



From the Minister

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Once again on this weekend, we are encouraged to find ways to acknowledge our gratitude for what we have. Whether you are spending this weekend with family or friends or find yourself alone, it is an opportunity to stop and reflect and name the things for which you are grateful. I even encourage you to start a list and keep working on it. What usually starts with family and friends can quickly expand to even the simplest things, like sunrises and sunsets, having a chance to connect with others in different ways, a favourite old sweater or even being thankful for the work of churches and organizations as they work for positive change in the world. When we open ourselves to gratitude, we see our lives in a new ways. We are able to see our abundance and not what we lack. We can name the things that are really important to us, like love, integrity and compassion. In doing so, we see glimpses of God in our world and in our lives.

This week, I am grateful for our newest staff member. Jane Quigley has started her orientation as Office Secretary. She will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9 a.m. 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, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings. We will let you know when we move to three days a week with the office open.

Worship

The worship committee and other volunteers will be **decorating the sanctuary on Fri. October 7th at 10:00 a.m.** If you are able, we invite to join and help out. Pumpkins, gourds, mums, vegetables for the display are all welcome. On this special Sunday, we are hoping that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Please note that there will be a Congregational photo taken on Sunday, October 9, 2022, after the Thanksgiving worship service. If you know someone who would appreciate a ride to church and you are able to give them a lift, that act of kindness would be most appreciated.



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 Zoom Coffee Hour on October 9/22 is cancelled.

Our next ZOOM Coffee Hour will be Sunday, Oct. 23rd. You can use the same link as before: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>



Condolences

It is with sadness that we announce the death of David Blane Smith. David was a member of our of congregation. His wife Lorelei sings in our choir and is a member our St. Paul's Georgian Bay Ringmasters. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

UCW

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.

Congregational Life

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.



Bruce also needs some volunteers for Tuesday, October 11th at 10:00 a.m. to clean the balcony and the entrance to the Sanctuary. It needs a bit of attention in preparation for an upcoming concert as well as a funeral. Please contact Bruce at 705-526-8553 if you can help.

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.

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.

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 that there will be a fundraising concert at the church on **Saturday, October 22 starting at 7:00 p.m.** Money raised in a free will offering will go toward paying for the new furnace.

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!**

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.

The Refugee committee is meeting on Tues. October 11th at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom.

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.

Furnace update:

Good news – we are very close to having the heat turned on! With this cooler weather coming, this will be a blessing. To date, we have raised \$44,241.32. 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."



This Week's Minute for Mission

GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS



Without you, we wouldn't be able to help transform so many lives.

You have likely been there. A million and one things to do: errands, housekeeping, food prep, work, volunteering. Sometimes we can be so busy checking off our to-do list that we forget to pause and appreciate all that God has blessed us with in life.

Enter Thanksgiving. A time to stop and catalogue what we are grateful for. You top our list.

This Thanksgiving, the Mission & Service team of the Philanthropy Unit is pausing to give thanks for you—our donors. Without you, we wouldn't be able to help transform so many lives. Thanks to your support, we were

able to provide 9,996 full vaccinations to those who need them most around the world.

What's more, since the pandemic struck, your generosity has helped raise over \$525,000 in emergency gifts to help Mission & Service partners deliver personal protective equipment, distribute food, install sanitation stations, and support education programs to help prevent and control the spread of the disease.

As the war in Ukraine continues to devastate lives, your generous gifts of over \$1.3 million are helping to provide emergency shelter, clean water, food and medical attention. The recently unveiled gift of food hampers and dignity kits for refugees in Ukraine featured in the Gifts with Vision catalogue is adding to this total.

These are just some of the tangible changes you help make possible. Behind each one of them is a changed life.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he begins with a statement of thanksgiving: "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."

Ultimately, Jesus charged us with helping build a better world. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for rising to the challenge.

Blessings everyone,

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

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Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, (Tues. Wed. Thurs.) 705-526-1640

e-mail stpaulsunited@rogers.com

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