

From the Minister

Happy Thanksgiving everyone. I hope that you will find a moment or two this coming weekend to express your thanks and appreciation for the things that you value most as well as for the things in your life that you take for granted. Gratitude is a transforming spiritual practice that can truly make a difference in how we view ourselves, others and the world. This coming Sunday, we take a moment to name for ourselves our thanks and lift them up to God. There is so much happening now at St. Paul's that I am sure you will not want to miss opportunities so please read on!

Worship



<https://youtube.com/live/pyT659Vr8yc?feature=share>

Feeding the Hungry

We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items **starting this Sunday** and will continue for **three weeks**. Please leave your donations in the Sanctuary by the door near the organ.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is Sunday, October 15th, following worship. Gerry Payne is Captain of the Greeters for October.



Our Condolences

Our deepest condolences to Echo Godsmark on the death of her brother recently. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Prayer Shawls: Our Prayer Shawls and Cross Squares are available in the Sanctuary just to the right as you come in the swinging door. When in need of comfort and a physical hand-held reassurance that God is with you, please take one.

U.C.W. Gathering

The **United Church Women** (UCW) will meet next Tuesday October 10th at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlour. All ladies of the congregation are welcome! This month's speaker is Charlie Carswell, who will be talking to us about the amazing organ we have at St. Paul's

To our Fellow Gardeners

A message from Carol MacDonald and Christina Strong

Christina and Carol so appreciate your enthusiastic support for our gardening requests, whether it be caregivers for our coleus over the winter, coming to dig up the gardens, trim bushes or plant dahlias and coleus in the spring. So many of you that have cared for the coleus over the winter have shown me pictures or bragged that you have not killed the plant yet!

The UCW Ladies gave us a gift certificate which we put to good use at Norman's Garden Gallery. The Discovery Kids also have had their gardening skills put to work. They planted nasturtium seeds in the side garden in the spring. They could see new sprouts that had come from the plants the summer before. They also planted coleus plants in the garden. We have had donations from the community gardeners as they split and divided many of their own plants. We have welcomed all these contributions with gratitude. As we work in our church gardens, we receive so many compliments and it is wonderful that our gardens bring joy to so many people.

At St. Paul's, we really have our own horticulture group. Since we have so many "green thumbs" in our congregation, we would like to recognize our gardening group with a name!

We have come up with several names and we would like you the gardeners and non-gardeners choose a name for ourselves. They are as follows:

- 1. Divine Dirt Diggers**
- 2. St. Paul's Spaders**
- 3. Glorious Growers**
- 4. Holy Hoers**
- 5. The Filthy Faithful**
- 6. Garden Angels**

Now all you need to do is vote for the name of your choice for this Horticulture Group (p.s. you do not need to be a gardener to vote!) You can vote on-line (no later than October 22nd) at [Name Our St. Paul's Gardening Group!](#) or this Sunday, you can take a moment to put your check mark beside the preferred name for our horticulture group. This will be posted in the Atrium. You can also email your choice to Carol at g.c.macdonald8@gmail.com Your vote counts!

Congregational Life

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased meals for our **take-out dinner** on September 27th and to our dedicated team of volunteers who worked to prepare the hearty meal. We hope it was thoroughly enjoyed. **We raised \$840** with this dinner, which will go toward the on-going work of the church. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

Volunteers Making the Difference

I continue to meet and connect with many of you at St. Paul's and I feel the compassion and caring that you all share. We are moving forward on some initiatives as I continue to assess how best we can support our community through outreach *Kathy Stewart, Volunteer Coordinator*

Medical Assistance in Dying-Let's Talk!

Join us at St. Paul's for a thoughtful and caring conversation on **October 19th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**, to help us further understand the facts and some of the issues surrounding

M.A.I.D. Dr. Brian Morris will support the conversation and has been the Medical Director at Hospice Simcoe for over 10 years and is a member of the United Church. He supports families and staff with end-of-life care including M.A.I.D. You will need to register for both events by contacting Kathy Stewart at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com

Facilitator Bereavement Training

In response to the need to offer bereavement groups, we will be offering a facilitator bereavement training session on **Monday October 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's**. If you feel that you have some skill in this area and would like to learn more, please contact Kathy Stewart for more information and to register for the session. We are hoping to build a team of trained facilitators to help us with this work. If you or you know of someone in the community, please have them call Kathy. This training is not for those that have recently lost a loved one.

In Grandmothers' Hands Huronia invites you to our African Luncheon and Silent Auction on **October 16, 2023 at noon**, to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion at 196 Queen Street, Midland. Lunch is served at noon and is by donation. All proceeds go to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Pre-register to save your seat by calling Cathy at (705) 527-1324.

Office Hours

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

Blessings everyone,

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

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

Office Secretary – Judy McConnell (Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00)
officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com 705-526-6077

Music Director - Victoria Warwick – Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com

Children and Youth Co-ordinator – Rebecca Amadei rebeccaamadei@gmail.com

Volunteer Co-Ordinator – Kathy Stewart – volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com

Student Minister - Shaun McIntosh spuc.studentminister@gmail.com

Technical Services Co-ordinator - Glenn Erwin glerwin@live.ca

Custodian – Jim Lamers – contact church office