



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – Sept.15, 2022

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### From the Minister

Let me begin the newsletter by sharing some good news. Effective today, the town of Midland has decided that the parking lot behind the church will once again be free parking. The meter is now gone. Paid parking is back in place for some other areas. I also would like to remind you that on Sunday mornings, the staff parking is kept clear to enable those who are mobility challenged. Many of our groups are back and most meetings are now in person here at the church. I am attempting to be at the church Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Sometimes I am in a meeting and other times working in my study. There is a lot of information in this weekly update. I hope that you will read it all so that you know what is happening.

### Worship

Last Sunday, we so enjoyed having both the choir and the children back worshipping with us. It is great seeing people again while at the same time having others let us know that our on-line service is meeting their needs - wherever they are watching.

**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.

### Official Board

The Official Board meets on **Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. All Committee Chairs, please have your reports on your groups' activities since the last meeting to the church office no later than September 22<sup>nd</sup>, so they can be included with the agenda.

### 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](mailto:rebeccaamadei@gmail.com) to register.

### Congregational Life

**CAR RALLY** - Thanks to all who participated in the car rally. The bag lunch was full of wonderful food and treats. Participants were provided with a chance to explore our local area. A special thanks to Sheila Thompson and Zena Pendlebury for all their work on this fundraiser.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JOHN LALONDE

The Memorial service for John Lalonde is this Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the church. Visitation is at 1:00 p.m., the service at 2:00 p.m. with the funeral reception to follow in the Great Hall.

Our condolences to the family of **Trudy Aylward** who passed away on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Trudy attended St. Paul's for many years, then moved to Timmins. She painted the windows on the west wall of the sanctuary and the nativity figures. Trudy and her husband, Shayne, often volunteered for church activities. She was a Beaver leader and on the executive of Fourth Midland Scouting. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Our next St. Paul's take-out dinner** will be on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto: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.

## PASTORAL CARE:

If you know of anyone who is in hospital or in need of pastoral care please contact me, Karen at 705-433-1224.

## UCW Garage Sale

**The UCW's indoor garage sale** on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can drop off your items on September 22<sup>nd</sup> between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. and again on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **If you're unable to get your items to the church yourself, pick up can be arranged by calling Judy McConnell at 705-529-1826.**



We can sell items such as toys, books, games, puzzles, dishes, glassware, small appliances (in working order please), clothing, bedding, jewellery, DVDs, small furniture items, tools. We cannot accept large furniture items or very heavy items.

**You can donate, shop or do both – cash only please. Come on out, have some fun while helping St. Paul's UCW continue their good work!!**

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



**This Sunday.** September 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll be having our second in-person Social Hour after the church service.

Our next **ZOOM Coffee Hour will be on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.** 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 25<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## Update from the Stewardship Committee

As we come out of the pandemic, we find ourselves in a unique situation where we are struggling financially and in a deficit situation, while at the same are burdened with the high cost of replacing our furnace.

We have lost several members in the last few years. Some have passed away, some have moved out of the area while some have had their finances impacted and have reduced or stopped their givings altogether. Your continued support to St Paul's ministry is valuable and recognized. At this time, we prayerfully ask for your help to reduce the current deficit and/or donate towards our furnace fund. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

### An update on our Income and Expenses as of August 31, 2022

**Income:** \$147,216

**Expenditures:** \$175,434

**Budget deficit** to August 31, 2022 - **\$28,218**

## Property Committee

**Thank you** to our faithful volunteers who have taken the time to come in and help us clean the church. We so appreciate all the time you give us as we continue to be without a custodian. The work on the installation of the furnace continues and we hope to have it working very soon.

## This Week's Minute for Mission



**End Racism, Build Peace. Each one of us needs to do what we can.**

It seems there's a day set aside for everything under the sun: World Nerd Day, Pistachio Day, and Squirrel Appreciation Day to name a few. There are so many special days that we can become immune to them. But when September 21 rolls around every year, it's important to tune in.

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

The International Day of Peace was initiated by the United Nations over 40 years ago and is observed around the world on September 21. The theme this year is "End Racism. Build Peace." Why?

"Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies and erodes the legitimacy of governments," says António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General. News emerging from Ukraine and fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic perfectly illustrate Guterres' point.

As people fled Ukraine, social media feeds became flooded with a deluge of reports outing the mistreatment and abuse of people of colour at the borders. Countless reports told the ugly tale of people of colour prevented from crossing borders while White Ukrainians were ushered to safety. Similarly, racism reared its ugly head during the pandemic. Anti-Asian rhetoric surged alongside COVID-19, and statistics emerged revealing that people of colour were more likely to be hospitalized and die from the virus.

There can be no peace without justice. Each one of us needs to do what we can. "We all have a role to play in fostering peace. And tackling racism is a crucial way to contribute," reads the United Nation's website. "We can work to dismantle the structures that entrench racism in our midst. We can support movements for equality and human rights everywhere. We can speak out against hate speech—both offline and online. We can promote anti-racism through education and reparatory justice."

Your support through Mission & Service helps us as the United Church works toward a world free of racism and racial discrimination by supporting educational initiatives, programs, and partners working hard to dismantle racism.

Thank you for helping build a better world—a world where we are eager to honour the Divine spirit in everyone.

## **Blessings everyone,**

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