



St. Paul's Weekly Update – May 19, 2022

Minister's Ponderings

The May long weekend is here, amid weather that is changing from high warm temperatures to fear of frost last evening. The highs and lows make for some interesting moments. It is a bit like life itself. Sometimes like the weather, you have no control over what is happening. Resilience comes when we learn to go with the flow and realize that there are some things that are beyond our control. So many of us like to be in control of our lives. That is understandable. However, when we can let go of some things, we may find ourselves surprised with "spirit" moments. Things can happen that we are not expecting and good things can sometimes come from them. There is an old phrase "Let go and let God". We have certainly learned in this pandemic that there a lot of things beyond our control and that it is ok. In those moments, the Serenity prayer is a gift for all of us.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Worship

This week, Shaun McIntosh will be our guest preacher. Thank you Shaun, for allowing Karen to have a Sunday off for study leave. Shaun is currently studying at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto, as he discerns whether he is called to be a minister in the United Church of Canada.

It is exciting to see more and more of our congregation starting to return to in person worship. We are now what is called a 'hybrid congregation', with folk joining us both online and in person for worship, meetings and study groups. The pandemic has given us a chance to explore future directions on how to continue our work and ministry.

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.

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will be on **Saturday May 28th at 9:00 a.m. at Mom's Restaurant**. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversation. All men are welcome to join.





St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is on **Sunday May 22nd, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** We invite you all to join. Thank you to Liz Rogers and her Zoom team for making this happen. You can use the same link as before: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>

Our Condolences

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Jean Kerr, on Monday, May 9th. Jean was a member of our congregation and was a kind, gentle and giving person. Please keep the Kerr family in your thoughts and prayers.

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. Thank you!

An update from the Official Board

The Official Board met on Tuesday, May 17th via zoom and as Chair, I would like to inform the congregation of a couple of items:

- It was brought forward by M&P and agreed to by all in attendance that our very hard-working staff more than deserve an extra week of vacation (week equivalent in hours) for 2022 only. They've done a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes over these past two years and we are truly blessed to have each and every one of them.
- The Board approved that the Acting Chair position of M&P be filled by Carolyn Hendry, replacing Doreen Gunson for the time being.
- The Property Committee continues to be vigilant in acquiring a replacement furnace. Our dearly departed 67-year-old furnace has been well taken care of and has been lovingly coerced along the way but alas - has finally decided no more! The Property Committee will meet and bring forth recommendations to the Official Board so that we might move forward and act quickly to have something in place before the fall. This will naturally come at an extremely high cost for our church to bear. We have a couple of ideas up our sleeves and we can't do it without you. We've endured other burdens in the past and somehow faith always pulls us through.

Sue Dorion, Chair, St. Paul's Official Board

Congregational Life

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with the return of Social Hour. We have three team leaders (need two more), a few volunteers and a lovely lady who isn't able to prepare or serve but will bake cookies. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sheila at rmsmt@rogers.com or 705-526-2186. Thank you!

The Congregational Life committee is hosting another **Faith and Fellowship take-out dinner on Wednesday, June 1st, 2022.** The menu will be lasagna, Caesar salad, bread 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.



This Week's Minute for Mission

**Somalia is going through its
worst drought in 40 years**

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**

Hodan has three children. Her husband works as a charcoal burner and is the family breadwinner. He works hard but the \$3 to \$5 he makes each day just isn't enough. Eight months ago, the family had a farm, but all their livestock died during a devastating drought and they had no choice but to leave their home to try to find help.

In Somalia, one in seven children die before the age of five. Therapeutic feeding centres dot the country, but they are overwhelmed. The country is going through its worst drought in 40 years and more than half a million farmers and herders have lost their crops and animals. Humanitarian agencies say they have less than 3 percent of the money they need to help. *

That's why for the last three years, in partnership with Development and Peace-Caritas Canada and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your generosity through Mission & Service has been supporting a nutrition program in the Gedo region of Somalia. There, families receive nutrition education, supplements, and treatment for malnutrition in healthcare facilities.

Hodan's son Suheyb was badly malnourished when she brought him to the health facility for care. She had already tried everything she could on her own and he wasn't getting better. For just over a month, Suheyb received treatment. In the end, he got better.

"I never imagined that my child would recover," says Hodan. "I am very happy to see my child's health improve. I will continue to give him his therapeutic food regularly."

Even though there's enough food to feed everyone on the planet, conflict, climate change, disasters and unjust systems that strip people of their resources mean that each of us has to be strongly committed to achieve the goal of a world without hunger. Please continue to provide immediate support and advocate for long-term solutions. Together, we *can* build a better world. Thank you.

*Al Jazeera, [UN: Hunger crisis threatens half of Somalia's young children](#)

Blessings everyone,

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