



St. Paul's Weekly Update – October 19, 2023

From the Minister

Thank you so much for all that each and every one of you does for our church, for our community and for our world. Living our faith is more than just believing. It includes walking the path of Christ so that the love of God is made real in our world.

There is **lots happening** at the church and we are certainly getting rejuvenated. Please take the time to read this update further with a calendar in hand in case there are things you might want to engage in with us. It is wonderful to see so many coming back and to welcome new people who have started to attend. As last week's song from Foodgrains Bank said, "there is room at the table for everyone."

Worship

As the numbers for Covid are starting to rise, please know that if you decide you want to wear a mask that is ok. It is your personal decision. We have set out masks at the entrance to the atrium should you feel more comfortable wearing one.

Whether you're joining us in person or online, welcome to our worship service. If you click on the link below, it will take you directly to the service.

**WELCOME TO OUR
WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN. OCT. 22, 2023**

**St. Paul's United Church,
Midland, ON**



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

Feeding the Hungry

This is the last Sunday to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items, which will be sent to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Some suggested items other than canned goods include cooking oil, spices, tea/coffee, sugar, flour, tuna, dishwashing detergent, can openers for all of those canned goods. Please leave your donations in the Sanctuary by the door near the organ.

Our Foodgrains Campaign will continue until November 16th, 2023. If you would like to donate, 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. The Official Board has authorized matching with Trust Funds up to \$2,500. Our donations are

then matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government. Last year, with your donations plus the Trust Fund matching, we raised \$12,755.

Facilitator Bereavement Training

What's new in Bereavement? Have you supported a friend or family with the death of a loved one? Consider coming to spend the day learning about the current grief and bereavement concepts in our **bereavement training session on Monday, October 23rd** from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Kathy at for more information or email her to register at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com.

Food and Fellowship Dinner

Our next Food and Fellowship dinner will be **next 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.



Discovery Kids families are invited to a **Halloween Dinner and Party on Friday**



October 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Great Hall and a kid and family friendly dinner will be provided. Costumes are encouraged. There will be trick or treating and games for the children. All are welcome – parents, grandparents, family and friends. Youth are invited to volunteer to help out so if you're able to, please let Rebecca know of your availability. **Please RSVP to Rebecca** at (226)339-8216 by Wednesday, October 25th with your attendance and numbers. We hope to see you there!

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place on **Saturday, October 28th** 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 Meeting

There will be a Congregational meeting on **Sunday, October 29th**, regarding the Minister Search Committee process, immediately following worship. Please plan to stay if you are able to.

Name our St. Paul's Gardening Group

We're still taking votes for the best name for the St. Paul's gardening group. You have until the end of day on **Sunday, October 22nd** to cast your vote! Be sure to visit the online survey at [Name Our St. Paul's Gardening Group!](#) or you can vote in the Atrium by choosing from one of the following names: **Divine Dirt Diggers, St. Paul's Spaders, Glorious Growers, Holy Hoers, Filthy Faithful, Garden Angels.** We'll announce our new name next week! Thanks for your input!

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee will be **on November 5th**, following worship. Gerry Payne is Captain of the Greeters for October.



The Outreach Committee will be serving hot chocolate for the Santa Claus Parade watchers on **Saturday, November 25th**. They are looking for some volunteers to help make and serve hot chocolate at St. Paul's. This is a great opportunity for family volunteering! If you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Kathy at volunteerspucmidland@mail.com or leave a message at the church office at 705-526-6077. "Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud."Helen Dyer

Volunteers Making the Difference

There is so much outreach happening at St. Paul's in a quiet consistent way! We are making the difference in our community daily. Let's celebrate the Sunday readers and greeters, the children and youth support, the congregational life activities, the work of the U.C.W., the volunteers that deliver the bulletins and share a friendly "hello", the meals on wheels, the committee work that keeps St. Paul's in order, the donors and all the other ways that I have not mentioned as we live our faith through volunteerism.

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**



Women for Change strives to improve conditions in rural communities by empowering women and girls.

In areas where historically there has been little rain, now there are floods and where there were floods, now there are droughts. That's how Shadrack Chembe, the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager at Women for Change—an organization in Zambia that strives to improve conditions in rural communities by empowering women and girls—describes the changing climate in Zambia. Women bear the brunt.

"In Zambia, women are still responsible for collecting firewood and charcoal and making food. Now, because of climate change, they have to walk a longer distance to gather firewood. Charcoal is harder to get. That means it's harder to make food. At the same time, women aren't involved in the decision-making processes that impact this work," explains Chembe.

Women for Change was established in 1992, and its long-standing partnership with the United Church stretches back to 1995. From the beginning, mobilizing communities to share ideas and best practices has been key to the work. Since its inception, 1,500 community groups have been established, with 25–40 people in each group and representatives from each forming associations. The groups discuss a variety of justice-related topics. Building climate resiliency by preparing for, recovering from, and adapting to drastically changing weather patterns is a priority.

Weather extremes due to climate change coupled with companies promoting seeds that only produce a single crop increasingly put people at risk. "The majority of farmers are poor. They can't buy seeds, but companies have created seeds that force farmers to have to purchase them each year," says Chembe. "Groups discuss how they can save and share seeds, what they can plant with longer or shorter rains, and if there are traditional methods that can increase food production," he says, adding, "We are grateful for the United Church's support. The church has really been there for many years, helping us build awareness and resiliency. It's been a real partnership."

Your gifts through Mission and Service support long-term, life-changing work through committed partners like Women for Change. Thank you.

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