



## St. Paul's Weekly Update–February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

### From the Minister

As I quietly worked in my study at the church this morning, people were coming and going. Several popped in to talk and share some of their own stories. Faith was explored and joy was felt. I came home and found myself so grateful once again to be at St. Paul's. I am working from the church – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, unless I have meetings scheduled elsewhere. I also work at home and do hospital visits, meetings, pastoral visits etc. The church really is its people as we walk the path of Jesus Christ together. We make mistakes, we all have our moments, but we also laugh, cry and sense the presence of the holy and the sacred in the midst of what we do, whether it is online or in person. That is the church at its best, and for that I am truly grateful.

### Worship



<https://youtube.com/live/J5G3tTFfVfA?feature=share>

**Worship with us in person** on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. or online. Click the link above to go directly to the service or visit our website at [www.stpaulsmidland.org](http://www.stpaulsmidland.org) and use the direct YouTube link at the top of the page. Or you can simply go to YouTube and subscribe to our channel. Just type in "St. Paul's Midland" and you will find us.

### Bowling Night!

Mark your calendars as once again we invite you and your friends and family to join us for an **all ages bowling night this Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The event will be at the Knight Haven Bowling Lanes, at 17 Poyntz Street in Penetanguishene, where we will meet at 6:00 p.m. The church will cover the cost of bowling, but if you want to purchase snacks for yourself please bring cash (no debit or credit cards).





## In-Person Coffee Hour is Back!

Join us this **Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>** after service for our in-person coffee hour. We are looking forward to gathering together once again.

## St. Paul's ZOOM Coffee Hour

Our next **ZOOM** coffee hour is **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m. This is a really fun gathering with lots of laughter and sharing. If you haven't tried it or it's been a while, we invite you to join us. It is a way to stay connected, especially for those who are not able to attend church in person and for those in our congregation who do not live locally but join us on online. You can continue to use the same link as before:

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>**

## Congregational Life

**Take-out dinner:** We will be hosting a take-out dinner on Wednesday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, with **pick up between 4:30-5:00 p.m.** We'll be serving an old favourite - ham and scalloped potatoes, a hot vegetable side and coleslaw with dessert. The price is \$20 per meal, paid to the office in advance by cash, cheque or e-transfer. Thank you for your on-going support of our church's work.



**Congregational Life/Visitors:** The Congregational Life committee oversees communication and 'connections' within St. Paul's. We organize Social Hour following church, they are responsible for the take-out dinners and look for opportunities for social events to engage our congregation. Please give this some thought as our church is our family and we all need to take part.

## Volunteers Needed

We are still seeking volunteers here at the church. We have a variety of committees and other volunteer positions available. Without our volunteers, we could not be the church, so please prayerfully ponder if you might be able to help. Some of our committees meet in person, others by Zoom. Please call the church office, Karen or Sue Dorion, our Chair of the Board, and we will be happy to speak to you and explore where you might feel you are able to contribute, even if only for a few hours every now and then.



## Outreach: Coldest Night of the Year: St. Paul's is supporting our Guest House: Saturday, February 25 – We need you!

The Coldest Night of the Year event is an amazing family-friendly walk to help raise money for the Guest House Shelter, which serves people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness. We are so privileged to be able to participate in an event like this and we hope you will jump in too! We are looking for **volunteers** to join our **walking team** who will walk the streets of Midland with a follow up chili supper for the walkers at St. Paul's. We are also looking for **volunteers** to help **set up and assist with the chili supper** for the walkers. Lastly, **volunteers** are needed to assist as **hosts** for people coming to register or needing directions to our washrooms. We are

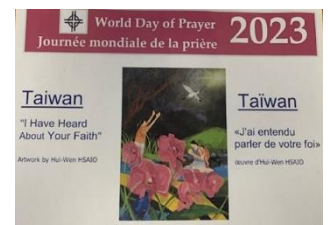
looking for **donations** from our congregation to support our St. Paul's walkers and this very important organization at work in our community. Come and be part of the solution to homelessness and lack of affordable housing in our community. Stay tuned for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the church office by email or contact Zena Pendlebury at 705-527-6789 or by email at [zenapendlebury@gmail.com](mailto:zenapendlebury@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com) or at her home phone number 705-526-1640.

