



St. Paul's Weekly Update – April 21, 2022

Minister's Ponderings

This week I am grateful for generosity. St. Paul's people have responded to our Lenten Refugee campaign raising \$19,435. On behalf of the **Refugee Committee**, I am happy to let you know that we have been able to let our sister church - St. Mark's - know that there is \$10,000 set aside as our contribution towards the sponsorship of the Syrian family. The family is now in Midland and are working hard to learn English while their children settle into new schools.

We are inquiring into how we might be of assistance to a Ukrainian family, who have just recently arrived. We will continue to be in touch with them as future needs arise.

We now also have funding available to cover some of the costs of air travel for our Afghani family when they arrive sometime this year. We are working as a St. Paul's/St. Mark's Refugee Alliance. The two churches are working with community members and groups as well. This is what we mean by "our call to be light to the world and the heart and hands of Christ to others". Thank you.

At the same time, I am aware that our givings need to be balanced. The pandemic has taken a toll on our finances. **We are grateful for everything we receive.** Please refer to the message from the Stewardship Committee further on in this update, for current information on our 2022 income and expenses.

Worship

We continue the Easter story this coming week as Jesus appears to his disciples. 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. We start live-streaming at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.



St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is **this Sunday April 24, 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>

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast group via Zoom is on **Saturday April 30th 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

Congregational Life

Our condolences to the Tinney family on the passing of Bruce Tinney on Apr. 13, 2022. Bruce and his wife Pat, who passed in 2020, were long time members and supporters of our congregation. Bruce's funeral service will be on Friday April 22, at 1:00 at Nicholl's Funeral Home, with visitation on Thursday April 21, from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you did not see it already in Midland Today, our church member **Lydia Ehmcke was in the news**. Herself a refugee, this article tells her story while celebrating her 95th birthday. Lydia is a winner of the Legion Poetry contest and joins us faithfully when she is able on the Coffee Zoom hour. Click the link to learn more about this article. <https://www.midlandtoday.ca/postcard-memories/danzig-and-escape-from-the-russians-adventures-of-lydia-ehmcke-5-photos-5267308>

The **Women's Grief Support Group** meets next Tuesday, April 26th at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Parlour. All are welcome. If you need transportation, please call Colleen at 705-427-9630.

The Congregational Life committee is hosting another **Faith and Fellowship take-out dinner next Wednesday, April 27th, 2022.**

The menu will be ham and scalloped potatoes, hot vegetable, coleslaw, dinner roll and dessert. Cost is \$20.00 per dinner, **payable in advance** either by cheque or e-transfer. Pick up of meals will be between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. in the Atrium. You can order your meals by contacting Louise, our Administrator at stpaulsunited@rogers.com or by calling her at 705-526-1640.



Welcome to SPRING UCW cupcake sale

UCW is having a cupcake sale and the cost is 6/\$10.00. There will be a variety of flavours available. You can place your order by calling Sharon Foster at 705-526-7181. Pick up date will be May 5th, 2022, at the church, at 1:00 p.m.

The **Official Board** will be meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday May 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Board members - please note this date on your calendars.

A Message from your Stewardship Committee

An update on our Income and Expenses as of March 31, 2022

Income: Budget \$66,742 Actual \$51,394

Expenditures: Budget \$66,945, Actual \$67,935

Budget deficit to March 31, 2022 - \$16,541

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.

Discovery Kids – Save the Date!

"Save-the-dates!" **Camp Awesome** for ages 5-12 years will be from August 8-12, 2022, at the church. Stay tuned for more details and instructions on how to register. All are welcome -- you do not need to attend St. Paul's to register. Camp Awesome has been a wonderful week of fun for the participants. We have had our Discovery Kids children, grandchildren of folk and community involved.

This Week's Minute for Mission

GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS

You Give Skills for Life: Kathleen's Story "I learned to pray, to reflect, and to experience God in nature."

Camp is more than a holiday. It gives young people skills that last a lifetime.

Kathleen is a special education teacher, a busy mom of three children under the age of five, and a youth and young adults coordinator at her church. She says her early summer church camp experience continues to impact her approach to each of these important roles.



"Camp taught me that children are precious and we're there to help them and guide them. Vespers taught me to take a deep breath in times of stress. Chaplains showed me how to bring out the best in children and draw out their talents. All those things I learned from camp I now apply to my everyday world, including motherhood," says Kathleen.

Kathleen grew up in very formal churches where she felt she had to be perfect all the time. Outdoors, in an informal setting, her faith blossomed. "I never felt really connected to God before going to camp. It opened up my perspective of what church is. My relationship with God expanded. I learned to pray, to reflect, and to experience God in nature."

Those early lessons continue to ground Kathleen in trying moments. "Today, because I learned to connect with God in nature, I can take time to reflect and I can show God's love. When I'm too stressed, I can take a quick look at a bird or tree and remember that God is with me when a student is expressing their frustration. Staying calm and showing God's love is huge. It goes a long way. I remind my own children that God is with them, even in the hardest times too," she says.

Before COVID, approximately 20,000 children attended a United Church camp every year. During the pandemic, many camps provided virtual support to young people during lockdown. "I just want to say a huge thank you to Mission & Service donors for their support of camps," says Kathleen. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for their support. Thank you."

Blessings everyone,

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