



St. Paul's Weekly Update – Sept. 29, 2022

From the Minister

This week, I am sure that many of you have been watching the news carefully and praying for those in Atlantic Canada and Eastern Quebec, as they were devastated by Hurricane Fiona. I ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers. Also, the Russian aggression in holding fraudulent “votes” to annex Ukrainian territory has placed the situation in an even more dire situation, with Putin threatening nuclear retaliation. Please keep this situation and all areas of violence, war and despair in your prayers as well.

Worship

This **Sunday, Oct. 2nd is World Communion Sunday**. For those who are watching on-line please note that you will need to have bread or a cracker and a beverage so that you can partake with us. This Sunday always reminds us that we are part of a global Christian community that is diverse and faithful around the world.

Thanksgiving Sunday is Oct. 9th. The Worship committee is looking for donations of pumpkins, gourds, mums as well as people to help them decorate the sanctuary on Friday, October 7th at 10:00 a.m. Please consider helping in this area. **Also, everyone is invited to stay after the service to allow us to take a picture of the entire congregation in the sanctuary for our 2022 Photo Directory.**

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.

St. Paul's Coffee Hour

Our next in-person **Coffee Hour is this Sunday, October 2nd**. Please joins us in the Great Hall after Worship. All are welcome.



Ministry and Personnel Update

The Official Board decided at its meeting on September 27th to hire an Office Secretary, to cover the office for two mornings a week. Our much-appreciated Church Administrator is happy with her current hours and does not want additional hours. Her office hours were reduced from 28 hours a week to 21 hours a week during the pandemic. With the church building reopening, we have become busier and need to have the office hours back closer to what they were pre-pandemic. Hence the position of Office Secretary was approved.

With the Board approval, the Ministry and Personnel Committee would like to welcome Jane Quigley who is beginning orientation to the position of Office Secretary October 4th. She will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9 and 12 noon with Louise. **Once Jane has completed her orientation**, Louise will then move her day to Wednesday mornings so that we have someone in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Please join us in welcoming Jane we thank the Board for approving this new position. Louise continues as the Office Administrator. We give thanks for this increase in presence in the office.

UCW

The UCW would like to thank all who donated, volunteered or shopped at our Garage Sale last Saturday. With everyone's contributions, our event was a BIG success!

UCW's next meeting is Tuesday October 11th at 1:30 p.m. All ladies are welcome. Our program this month is all about the Public Access Defibrillators. Tea and cookies will follow.

Faith Formation

Welcome back from summer holidays to our **Discovery Kids**. Children are 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.

Fundraising Concert

The St Paul's Choir is excited to announce there will be a fundraising concert **Saturday, October 22 starting at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. Money raised in a free will offering will go toward paying for the new boiler.

This concert will be the first local choir concert in quite some time and will include **MANY** local musicians. Groups taking part are:

St Paul's Choir, Bay Sound Singers (adults formerly Serenata), Bay Sound Children's Choir, Bay Sound VIVO, Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir, Georgian Bay Ringmasters Handchime Choir, Vox Community Choir, Vox Femina.

It'll be quite the gathering! Each group will do a couple of pieces and the theme, of course, will be about keeping warm! **Mark your calendar and invite others to join you – you won't want to miss this!**



Furnace update:

Good news – the three new boilers are now installed and all the venting and electrical work is complete. The gas still needs to be connected, the units programmed, and testing done. Hopefully we will have heat in the very near future and with the cooler weather coming, this will be a blessing.

To date, we have raised \$41,591. We are grateful for all donations already received. In order to meet our target of paying for new furnace equipment, we need to continue our campaign. If you are able to assist, it would be greatly appreciated."



Congregational Life

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased meals in support of our Faith and Fellowship fundraising dinner this week. **We raised \$1,152.40**, which will go towards church expenses. A

special thanks to Zena, Sheila and their team of volunteers (Gail Wilcox, Donna Earl, Lenore and Ivan Price, Sue Dorion, Betty Ann Bell) who made all of this happen.

Volunteers needed: We are looking for some enthusiastic volunteers to assist with garden clean up. There won't any be heavy lifting involved, just cutting back some plants and preparing the gardens for the winter. Clean up date is **Wednesday October 12** at 1:00 p.m. There will likely be further clean up after the frost late in October. If you can help, please contact Carol MacDonald at 705-828-2158, or just show up that day.



PHOTO DIRECTORY 2022:

We are still taking bookings for St. Paul's photo directory, which 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.

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.

Outreach

Interested in social justice? Working with the marginalized? Feeding the hungry? The Outreach committee is starting back up with regular meetings in November and would like to invite you to consider joining them as part of St. Paul's outreach to our community and global community. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Sunday, October 16th will be our **Food Grains Sunday** and the launch of our annual campaign to support feeding the hungry globally and assisting farm communities around the world to have sustainable farming. Once again, we will match all donations from our Trust Fund up to \$2,500.

This Week's Minute for Mission

GOD'S MISSION OUR GIFTS



Participants carry the Bible into the opening ceremonies of the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

Unity, justice, and peace for all is a big vision. And it's one that more than 4,000 participants from over realize.

Fifteen United Church delegates participated in the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly in

Karlsruhe, Germany—the largest ecumenical gathering in the world.

The denomination has a long history with the WCC. The United Church has been there since its inception in 1948, and your generosity through Mission & Service (and its antecedents) has supported the work ever since. It's critical we are there.

Since its creation, the World Council of Churches has supported and inspired church participation in struggles for justice, peace, and creation. For example, in the late 60s the WCC Programme to Combat Racism led to taking a bold stand in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Churches addressed the role of structural injustice in the economic and financial system in the service of apartheid through boycotting goods and calling for divestment from banks and enterprises collaborating with the apartheid system.

The WCC has used its collective voice in other areas of justice as well, including supporting efforts to bring an end to conflict in Sudan, the reunification of North and South Korea, and the defence of human rights in Latin America during decades of brutal military dictatorships. Today, the WCC is advocating on key issues like nuclear disarmament, stateless peoples, children's rights, and racial justice at various levels of national and international governance. Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992, the WCC has been present at all UN climate change conferences.

At the September 2022 meeting, Bishop Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria was elected as the new moderator of the WCC. In his speech, he encouraged churches to listen to the spirit calling them to unity.

"The church can never be provincial or national. The church is always universal. The church can only witness Jesus Christ when we make this visible: that we are one church in this global world," he said. "Where people are suffering, where people cry out for justice, the church must be an agent to give them a voice and to make visible how the church can be the salt of the earth and the light of the world."

Thank you for supporting worldwide ecumenical efforts to build a better world through [Mission & Service](#).

Blessings everyone,

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e-mail stpaulsunited@rogers.com
Louise works at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays only.