

From the Minister

This weekend is a long weekend and for many people, it means getting to connect with family and friends, gardening or just enjoying time outdoors. I hope that you get a chance to take some time to relax and remember that summer is coming soon!

On **Sunday, May 28th** we will be welcoming our newest members and adherents. If possible, I would ask that you join us for this special worship service and personally welcome them to St. Paul's. The Congregational Life committee has planned an extra coffee hour with cake to enable us to meet our newest folk. Mark your calendar!

Worship



<https://youtube.com/live/fwwnR0zr3gg?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

In-Person Coffee Hour

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



ZOOM Coffee Hour

Our next ZOOM coffee hour will take place on **May 28th**, after the in-person coffee hour to welcome new members and adherents. The in-person coffee hour will take place after service, while the ZOOM coffee-hour will take place at 1:00 p.m. You can join using the same link as before:

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

Welcoming New Members and Adherents – May 28th

On **Sunday, May 28th** 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 no later than **Tuesday May 23rd**. 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.

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place on **Saturday May 27th 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.

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 or 705-526-2186.

Gardeners Needed

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.

Calling All Campers

St. Paul's is committed to helping children and youth get to camp, which is why we offer a financial subsidy for all our camping programs. Please reach out to Rebecca if you would like to discuss this option or for more information regarding our camps. She can be reached at (226) 339-8218 or by e-mail at rebeccaamadei@gmail.com

-Camp Awesome: (Vacation Bible School):

This is for children ages 5 to 12 and will be held here at St. Paul's (in the morning) during the week of August 8th – 12th. All children, grandchildren and friends are welcome! Registration is not yet open but please stay tuned for more information. **If you are able to volunteer, please contact Rebecca.**

-Camp Simpresca:

This is for children ages 6 to 16 and programs run throughout the summer. Enjoy a variety of summer activities right here in Midland on Georgian Bay! There are three-and six-night camps available. Registration is now open and you can register for any of these camps at <https://simpresca.campbrainregistration.com/>. Many of our kids and youth have had wonderful experiences and enjoy going back year after year. Contact Rebecca if you need financial assistance.

-Camp Micah:

This one is for high-school youth and is being held from August 20th to 25th near Bancroft Ontario. Explore topics around human and land justice, non-violent approaches to conflict, and challenge messaging that comes from our consumer-governed world. Enjoy kayaking, high ropes, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, campfires and more. Visit campmicah.ca to register or speak with Rebecca.

Congregational News

We extend our deepest condolences to **Julianna Shaw and her family** on the loss of her brother, Grenville Dungey, who passed away on May 14th.

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, such as canned soup, pasta, tuna, etc. Thank you for your generosity.

Bay Sound Choir Concert "Spring into Summer" will be held on Saturday **June 3rd** 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 will also need one or two artists to assist in a project that will be used for Penetecost Sunday.

This Week's Minute for Mission



Rainbow Camp® in northern Ontario has welcomed young people of all sexual identities since 2012. From the beginning, Mission & Service has supported the Welcome Friend Association, which runs the camp.

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**

"Initially, we wanted to bridge the local LGBTQ community with area churches. We started the association, and then we launched the camp. We had no idea what we were doing at the time. Only one person on the board had camp experience, but we knew that young people would benefit," says Chris Southin, one of the camp's co-founders.

Originally a one-week camp with 14 youths, Rainbow Camp® has expanded to now serve up to 50 youth each week for four weeks. Additionally, Rainbow Camp® Atlantic is now launching in August 2023 in Nova Scotia, and a pilot is planned for the west coast. "We've had an invitation to duplicate the Rainbow Camp® experience in Australia and in the UK too. It's exciting!" says Harry Stewart, also a co-founder.

Above all, Rainbow Camp® provides campers with a safe space to be who they are without judgment. Stewart states, "I'll never forget our first year of camp. It was the second full day. A camper told us his mom had found a dress in his closet. He lied to her and said that it belonged to his girlfriend. He had brought the dress to camp and said he would like to wear it. High heels and sand don't mix!" He laughed, continuing, "but the warmth, love, and compassion that the camper received from everyone at camp was amazing. We tell all our staff that 'your job is to make sure that each and every camper has the best possible time at Rainbow Camp®.'"

Southin and Stewart want the camp experience to be memorable, fun, soul-searching, and supportive. "We don't want any camper to feel afraid to be who they are. I think that's why so many now call it their home." This important work was recognized with a Governor General's award in 2021, an award that recognizes "great Canadians for exceptional deeds that bring honour to our country."

Your generosity through Mission & Service supports safe, welcoming spaces like Rainbow Camp®. Thank you!

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.