

From the Minister

On his way to the cross, Jesus meets many different people from all walks of life: Jewish and now Jewish, rich and poor, young and old. The gospel of John gives us a very human glimpse of Jesus. This gospel writer also introduces stories about Jesus that are only found in this gospel. This week, we meet the human Jesus confronted with the death of his friend Lazarus. We see the Jesus who knows about grief and loss. At the same time, he offers healing and hope. Sometimes it is a delicate balance between the two. The same can be said about walking the Lenten road as we reach out to each other to share the load and remain faithful not only to God but to ourselves and each other.

Worship




Sunday
March 26/23
Lent 5

St. Paul's United Church
Midland, On

<https://youtube.com/live/iEL8e5RIO78?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 and use the direct YouTube link at the top of the page.

Lent/Holy Week/Easter Services



Sun. April 2nd - 10:00 a.m. – Palm Sunday worship

Thurs. April 6th – Maundy Thursday communion – Online only

Fri. April 7th - 10:00 a.m. Good Friday Service

Sun. April 9th - 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service – Little Lake Park followed by breakfast at St. Paul's. Join us for the service and/or breakfast!

Easter Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Invite others to join you.

Welcome back to those who are returning in person. All Services will also be online.

St. Paul's ZOOM Coffee Hour

Our next ZOOM coffee hour will take place **this Sunday March 26th**. Join us virtually for coffee, fellowship, and interesting conversation. You can continue to use the same link as before: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>. Please note that there will be no ZOOM coffee hour on Sunday, April 9th as is Easter Sunday.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Join us on Sunday April 2nd after the worship service for our next in-person coffee hour. We will continue to gather in-person on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.



Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place **this Saturday March 25th 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.

Official Board Meeting

The Official Board meets on **Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM**. All board members and Members of the Stewardship committee, please plan to attend.

Bowling Night!



Our **all-ages bowling night** is on **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). If you're interested in signing up, please contact Sheila Thompson at 705-526-2186 or email rmsmt@rogers.com or Sue Sauve at 705-433-1611 or email suemsauve@gmail.com.

Take Out Dinner

We would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for our take-out dinner yesterday, March 22nd and to everyone who worked to prepare the hearty meal. We hope it was thoroughly enjoyed. With everyone's contribution, we raised approximately \$816 that will go toward the work of the church. **Our next dinner will be on April 26th** with a menu of ham and scalloped potatoes, at a cost of \$20 per meal. There will be the option of eating in or take-out. Please specify your choice when you place your order.

Congregational News

Volunteer Opportunities: Are you looking for a new challenge or something interesting to do? How about a chance to meet new folks and support St. Paul's with your gift of time? We are looking for people who can join our Greeters Team and the Social Hour Team. Greeting involves being on a team that will serve one month at a time. You would greet people at the door, welcome them to St. Paul's, offer them a bulletin and demonstrate our hospitality. The more volunteers we have the less often you would need to help. Social Hour involves being part of a team that hosts refreshments following worship two Sundays a month. There are four teams so

the commitment would only be once every two months. Please consider how you can help St. Paul's. For further information, please contact Sheila via email at rmsmt@rogers.com, by phone at 705-526-2186, or at church on Sunday.

United Church of Canada Learning Opportunities

A Solidarity Meal and Movie Night



The solidarity meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. on March 31st at the Midhurst United Church. A solidarity meal is intentionally simple – it will be a choice of hearty soups (including vegan) and buns. Our solidarity is in recognition of caring for others and the common good. At about 6:30p.m. we will begin to watch the movie entitled “The Letter” (2022). This documentary follows people representing youth, Indigenous, the poor and the natural world itself, travelling to meet with Pope Francis to discuss the impact of climate change on their lives. It is very engaging and beautifully filmed. The movie will be followed by group discussion. The ‘Solidarity Meal and Movie Night’ is open to all - youth to elders! Come meet others in your community who share your concerns for climate change. There is no charge for this event.

Spring 2023 Speaker Series: Lifestyle Choices and the Environment

Wednesday Evenings, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Collier St. United Church, 112 Collier St., Barrie



March 22nd, 2023 - Jacob Kearey-Moreland: Learning to Grow Together Towards a Regenerative Food System

Jacob is a local farmer-educator in Orillia, who is passionate about regenerative food systems, growing community and sharing seeds. Jacob is completing his Masters of Education through Lakehead and is researching garden-based learning and how to better support educators to sustain and scale gardening programs. Jacob’s article “The People’s Gardener” appeared in Now Magazine Toronto.

April 26th, 2023 - Scott McCrindle: How I Killed the Electric Car in Barrie, Ontario
Learn how Scott’s busy family embraced the ups and downs of fully-electric driving in Central Ontario over the past seven years. From hockey rinks to rickety public chargers to walking home on a cold, dark winter night - hear how his (mis)adventures with a rapidly evolving technology made driving fun again. Scott McCrindle is a faculty researcher at Georgian College Research & Innovation and a recent graduate from the Masters program in Environmental Practice at Royal Roads University.



May 24, 2023 - Krish Thayalan: Tackling the Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste in Canada



Second Harvest, Canada’s largest food rescue charitable organization, works with thousands of food businesses from across the supply chain to reduce the amount of surplus food going to waste. As Manager, Education and Training at Second Harvest, Krish uses his expertise in nutrition & public health, food systems and food justice to share about the food waste crisis and the need for immediate action in our communities.

\$10 Freewill Offering Suggested

(alternatively a Food Donation would also be welcome)

Hosted by the Lifelong Learning Team at St. Andrew’s Church, Barrie
Call 705-728-3991 for more information

This Week's Minute for Mission

Arwa's family found a place to belong at Montreal City Mission.

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**



We all need someone who believes in us. Someone who supports our dreams. Here's one story of how your belief and support make all the difference.

In 2017, Arwa was a Palestinian refugee who had just arrived in Montreal. She had made a harrowing journey, travelling from Saudi Arabia through New York City with three children in tow. "It wasn't easy for me. I was a single mom in a new country with new people. I was struggling for housing and looking for a job. It wasn't easy at all," she says.

Arwa sought help at Montreal City Mission, an outreach ministry your Mission & Service gifts support. There, her whole family found a place to belong. Arwa's children made friends, and she benefited from training programs and events.

It wasn't long before Arwa gathered a group of women together to form a catering cooperative called Women Weaving Their Dreams, which specializes in homemade Middle Eastern meals. The group was going strong and the women were becoming more financially secure when COVID-19 struck.

No stranger to hardship, Arwa was determined to help others through the pandemic. She initiated a sewing circle to make masks. In a relatively short period of time, the women of this sewing group made over 2,000 cloth masks for unhoused people and people with low incomes in their community. "I was so happy to help people," says Arwa, whose extraordinary leadership skills landed her a full-time job at Montreal City Mission.

"I consider myself a lucky person that I got to know this organization. It has become not only my full-time job, not only my provider. It has become my home. I hope to see more and more women getting the same chance to have this better life for their families," she says. "I wanted a country that could hold me and hug me my whole life long. I found it in Canada."

Your Mission & Service gifts support people's dreams for a better life—amazing people who make their communities and our country stronger.

Blessings everyone,

Minister – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, St. Paul's United Church **705-433-1224**
minspucmidland@gmail.com

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.

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