

Special Advent Christmas Worship Calendar – 10:00 a.m.

Advent 1 – Dec. 3rd - Communion

Advent 2 – Dec. 10th - Children's Musical
"Dude you hear what I hear."

Advent 3 – Dec. 17th - Choir Cantata
"Lead me back to Bethlehem."

Dec 24th – No morning service
Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

Dec 25th - There is no church service on
Christmas Day.

We invite you to watch an earlier service online.
Join our live-stream service at stpaulsmidland.org



From the Minister

This Sunday we will be singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" as we welcome in the Advent season with its special services, reminding us that the birth of Christ changed the world and us. Candles, Christmas greenery and wreaths, lights and ornaments on trees remind us all of the one who is the light of the world. Please join us for our special services, events and concerts here at St. Paul's.

Worship:

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

Welcome to our
Advent 1 &
Communion
Worship Service

Sun. Dec. 3/ 2023

St. Paul's United
Church, Midland



<https://youtube.com/live/zulOv2CnvkQ?feature=share>

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday, Dec. 3rd**, following worship. The congregation will be **decorating our new 12-foot Christmas tree** during this coffee hour. Sheila Thompson's team will be hosting, and Sheila is also Captain of the Greeters for the month of December.



Assisting Those in Need

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.

St. Paul's is also looking to stock our own shelves with donations of food items (dry goods) so that the office can hand out food to those who drop by the church for assistance. If you're able to help, please drop by the church during office hours with your donations or bring them to church on Sunday.

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 Dec. 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.

Our Condolences

Our condolences Pauline Miller on the passing of her husband Karl on Sunday, Nov. 26th. Karl and Pauline have attended St. Paul's faithfully for years and join us every Sunday on-line. In addition to the death of her husband, Pauline's son-in-law, John Wilcox, died on Thurs. Nov. 23rd. Karl was also the brother-in-law of Joy Edwards from our congregation. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

Advent and Christmas events

"Dude, You Hear What I Hear?" is scheduled **for Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 a.m.** during our morning Worship Service.

Christmas time is filled with sound! Sometimes so much sound and noise that we can hardly hear the real message of Christmas.

In the hustle and bustle at a crowded "Mondo-Mart" filled with shoppers, shy Taylor and the rest of her youth group have stopped for some last-minute snacks on their way to a fun Christmas camp. Taylor – not much for talking, but a great hide and seek player – has found the perfect hiding place. So perfect, in fact, that she doesn't notice when the rest of the group boards the bus and the store is closed for the night! Hard to tell who is more surprised – Taylor, when she emerges from her hiding place or the fun-loving store mannequins who break their silence assuming that once again, the store is theirs for the night.

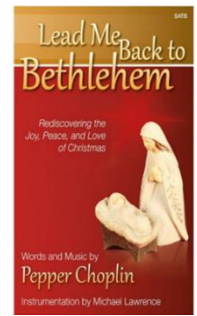


Taylor quickly discovers that everything store mannequins know about Christmas is what they've heard over the PA system during the Christmas season and boy are they misinformed! And the not-so-high-tech night watchmen listening in from outside the store are nearly as confused as the mannequins.

"Dude, You Hear What I Hear?" is a rollicking adventure for kids that ensures that nobody will miss out on hearing the REAL Christmas story! Don't miss the hippest music you'll hear in a kids' musical this season, a fun story and a Biblical message that you've got to experience!

"Lead Me Back to Bethlehem" by Pepper Choplin

Join us for this special Sunday service on **Dec. 17th at 10:00 a.m.** Our Cantata Sunday is the most popular of the year and this event will be no exception. As last year, St Paul's choir will be joined by the Bay Sound Singers, instrumentalists and a few "extras" as we present this special celebration. All are welcome.



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 483 King Street) and at the door.

St. Paul's Volunteers

THANK YOU - can you even imagine all of the volunteer hours that have been shared at St. Paul's this month? A big THANK YOU to the Worship team, to those who have been decorating (nativity scene and inside the church), those helping with funeral support (from lunch to logistics) to honour our loved ones, to those who assisted with hot chocolate outreach at the Santa Claus parade, to our Pastoral Care Team making phone calls and doing visits and to our group and committee leaders and the tireless crew that make the Food and Fellowship dinner happen on the 29th.

St. Paul's Outreach

Guesthouse Dinner Update- Thanks to all of you who have expressed an interest in helping with the Guesthouse dinners. Once our leadership committee is organized, we will be asking for more episodic help such as a donation of groceries to use in the meal prep.

Learning Together - Save the Date

On Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024, our next guest will be Chief Ted Williams from Rama First Nation. A recognized and sought after motivational speaker, Chief Williams will join us to share his "If you dream it, if you believe it, you can do it" message.

Office Hours

The office is open on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. mornings from 9 a.m. until noon.

This Week's Minute for Mission



The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) provides children the opportunity to learn and grow safely.

The start of a school year brings out a lot of questions from children. Will they like their teacher? Will they make new friends? But for children attending schools in Aleppo, Syria, the start of the academic year in Sept. 2023 brought a welcome sense of normalcy after months of uncertainty.

In Feb. 2023, earthquakes left people in parts of Türkiye and Syria facing the devastating loss of their loved ones, homes, and communities. And with their communities' schools damaged or destroyed, children had nowhere safe to learn.

In addition to providing basic needs and cash assistance, Mission and Service partner The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) was able to rehabilitate five school buildings in Aleppo before the start of the Sept. 2023 school year. In the face of significant struggle, MECC is providing children with the opportunity to learn and grow safely.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support partners like MECC as they help children and families rebuild and recover in the wake of disaster.

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