

From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam



Lent is a season that many of us take seriously. It is a time to pause to prepare ourselves for the journey Jesus made that ended on a cross. It is a time to make space for prayerful pondering of our own faith journey. I make a point of setting aside time to spiritually refuel. I am also more attuned to lifting up in my prayers those who know suffering and humiliation. Our worship takes on this more sombre reflection during Lent.

This year our Lenten project is the Out of the Cold program, where we ask members of the congregation to walk or help with registration or the meal afterwards as we walk in solidarity with some of the most vulnerable people in our community - those who need housing for a wide variety of reasons.

Our "Take a Moment for Peace" every Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. was chosen to be in February because of Lent. Surely taking a moment to pray for ourselves and others seeking peace in our lives, our relationships, our community and our world is a spiritual practice that remembers those who suffer. A simple thing like lighting a candle, pausing to reflect, hanging a dove on a tree or quietly praying anchors us in God and in relationship with others. I encourage you to ponder what you might do this Lenten season, ponder your own faith journey and seek ways that it can be deepened.

Worship

This Sunday we begin our Lenten journey. Join us during this special time of the church year. If you are not able to join us Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in person, please just click on the link and we join us anytime on line.



<https://youtube.com/live/FslnezYF9o4?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>

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sun., Feb. 18th, 2024**, following worship. Barb and Charlie Carswell's team will be hosting this week. Joan Lavin is Captain of the Greeters for the month of Feb.



Annual Congregational Meeting: Sun. Feb. 25, 2024

Our annual meeting will be held **immediately after church on Feb. 25th**. Please note that the Annual report was e-mailed to you on Wed. Feb. 14th. For those of you who are unable to access the e-mailed copy, there are limited copies available at the church. At this meeting, the congregation will have read the Accountability reports by the various committees to approve, as well as vote on the proposed budget for 2024. Information on the life and work of the church and a chance to learn more about St. Paul's and its work and ministry is also part of this important time. **Please plan to attend.**

Notice of Motion for the Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that two motions will be brought forward by the Board of Trustees at the Feb. 25th Annual General Meeting:

1. That Sheila Thompson be nominated to the Board of Trustees.
2. That Shawn Leis has retired as a member of the Board of Trustees!

These motions are given in accordance with the Model Trust Deed.

Update on Minister Search:

Good news! This week the search committee received orientation from Will Haughton, the Search Team's liaison from Shining Waters Regional Council. We now have the go ahead to upload our information package to the Church Hub where it will be posted for interested Ministers to see and to apply.

Condolences

Our condolences to Diane and Mac MacMenemey on the death of Diane's son, Rory Green, who passed away this past weekend. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers. Diane and Mac are members of St. Paul's. Diane is one of our faithful visitors on our pastoral care team. Please keep the MacMenemey and Green families in your thoughts and prayers.

Our condolence to the family of Antje Clarke who passed away on Jan. 29th. Antje was a very active member of St. Paul's for many years before moving to B.C. to be closer to her family. She was very much missed when she moved away. Click on the link below if you would like to read her obituary.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/ourmidland/name/antje-clarke-obituary?id=54322367>

Our condolences as well to Colin and Sharon Whiteside on the death of Colin's sister-in-law this past week. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers as well

Connecting Together:

Join our group **every Thurs.** from **2:00 to 3:00 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 The "Take a Moment for Peace" project is ongoing **every Wednesday in February** anytime between **4-6pm**. Join together to help create ripples of harmony and to promote peace in a way that has meaning to you. This is an opportunity to put our faith into action.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering will be **Sat. Feb. 24th at 9:00 a.m.** at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

Coldest Night of the Year Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to be a walker, has donated or is volunteering for the event. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! With just over one week to go, if you have not signed up, please take a few moments to do so. We need everyone's help to make this event a success.



The event to date has 78 walkers, 24 teams, 17 volunteers and 20% of money raised. Please note that this year this is our Lenten project. St. Paul's is a sponsor for this event as we believe that working with the Guesthouse is one way in which we reach out to care for some of the most vulnerable in our society. If you check out our team page by hitting the link below, you can see who is walking for St. Paul's and how much we have raised to date. As of this being written, we have only reached 52% of our goal with just 10 days left before the event so please consider donating.

Event details: Saturday, February 24th

4:00 p.m. - meet at St. Paul's to register.

5:00 p.m. - long and short walks begin (2km or 5km)

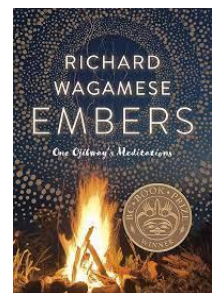
6:00 p.m. - everyone back at St. Paul's for chili and refreshments. **You can register and/or donate at: <https://cnoy.org/location/midland>**

We still need 2-3 volunteers to help at the registration table on Sat Feb. 24th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Please let Kathy Stewart know if you are available to help.

Theological Study Group- Embers

This study group is now full. Thanks to those who registered to be part of the group. We look forward to this **4-week study**.

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.



Welcoming Sunday: Mar. 10, 2024

Interested in being welcomed as an adherent or member of the congregation? Give Karen a call and she will be happy to visit and share with you what it means to become a member of the United Church of Canada and what it means to be an adherent. Together we can explore how we seek to be authentic as Christians in this faith community at St. Paul's.

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



London Community Chaplaincy offers a welcoming and safe social setting.

Becoming a parent or guardian is a life-changing, complex experience that doesn't have a one-size-fits-all answer. As kids, we looked to adults for guidance as we navigated the world with fresh eyes. We looked to teachers for help with schoolwork, and parental figures for managing emotions and fears. Now, as adults, we recognize that we're still figuring things out as we go, and there's always an opportunity to grow our skills and minds.

In London, Ontario, Mission and Service partners with the London Community Chaplaincy as they respond to parents and guardians who wish to build a network of support, share the parenting journey, and develop new skills as they navigate raising children in a low-income setting. Together, these parents are working hard to build a positive future for their children and families.

Each week London Community Chaplaincy provides a welcoming and safe social setting for adults to connect and grow as parents. Not only for learning how to guide a child through critical stages of development, but also for navigating the complex mental aspects of being a parent or guardian while also managing financial stress, food insecurity, housing complications, and more. Gathering with other adults in a similar situation allows participants to share their struggles and triumphs, further building a sense of community.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support partnerships like the London Community Chaplaincy as they help empower parents along the parenting journey. Thank you.

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