

From the Minister

This week kicks off our annual Foodgrains Campaign. Our worship service will once again highlight this organization that the United Church of Canada, with many other denominations, has partnered with to provide food, farming initiatives, micro-loans, and community support to people in many nations. It is a Canadian initiative that has made a huge impact on the lives of many in our world. Please join us for worship and consider if you would like to make a donation. If so, please make your cheque payable to St Paul's United Church with a note that is for the Canadian Foodgrains Campaign. You can also donate by e-transfer to stpaulsunited@rogers.com. This campaign ends on Nov. 16, 2023. The Official Board has authorized matching with Trust Funds up to \$2,500. Last year, with your donations plus the Trust Fund matching, we raised \$12,755. Our donations are then matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government.

On a different note, you will have noticed in our weekly update an event called "Medical Assistance in Dying – Lets Talk". MAID is part of our world now and over the past several years I have spoken to a number of people from our congregation about it. Some people have had family members or friends go this route, others are just not sure what to think about it while others have concerns about it or support the concept. We are offering a conversation to start a discussion on this topic to enable people to understand and to come to their own conclusions. Dr. Brian Morris, a United Church member will be our guest on **Thursday October 19 from 2-4**. All are welcome to join us. Registration information is provided below.

Worship



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

Feeding the Hungry

We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items until October 22nd. Please leave your donations in the Sanctuary by the door near the organ.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday**, October 15th, following worship. Barb Carswell's team will be hosting on Sunday and Gerry Payne is Captain of the Greeters for October.



Our Condolences

It is with sadness that we announce that our Volunteer Associate Minister and former Ministry staff, the **Rev. Bev Irwin**, passed away on Thanksgiving Sunday, Oct. 8th. Bev served here for many years and upon her retirement, she and her partner, the Rev. Heather Graham continued to be part of St. Paul's. Bev's heart and commitment remained with St. Paul's and even when she moved away due to her health issues, she continued to worship with us online and remained faithful to this congregation. Her ministry touched many of us and enriched our lives. Please keep her son Lane and his family and all of the Irwin extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

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.

Congregational Life

Our next Food and Fellowship dinner will be on Wednesday, October 25th with a menu of Chicken and Pasta. This will be eat-in or take-out at \$20 per meal, payable to the church office in advance by cash, cheque or e-transfer. Please specify your choice of eat-in or take out when you place your order. Children's dinners can also be arranged. Pick-up from the Atrium is at 4:30 p.m., eat-in at 4:45 p.m. Please join us and support the work of St. Paul's.



A message from your Stewardship Committee

Below is the third quarter financial report for St. Paul's United Church from your Stewardship committee. This is an opportunity to review how well we have done with our income and expenses at the end of the third quarter. As we approach the end of 2023, we will need your continued generosity to overcome the \$20,349 deficit shown in his update. God bless all of you for your support to St. Paul's.

Income	\$194,455
Expenses	\$214,804
Deficit as of September 30, 2023	\$ 20,349

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.

Medical Assistance in Dying-Let's Talk!

Have you had the conversation? What will end of life look like for you? Do you have questions about Medical Assistance in Dying (M.A.I.D)? Join us for a thoughtful and caring conversation which we hope will help you to understand the facts, and explore some of the issues, surrounding a medically assisted death. **Dr. Brian Morris** has been the medical director at Hospice Simcoe for over a decade and is a member of Midhurst United Church. In his palliative care practice, he helps patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families with all aspects of care, including M.A.I.D.

Bring a friend and join us at St. Paul's United Church 308 King St. Midland on **Thursday October 19 from 2-4**. Please register by sending an email to Kathy @ volunteerspucmidlland@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office at 705-526-6077

Facilitator Bereavement Training

Bereavement Workshop Are you interested in learning about "Grief Basics"?

Join us for an interactive workshop on **Monday October 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** We will cover some topics such as - the impact of grief on all of us, what makes grief unique for each person, how to accompany someone through grief etc. Become a leader in the St. Paul's community and come to learn more about this important topic. You never know when you will be called to accompany someone as they navigate in a new world without their loved one. Please register by sending an email to Kathy @ volunteerspucmidlland@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office at 705-526-6077

Office Hours

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

This Week's Minute for Mission

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**



Ecumenical Church Loan Fund: Anert's Story

Fifty-three-year-old Anert Mwenda is a bubbly and cheerful clothing trader in Syokimau, Kenya. Her path from housewife to entrepreneur has been filled with barriers, but with the help of Mission and Service partner Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF), her business is flourishing.

After recognizing that her personal savings weren't meeting the rising needs of her business, Anert turned to a self-help group set up by ECLOF Kenya. While taking training programs on business and entrepreneurship, her business grew alongside her skillset. Today, her business employs three workers.

When her husband passed away after a long illness, Anert and her five children were faced with tremendous hospital debt. The loan from ECLOF Kenya alleviated some financial strain, while her peers and ECLOF's loan officer provided emotional support to help her process her grief.

Your gifts to Mission and Service make it possible for partners to walk alongside women like Anert as they work to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

Anert says, "ECLOF Kenya is a good listening partner who is ready to walk the journey of possibilities and impossibilities with their customers." ECLOF shares that they feel Anert's commitment, perseverance, and passion have truly made it possible for her to achieve her dreams.

Blessings everyone,

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