

### From the Minister

This time of year is so exciting as we reengage with each other after the summer. It is wonderful seeing people return to church and to hear laughter and conversations throughout the week as well as on Sunday. Together we are seeking to be the church God calls us to be within our diversity of individuals who together can make a difference. I am looking forward to learning more from Kathy Stewart, our Volunteer Co-ordinator, as she takes us through the "We are Not Alone" survey that many of you kindly filled out. What ideas came out of this? What are the insights that you shared with us? What does she see from this on where we might go forward? What might need to change? Please join us this coming Sunday for a working luncheon as together we seek to discern some future directions. Thanks to all of you who under the leadership of Zena Pendlebury helped out with the U.C.W. garage sale. Much appreciated. It was good to have fifteen people attending our Theological Studies Group. Shaun McIntosh, our student minister will be putting in some information next week about a bible study group. Do read all of the things that are happening in this weekly update. There are so many announcements to share with you.

### Worship

This week we will have Kathy Stewart as our L.I.F.E. guest. In the Theme Conversation we will be speaking a bit about Orange Shirt Day which is coming up on Sat. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>

**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/R-aWwDljt8k?feature=share>

### Orange Shirt Day

On September 30, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions.



This year, Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known: that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children.

On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make

reparations. We are invited by the United Church of Canada to wear our orange shirts and to stand in solidarity and with compassionate hearts as we listen to these painful stories that are so traumatizing.

## **Condolences**

Our condolences go to our Volunteer Associate Minister, Rev. Bev Irwin on the death of her spouse, the **Rev. Heather Graham**. Heather passed away on Sat. Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Prior to her retirement she served as the minister at Wyevale, Waverly Pastoral Charge and then became active in our congregation after retirement. People have asked for Bev's contact information to offer their own condolences. Unfortunately, Bev is currently in the hospital with her own health issues. and has asked that people email her rather than phone at this time. She does check her email and said this was the best way to reach her. Her email address is [bami@nexicom.com](mailto:bami@nexicom.com). Please keep Bev and Heather's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our condolences also go to the Truax family on passing of **Bev Truax** on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>. As per Bev's wishes a private family service will be held at a later date. Bev was a long time member of St. Paul's and was very involved with the church. She directed our Sunday School Christmas pageant. She and Clint hosted the Sunday School picnic at their home for many years. Please keep the Truax family in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Volunteers Making the Difference - St. Paul's Survey Results & Luncheon this Sun. Sept. 24th**

I'm grateful to have the opportunity (Community Service Recovery Fund-Government of Canada) to provide leadership and connection as we re-vitalize our community outreach programs. Let's join together this **Sunday the 24th from 11-1:30** for lunch as I will be sharing the results of the survey and hopefully inspiring you to support the ideas that have been shared. Come and see what's happening and how we can collectively encourage our community to share some volunteer time promoting a St. Paul's compassionate community for all of us to grow and thrive. Families and children are all welcome and some special crafts/snacks will be available for the children. Let's celebrate our faith in action. (Kathy Stewart)

*"We rise by lifting others".....Robert Ingersoll*

## **Congregational Life: Eat in/Take Out Dinner**

Our next eat-in/take-out dinner will be on **Wed., Sept. 27, 2023**.

The menu will include lasagna, hot vegetables, coleslaw, bread and dessert. Cost is \$20, payable in advance. Please call the office to reserve your meal and arrange payment. Pick-up at the Atrium door or join us in the Great Hall at 4:30 for a sit-down dinner. Thank you for your support of the work of St. Paul's

## Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place this **Sat., Sept. 29<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.

## In-Person Coffee Hour

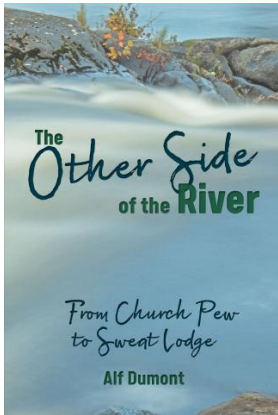
Our next in-person coffee hour will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Office Hours

The office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon.

**Please note** that Louise will resume her regular working days and hours (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. She will be away on vacation from September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup> inclusive. During her absence, the office will remain open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Karen will also be available to answer any enquiries that may arise.



## This Week's Minute for Mission

I'm grateful to have the opportunity (Community Service Recovery Fund-Government of Canada) to provide leadership and connection as we re-vitalize our community outreach programs. Let's join together this Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> from 11-1:30 for lunch as I will be sharing the results of the survey and hopefully inspiring you to support the ideas that have been shared. Come and see what's happening how we can collectively encourage our community to share some volunteer time promoting a St. Paul's compassionate community for all of us to grow and thrive.

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

Families and children are all welcome and some special crafts/snacks will be available for the children.

Let's celebrate our faith in action.

"We rise by lifting others".....Robert Ingersoll" You bring a gift that I don't have; I bring a gift that you may not have."

When Alf Dumont's Roman Catholic father and Anishinaabe mother asked the priest serving the Shawanaga reserve to marry them, the priest rejected their request, advising them to "marry someone of their own kind." Nearby, a United Church minister had a different response. He told the couple he had just two rules: "If you have differences, talk them out and just try to get along."

"Dad and Mom said 'I think we can do that.' They brought together First Nations understanding and non-First Nations understanding. That's how I came to the church," Dumont recounts in a United in Learning [webinar](#).

Dumont spent his life as a spiritual leader, serving the United Church as a minister while staying connected with his traditional Indigenous spirituality. His memoir *The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge* shares stories of how Dumont walks between the two worlds of Indigenous and settler, traditional spirituality and Christianity.

"Part of the struggle with me in life was to find out who I was as Anishinaabe and who I was as French, Irish, and English mix," Dumont shares. With a foot in both sides of the river, Dumont's words eloquently draw together spiritual threads.

"There are seven truths in some of the Anishinaabe teaching: love, courage, respect, humility, truth, wisdom, and honesty. But you can't have one of those teachings or truths without having the others. So you can't have respect without love. You can't have truth without humility," explains Dumont. "I took those underlying teachings and applied them to the four teachings on love: Love God. Love your neighbour. Love your enemy. Love yourself. You can't have one teaching without the other. You can't love God if you don't truly love yourself. You cannot love your neighbour unless you truly love God."

In an interview, *Broadview* magazine asked Dumont to weigh in on the future of reconciliation: "Part of the struggle has to do with learning to walk together again. It means being as open as we can," he says. "You bring a gift that I don't have; I bring a gift that you may not have. And as we share, we learn from the gifts that we have been given."

Your gifts through Mission and Service help support the creation and publication of luminous, timely work like Dumont's book as well as the webinar discussions and education events that follow. Through listening and learning, we take important steps forward on the journey toward reconciliation.

## **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 Church office **705-526-6077**.

**Music Director** - Victoria Warwick – [Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com](mailto:Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com)

**Children and Youth Co-ordinator** – Rebecca Amadei [rebeccaamadei@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaamadei@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Co-Ordinator** – Kathy Stewart – [volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com)

**Student Minister** - Shaun McIntosh [spuc.studentminister@gmail.com](mailto:spuc.studentminister@gmail.com)

**Technical Services Co-ordinator** - Glenn Erwin [glerwin@live.ca](mailto:glerwin@live.ca)

**Custodian** – Jim Lamers – contact church office