



St. Paul's Weekly Update – January 5, 2023

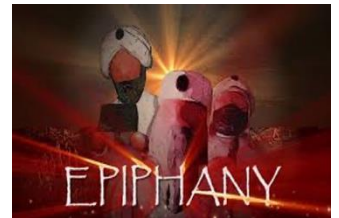
From the Minister

A new year begins. In the midst of winter, we are reminded with Epiphany that even in the darkest places our God is with us. It is a time to recall that light, even the light of a small candle, enables us to see things better. Even small ideas and moments can enable us to see God in our midst and enhance our spiritual life. A candle even provides warmth in the midst of cold, much like we are asked by our God to be in our world. Let the light of your faith shine in the darkness of the world.

Worship



This coming Sunday we will be celebrating Epiphany, which is always on January 6th. Epiphany marks the end of Christmas, which is 12 days starting Dec. 25th and is a reminder that our God is light in our lives and in our world. We have communion on January 8th as well. For those who are worshipping online, I would like to remind you that you may want to have bread or a cracker plus a beverage handy to enable you to join us in the sacrament.



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

In-person Coffee Hours are still temporarily cancelled for health and safety reasons and will not resume until sometime in the new year. **Stay tuned for an update on this.** Our next **ZOOM** coffee hours is this **Sunday, January 8th** at 1:00 p.m. You can continue to use the same link as before: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>

Photos

For those of you who are waiting for your Photo Directory pictures, we are happy to advise that they have now arrived and are at the church. These photos are for those who had their picture taken but did not order any further ones or placed an order for digital photos. On Sunday, volunteers will be distributing the photos to you if you are able to make it for in-person. If not, they can be picked up at the church office during office hours. A very special thanks to Sue and Mike Sauve and to Sheila Thompson for all their work on this project.

Office Hours

The office is open on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Jane is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. You can reach her by email at officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com or by phone at 705-526-6077. Louise is in the office on Wednesday mornings. The remainder of the time (between Tuesday and Thursday until 4:00

p.m.). Louise can be reached at stpaulsunited@rogers.com or at her home phone number 705-526-1640.

Annual Reports

A reminder to all Committee chairs that your **annual reports for 2022 are due at the church office no later than next Tuesday, January 10th.**

Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Committee and Visiting Team will meet on Wednesday, January 18th, in the Parlour. Congregational Life meets at 10:00 and the Visiting Team meets at 11:00 a.m.

Choir

Victoria would be delighted to have more singers in our St. Paul's Choir. Not only is it an opportunity to enjoy being part of making music, but it is also a great opportunity to meet people and build a sense of community.

UCW

There will be no regular UCW meeting in January. Only the UCW executive will be meeting. The regular monthly meetings will resume on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023.

This Week's Minute for Mission

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**



Leila presses carob paste thanks to new grinding equipment provided by the Mission & Service partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees.

One thing we can do to promote peace is share what we have. Your generosity through Mission & Service supports economic development programs that offer micro-loans, business training, and support to purchase equipment. One

place your donations matter is in Palestine.

Palestinians' freedom of movement in the West Bank is restricted by physical barriers like the Separation Wall, checkpoints, and roadblocks, and bureaucratic ones like permits and closure of areas. The Israeli occupation has confiscated more than 100,000 hectares of land from Palestinian farmers to build illegal settlements, bypass roads, and the Separation Wall. Checkpoints, roadblocks, and crop destruction create challenges for farmers attempting to reach their land and their markets.

Leila Basheer is a 46-year-old mother of five who lives in a village in the West Bank in Palestine. Her husband is in poor health. Since she was a child, Leila has been preserving carob paste, which helps with upset stomach. Four years ago, as her family struggled, she decided to sell her carob paste. Processing it by hand is labour intensive however, so she turned to the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees for help. The Department is supported by your Mission & Service donations.

"As I made some profit from local sales, I decided to expand. DSPR helped me buy grinding equipment that made making the paste much easier," she says.

"The grinding equipment helped me increase my income by 40 percent. I look forward to buying a second grinding machine, this time to produce tomato paste," says Leila.

Every step we take to support families like Leila's brings us a step closer to peace and justice. Thank you for your generosity through Mission and Service.

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 Wednesdays only.