

Special Advent Christmas Worship Calendar

10:00 a.m.

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.

Dec. 31st – A service celebrating new beginnings
as we bring in the new year.



From the Minister

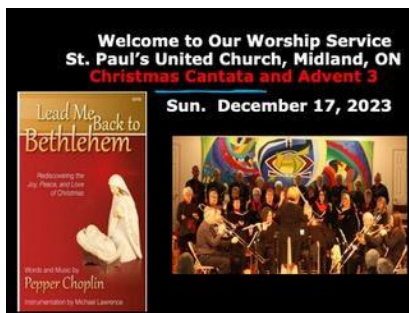
This Advent season, we find ourselves so blessed at St. Paul's to have the special services and gatherings, as together we are reminded of the Christmas story and how through Christ we find meaning and purpose in serving others in love and compassion. Ann Weems, in her book of poetry, "Kneeling in Bethlehem, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1980" writes this poem:

What Do I Want for Christmas?

What do I want for Christmas?
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,
the air thick with alleluias,
the angels singing that God is born among us.
In the light of the star,
I want to see them come,
the wise ones and the humble.
I want to see them come
bearing whatever they treasure
to lay at the feet of him who gives his life.

What do I want for Christmas?
To see in that stable
the whole world kneeling in thanks
for a promise kept:
new life.
For in his nativity
we find ours.

Worship - Choir Canata this Sunday



"Lead Me Back to Bethlehem" by Pepper Choplin

Join us for this special Sunday service, **this Sunday, 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.

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

<https://youtube.com/live/w6I47Vajc9U?feature=share>

Our Condolences

Our condolences to Donna Macfarlane and to her sister, Linda Gidora on the death of their mother, Joyce Ellis, on Wed. Dec. 13th. Joyce was very involved in our congregation. She was on staff as a St. Paul's pastoral care worker many years ago, and she loved being part of St. Paul's. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers. Funeral arrangements have not been confirmed at this time. **Joyce's funeral will be held at St. Paul's on Sat., Dec. 23rd, at 11:00 a.m.**

Our condolences also to Cathy Metzgar and family on the death of Byron on Monday evening, Dec. 11th. Bryon will be very much missed. He was a current member of the Official Board and was a member of the Ministry and Personnel committee. Cathy is also a member of our Official Board and the Chair of the Worship committee. They watch faithfully on-line every Sunday. **The funeral service will be at St. Paul's on Thurs., Dec. 21st, at 11:00 a.m.** Please keep Cathy and the Metzgar family in your thought and prayers.

A Message from your Stewardship Committee

We are so grateful to all those who generously contributed to support the mission of St Paul's United Church. As in past years, the deadline for year-end donations is **noon on Dec. 30th** for personal tax savings in 2023. Although the office will be closed, the mailbox will be checked daily.

Upcoming concert at St. Paul's

VOX Huronia Community Choir presents "The Sounds of Christmas" **this Saturday, Dec. 16th at 4:00 p.m.**, with special guests St. Paul's 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.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday, Dec. 17th**, following worship. Barb Carswell's team will be hosting and Sheila Thompson is Captain of the Greeters for the month of December. **If anyone is interested in joining the Social Hour or Greeter's Team, please reach out to Sheila.**



Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place **on Saturday, Dec. 30th** 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.

Knox Presbyterian Church is having a moving sale on **Fri. Jan. 5, 2024** from noon to 4:00 p.m. and **Jan. 6, 2024** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Individual items priced at \$6.00 and up or make them an offer they can't refuse. If you have any questions, call 705-526-7421.

St. Paul's Volunteers

The hum of volunteers has been louder than ever at St. Paul's this week. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make St. Paul's United Church a great place to be!

St. Paul's Outreach

A group of volunteers has met to put together some ideas for the Guesthouse meal preparation that will be happening the second Wednesday of every month starting on Jan. 10, 2024. Stay tuned for information about ways to help with this very important initiative.

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 9:00 a.m. until noon. **Please note** that the office will be closed starting Friday Dec. 22nd and re-opening on Tues., Jan. 2, 2024.

This Week's Minute for Mission

A meaningful gift is a simple click away.

"I don't want anything for Christmas. I really don't need anything this year."

This is something many of us have heard, and maybe something we've found ourselves saying. While it may be true, despite not wanting or needing anything, gifts are going to happen anyway. Instead of searching "gifts for someone who is hard to buy for," why not give [Gifts with Vision](#)?

Instead of gadgets and fleeting trends, Gifts with Vision is full of gifts that will help transform people's lives throughout Canada and across the world. When placing your order, you'll be able to add an e-card, including a delivery date, for each gift. Every Gift with Vision provides support for a specific [Mission and Service](#) partner offering a unique project. Without [Mission and Service](#), Gifts with Vision projects would not be possible. Thank you for supporting both.

Blessings everyone,

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