



St. Paul's Weekly Update – Sept.1, 2022

From the Minister

As summer draws to a close and we gear up for the fall, I find myself looking forward to seeing and connecting with so many of you. It is great to worship together. Now various groups and committees are gathering. Some are still on Zoom while others are meeting in person. Labour day weekend always feels like a “new year” to me, perhaps taking me back to going back to school and a new class. In the congregation, there is often a sense of making plans and finding new ways to engage in our Christ's ministry. New beginnings are always a gift from God.

If you have not yet found your way back to worshipping with us, I invite you to make this September the time to come back and continue to be part of this caring congregation. We are all part of the re-energizing of our faith community after a very long time struggling with the pandemic. Although COVID is still around, we are moving forward to engage and embrace God's call to be the people of God, journey together on the path of Christ.

Worship

This Sunday's service, Sept. 4th is focused on the passage in Jeremiah who describes God as the potter and us as the clay. It is an imaginative and engaging way to look at our relationship to God and God's creation. Please note that on Sept. 11th, we will be having communion. For those joining us on-line you will want to have bread or a cracker.

Sun Sept. 4, 2022

Welcome to
St. Paul's
United
Church,
Midland On.



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

Office hours

Current office hours are Thursdays only, until the week of September 11th. Louise is in the office Thursday mornings, 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 on Wednesday and Thursdays.



Return of St. Paul's in-person Social Hour and Zoom Coffee Hour

Our in-person Social Hour **resumes in the Great Hall this Sunday, September 4th** after the church service.. These in-person gatherings will be on the first and third Sundays of the month, while the **ZOOM coffee hour** will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 1:00 p.m. (so September 11th and 25th). We invite you all to join. You can use the same link as before: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>

Please note that Colleen will join the ZOOM coffee hour on September 25th from her new home in Brandon, so you will have an opportunity to say your goodbyes at that time. Come join

us for coffee and fellowship both in -person and on Zoom. You will get to know others in the congregation and have a sense of being connected.

Congregational Life

Our deepest condolences to Colin and Sharon Whiteside, on the passing of Colin's sister, to Ken Marsden on the passing of his brother and to Rebecca Amadei and Ryan Spooner, on the loss of Ryan's uncle. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.



COMING UP NEXT SUNDAY - St. Paul's Car Rally to be held next Sunday, September 11th, following worship – 11:15 on the church lawn. We will pass out the bag lunch and the route, then send you off. Our first stop is a lovely place for a picnic lunch, weather permitting - if the weather is inclement, we will deal with that if we must. Please bring a lawn chair and your beverage of choice. The cost is \$20.00 per person, payable to Louise by cheque or e-transfer. **Even if you don't drive and would like to attend, we can pair you up with someone who does.** Deadline to register for this event is September 6th.

We are still working on getting our **Usher/Greeter teams** in place. Over COVID, we have lost several our captains and many volunteers. If this is something you would be interested in or would like more information, please speak to Sheila.

A couple of messages from UCW

The UCW will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. on September 13th in the Parlour. Come join us, bring a friend, enjoy a time together and enjoy a cup of tea and a cookie or two.

The UCW is having an indoor garage sale on September 24th. You can drop off your items on September 22nd with set up being September 23rd.



Discovery Kids

Discovery Kids are back in person every Sunday. Families are asked to take their children directly upstairs, where Rebecca is looking forward to seeing them.

This Week's Minute for Mission

The mountains are reflected in the window of Waterton



United

Canadian churches grace unique places: restaurants, storefronts, even movie theatres. Perhaps the most serene of all settings, though, is a national park.

Waterton United Church is situated in the heart of Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta. Although the United Church has had a presence in the park since 1955, the current building was dedicated in 1961. The

cathedral window in the sanctuary, designed to frame the mountains, offers a breathtaking view.

"Architect George Watson framed Mount Vimy," explains Carol Watt, chair of the Board of Trustees. "People who aren't involved in the church but just stop to visit look out captivated by

GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS

the view of the mountain over the lake. It's a special thing that happens. It touches something deep within."

Your gifts through Mission and Service help the church remain open year-round. In the summertime, Sunday services take place from late June through September with support from guest ministers. Other services are offered during high holy times throughout the year. Youth groups use the building as retreat space, and the chapel is a popular space for weddings. With a small room and kitchenette behind the sanctuary, the church also draws leaders who want to retreat. "Providing space for spiritual reflection and retreat is an important aspect of the ministry we provide," says Watt.

The Rev. Grant Dillenbeck and Ruth Richardson, now living in Ottawa, have been travelling to Waterton United Church for two decades, leading services and retreats. "The Spirit is in all places, but in this place, you can sense God's presence immediately. The actual building is built like a landscape. The flat roof is reminiscent of the prairies, and the peak is like the mountains. It is peaceful. Guest preachers offer experiences for the village and park guests in addition to members. We have led services and done theme discussion nights and forest church," Richardson says.

"Waterton United offers a unique ministry to the wealth of summer visitors who flock happily into the national park and then find this gem of a United Church of Canada," a recent newsletter reads. Richardson agrees: "It is totally unique to other church experiences in Canada."

Thank you for supporting churches in remote places that witness in a unique way to the majesty and grace of God.

Blessings everyone,

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