



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Worship – Music Sunday

**WELCOME** to Shaun McIntosh, our guest preacher this Sunday.

**Worship with us in person** at 10:00 a.m. or online. Click on the link below to go directly to the service, or visit our website at [www.stpaulsmidland.org](http://www.stpaulsmidland.org)



<https://youtube.com/live/0ZPrdGE7at8?feature=share>

Please note that **in Karen's absence** until August 14<sup>th</sup>, the **Rev. Lois Brown** from Unity United Church in Vasey has agreed to cover for pastoral emergencies and funerals. She can be contacted at (705) 816-2570 or by e-mail at [loisebrown@hotmail.com](mailto:loisebrown@hotmail.com)

### Summer Office Hours

Starting the week of August 11<sup>th</sup>, the office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and mornings from 9 a.m. until noon. Jane will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Louise will be in on Wednesday mornings. The remainder of the time Louise will be working from home. You can reach her on her home number at (705) 526-1640 or by e-mail at

[stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com).



**Please note that Louise works Wednesdays and Thursdays only until after Labour Day.**

### In-Person Coffee Hour

Due to the church kitchen being unavailable on August 20<sup>th</sup>, our next in person coffee hour will be deferred to August 27<sup>th</sup>. Barb Carswell's team will be hosting.

**Please note** that Joan Lavin is Captain of the Greeters for the month of August.



### United Church Women

Our monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlour. Meetings will resume in September, with our first meeting being on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. All women in the church are invited to join us for a short meeting, a guest speaker, tea and goodies. Watch for more information on upcoming speakers in future weekly updates. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Judy McConnell at [Itsally58@gmail.com](mailto:Itsally58@gmail.com) or call (705) 529-1826 for more info.

The UCW would like to thank those who are donating sandwiches to the of **Gift of Grace Soup Kitchen** during the month of August, on behalf of St. Paul's UCW.

**UCW's** annual Garage Sale will be on **September 16th**. Please set aside any items in your home that you no longer need or want and we will pass them on for someone else to enjoy, while raising needed funds for our work. Please note that we cannot accept large items of furniture, baby furnishings, sports equipment or pet accessories. If you have any questions, Zena can be reached by phone at (705) 527-6789 or by email at [zenapendlebury@gmail.com](mailto:zenapendlebury@gmail.com)

### **This Week's Minute for Mission**

**"They opened the gate for me; I have no words."**

**GOD'S MISSION  
OUR GIFTS**



When Almaz Fesshaye and her two young children arrived in Canada in 1991, they did not know what to expect. None of them knew the language or culture but hoped and prayed that Canada would be a safer place than Eritrea, a war-torn country in Eastern Africa.

Leaving Eritrea could have meant the difference between life and death. "Everyone had to be a soldier," Almaz describes, before sharing the sombre note that "people have died trying to escape." She was devastated to have to flee her home and frightened by not knowing what would come next.

When Almaz and her two children—then aged four and six—arrived in Alberta, they were greeted with warmth and love by members of Gaetz Memorial United Church. "They opened the gate for me; I have no words," she says with gratitude. "They changed my life, starting from getting furniture, renting a place to live, helping me with the language, and support for my kids." Almaz describes the congregation and community as "selfless and kind." The church was one block from the family's new home, and Almaz says, "My son was very forgetful, so I gave the church secretary an extra key."

Now settled in Red Deer, Alberta, Almaz is joyfully giving back to her community. She works in social services and offers her time as a volunteer with local programs that help people experiencing homelessness and poverty. She is also passionate about helping other refugees learn the local culture and language.

Your gifts to Mission and Service help support life-changing programming and staffing to support families seeking safety.

Almaz has some words for anyone considering supporting refugee programs through Mission and Service: "Don't think twice! It doesn't have to be millions—whatever you give means a lot. If it is financial, educational, time, knowledge, it means a lot. You are saving the lives of human beings and making the world better." Thank you for your generosity.

### **Blessings everyone,**

**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, **705-526-1640**, e-mail [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com)

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