

Minister's Ponderings

In this journey of Lent, with countries at war and the threat of death very real in the lives of many, we edge our way to the cross. I would like to remind you of our Palm Sunday service on Sunday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. We are having a Good Friday service on April 15th at the church at 10:00 a.m. The Easter Sunrise Service is back at 7:00 a.m. at Little Lake Park. This year, Pastor Martin Giebel from St. Mark's Anglican Lutheran Church will be joining us. There will no breakfast afterward this year, but we will celebrate the Risen Christ in our regular worship service at 10:00 a.m. Come join us!

Worship

We continue this week with the parable of the prodigal son. It is a story of broken relationships, remorse, regret, forgiveness, grace and unconditional love. Please join us.



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.

Congregational Life

Congregational Life will be hosting a **bowling event this 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.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Faith and Fellowship fundraising dinner this week, **we raised \$958.34**, which will go towards church expenses. A special thanks to Zena, Sheila and their team of volunteers (Gail Wilcox, Betty Anne Bell, Lenore Price and Peggy Wallace) who made all of this happen. Stay tuned for information on the next Faith and Fellowship dinner, scheduled for the end of April.



Volunteers needed

As we move closer to getting back to some form of normal, we need to start looking at getting more areas of our building back into shape. The kitchen requires a deep cleaning of everything in the cupboards and in the fridge.

All the tables and chairs need to be washed down. **We need of a crew of volunteers willing to take on this task.** Please contact Bruce Wilcox at 705-526-8553 if you

would be available to help. We are looking to do this sooner than later. As for timing, a couple of morning work parties (9:00 a.m. to noon) through the week should work.



A Message from your Stewardship Committee

An update on our Income and Expenses as of February 28, 2022

Income: Budget \$37,862, Actual \$33,058

Expenditures: Budget \$45,151, Actual \$44,057

Budget deficit to Feb 28th - \$10,999

There are several ways you can donate to St. Paul's United Church – by cheque, by e-transfer or by a Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). PAR is a “direct debit” program administered by the United Church, to enable people to support their church through automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank accounts. The donor designates the amount for General Funds (local), Mission and Service Fund, Memorial Fund etc. Once a month, all PAR givings are debited from the donor's account then transferred to the local church account.

Introduced in 1976, PAR is a convenient way for donors to provide consistent, year-round financial support for their local church and enables donors to more intentionally plan and honor their financial commitments to their church. At St. Paul's, 95 people currently donate by PAR. **Please consider signing up!** It's not difficult and never too late to enroll in the program, even if you have received envelopes for your donations. You only need to contact the church office by contacting Louise, our Administrator, at her home number (705-526-1640) or use the link below for the enrolment form that you can complete and send to the church office.

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form_par-authorization.pdf

Your ongoing support of the work of St. Paul's is appreciated. Thank you.

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast group via Zoom is this **Saturday March 26th at 9:30 a.m.** 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/89829828219?pwd=WmtONDZKNm91c0svSTNZbzV6aitLUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 2982 8219, Passcode: 995643



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 previous updates, 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.

Through your generous donations, we have raised \$7,845 so far towards this campaign. Great work St. Paul's!! 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.



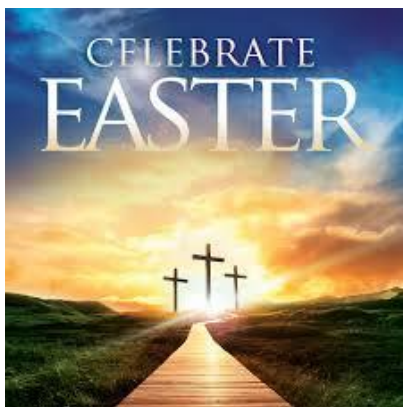
HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Friday, April 15, 2022
10:00 a.m.
St. Paul's United Church



**EASTER SUNRISE
 SERVICE**
Sunday April 17, 2022
7:00 am
Little Lake Park, Midland



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
Sunday April 17, 2022
10:00 am
St. Paul's United Church
All are welcome!

Blessings everyone,

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

Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, 705-526-1640 stpaulsunity@rogers.com