

### From the Minister

I urge you this week to read through the entire update as there is a lot happening. We are welcoming our new custodian, updating you on all kinds of events happening here at the church, and have included information as requested by a number of people on how we might assist the people of Turkey and Syria as they face the aftermath of the earthquake. This has left thousands dead, even more injured and tens of thousands left homeless in the middle of winter.

With so much happening around the world, at times it feels overwhelming. Yet our faith starts to urge us forward, reminding us that compassion is one of the most significant ways that we can love one another. We can really make such a difference in our community and in the world, even if it comes at a cost, so be it. We all have so much to give.

Be sure to join us for Holy Humour Sunday, a time to laugh in the midst of winter blues as we follow this ancient Christian tradition starting in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Join the fun and wear something funny – it could be a t-shirt, a hat, a clown's nose – use your imagination!

### Worship



<https://youtube.com/live/KT0wjYbGgg4?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.

## In-Person Coffee Hour

Join us this **Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>** after the worship service for our in-person coffee hour. We now gather in-person on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.



## Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will be on **Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversation. All men are welcome to join.

## St. Paul's ZOOM Coffee Hour

There will be **NO ZOOM** coffee hour will be on **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** as we will be having our Annual General Meeting.

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM is scheduled for **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, following the worship service. This year the meeting will be in-person. The 2022 Annual Report was emailed out to you last week. We encourage you to read it prior to the AGM. For those of you without internet, there are some hard copies printed that can be picked up at the church.

## Welcome to Jim Lamers, our new Custodian



The Official Board is happy to announce that we have hired **Jim Lamers** as **our new custodian**. Jim begins work on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He brings a wealth of experience as a church custodian and is excited to be part of the St. Paul's staff team. If you see him at the church, please be sure to welcome him. During February, he will be working a few hours a week to get oriented. Thank you to our Search Committee, Carolyn Hendry and Marilyn Broome from the Ministry and Personnel Committee and Bruce Wilcox from the Property Committee.

Bruce Wilcox has been our lead volunteer custodian for the past two and half years and has given us endless hours working at the church. We are so blessed to have him and are so grateful for all he has done. The church also wants to thank Larry Brockelbank, Sue Dorion, Louise Leck, and Zena Pendlebury for their weekly commitment to come in and clean various parts of the church. We are so appreciative of all that these folk have done. Thanks as well to those who came in and helped on specific projects.

## Congregational News

We offer our condolences to Peggy Simmons on the loss of her husband Val, who passed away on February 4, 2023. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers. Peggy and Val moved here a number of years ago and Peggy watches our service faithfully.

This week, Marion Clute from our congregation will be celebrating her **100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Happy Birthday Marion**. She and Peggy Simons watch our service faithfully every week. Marion is still active and even attends our UCW meetings when she can.

## Accommodation Needed

There is a **Ukrainian family** that is hoping to come and settle in Canada. The Lions Club in Penetanguishene is working to assist them. This family of five lived in Mariupol which was overtaken by the Russians. After some harrowing weeks, they were able to flee and eventually found themselves in Poland. There is a need to find housing for them. If we cannot find accommodation for them to rent and someone has space in their home and would be willing to share it that would be great. The family would be willing to assist around the house with snow shovelling, cutting grass, maintenance etc. Our understanding is that the Lions Club will be looking at all options in order to get them here. If you are interested or know of someone who might be willing to assist please contact Karen and we can get you further information.

## Faith Formation

During Lent, you are invited to an **eight-week study starting on Wed/ Feb. 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 introduces us to some of the Indigenous teachings and encourages us to honour our own path to wholeness including our spirituality while learning more about these ancient teachings.

## Discovery Kids update

Faith Formation is excited to announce that we have expanded to welcome in some volunteer teachers to help teach the Sunday Discovery Kids lessons. All of our teachers have been approved by and welcomed onto our St. Paul's Faith Formation Committee. Our current group of teachers include Rebecca Amadei, Heather McDonald, Kim Belfry, Kait Byrick and Lynne Angus. If anyone is interested in learning more about how to become a volunteer teacher, please reach out to Rebecca Amadei. Phone: 226 339 8218 Email: [rebeccaamadei@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaamadei@gmail.com).

## Take Out Dinner

We will be hosting a take-out dinner **next Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, with **pick up between 4:30-5:00 p.m.** in the Atrium. 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.

## Outreach: Coldest Night of the Year: St. Paul's is supporting our Guest House:

The Coldest Night of the Year event (February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023) 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 **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. 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). **You can also register for the event by just showing up at the church on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.**

To donate you can go to the link that follows, which will take you directly to the St. Paul's Team page or you can send an e-transfer or cheque to the church with a note that is for the Benevolent Fund for the Coldest Night of the Year - St. Paul's team.

