

### Minister's Ponderings

Two years ago, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the province made its first decisions around COVID which had arrived here in Ontario. On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we closed our doors for in-person worship at St. Paul's – an unprecedented decision made to keep us all safe from the COVID-19 virus. We reopened for six weeks in November/December 2021 then closed once again, with the arrival of the OMICRON variant. So, here we are, two years later, once again opening for **in-person worship**. We are maintaining safety protocols. At St. Paul's, we are still asking that people be fully vaccinated, except for children. Masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing are all part of the return protocols until further notice. You do not need to pre-register. Some folk can hardly wait to get back, others are nervous. We understand. Come back when you are ready. What I can tell you is that I am not alone in missing my faith community. I look forward to seeing faces and at times, trying to guess who is behind the mask. I know there will be laughter and joy while we remain careful. Some folk have not been in the building for a long time. Welcome back! We're excited that our Discovery Kids and youth will be coming back as well.

I also want to thank Bruce Wilcox and his team of volunteers, including Rebecca and the youth group, who have come in to clean and get the church ready.

Whether you come back in-person or continue on-line, together we are St. Paul's and our work and ministry in the name of Jesus continues. That never stopped. Blessings. Karen

### Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget that this Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> we change the clocks. We spring forward, so be sure to move your clocks ahead by one hour. Please remember that church starts at **10:00 a.m!**



### Worship



This **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** we return to **in-person worship**. I am looking forward to seeing those of you who are feeling ready to come back. For those continuing to worship with us **on-line** please note that the service does not start until 10:00 a.m. There is no longer a chance to view it earlier, as we are livestreaming at 10:00. If you come in at 10:30 we will be midway through the service.

Following the close of the service, it will be uploaded to our YouTube channel and can be viewed anytime after that. Come worship with us either in-person or on-line.

To worship with us on-line, 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. Check us out on both our new website and Facebook.

## St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is **this Sunday March 13, 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>



## Congregational Life

The Congregational Life committee will be hosting a Faith and Fellowship dinner on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. The menu is Chicken Parmesan with pasta, hot vegetable, Caesar salad, bread and dessert. Cost is \$20.00 per dinner, payable in advance either by cheque or e-transfer. You can order your meals by contacting Louise, our Administrator at [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com) or by calling her at 705-526-1640. A limited number of meals will be sold so don't delay - place your order as soon as possible.

The Congregational Life Committee is once again inviting folks who reside in our Personal Care Homes and Seniors' Residences to register for transportation to and from Sunday services. Dates will be March 13th through April 17th. Please **call Colleen at 705-427-9630 by noon tomorrow, March 11<sup>th</sup> to register** for the first Sunday. Looking forward to seeing many of you back in person!

Congregational Life will be hosting a **bowling event** on Friday, March 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Knight Haven Bowling Lanes in Penetanguishene. All ages are invited. There will be no cost for the bowling or for the shoes and refreshments will be available for you to purchase. Masks will be required and there will be no vaccination checks. For further information or to sign up, please contact Sheila Thompson at 705-526-2186 or by e-mail at [rmsmt@rogers.com](mailto:rmsmt@rogers.com).

## Bible Study – In-person every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

If you are interested in exploring the scriptures ahead of the Sunday service or just sharing with others your faith journey, then you might want to join us for the Bible Study every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Karen if you are interested and/or have questions. You might be wonderfully surprised at the depth of the conversations and the sense of community and support we have for one another

## Men's Grief Group

We are planning to start up the Men's Grief Group in-person again at the church on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. sometime in April. This is a supportive group of guys and Karen, who meet once a month to share their experiences and walk with each other through a difficult time. If you are interested, please contact Karen 705-433-1224 or John McCullough 705-526-9860. We will determine the exact start



date that when we know what will work best for those planning to join us.

## **Broadview Subscriptions**

Just a reminder to those of you who wish to continue your Broadview subscriptions, please let Louise know **by next Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** if you wish to renew your subscription for another year. If so, we need a cheque from you in the amount of \$25.00, no later than next Tuesday. **Please make your cheque payable to St. Paul's United Church.** If you prefer, you can also pay by e-transfer.

## **St. Paul's Refugee Campaign**

As mentioned in last week's update, our **Lenten Project** this year is our St. Paul's Refugee Campaign, to raise funds for our work with refugees. As you know, we are working with St. Mark's Anglican/Lutheran Church to sponsor a family from Syria who just last week arrived here in Canada. We are also working with a local Afghani family in co-sponsoring six members of their family who have fled Afghanistan and are now waiting to be approved by the government of Canada to resettle here. With the invasion of Ukraine, we know that there are now many more refugees who have fled their homes and we have no idea if they will be able to safely return to their own country or not.

To donate to our Refugee fund, please make your cheque payable to St. Paul's United Church and clearly mark on the memo line of the cheque that is for the Refugee Fund. If you are making an e-transfer or donation online through our website, then please indicate that it is for this fund. Thank you.

## **Save the Date – March 20th: 7:00 p.m.**

In recognition of World Water Day, the United Churches of North Simcoe Rural Cluster are sponsoring a Zoom educational event on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. It is called "Save our Water". To join us click this link -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833315097>

## **Blessings everyone,**

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Minister, St. Paul's United Church 705-433-1224

[minsucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minsucmidland@gmail.com)

Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, 705-526-1640

[stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com)

**Save our Water!**  
The Most Pristine Water in the World is the Alliston Aquifer which is in North Simcoe region.  
It is being threatened.  
We invite you to join us for an information session on this important topic.



- Sunday, March 20, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. by Zoom
- Sponsored by the United Churches of Canada in the North Simcoe Rural Cluster
- Click here to join us on the 20<sup>th</sup>
- Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833315097>