

From the Minister

This week we find ourselves wearing our poppies and trying to remember the pain and tragedy of war. "Lest we forget" is not just about the ones who served and lost their lives or were wounded in the past. "Lest we forget" is about not forgetting the cost of war and the loss and tragedies that occur. "Lest we forget" is to remind us all to work for peace lest we forget that the cost of conflict is great. You are invited to join us for worship on this special Sunday of the year, Remembrance Sunday.

Something to Ponder - from our Student Minister, Shaun McIntosh **Shining Forth**

In times of doubt I forget that you are not a God of thoughts, to be found in concepts or theories but are the source of my life and the radiance that shines forth in all that is, and then I remember: mine is the work of learning to see your radiance that shines forth in all that is, even in the dark. Even in me.

Written by Meister Eckhart (13th century German theologian/mystic)

Worship

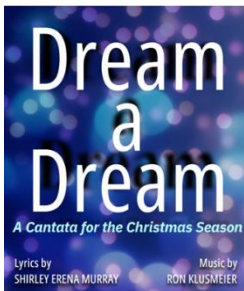
Click the link and join us virtually on this if you are unable to attend in person.



<https://youtube.com/live/TCVH5BNnynE?feature=share>

Feeding the Hungry

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 stpaulsunity@rogers.com. So far with your generous donations, we have raised a total of \$7,041. Another \$2,500 will be added to this using our Trust Funds, bringing our **St. Paul's total to date to \$9,541**. Our donations are then matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government.



Dream a Dream – A Cantata Fundraiser for the Foodgrains Bank

St. Paul's joins with St. John's United Church in a **Foodgrains Fundraiser** on Sunday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Paul's. No tickets are required for this event but attendees are asked to make a generous donation to support ending global hunger. Canadian Foodgrains receives 100% of donations received and tax receipts are issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Connecting Together

Come join us and make connections with others as we take time for conversation, storytelling, tea/treats, fun and fellowship. Our Connections Team is starting up again on **Thursday November 16th** and will continue every Thursday until December 14th. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Atrium at St. Paul's from **2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** Pop in, have a seat and touch base with others.

Grieving Together

Death is never easy and grief can be a difficult and lonely journey. St. Paul's is offering two grief groups for those who have lost a loved one to death recently. There is a Men's group and a Women's Group. Please read the information on each group and consider engaging in a confidential and caring conversation with others who know the journey of loss in recent years.

Men's Grief Group –A Monthly Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month - 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. **starting Wednesday, November 15th at 11:00** a.m. at St. Paul's. This will be a monthly gathering for men to gather and support each other in their loss. No one grieves the same way so it is a chance to touch base with others and hopefully not only learn more about grief but to know that you are not alone and that others may be struggling with similar issues. This group will be co-led by John McCullough and Karen Ptolemy-Stam. If you are interested, please contact John at 705-526-9860 or by email at wyewood@gmail.com.

Women's Grief Group - Women who have recently experienced the death of a loved one are invited to join a peer led faith group to remember, share stories and support each other as we explore the journey of grief. We will meet weekly for 8 weeks **starting on November 21st** from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the church, with the final 3 weeks being post-Christmas. Please contact Linda Fong at (709) 290-1790 or email her at lindafong1@gmail.com if you are interested in joining. Please note her area code is 709 not 705.

Congregational Life

Are you interested in meeting new folks and supporting St. Paul's with your gift of time? We are looking for people who can join our **Greeters Team**. If interested in joining the team, please contact Sheila Thompson at 705-526-2186.

Looking for a couple of volunteers to help put up the **Nativity Scene** on Thursday, November 16th starting at 10:00 a.m. If you can help, please contact Bruce Wilcox at 705-526-8553 or by email at lindabrucewilcox@gmail.com.



In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is on **Sunday, November 21st**, following worship. Joan Lavin is the Captain of the Greeters for November.



