

### From the Minister – Growing Together

Last month, our Stewardship committee spoke to us during the worship service as well as alerted us in the weekly update that we were struggling financially with our expenses exceeding our donations. We have some good news that will be reported this coming Sunday and in next week's update. We are still struggling but we are turning around. What we do know is that it is not just our finances that we need to grow. We need to grow together to rebuild after the pandemic. Grow our faith, grow our congregation, grow our vision for the future, grow our compassion, grow our volunteers, and grow our ministry as we follow the path of Christ here at St. Paul's. The lovely thing about this is that as we watch our gardens awaken out of the winter frost, we see new life and new beginnings all around us. God reminds us that we are in this together and at the heart of it is the Spirit of God, guiding, supporting, and calling us. For this I am grateful.

### Worship

This Sunday, we celebrate Christian Family Sunday, recognizing not only mothers but fathers and those who are like parents to us. So often I hear the phrase, "she is like a mother to me" or "he is like a father to me". It is intended to convey that this person is very significant and important to this individual. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, neighbours, friends, mentors – we can all make a difference by just being there and loving others. Invite someone who is significant to you to join you in worship this week. We have special music as our own choir, the Bell A'Peal Handbell choir, will be joining us sharing their unique music with its clear tones from these beautiful bells.



#### **Christian Family Sunday**

**Sunday, May 14/23**  
**Welcome to our Worship service**

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND, ON**

<https://youtube.com/live/s7BqbDNMrdw?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)

### No Zoom Coffee Hour on Sunday May 14th

There will be no ZOOM coffee hour on Sunday May 14th. The participants who often join us have suggested that because it is Mother's Day, we should not have the zoom coffee hour that day.

## In-Person Coffee Hour

Join us on **Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>** after the worship service for our next in-person coffee hour. We will continue to gather in-person on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.



## Welcoming New Members and Adherents – May 28<sup>th</sup>

On **Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** we will be welcoming new members and adherents. If you are interested in joining the congregation, please call or email Karen or contact the church office during office hours. Becoming a member is a decision that says that the church is important to you and you want to be part of it. It also gives you voting privileges. An adherent is someone who regularly attends church, however for a variety of reasons, chooses not to become a member. This service recognizes that you are part of the congregation and allows us to welcome you into our faith community. A special Coffee Hour will follow in the Great Hall, so we can meet our newest members and adherents.

## Volunteer Opportunity

The Congregational Life committee is looking for a few friendly folks who would enjoy connecting by telephone or by personal visit, with some of our St. Paul's family who are home-bound. Please contact Sheila for more information at [rmsmt2612@gmail.com](mailto:rmsmt2612@gmail.com) or 705-526-2186.

## Calling All Gardeners

We are looking for some enthusiastic gardeners who would be willing to take on a small section of our gardens to do some light maintenance and weeding. Christina Strong, Peggy Wallace and Carol MacDonald look forward to you sharing your gardening skills. If you're able to help, please contact Carol MacDonald at 705-828-2158.

## Congregational News

The UCW is part of the Gift of Grace Soup Kitchen, and every year once a month they help to prepare meals for them. They are currently seeking **non-perishable food items**. A box will be placed in the sanctuary for donations. Anything helps - canned soup, pasta, tuna, etc. Thank you for your generosity.

**A Celebration of Life for Graham MacDonald** will take place on Saturday **May 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Wye Marsh on Hwy 12 in Midland. Family and friends will gather at 2:00 p.m., followed by sharing of memories at 2:30 p.m. and visitation/lunch at 3:00 p.m.

**A Celebration of Life for Reuben Reckzin** will take place on Saturday **May 13<sup>th</sup>** in the Great Hall, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Reuben is Doreen Gunson's brother and he sadly passed away on January 22, 2023. There will be a tribute at 1:30 p.m. followed by a luncheon.

**Vox Community Choir** presents "The Gift of Music – Music for Mom in May" on Saturday **May 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Johnstone's Music Land, from VOX Choir members and will also be available at the door.

**Bay Sound Choir Concert "Spring into Summer"** will be held on Saturday **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Paul's, featuring special guest Vox Femina. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door at a price of \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth. This concert is free for children under 5 years old.

**Volunteers Wanted:** We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to work with Karen and the Worship Team to record some outdoor Acknowledgements of the Land. Please contact Karen if you are interested. We also need one or two artists to assist in a project that will be used for Penetecost Sunday.

## This Week's Minute for Mission

**GOD'S MISSION  
OUR GIFTS**



On February 15, 2023, Mission & Service partners United in Learning, Affirming Connections, and Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble collaborated to host a webinar called "United Against Hate".

There is an alarming increase in violence and misinformation targeted against transgender folks and drag artists. The United against Hate webinar provided context to allies who may not have known the depth of the challenges faced by the Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ community and shared ideas on how best to support community events that regularly face protests and barriers.

Panellists also offered insight into building a safe and educational social media presence, including managing challenging discussion topics.

The webinar was an overwhelming success, with the live limit of 100 participants reached. Those who could not attend were encouraged to watch the recording. Participants shared positive feedback and made action plans on how to move forward together.

Your gifts to Mission & Service help support future events that will enable Affirming communities of faith to truly live into that identity in practical and safe ways.

### **Blessings everyone,**

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