



St. Paul's Weekly Update – Sept.8, 2022

From the Minister

As you read the weekly update, you will notice that St. Paul's is becoming very active again, with lots happening. Come join us, whether it's at the car rally, singing in the choir, being part of the UCW or checking out the great deals at the UCW Indoor Garage Sale. Next week, there will be more information on our study groups. We are also looking for volunteers to participate and assist with worship, coffee hour, visiting, phoning and keeping in touch with folk, cleaning or painting in the church. Speaking of painting, a special thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up and helped paint the Upper Room including the ceiling. It is looking so much better and we could not have done it without Bruce Wilcox and our volunteers. Thanks so much.

Worship



This Sunday, September 11th, I want to welcome back our St. Paul's choir as part of the worship leadership team. We have missed them very much! It is with gratitude that we thank those who have and are continuing to be part of our virtual choir. The choir will be back in person and assisting us with singing during our worship services. If you are interested in being part of the choir, Victoria would love to have you. They rehearse every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary starting September 8th. Come join and discover the joy and fun of

singing.

This Sunday, Sept. 11th is a communion service. For those of you who are worshipping with us online, I invite you to have a bread/cracker and a beverage available when you join us. Thank you to the Worship committee for setting up for this service.

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.

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

A special thanks to Sheila Thompson for organizing our in-person Social Hour

(first and third Sundays of the month). We had a great turnout this past Sunday, September 4th, for our first gathering. A special thanks to those who made cookies and to those who made and served the tea and coffee. Our next in-person Social Hour **will be on September 18th** after the church service.



Our **ZOOM Coffee Hour resumes this Sunday** at 1:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hours will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. 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.

A Note from Colleen: THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for the kind words and wishes, cards and gift of money to spend on "something special" for our new home. We are absolutely overwhelmed and appreciative. St. Paul's has been a true haven in the time we have lived in this beautiful area. You are a very special congregation and will remain in my heart!

THANK YOU also to the Board and Committees who all run like "well oiled machines" and to all the support you offer one another to keep St. Paul's great. THANK YOU to the volunteers who fill in whenever and wherever necessary - the church would not be able to function without you.

And mostly, thank you to the staff - the best I've ever worked with. **Karen** - your gifts cannot even be numbered. What a blessing you are to this congregation. You have your finger on the pulse of everything going on in this building and your guidance is remarkable. **Victoria** - your love of all things music is evident by the quality that we experience every Sunday morning. Thank you for all your extra time, especially during COVID, putting together virtual choirs and finding uplifting videos for us to appreciate. **Glenn** - I have no idea how you work your magic up in that booth, but it always made me sound and look a lot better on screen than I do in real life. Keep doing what you're doing! **Rebecca** - what a gift to St. Paul's when your family walked through that door. Your connection with children and youth is amazing and they all love you and your enthusiasm. And **Louise**, who pulls all the threads together week after week - you are an amazing Administrator and I have so enjoyed working with you. I will miss you all! Colleen

Faith Formation

The Forum for Faith and Science group will be meeting again this fall, on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. They start on September 9th - this week. The book we will be discussing is "Spiritual Science: why Science Needs Spirituality to Make Sense of the World", by Dr Steve Taylor. This book draws on the insights of philosophers, physicists, mystics, as well as spiritual traditions and indigenous cultures. All are welcome!

Congregational Life

Our condolences to the Lalonde family, on the passing of John Lalonde on September 7th. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

COMING UP THIS SUNDAY - St. Paul's Car Rally 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.

Our next St. Paul's take-out dinner will be on Wednesday, September 28th, to support the work of St. Paul's. The menu is lasagna, Caesar salad, bread and dessert for \$20.00. Pick up time



will be from 4:30 to 5:00 at the Atrium door. Cost is \$20.00 per meal, payable to the church office in advance. You can pay by e-transfer, cheque or cash. There will be a maximum of 65 meals sold.

PHOTO DIRECTORY 2022:

After a two-year delay, it looks like we are finally ready to go with St. Paul's photo directory! This is scheduled for the week of October 19th to 22nd, 2022. To book your appointment, Sue Sauve will have a sign-up book in the Atrium on Sundays, before and after worship. You can also email Sue at suemsauve@gmail.com for an appointment time. Each booking gets a free photo directory and a free 8 x 10 colour photo. **Please note** that there will be a Congregational photo taken on Sunday, October 9, 2022, after the Thanksgiving worship service. Please plan to attend.

UCW News:

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 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 and Youth Group

Welcome back from summer holidays to our Discovery Kids and Youth Group. For the first time since the pandemic, children are being invited back into the Sanctuary for the Theme Conversation and Christ Candle lighting at the beginning of each service. Children will go up to DK as a group for lessons after that.

The Youth Group is invited to register for the United Nations International Day of Peace Walk in Toronto on September 18. The theme this year: "*End Racism. Build Peace.*" Please contact Rebecca at rebeccaamadei@gmail.com to register.

Outreach

Homelessness is a major problem in Simcoe County. In Canada, homelessness has grown in size and complexity. Previously a crisis only of urban centres, it now reaches all areas and requires more services and resources. Midland is no exception, with our local Guesthouse always being at capacity. Today, in this country, it is estimated there are 35,000 people so described..... likely more!

There will be a live presentation at the Midland Cultural Centre **on September 15th, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, examining how homelessness affects our health both mentally and physically. The event is free, but you will need to register in advance. You'll also be able to view it on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqaVL0uQPog>.

St. Paul's continues to work closely with the Guest House in their important work with the homeless in our area. This week, we presented them with another cheque in the amount of \$1,000 for their work. Thank you to all who contribute to the Benevolent Fund as it truly makes a difference! Throughout the pandemic, we also made donations to the Salvation Army Food bank.



This Week's Minute for Mission



Marita and Ester are two of the 32 participants studying at the Asian Rural Institute supported through your Mission & Service gifts.

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**

In 2019, 135 million people faced acute food insecurity. In 2022, the number of people who don't have enough food to meet their basic needs has soared to 345 million. The United Nations calls 2022 a "year of unprecedented hunger."

One of the ways your Mission & Service gifts are working to address hunger is by supporting agricultural training centres like the Asian Rural Institute based in Japan.

Earlier this summer, 32 community leaders from around the world arrived to study. "Some enroll to solve problems like raising livestock, others to cope with climate change, and still others to find a market for organic produce. For many, it is their first time travelling outside their countries or even communities. Marita and Ester are two of the participants. Both women work for a global organization called CIEDEG (Conference of Evangelical Churches of Guatemala), where they teach agriculture and support children's education in church and schools.

Shortly after United Church staff referred CIEDEG to ARI, the women signed up. In their own words, they describe what motivated them to apply. "We decided to apply for the program [at ARI] because we wanted to learn more and improve our work. Just as we are learning at ARI, we would like to work together with everyone, physically growing vegetables and caring for animals while sharing our knowledge. In our hometowns, vegetables are usually grown in monocultures. However, at ARI, we are growing multiple varieties of vegetables, taking advantage of each vegetable's characteristics, and we look forward to learning more about this during the training. We can improve nutrition in the local market by growing vegetables in multiple varieties".

There are many difficulties that the Indigenous Mayan people, especially women, face. Poverty is still a significant issue in Guatemala and there are also problems such as alcoholism and discrimination among ethnic groups. These problems leave many people, especially families with single mothers, in difficult financial and nutritional situations. There are organizations in each region that support these women and their children, and we want to work with such organizations to empower women".

Your generosity helps provide education and training and supports leaders to transform their communities so that no one goes hungry. Each and every gift matters – thank you.

Blessings everyone,

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Louise works at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays only.