



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – June 16, 2022

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### Minister's Ponderings

This will be my last weekly update until the last week of August. As of this coming Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, I begin a month of sabbatical followed by four of my five weeks of holidays. In my absence, Victoria Warwick and the Worship Committee will be overseeing worship. Colleen Gareau (705-427-9501) will be available for pastoral emergencies as will the Rev. Lois Brown from Unity United Church in Vasey (705-816-2570). All other general inquiries and questions can be addressed to our Church Administrator, Louise Therrien (705-526-1640 on Wednesdays and Thursdays.)

I want to thank our congregation for pulling together this past year so that not even a pandemic could stop us from being the hands, heart and feet of Christ. To those of you who have volunteered this past year, thank you from the bottom of my heart. We have needed you and you stepped forward.

### Worship

This Sunday, we are asked by the United Church of Canada to have an Indigenous Day of Prayer. The sermon will focus not only on this but we will look at a very unusual story about Jesus that is rarely used in church worship services.

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.

### 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**

## **Ministry and Personnel News:**

It is with sadness that the Ministry and Personnel Committee announces that our Pastoral Care Coordinator, Colleen Gareau, is moving back to Brandon, Manitoba sometime in the fall. Colleen is looking forward to being back with family and friends. She has very much enjoyed her five years with the congregation of St. Paul's United Church. Plans are still being made and there is not currently a specific timeline at this time. The congregation will have a chance to say goodbye in the fall and celebrate her wonderful ministry in our midst. More information will be provided in the future. There is no question that Colleen will be missed. She has been a great gift to us and we are blessed to have had her.

## **Office hours**

Starting next week and until the week of September 11th, Louise will be using up her vacation time by working Wednesday and Thursdays only. Colleen is in the office on Wednesday mornings and Louise is there on Thursday mornings, both from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Just a reminder that Louise works from home the balance of the time and can always be reached at her home number at 705-526-1640 or by e-mail at [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com) on Wednesday and Thursdays.

## **Congregational Life**

We now have five team leaders for the **return of Social Hour in September**. They are Joan Lavin, Charlie and Barb Carswell, Marlis Dupuis, Sue and Mike Sauve and Sheila Thompson. There will be a 'training session' for those who haven't been involved in the past - or who may not remember! Our team leaders are all looking for volunteers to complete their teams so please contact Sheila or the team leader you would like to work with.

Our next Faith and Fellowship dinner is on Wednesday, June 29, with pick up in the Atrium between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. The menu will be a Summer Salad Plate - cold meat, salads, devilled egg and strawberry shortcake. The cost is \$20 per meal payable in advance, either by cheque or e-transfer. **To pre-order your meal**, contact Louise at 705-526-1640 or by e-mail at [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com).



Thank you to our congregation for continuing to buy our meals. This fundraising initiative has been very successful and we appreciate your support. All funds go to St. Paul's operating expenses.

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

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is **Sunday June 26<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. This will be our last Coffee Hour until we start up again in September. You can use the same link as before:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>



## Memorial Celebration:

A celebration of Life was held for **Max Wagg** on June 13, 2022, followed by a dedication of a bench donated by the family. The bench is located on the church lawn at St. Paul's. Max was a wonderful volunteer for the church. His woodworking skills were amazing and he used those skills on various projects in our building. He also oversaw our outdoors gardens and he and Jean were very involved in our Theological



Studies Group. More information is available on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-United-Church-241870275886014/>

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.

## 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 CA

**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!

## Calling all Campers!

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 [stpaulsunity@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunity@rogers.com). You can also check out the Camp Simpresca website at <https://simpresca.camp/what-we-do/> to see what's available.



## This Week's Minute for Mission



Habtamu and his family live in Ethiopia, where Habtamu farms the land he inherited from his father. Unfortunately, when the land was passed on to him, it wasn't fertile. Teams of oxen used for agriculture had eroded the soil, and the harsh sunlight meant that anything planted in it died.

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

Thanks to a conservation agriculture program supported by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a Mission & Service partner, Habtamu and his family learned farming techniques that reduce soil erosion, improve soil fertility, and increase productivity. For example, they are using crop by-products as a cover for their soil, preventing it from being exposed to sunlight and rainwater. The impact is incredible.

"Earlier, we were hungry and the land was infertile, but now for the last eight years we have been harvesting a good crop. I am happy we are trying to alleviate our problem, change our lives, and feed our children," explains Yitayish, Habtamu's wife, while he proudly shows a barn full of grain.

"Before, we only had one or two grain stocks. I used to feed my children with maize I bought at the market, but now I can satisfy the needs of my family and supply the market," Habtamu says.

Your generosity through [Mission & Service](#) supports the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This is one of the many ways your gifts help end hunger.

"I would really like to express my deepest gratitude...for giving us knowledge and insights. I am really grateful to you for all the kindness you have shown me," Habtamu says.

## **Blessings everyone,**

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

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