

From the Minister

It certainly feels like St. Paul's is up and running and going strong. There is so much happening and so many opportunities for our congregation and others to engage in activities and ministry. Read right through to the end of this update so you don't miss out on the many events happening here. Come join us and engage with others as we seek to live our faith in a wide variety of ways. Please note our Advent and Christmas events that are coming up.

Worship

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

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023

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



https://youtube.com/live/p_d7M-QkTEs?feature=share

Assisting Those in Need

During the next three weeks and until Dec. 14th, we are asking for donations of new gloves/hats, socks, lip chap, toothbrushes, toothpaste or other personal hygiene items **to be dropped off at the church** either on Sundays or during office hours. We are assisting two organizations. One is working with impoverished youth and the other is the Guesthouse. Thank you for considering bringing in some of these items. Look for the box in the atrium to drop off your donations.

Feeding the Hungry

Our Foodgrains Campaign ended on **Nov.19th, 2023**. With all your generous donations, we raised a total of \$9770. Another \$2,500 will be added to this using our Trust Funds, bringing our **St. Paul's total to date to \$12,270**. Our donations are then matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government. **Great job St. Paul's!!**

Connecting Together- Come Join Us!

Come join us and make connections with others as we take time for conversation, storytelling, tea/treats, fun and fellowship. Our Connections Team starts up again this week 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.

Official Board Meeting

The Official Board meets on Tuesday, Nov. 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlour. All board members are asked to attend if they are able.

Our Condolences

Our condolences also to **Janet Rudyk** on the passing of her brother-in-law recently. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, our condolences to **Debbie McGrory** on the death of her husband John. The family of John McGrory invite you to attend John's Memorial Service, either in person or virtually, to celebrate his life. It will be held on **Tues. Nov. 28th at 1:30 p.m. EST at St. Paul's United Church**, 308 King St. Midland, On. For those of you who will be attending virtually, click on the link below to watch it live at that time. Anytime after that, just click on the link and it will take you directly to the recorded service. Please share this with others that you think might appreciate having the link.

<https://youtube.com/live/WzfxUqfEt7E?feature=share>

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. The men's group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month starting Jan. 17th, 2024, while the women's group meets weekly on Tuesdays starting on December 5th. Consider engaging in a confidential and caring conversation with others who have travelled the journey of loss in recent years.

If you are interested in joining the **women's group**, please contact Linda Fong at (709) 290-1790 or email at lindafong1@gmail.com. For the **men's group**, please contact John McCullough at 705-526-9860 or e-mail at wyewood@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place **this Saturday**, Nov. 25th at 9:00 a.m. at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversation. All men of the congregation are welcome.



Food and Fellowship Dinner

On **Wednesday, Nov. 29th**, 2023, we will be having our last Food and Fellowship dinner for 2023! Take-out will be at 4:30 p.m. and eat-in starting at 4:45 p.m. The menu will be chicken breast and scalloped potatoes, hot vegetable, dinner roll and pumpkin dessert. Eat-in meals will include tea or coffee. Cost is \$20/meal and children's meals will also be available at a cost of \$10, payable to the church office in advance by cash, cheque or e-transfer. **Please place your order no later than Nov. 26th**. Thank you for supporting the work of St. Paul's.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee will be on **Sunday, Dec. 3rd**, following worship. The congregation will be **decorating our 16-foot Christmas tree** during this coffee hour.



Congregational Life - Bowling

Let's Go Bowling - family friendly fun for all ages!! The event is scheduled for **Thurs. Dec. 7th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at Knight Haven Lanes in Penetanguishene. Please arrive earlier to fit shoes and set up teams. St. Paul's will pay for the bowling and shoes. Snacks are available to purchase for cash only. For more information or to sign up, contact Sheila Thompson at 705-526-2186 or rmsmt2612@gmail.com

St. Paul's Outreach

The Guesthouse Dinner Program: Did you know that prior to COVID, St. Paul's had a group of dedicated volunteers who prepared dinner once a month for the Guesthouse? We want to rebuild this team and need your help starting in Jan. 2024. This is an opportunity for very flexible volunteering. Whether you want to be part of a team or would like to create your own group of friends and family to make a meal, we would appreciate your help. Please reach out to Kathy for more details at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com

Christmas is coming – help us get ready

Decorating the Sanctuary: The Worship Committee will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on **Friday, Dec. 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.

UCW Christmas Goodie Sale: The UCW is once again having their annual sale of homemade goodies. The boxes are \$20 each, payable when you **pick up your order at the church on Dec. 13th**, between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. You must **pre-order** by Nov. 29th by calling Marlis Dupuis at 705-209-0884. If you can donate some baking, please contact Barb Carswell at 705-955-2619. Money raised will be used for the many local and global charities that our UCW supports.

The **UCW Christmas Luncheon will be on Tuesday Dec. 12th** at noon in the Atrium, with lunch being catered. All ladies of the UCW and congregation are welcome. If you are planning to attend, please let us know by either calling the church office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and noon or by calling Judy McConnell at 705-529-1826 or by email to officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com

Upcoming concerts at St. Paul's

Bay Sound Christmas Concert: Bay Sound Choirs present "Christmas is a Feeling" on **Saturday, Dec. 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.

VOX Huronia Community Choir presents "The Sounds of Christmas" **on Saturday, Dec. 16th at 4:00 p.m.**, with special guests the Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Johnstone's Music Land, VOX choir members, Hear Well Be Well Inc. (at 483King Street) and at the door.

Office Hours

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

This Week's Minute for Mission



Mission and Service is one of our church's best answers to the question "What would Jesus do?"

The question "What would Jesus do?" often shortened to the acronym "WWJD," has graced wrist bands, T-shirts, and bumper stickers since the 1990s. And while it might sound like an overused cliché, it's a question that can lead our spirit and, by extension, our lives to profound transformation.

What did Jesus do? He crossed a lot of boundaries. In fact, when we think about the boundaries that separate people—things like money, gender, education, culture, religion, and class—Jesus crossed them all, inspiring hope, inclusion, and compassion.

In the same way, our generosity through Mission and Service breaks down walls that divide and builds bridges that draw us together.

Your generosity supports organizations like hospitals, counselling centres, drop-in circles, and homeless shelters that are there when people need them most. Your gifts sustain education programs that teach farming skills, provide job training, and help remove obstacles so children can remain in school. Your generosity stands up for victims of human trafficking, ensures workers and children know their rights, and advocates for those persecuted because of their sexual orientation, gender, or beliefs. It fosters anti-racism, supports healing and reconciliation, and deepens spiritual practice.

Through Mission and Service, the arms of your generosity stretch wide, reaching into schools, camps, hospitals, shelters, prisons, and churches. Mission and Service is one of our church's best answers to the question "What would Jesus do?"

Thank you for your support.

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)**

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