



St. Paul's Weekly Update – Feb 1, 2024

From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

There are so many things that are going on at St. Paul's that it is sometimes hard to keep track of it all. That is why we send out this weekly update with announcements and news for all to share.

Tomorrow, (Fri. Feb. 2nd) we have all-ages event where we will gather for pasta and bingo and have a chance to hang out and have fun. There are even Bingo prizes. Bingo is a game that can be played by young and old alike. Hopefully we will see you at 5:00 tomorrow.

This past Tuesday we had a great session using our creativity as Victoria Tovell taught and inspired us as we made greeting cards.

This coming Sunday we gather for worship, coffee and for a brief meeting to enable the congregation to move forward to the next step in its search for a new minister.

Next week on Wed. we begin a month-long journey every Wed. from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. when the congregation and community are invited to take a moment for peace.

Every Thurs. there we have a "Connecting Together" group in the afternoon and choir rehearsal in the evening.

Then of course there are all the other special events coming to us, as you'll see as you read to the end of this update. A healthy congregation is one that seeks to do the work and ministry of Christ, builds relationships with one another, and reaches out to the local and global community to work with others for the good of all.

In keeping with the launch of our "Take a Moment for Peace" we ask that you continue to pray for all who struggle in war-torn countries as well as those who's lives are fractured by violence. Peace is also something that is inward and can be found in our daily lives. Whether inward or outward, Jesus invites us to walk the path of peace with God, ourselves, and others.

From our Student Minister – Shaun McIntosh

In love this poem and this is it worth sharing and worth remembering. Hope you enjoy it too.

TRY HUMAN By Chelan Harkin

Forget perfection.
Go for messy, learning, tender, whole.

Forget brand-new.
Embrace cracked, broken open, worn, rich with story.

Forget polished. Choose rusted, textured, nuanced, real.

Please cease this intimidating flawlessness and
become generous in sharing your sacred wound.

Forget divine --- Try Human.

Worship

We will continue with our Song of Faith Series – this week looking at scriptures. This is also a communion Sunday so if you are worshipping with un online, you may want to have a beverage and cracker/bread handy to participate in the sharing of the bread and the wine. Click on the link below to join us virtually if you are unable to attend in person.



**WELCOME TO OUR
WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN. FEB. 4, 2024**

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

<https://youtube.com/live/vZiZt32sdIc?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>

Family Food and Bingo night

Please join us **this 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



Congregational Meeting this Sun. Feb. 4 – Very Important!!!

There is a **Congregational meeting** scheduled for **Sun. Feb. 4th 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 still proceed following the meeting. This meeting is not expected to take very long.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is this **Sun., Feb. 4, 2024**, following worship and our brief Congregational meeting.



Our Condolences

We want to express our condolences to Roy and Joan Lavin on the death of Roy's younger brother, Jim Lavin who passed away this week. Please keep the Lavin family in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

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. Should you chose, have a coffee on us before you leave and touch base with others also seeking peace in their lives and in the world.



County marking Black History Month with virtual lecture series

Learn more about our Black History in the County of Simcoe by registering for this virtual lecture series, to celebrate Black History month. The series starts on **Feb. 8th** and will feature local historians, authors and advocates.

https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/county-marking-black-history-month-with-virtual-lecture-series-8182434?utm_source=MidlandToday.ca&utm_campaign=ff7be535ac-DailyMID&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5aff076564-ff7be535ac-320343965

UCW – next meeting

Our next UCW meeting will be on **Tuesday Feb. 13th at 1:30 p.m.** in the parlour, when we will celebrate Valentine's Day with games and prizes. We will also be installing our Officers for 2024 and the Treasurer will be presenting the 2024 budget. Hope to see you all there!



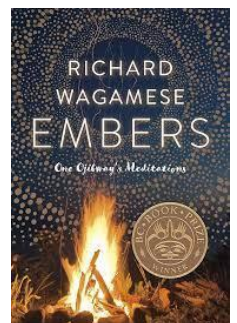
Coldest Night of the Year: Mark your calendars and join the St. Paul's team on **Sat. Feb 24th** to help us raise much needed funds and awareness for the Guest House. If you wish to participate in this most important fundraising event, **please follow the link below, click on the link below, click on the "Teams" tab (about 1/2 way down the page), then click on St. Paul's Midland to donate.**

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

World Day of Prayer this year will be on **Friday March 1st at 2:00 p.m.** at St Margaret's Church, Hugel Avenue in Midland. This service is prepared by the Word Day of Prayer committee of Palestine.

Karen's Last Theological Study Group at St. Paul's

Karen has decided to have one last theological study because she so loves Richard Wagamese's book Embers. This book is an honest and evocative meditation on stillness, harmony, trust, reverence, gratitude and joy. Wagamese is one of Canada's foremost authors and storytellers. He won the 2013 People's Choice Award in CBC Canada Reads. He died in 2017 yet his writings continue to inspire all readers into a deeper spirituality in humble and real ways. This is a **4-week study** starting on **Mon. Feb. 26th and ending on Mon. Mar. 18th – 2:30-4:00 p.m.** If you are interested, **please let Karen or the church office know by Feb. 21st** so that a book can be ordered for you.



Office Hours

The office is open on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

This Week's Minute for Mission

The name calling started when she was about three years old.



They were racial slurs, and names, and taunts. My child, my own flesh and blood, was being ostracized for having Black skin. The people slinging the insults? Other children on the playground. She may not have necessarily always understood the particular terms that they used, but she knew that they were related to her Blackness and her racial identity. And this deeply wounded her tender heart.

Despite all our intentional modelling, teaching, and proactive actions, our child is still already developing internalized racism and inferior notions of herself.

The children who were taunting her were offering explicit and overt notions of racism, but they were children! They had not even started primary school! And yet, the children had already learned behaviour (at home, or elsewhere in society) that Whiteness is superior. And, they had the audacity to vocalize that to an innocent little child.

This is in part why I am so deeply committed to dismantling racism in all its forms—racism is damaging and destructive for all people in society. It reinforces negative notions for people of colour. I live it in a particular way because of my own racial identity, as a Black person who has lived with racial injustice my entire life.

The systemic nature of racism is something that cannot be ignored.... This effort to overcome racism is a continuous effort. And I am committed to this work for the long haul. I hope that you will be too.

Blessings everyone

Minister – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, **705-433-1224**, minspucmidland@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