

From the Minister

"Growing Together" is a phrase that Pat File, one of our church members, used as she talked to the Stewardship Committee about how we might go forward in the future as a congregation. Immediately, people started to pick up on the idea. We can grow together spiritually, grow together as a congregation, grow together in love, grow together in faith, grow together in compassion, grow together in our outreach to the community, grow together in our gratitude, grow together in our generosity. Wow, the possibilities seem endless! When we had finished discussing this, there was energy and hope in our midst.

I am a strong believer that where the energy is, so too is the Spirit of God. One small phrase had us brainstorming, engaged and open to new possibilities. The Stewardship Committee in turn spoke to the Official Board and once again there were so many good ideas and such an enthusiastic response. So, I invite each one of you to do your own brainstorming and share ideas with us. How might we grow together as the congregation of St. Paul's? How might we together make that happen? What ideas are realistic, what can we do? Which ones might need some longer-term planning? For starters, we can trust that the Holy Spirit is nudging and guiding us as the people of God in this place, to keep dreaming new possibilities of how we might be about our faith and the work and ministry of Jesus.

I look forward to hearing back from you - not just your ideas but also how we might together make them happen. As you know, for starters, Pat invited us all to reach out and invite people to our Holy Week and Easter services. It can be in-person or online. Sometimes a simple invitation is all that it takes. Let's grow together!

Worship



<https://youtube.com/live/cfaJo9UFY60?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.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Join us this coming **Sunday April 2nd** after the worship service for our next in-person coffee hour, hosted by Sheila Thompson's team. We will continue to gather in-person on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.



No ZOOM Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday

Our next ZOOM coffee hour will take place on **Sunday April 23rd**.

Take Out Dinner

Our next take-out 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. Payments are to be made in advance to the church office.

Congregational News

Family, Fun and Games Night: This all-ages event will take place on **Friday April 28th** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's in the Great Hall. Please bring your favourite card and board games and enjoy an evening playing with your friends. Pizza will be provided!

Volunteer Opportunies: 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.

Just to let you know, **Gerry Payne is the Captain of the Greeters** for the month of April. Thanks to Gerry and to all our greeters and ushers.

United Church of Canada Learning Opportunities

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

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

Merit needs her children not just to survive but also to thrive.



When did you first become aware of climate change? When did you first feel its effects?

In Canada, we have always experienced wildfires and droughts, hurricanes and winter storms. But "once-in-a-lifetime" disasters are happening with far greater frequency than ever before. Fortunately, to date, we have had the resources to cope with the effects of weather's worst.

Many others around the world face different challenges.

In Zambia, Merit Mabenga has felt the deep impacts of climate change. Droughts are killing her crops. Wells are drying up, forcing her to walk farther and farther to fetch clean, safe drinking water. Necessities are scarce, and prices are soaring far beyond Merit's modest reach because of climate change.

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**

The impacts of climate change can feel overwhelming. But as always, the Bible shares its wisdom. 1 Corinthians 12:25–26 reminds us that “there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (NIV).

Thanks to donors like you, Merit has planted a diverse selection of vegetables and now harvests three times a year. This means increased food security for her family and greater ability to access education. In fact, Merit has earned enough to send her son to college. Her children are her future; Merit needs them not just to survive but also to thrive!

Your gifts to Mission & Service go directly toward our programs and partners around the world. Every dollar you give makes a difference because it helps someone who needs it. Thank you for your generosity.

Blessings everyone,

Minister – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, St. Paul’s United Church **705-433-1224**
minsucmidland@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.