

Minister's Ponderings

This week it's beginning to feel like spring. Tomorrow is my last day of skiing, then I will be anxious to get the bike out. Many of us are beginning to think of gardening as the snow melts, the mud greets us and green grass and leaves slowly return. On a very different note, we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and to look for ways that we can contribute to peace. Your refugee committee is watching closely on what is being proposed as Canada continues to reach out and support these refugees as well as refugees around the world. Please continue to pray for the people of Syria, who like Ukraine, know what it is like to have their homes destroyed and their lives disrupted. Pray for the people of Afghanistan as the Taliban tighten their regulations and many live in fear with no way to flee the country now. Pray for all who struggle, for whatever reason, including our own community and families.

Worship


It was wonderful to be together again for in-person worship. Socially distanced and masked, we gathered and there were lots of smiles as once again we were able to be together. For the curious, there were 56 who joined us for our first Sunday back with twice that number who continued to worship on-line. To worship with us on-line, 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. Check us out on both our new website and Facebook.



Faith Formation and Discovery Kids news

Great news! The Discovery Kids are also back in-person in the Room of Requirement. One of our children liked it so much she asked her Mom if she could come every day. Children are welcome.

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 20th
- Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833315097>

Save Our Water! – 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 20th at 7:00 p.m. It is called "Save our Water". Many organizations, both settler and First Nations, are working together to address this very important issue here in North Simcoe. Learn more about it. To join us click this link -

[dhttps://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833315097](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833315097)

Women's Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, March 22nd at 2:30 p.m. in the Parlour. For those who would like to meet for lunch at a local restaurant prior to the meeting, please call Colleen at 705-427-9630 for details. All who are grieving the loss of a partner, friend or family member are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you in person!

Congregational Life

It is with sadness that I announce the death of Don Hough this past week. Don and Joan were regulars worshipping with us until illness meant that they were no longer to attend in person. Thanks to our Pastoral Care Team who continued to visit Don (when possible due to the pandemic). Joan passed away July 16, 2020. Please keep the Hough family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Congregational Life committee will be hosting a **Faith and Fellowship take-out 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 or by calling her at 705-526-1640. There are still some dinners available, so don't delay and place your order as soon as possible. Pick up of meals will begin at 4:30.

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.



St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour will be **Sunday March 27, 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>

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.



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.

Blessings everyone,

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