

From the Minister

We are growing together for sure this coming Sunday! This Pentecost Sunday, we will be officially welcoming ten adults as new members or adherents of our congregation. For the first time in our history, we will be officially welcoming an individual who is an **online congregant**, who has been worshipping with us for six years. She lives an hour and half away and last year became a member of the Worship Committee, which continues to meet via Zoom. As well, we will be having three baptisms this Sunday.

We are enriched by all who are part of our congregation, committing to following the path of Jesus Christ as we live out our faith in God. The Spirit is very much alive and present in our midst. Together we are the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Come join us for this special service. Invite a friend to join you. Following the service, we are asking as many as possible to come downstairs for a special coffee hour to welcome and introduce yourselves to our newest folk!

Worship



MAY 28, 2023

Pentecost &
Welcoming Sunday

St. Paul's U.C.,
Midland, ON



<https://youtube.com/live/q97l-5NA0U?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

Reminder: The Summer Preachers Training event is this Sunday, May 28th at 11:20 a.m.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Join us this **Sunday May 28th** after the worship service for a special in-person coffee hour to welcome new members and adherents to the congregation.



ZOOM Coffee Hour

We will also be having a ZOOM coffee hour this Sunday, **May 28th**, after the in-person coffee hour. 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>

Please note that our last ZOOM coffee hour of the summer will be on June 11th, resuming in the fall.

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place **this 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

To all of you that have been caring for our **coleus plants** over the winter, please bring them to the church this Sunday May 28th and our gardeners will hopefully plant them on Tuesday May 30th. We are still looking for some eager gardeners to help us out. If you have any questions about what this involves, please call 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

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Helmut Serwotka on April 28th. Helmut and his wife Ruth were former members of our congregation when they lived locally. They donated the beautiful blue stained glass pieces in the atrium. Please keep the Serwotka family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

We also send our deepest condolences to Madeline Cote on the loss of her mother-in-law, Rita Cote, who sadly passed away on May 9th. Madeline is new to our church and is joining the congregation this Sunday.

The UCW is part of the Gift of Grace Soup Kitchen, and every August, once per week, we provide them with 8 loaves of sandwiches. If you can help, please contact Barb Carswell at 705-526-5957.

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 Pentecost Sunday.

Upcoming Community Concert at St. Paul's

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 cost of \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth. This concert is free for children under 5 years old.

This Week's Minute for Mission

Activists and Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ folks share their personal and collective struggles and gains.



The United Church of Canada affirms that gender and sexuality are gifts of God, and that all persons are made in the image of God. We welcome into full membership and ministry people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

In February 2023, a consultation with Mission & Service partners in Asia provided a safe space for gender and sexual minorities to share their personal and collective struggles and gains. Scholars, theologians, and grassroots activists gathered to present theologies from the region, with a particular focus on the diverse and specific contexts, cultures, and challenges in Asia.

Through a series of panel presentations and in worship, participants heard stories from mass movements for social change, "revolutions toward gender justice," and experiences of advocacy work.

Mission & Service partners included the National Councils of Churches in Korea, India, Japan, and the Philippines; Pembizo Christian Council; and All Africa Theological Education by Extension. Solidarity partners included Union Theological Seminary, Jakarta Theological Seminary, and Beyond the Boundary: Knowing and Concerns Intersex.

Your Mission & Service gifts allow programs like these to help people continue to flourish. Thank you for your generosity.

For a detailed video on this topic, please use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIrvydIqQbk>

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.