## World Day of Prayer

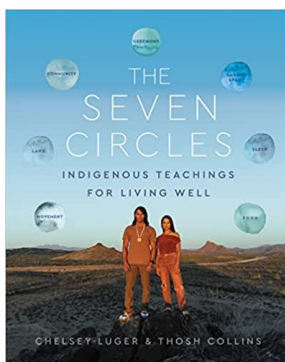
A World Day of Prayer event is taking place on **Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** with a service here at St. Paul's at 1:30 p.m. The host writing country for 2023 is Taiwan. The service is written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan and prepared for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Counsel of Canada. Refreshments will follow the service. All are invited.



## Faith Formation

During Lent, you are invited to an **eight-week study starting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by Zoom on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 p.m. We will be studying a book called "The Seven Circles"**: This book encourages us to honour our own path to wholeness including our spirituality while learning more about these ancient teachings.

How the book is described in the cover jackets is this:



In *The Seven Circles*, Luger and Collins share intimate stories from their life journeys growing up in tribal communities. Along the way, Luger and Collins invite readers to both adapt these teachings to their lives as well as do so without appropriating and erasing the original context, representing a critical new ethos for the wellness space. Each chapter closes with practical advice on how to engage with the teachings, as well as wisdom for keeping that particular circle in harmony with the others.

With warmth and generosity—and 75 atmospheric photographs by Collins throughout—*The Seven Circles* teaches us how to connect with nature, with our community, and with ourselves, and to integrate ancient Indigenous philosophies of health and wellbeing into our own lives to find healing and balance.

If interested, you would need to order your book right away as it is taking longer to get this book since it is hot off the press. As it is a new book, it is only available in hard cover for

\$37 - the same price both at Georgian Bay Books here in Midland, Chapters (online only not yet in stores) or on Amazon. Amazon offers a kindle option which is much cheaper. I am not sure if you can purchase the same locally. There is a copy in the Midland Public Library. Should anyone find this price too steep, please speak to me and we can perhaps provide some assistance confidentially. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Contact Karen if you would like to be part of this 8-week study group. She can be contacted by phone at 705-433-1224 or by email [minsucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minsucmidland@gmail.com).

## **This Week's Minute for Mission**

**GOD'S MISSION  
OUR GIFTS**



**"The work that we're doing helps us move collectively towards healing as a church and beyond."**

When was the first time you became aware of discrimination or oppression?

Adele Halliday, the United Church's Anti-Racism Equity Lead, says that parts of her work focuses on racial discrimination—and she encounters many people across the church who are surprised by the ongoing system racism in church and society. "I grew up as a racialized person and in a multiracial context, so this always surprises me. There's almost a kind of initial moment of realization," she says. "In my work, what I encourage people to do is move beyond that moment of realization and ask themselves, 'So what does that mean for you in your life?' If you're a person who has benefited from racism, now what? What's your next action? What does it mean for your life in the church and society as a person, as an individual, and as a family member?"

Racialized people are among the people who have felt the negative effects of racism. It can take many forms, but all are harmful. And even worse, racism still exists in Canada and in the United Church today.

Your gifts to Mission & Service support educational initiatives, programs, and partners that work hard to dismantle racism. One of these programs is the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism, which tackles topics like internalized racism, systemic racism, and anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism.

While the program was designed for The United Church of Canada, Halliday says the impact is global. "I have gotten messages from people in other denominations and in other parts of the world like the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States who are excited about the program and who want to use it," she says.

"There are people who are hurting because of racial injustice and racial trauma," says Halliday. "The work that we're doing helps us move collectively towards healing as a church and beyond."

**Blessings everyone,**

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Minister, St. Paul's United Church 705-433-1224  
[minspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minspucmidland@gmail.com)

Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, (Tues. Wed. Thurs.) 705-526-1640  
e-mail [stpaulsunity@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunity@rogers.com)

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

Office Secretary – Jane Quigley (Tues. Thurs.) mornings 9:00 a.m.- 12 at the church.  
705-526-6077.