

### From the Minister

It is with a heart of gratitude that I find myself back and working on the weekly update. I had a wonderful time away and have returned fully refreshed and excited to be here. I am so grateful to all who stepped in to cover for me. A special thanks to all of our guest preachers and to the Worship Committee for making all of these arrangements. I also want to say thank you to the Rev. Lois Brown for covering for us in the case of pastoral emergencies this whole time. It is very kind and gracious of her to do this for us.

It is wonderful to come back and meet a new staff person, Kathy Stewart and to know that St. Paul's continues to be about its work as the heart and hands of Christ in our community. As the fall approaches, I always feel like it is a time of new beginnings and a new year. I look forward to exploring with all of you what our future might look like as we gear up for another year.

I am also grateful to the United Church of Canada that implemented a sabbatical policy almost 20 years ago that enables ministers to take a sabbatical every five years and allow them to step back and be spiritually nourished themselves.

### Worship

This week's worship service invites us to ponder two biblical stories and how they impact us on our faith journey. One is a difficult story of forgiveness and the other is a story where we find Jesus having to face his own prejudices and come to a new understanding of how God works in the world. We hope that you will be able to join us. **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/DuyfA1so4vQ?feature=share>

### Summer Office Hours

A reminder that the office will once again be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and mornings from 9 a.m. until noon. Jane will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings 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.**

### **Men's Breakfast Gathering**

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place on **Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### **Congregational Life**

Our condolences go to **Christina Strong** and her husband, Scott, on the passing of her mother-in-law, Suzanne Sutton, on Sun. August 13<sup>th</sup>. Please include the Sutton family in your prayers for comfort in their time of loss.

Our condolences also go out to the Tilson family on the death of **Floyd Tilson** on Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup>. Floyd and Shirley have been long time members of St. Paul's. Floyd has faithfully served on our Property Committee for years. His daughter Heather Tilson and her husband Ian Sutherland as well as his granddaughter Hannah are in our congregation as well. Please keep the Tilson family in your thoughts and prayers. A private family service is being planned in the future.

### **A Message from the Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to all those individuals and groups who stepped up with generous contributions this summer. Thanks to these contributions, our earlier deficit position is now greatly reduced and our cash flow is again adequate.

|          | Actual    |
|----------|-----------|
| Income   | \$161,789 |
| Expenses | \$166,361 |
| Deficit  | \$ 4,572  |

### **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 Garage Sale!**

UCW's annual Garage Sale will take place on **September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** 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)



St. Paul's United Church Women

Saturday Sept. 16, 2023  
8:30 – 1:00

St. Paul's United Church  
308 King Street, Midland  
(next door to the library)

Clothing Boutique, tools, toys, books,  
new and old items, small furniture pieces.  
Something for everyone!

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



**"We are there for people who have nowhere else to go."**

In the last three years, the number of refugees and asylum seekers in Morocco has more than doubled. Today, the country is both a transit and a host country with 18,102 refugees and asylum seekers.

Each person arrives in Morocco hoping for a better life for themselves and their family. Many attempt to cross the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco to Europe. Some make the 14km trip, others don't because it proves too costly and dangerous.

"To give you an idea of what this 'trip' looks like, they get on an inflated boat normally made for 10-20 people and there are more than 40 people on it hoping that the wind, their manual manoeuvres, and God will get them to Europe. They also pay thousands of Euros to get on that boat!" writes Fritz Joseph and Emmanuela Loccident, who served four years in Morocco with the United Church in partnership with Global Ministries of the Disciples of Christ.

"Every day we hear of people who die trying to cross over. A lot don't even know how to swim. Many of those wishing to cross the sea and ultimately go to Europe were, and still are, living in scarcity and poverty because they have used all their money to get to Morocco. Every country they must cross requires fees for passage. So, when arriving in Morocco, they must find a way to pay for their next and final trip to Europe."

In Morocco, your Mission and Service gifts support refugees and migrants by providing life-saving medication as well as blankets, food, clothes, and professional training.

"Without the help of partners, none of this tremendous help that is offered to migrating people in Morocco would be possible. None," explain Fritz and Emmanuela. "Helping migrants is one of the biggest ministries of the church. We are there for people who have nowhere else to go."

**GOD'S MISSION**  
**OUR GIFTS**

This is only one story of how your generosity through Mission and Service helps change lives.  
Thank you for your gifts!

**Blessings everyone,**

**Minister** – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, St. Paul's United Church **705-433-1224**,  
minspucmidland@gmail.com

**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday) mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church  
**705-526-1640**, stpaulsunited@rogers.com

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