St. Paul's Outreach

Boots Needed - We have had a request from someone in need of a warm pair of size 7 women's winter boots. If you have a pair in good condition that you are willing to donate, please contact the church office. They can be dropped off at the church office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

The Guesthouse Dinner Program: Did you know that St. Paul's had a group of dedicated volunteers who prepared dinner every Sunday (prior to COVID) for the Guesthouse Shelter? Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to our community? We are looking to rebuild this team of Sunday dinner volunteers. What an opportunity for family volunteering OR for a group of friends to get together and create a meal for the less fortunate - a true "Faith in Action" living together project. We can build lots of flexibility into this opportunity. Please talk to your friends and community as this is not restricted to members of St. Paul's. Contact Kathy at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com for more information or to discuss the possibilities to make this work.

Santa Claus Parade Hot Chocolate Outreach - The Santa Clause Parade is just around the corner on November 25th. If you can come out and help us to make hot chocolate and hand it out to parade watchers, please join us from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a family friendly activity. This is a great opportunity for anyone that is needing their high school community hours. Please contact Kathy volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com if you require more information or if you are able to volunteer.

Christmas is coming – help us get ready

Poinsettia Fundraiser: Bay Sound Choirs are thrilled to be offering a fundraiser for this holiday season. They will be offering a variety of beautiful live poinsettias, tropical planters and tabletop greenery centrepieces from Bradford Greenhouses. If you wish to place an order, please complete the **attached order form**, indicating clearly the size of the plant as well as the colour choice for each order. Forms will also be available at the church and **need to be returned to Victoria no later than Monday November 20th** with full payment by either cash or cheque **payable to Bay Sound Singers**. Order pick-up will be on Friday, December 8th at St. Paul's between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Any questions can be directed to Katie Goulbourne at akgoulbourne@rogers.com or Tammy Brown at tamara_l_brown@hotmail.com



Decorating the Sanctuary: The Worship Committee will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on **Friday, December 1st**, starting at 10:30 a.m. If you're able to help, please contact Cathy Metzgar at 705-527-5784 or by e-mail at bycatmet@gmail.com.

Bay Sound Christmas Concert: Bay Sound Choirs present "Christmas is a Feeling" on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Paul's. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth and ages five and under are free. Tickets will be available at the door or on their website at baysound.ca.

UCW Christmas Potluck luncheon is on Tuesday, **December 12th**. All ladies of the congregation are welcome! For more information, contact Judy McConnell at 705 529-1826 or Itsally58@gmail.com.

UCW Christmas Goodie Sale: The UCW are having their annual sale of homemade goodies, made by our own church ladies and possibly gentlemen. The boxes are \$20 each, payable when you **pick up your order at the church on December 13th**, between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. You must **pre-order** by November 29th by calling Marlis Dupuis at 705-209-0884. Donations of baking are very welcome. Please contact Barb Carswell at 705-955-2619 if you can help with some baking. Drop off for the baking will be on December 13th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Money raised from this sale will be used for the many local and global charities that our UCW supports.



Needed for Christmas Musical: We are looking for some Amazon boxes of varying sizes to use as props for the Christmas Musical. If you have some, please give them to Gabbi or Victoria.

Office Hours

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

This Week's Minute for Mission

There is one thing that will never fail us: compassion.



Acts of compassion, both big and small, give rise to peace. We can't wave a magic wand and bring about world peace, but with every act of compassion we harness the power of love, the same love Jesus lived and died for and that he promised would move mountains.

At a time when it feels like there's a new crisis confronting us each and every day, it's reassuring to know that Mission and Service partners provide real-time relief around the world on a daily basis. That's why your generosity matters so much.

The food security initiatives, refugee support work, educational programs, and emergency and advocacy efforts your gifts through Mission and Service support aren't just about food, safety, education, and human rights. They are ultimately about compassion, peace, and hope. And in a world where division tears the fabric that binds us together, that's everything.

Jesus put compassion into action every day he lived. He brought hope into every room he walked into. He was literally the calm in the storm. He stretched out his arms in the ultimate sacrifice of love, and the world was never the same. Every act of compassion contributes to a more peaceful world. Thank you for your generosity through Mission and Service. Your gifts truly do help move mountains.

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)**

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