

### From the Minister

In Worship, we are taking five weeks to look at some of the key themes from our United Church of Canada "Song of Faith" which is our latest statement of faith as a denomination. The "Song of Faith" document was attached to the weekly update last week and is available in hard copy at the church should you wish to pick one up. I encourage you to join us as we seek to explore our own understandings of faith. Last week, I discussed God as Mystery, beyond our understanding yet within us and in relationship with us. This week I will be talking about who is Jesus.

One of the most devastating things about modern society is loneliness, which affects people's emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual health. I would like to encourage you to look at the many varied events that are being offered at the church. Church is so much more than just Sundays. Come join us for other events like Connections, All Ages Bingo Night, Learning Together, U.C.W., Men's Breakfast Gathering, Theological Studies Group, Choir, Discovery Kids to just name a few. You might be surprised just who you meet and how much you enjoy yourself.

Thank you to our many volunteers who make this happen.

### Worship

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



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

### St. Paul's website

Want to know what's going on St. Paul's? Visit our **website** at <https://www.stpaulsmidland.org/> There is lots of information and worth the look. You can also follow us on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=st.%20paul%27s%20united%20church>

### Official Board Meeting

The **Official Board** will be meeting on **Tues. Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** by Zoom.

### Congregational Meeting on Sun. Feb. 4 – Very Important!!!

There is a **Congregational meeting** scheduled for **Sun. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> right after worship**, for the congregation to receive and approve the initial report of the Search Committee that is tasked with the responsibility of recommending a new minister. The congregation must approve this

first report in order to proceed to the next stage of starting to advertise for a minister. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We will need quorum to proceed to the next step. Coffee hour will follow the meeting in the Great Hall.

## **Connecting Together**

Join our group every Thurs. from **2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** to connect and enjoy time sharing stories, fun, fellowship and to meet new friends. If anyone can display our flyer around town or at your place of work, it would be very much appreciated. Flyers are located on the desk in the atrium.



### **In-Person Coffee Hour**

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024**, following worship. Marlis Dupuis and her team will be hosting.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The next Men's Breakfast gathering will be on Sat. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

### **Creativity and Spirituality Art Card Workshop**

How do Art and Spirituality relate? Join us for a **Valentine Art Card Workshop** with Victoria Tovell on **Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

### **Family Food and Bingo night**

Please join us on **Fri. Feb. 2 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** for pasta with fixings and ice cream. This will be a free-will offering and everyone is welcome. For further information, contact Sheila at 705-526-2186 or e-mail at rmsmt2612@gmail.com

**Take a Moment for Peace** is happening here at St. Paul's every Wednesday in Feb., from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Light a candle, sit for a bit, join us to promote peace in our world, our community, our inner selves, our families or whatever has meaning for you.



### **UCW – next meeting**

The next meeting will be on **Tues., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. If anyone is interested in being on the **UCW executive team**, please call Barb Carswell at 705 955-2619.



**Coldest Night of the Year:** Mark your calendars and join the St. Paul's team on **Sat. Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** to help us raise much needed funds and awareness for the Guest House. If you wish to participate in this most important fundraising event, please follow the link below, click on the link below, click on the "Teams" tab (about ½ way down the page), then click on St. Paul's Midland to donate.

<https://cnoy.org/location/midland>

### **Office Hours**

The office is open on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon. **Please note** that next Tuesday only, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, the office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. rather than the usual 9:00 a.m. to noon.

## **This Week's Minute for Mission**

**Your support helps remove barriers to education for teenagers like Hamdan.**

Hamdan wants to become a doctor someday. As the oldest son, this young teenager dreams big amidst the daily struggles that he and his family face.



Hamdan's family came to Lebanon several years ago to escape the war in Syria. They can barely afford their monthly rent, food, household expenses, clothing, and medical needs. While his father works in a produce shop, his mother stays at home to care for the family's four children and two other family members. This family of eight lives on the father's pay and a small income supplement they receive from the UN.

Like Hamdan, many children in Lebanon are at risk of losing their education because an economic crisis—intensified by the COVID pandemic and the devastating 2020 explosion in Beirut—has plunged their families into poverty. When parents can't pay school tuition, children face an unstable future. The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) assists Lebanese students and Syrian refugees ages 8–13 with tuition and fees to secure their education and prevent them from becoming a lost generation.

One thing Hamdan's parents don't have to worry about anymore is his education. With tuition assistance provided by MECC to Hamdan and his siblings, they can continue to study until graduation and gain entrance into a university—giving Hamdan a chance to achieve his dream. Your support through Mission and Service helps remove barriers for teenagers like Hamdan so they can work toward their dreams. Thank you.

### **Blessings everyone**

**Minister** – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, **705-433-1224**, [minspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minspucmidland@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church), [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto: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](mailto:officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com) 705-526-6077

**Music Director** – Victoria Warwick – [Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com](mailto:Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com)

**Children and Youth Co-ordinator** – Rebecca Amadei [rebeccaamadei@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaamadei@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Co-Ordinator** – Kathy Stewart – [volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com)

**Student Minister** – Shaun McIntosh [spuc.studentminister@gmail.com](mailto:spuc.studentminister@gmail.com)

**Technical Services Co-ordinator** – Glenn Erwin [glerwin@live.ca](mailto:glerwin@live.ca)

**Custodian** – Jim Lamers – contact church office

**Website:** <https://www.stpaulsmidland.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=st.%20paul%27s%20united%20church>