



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – May 5, 2022

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### Minister's Ponderings

Happy Mother's Day! This week in our worship service, we will be celebrating the relationships in our lives that have made a difference in shaping the people we have become. For many, Mother's Day is a time to call your mother/grandmother and take a moment to thank them for all they mean to you. For others, this is a difficult day as not all parent/child relationships are loving or constructive. For those with blended families and several "mothers" and "grandmothers" in their lives, it is a time to give thanks for stepparents.



The church has celebrated **Christian Family Sunday** for the last 50 years or more. It recognizes that we have a variety of people in our lives who have mentored and loved us. We give thanks for the relationships that make us stronger and more loving, wiser and more gracious in the way we live our lives. For some, it is a day of memories of mothers and fathers, grandparents and people who were "like a parent" to us. Whether it is a parent, aunt/uncle or people who became like family to us, it is a day to stop and ponder and give thanks for these relationships throughout our lives that have touched and nurtured us.

### Worship

In worship this Sunday, we invite you to join us and celebrate relationships. You will notice that the red dresses are back in the trees on the church lawn. On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I invite you to visit the church and see the dresses hanging from the trees on the front lawn. Then perhaps, take a moment to pray for them and their families

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. We start live-streaming at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

### Discovery Kids

We are very happy to announce that Discovery Kids are back in person every Sunday. Families are asked to take their children directly upstairs, where Rebecca is looking forward to seeing you.

**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. For Camp Awesome, we are calling all beekeepers! Rebecca and the Discovery Kids are in search of a local beekeeper who might be willing to be a part of some of our 2022 summer programming. If you have bees or know someone who does, please reach out to Rebecca at [rebeccaamadei@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaamadei@gmail.com). Thank you!



## **St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour**

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is **this Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 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>

## **U.C.W.**

**The U.C.W meets on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>,** at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlour. All women in the congregation are invited to join us.

## **Congregational Life**

The **Visiting Team** meets next Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlour. Please RSVP to Colleen at [cgareau02@gmail.com](mailto:cgareau02@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

Now that St. Paul's is returning to a 'new normal' the Transition Steering Team has suggested that we might return to **Social Hour** following Sunday worship. Many of our former committee members have 'moved on' 'aged out' or are otherwise unable to help host and serve refreshments every Sunday.

The Congregational Life committee has arrived hopefully at a satisfactory solution. We are looking for volunteers comprised of four team leaders and three or four volunteers for each team. Social Hour will be held twice a month, on the first and third Sundays and a schedule will be set for the year. There will be some new and probably changing regulations but we'll deal with them as they arise. If you would like to become involved with this new team or would like further information, please call or e-mail Sheila (705-526-2186 or [rmsmt@rogers.com](mailto:rmsmt@rogers.com)) or speak with Karen.

## **Furnace/Boiler Update from our Property Committee:**

As announced in worship two Sundays ago, our furnace of 67 years has stopped working and can no longer be repaired. When I arrived here as your minister 11 years ago, I was told that the furnace was old and might need to be replaced, so we got more years out of it than expected. The Property Committee met immediately and a representative from the boiler manufacturer in Toronto has also confirmed that the furnace can no longer be repaired. Three contractors have been in and we await quotes on the cost of replacing it. Bruce says we are to "hang onto our hats, the price might surprise you".

We have had some chilly days and several meetings were cancelled as it was too cold to meet in the church. Now with the warmer weather, this should not be a problem. Thank you to Bruce Wilcox and the Property committee for their quick response. They have had a busy winter with a broken pipe and flood in the entrance to the Great Hall and this now adds to their regular work.

**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.

## This Week's Minute for Mission

### Supporting Ukrainian refugees through Gifts with Vision

The scenes are heartbreaking: Families confined to underground subway stations. Children standing alone in endless lines at borders.

Mothers printing their names and contact information in permanent marker on their children's backs lest they get separated—or worse.



By the end of March 2022, over 4 million refugees had fled Ukraine, 90 percent of them women and children.

Gifts with Vision—the United Church's giving catalogue—has just unveiled its latest gifts to help them.

A gift of \$25 will provide families fleeing from Ukraine with a hygiene package containing items like toothpaste, laundry detergent, and disinfectant. A gift of \$38 will provide one food basket with staples such as cooking oil,

buckwheat, canned fish, dried peas, and condensed milk; and \$40 will provide one hygiene package plus a supply of incontinence products.

"What really strikes me about the food basket is the attention to detail. It has chocolate and cookies in it. That speaks volumes to me about going beyond the survival basics and trying to build morale," says Kathie Murphy, the United Church's Annual Giving Associate. "The hygiene basket is so thoughtful, too. It's not just about personal hygiene—it also includes laundry and cleaning products. And remembering incontinence materials for those who need them is all about helping people maintain their dignity."

Sarah Charters, director of the United Church's Philanthropy Unit, is glad the new gifts have been added in time for Christian Family Sunday. "It's a day the church sets aside to reflect on the importance of families. I hope people will be inspired this year to take action for families fleeing Ukraine," says Charters. "We can't end the war in Ukraine, but we can do something to help. Every little bit of good we do makes a difference."

**You can give a gift of food and hygiene through Gifts with Vision at**

<https://giftswithvision.ca/products/support-refugees-from-ukraine?pos=1&sid=f0a31fc75&ss=r>

**or by calling 1-844-715-7969.** Thank you for your generous support.

## Blessings everyone,

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

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

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

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