



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – June 9, 2022

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### Minister's Ponderings

This past week we got a ton of rain. Rain, rain, rain. While some moaned, and some parts of southern Ontario struggled with minor flooding, the robins were happy, the soil became saturated and the plants that were thirsty were refreshed. It reminded me that life is like that too. What is good news to some is bad news to others and lots of us just don't respond either way. I grew up in a household that loved rain. Thunderstorms were to be watched and were exciting. Rain meant the wonderful sound of droplets on roofs or even better - yet on the tent. To this day, I love this sound. Rain meant playing board games or cards when we were camping. It wasn't a negative, it was a change. After a rain, the air smells different and I often step outside just to smell the aftermath of rain. I ponder the gifts of God and how we don't always understand or appreciate all aspects of creation. Genesis says that "God saw that it was good." I remind myself that I do not understand all things, but I can be open to the diversity of creation and trust that God has created, is creating and will continue to create and be part of our world and the universe.

### Worship

This Sunday is Pride Sunday. We will have a L.I.F.E. sermon with Karen, Rev. Philip Cable and Rev. George Moore as we celebrate and discuss diversity and faith.

Worship with us in person at 10:00 a.m. or 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.

### Message from the Official Board

The Official Board held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 7th and approved the motions brought forward by the Stewardship and Property Committees regarding the replacement of the furnace at St. Paul's. We will be moving forward with this replacement. The cost will be \$95,000 including a contingency fund of \$10,000. We are actively researching grants and other means to help offset this enormous cost but we will need your thinking caps and support surrounding fundraising events etc. as well. In addition to fundraising ideas, we need your financial support. Special donations can be made to St. Paul's United Church, specifically marked 'furnace fund'.

This is a very urgent matter so that we might have heat before the cooler weather sets in.

**Sue Dorion, Chair, Chair, Official Board**

### Transition Steering Team (TST) Report: Changes coming as of June 26th

The TST met and reviewed our current policies and directions about Covid-19.

The TST has decided, that, **as of June 26, 2022:**

1. **Masking will be optional** within the building for all users

2. Hand sanitizers will remain available, with everyone expected to use them when entering
3. **Tapes restricting seating will be removed from the Sanctuary pews;** people are requested to be considerate of others, maintaining a comfortable distance of three feet from others not in their own party
4. **People wearing masks are allowed to sing;** those who are not wearing masks are asked to hum only
5. All users will still be expected to sanitize surfaces/bathrooms they use for their meetings, activities, or appointments

The TST proposed the following motion to the Official Board on June 7, 2022, and the Official Board approved it:

**That the Board's vaccination policy (September 28, 2021) be terminated as of June 26, 2022.**

The TST will reconvene in September 2022 to review the Covid-19 situation before the September Official Board meeting in case any further directions may seem necessary at that time. We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer!

**Louise Leck, Chair**

## **Congregational Life**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Jeff Brown's sister. Jeff is a member of our choir. Please keep the Brown family in your thoughts and prayers.

On Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Congregational Life Committee will be meeting at 9:30, followed by a meeting of the Visiting Team at 10:30 a.m. Please join us for the final meetings before our summer break. Coffee and treats will be served!

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

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is this **Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 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>



## **Memorial Celebration:**

The family of **Max Wagg** have asked us to invite you to a Celebration of Life for Max (1934-2021). Max was a teacher, bus driver, syruper, and ultimate handyman. You are invited to join with family and friends this Monday, **June 13, 2022**, anytime between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. at J.H. Lynn Chapel at 290 1<sup>st</sup> St. Midland. At **2:15 p.m.** there will be a dedication of a bench donated by the family here at St. Paul's United Church on our front lawn. All are invited.

The **Wooldrige family** invites you to join them for a graveside service for their mother Midge on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon at Lakeview Cemetery. This will be followed by a drop-in reception at Carson's Funeral Home, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**St. Paul's UCW** will meet on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Parlour. All ladies are invited to join. Barb Carswell will be doing a presentation about her surgical mission trip to Guatemala. A short business meeting will follow.

## 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!

## Camp Simpresca

Once again, Camp Simpresca is open to campers this summer. Financial assistance is available from St. Paul's to help with registration fees to send children to the camp. For more information, call Louise at 705-526-1640 or email the church office at [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com). You can also check out the Camp Simpresca website at <https://simpresca.camp/what-we-do/> to see what's available.



A **Voices for Ukraine Concert** is being held at St. Johns United Church Elmvale **this Sunday, June 12 at 2:00 p.m.** The concert is in person and is also being livestreamed. All money raised from this event will go towards humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Visit [www.unitedchurchelmvalle.org](http://www.unitedchurchelmvalle.org) for more information.

## This Week's Minute for Mission

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

Lack of transportation can prevent people from accessing the support they need.



Gill visited Mission & Service partner Our Place Society for her meals every day. At one community meal, she met an outreach worker and inquired about making a meaningful change in her life. But making the changes she needed meant accessing programs in parts of the city she couldn't easily get to without a bus pass.

Too often, lack of transportation is a significant barrier that prevents people from accessing the support they need. It's hard to keep appointments, go to school or visit family and friends with no way to travel. High gas prices, the cost of a vehicle, lack of public transit or a system that does not reach job-rich areas are barriers to creating a better life.

In a recent study, Jeff Allen and Steven Farber, geographers at the University of Toronto, report that in Canada's eight largest cities, 5 percent of the total population are living in low-income households that are also situated in areas with low transit accessibility. "This totals nearly one million people who are at risk of transport poverty nation-wide," they write.

What does it mean to not have adequate transportation? Farber told University of Toronto News it's a mix of disadvantages: socioeconomic status (low income, ill health, being a recent immigrant or elderly) and a lack of access to transportation (being unable to afford a car or to reach destinations easily by transit, for example).

"The time is right for a national accounting of those living in transport poverty and the development of a national transport and land use strategy."

Mission & Service partners working on the ground to alleviate poverty regularly help people access transportation so they can improve their lives. The bus pass project that provided Gill with passes she needed to keep life-changing appointments was supported through the United Church's *Gifts with Vision* catalogue. Thank you for your generosity.

## **Blessings everyone,**

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