts—was the first place David went to when he was released.

"The staff greeted me with kindness. Instead of judging me, they welcomed me and handed me a warm plate of food. The staff told me about their mental health and housing support programs, and I was blown away. For the first time, I realized that I didn't have to rebuild my life alone," he says.

## Blessings everyone,

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Minister, St. Paul's United Church  
[minspscmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minspscmidland@gmail.com)

Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, 705-526-1640  
[stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com)