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=995349&langPref=en-CA>



## **World Day of Prayer – Volunteers Needed**

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. Please note that our UCW is **looking for volunteers** to assist as ushers and greeters for the service as well as we have few people to help serve refreshments afterwards. If you are able to help, please contact Sharon by email at [sharonfoster0000@gmail.com](mailto:sharonfoster0000@gmail.com).

## **Bowling Night!**

Our **all-ages bowling night** has been rescheduled to Friday, March 31, 2023. 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).

## **United Church of Canada response to the Situation in Türkiye (Turkey) and northern Syria**

On Monday, February 6, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit southeastern Türkiye (Turkey) and on the border with Syria. Followed by another tremor registering 7.6, the quakes were felt as far as Lebanon and Cyprus. More than 35,000 people have been killed in Türkiye and northern Syria, and the toll is expected to rise on both sides of the border. The early morning 7.8-magnitude earthquake was centred about 20 miles from Gaziantep, a major city and provincial capital in Türkiye. First responders and the international community are working hard to rescue people trapped under the rubble.

Many homes and community buildings have been destroyed. Hospitals have also been damaged, and acutely injured and traumatized people are struggling to find help. The winter weather, damaged infrastructure due to the prevailing conflict, and previous displacements of people are making an already difficult situation worse. More than 15 million people are affected. In Syria, at least 4,427 people are reported dead as of 13 February with the majority of victims recorded in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. In Türkiye, the authorities count at least 31,643 dead. More

than a thousand buildings have completely collapsed, raising fears of even higher human losses".

The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), which is a partner of The United Church of Canada, and ACT Alliance (of which The United Church of Canada and MECC are members) are responding in some of the hardest-hit areas in Türkiye and northern Syria. The MECC is implementing a rapid response by meeting the needs of people seeking shelter in churches and in public schools with items such as blankets, mattresses, food, water, and hygiene items right now, until the situation becomes more stable and the longer-term needs of people are assessed. ACT Alliance members are active in Türkiye and have initiated a rapid response. Thanks to previous donors to the Global Emergency Response fund, The United Church of Canada has made an immediate grant of \$20,000 to support their efforts.

The impact of the most recent earthquake is all the more devastating because of ongoing conflict that has displaced millions of people and damaged much-needed infrastructure (such as hospitals), a severe economic downturn, and the COVID pandemic. MECC and ACT Alliance continue to assess the immediate and ongoing needs of the communities. The United Church of Canada is committed to working with Mission & Service partners MECC, ACT Alliance, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we have joined the Humanitarian Coalition to call on Canadians to show tangible support for the people of Türkiye and Syria.

We will share more information with you as soon as we can. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

You can be a part of these efforts by donating now. Thank you for your generosity. **You can donate online** via the United Church of Canada's secure donation page at <https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=1955&AID=2274&PID=6564>

You can also **donate by phone** at 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard. You can also **send a cheque or money** order to:

**The United Church of Canada  
Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response  
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200  
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4**

Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Türkiye" on the face of your cheque.

**Note:** As part of the United Church's Emergency Response Fund, 100% of your donation goes directly to emergency relief, with 85% of your donation responding to this designated emergency and 15% responding to future emergencies that do not receive intense media coverage. Donations to Mission & Service enable the United Church to cover all of the costs of emergency response work without deducting any fees from your donation.



## This Week's Minute for Mission

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



40 DAYS OF ENGAGEMENT  
on Anti-Racism



**The work of becoming anti-racist is an ongoing journey for everyone.**

From October 11 to November 25, 2022, the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism program was relaunched with brand new content. The response to date has been overwhelming, with high levels of participation.

The program, designed to move people through a journey towards becoming anti-racist, offered an opportunity for participants within the United Church and beyond to engage in learning and develop their faith.

The learnings allow for deep, thought-provoking discussion for both individuals and communities of faith. Written reflections, video workshops, and readings explore internalized racism, systemic racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and more.

The United Church of Canada has made the declaration that it will become an anti-racist denomination, and the work of becoming anti-racist is an ongoing journey for everyone.

Your Mission and Service gifts support expanding this crucial initiative each year, amplifying voices and encouraging deep reflection.

To deepen your learning and understanding, *40 days of Engagement on Anti-Racism materials* are available at any time on the United Church website at <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism/40-days-engagement-anti-racism>

### **Blessings everyone,**

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

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

## 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.