

From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

This Sunday we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. We invite you to join us to go about some of the work that needs to happen for our congregation to move forward. It is the congregation who votes on who sits on our Boards and committees. In doing so, you are naming those who make decisions on your behalf. These positions are based on trust and working for the benefit of the whole congregation within our faith values. It is a time of accountability from all of these committees and groups. It is a time to see how we spend our money and to vote to approve the 2024 budget. It is a time to get updates. We need you to be there to give your Board and its leadership team on all the various committees a sense of direction, to offer your support and concerns. So please consider joining us for this meeting that won't be too long. Grab a coffee and cookie after church and head right back into the sanctuary.

Worship

Join us this Sunday as we continue our Lenten journey. If you are not able to join us in person on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m., just click on the link below and you can join us on-line anytime.



https://youtube.com/live/Twmp2S_hBuQ?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>

Annual Congregational Meeting: this Sun. Feb. 25, 2024

Our annual meeting will be held **immediately after church this Sunday, 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.

Congratulations to Joan Lavin

Congratulations and thanks to Joan Lavin on 40 years of service on behalf of St. Paul's with Meals on Wheels. Thanks also to her husband Roy who stepped in to help at times. Joan is retiring from this volunteer work with Meals on Wheels but our St Paul's team continues to faithfully deliver meals out to the community.

We love to share these stories so let us know of others in our faith family who are celebrating significant years of service in the many ways in which we live out our faith in the community.

Condolences

Last week advised you of the death of Rory Green, Diane MacMenemey's son. This Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, there will be a Celebration of Life drop-in at Carson Funeral Home in Midland from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Words of remembrance will take place at 2:00 p.m. If you click on the link below, it will take you to Rory's obituary.

<https://www.carsonfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/details/52769>

It is with sadness that we announce the death of David MacDiarmid, the son of Allan and the late Doris MacDiarmid. David passed away this past autumn. Please keep Allan and the MacDiarmid family in your thoughts and prayers.

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 PEACE project will wrap up next Wed., Feb. 28th. Join us for a moment of peace and enjoy light refreshments. THANK YOU to the dedicated team of volunteers who have helped make this happen.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering is **this 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.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **on Sunday, March 3rd**, following worship.



Coldest Night of the Year Thank you to everyone who has offered to volunteer at the "Coldest Night of the Year" event. We now need your financial support for the St. Paul's team. **You can register and/or donate at:**



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

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.

A Message from Scouts

On behalf of the Scouts attending the Pacific Jamboree in BC this summer, we would like to thank St. Paul's Congregation for supporting our Pancake Supper. We were totally blown away by all the support we received. We were so busy that we ran out of food and had to make two trips to the grocery store. Your kind encouraging words made our youth feel special and confident. Thank you from all of us!

Next Friday is March 1st and it would be lovely to have a new inspiration for our **showcase in the Atrium**. Looking for a creative volunteer to help with an idea /inspiration for Friday. Please let Kathy Stewart at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com know if you can help.

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



How do you make the world a better place? You can start by taking kids to school.

Around the world, 57 million children cannot or to write. These are the skills they need to succeed. Even more importantly, they never learn about their basic human rights.

It's a complicated problem, says Patti Talbot, the United Church's Global Partnership Team Leader. "The work we do isn't going to lead to immediate societal change," she says, "but it will make a big difference down the road."

When children can't go to school, society suffers. And that is why Mission and Service is in partnership with 74 organizations that work to increase access to education across the globe.

Each partner has their own approach to education and skills training, each supported by your gifts to [Mission and Service](#).

Colombia's Center for Communication uses arts and media to teach children about their rights. Women for Change in Zambia creates educational groups where participants share agricultural knowledge and awareness of their rights. At Japan's Asian Rural Institute, local leaders gather to learn sustainable agriculture techniques they can take home and transform their communities. "How can we make the world a better place?" asks Talbot before responding, "We can't do that by ourselves; our partners know best what the challenges are."

Talbot, a child of missionaries who was raised in Japan and Korea, knows that educational partnerships are critical. "In our partnerships, we learn from and teach each other," she says. "The United Church's focus is more than just sharing resources, but really sharing life together." It's an approach that Talbot knows works, even if results take time. "Our partners are very grateful that the United Church of Canada has demonstrated over and over again that we are there for the long term," Talbot says.

"Partners say to us 'It makes such a difference to us to know that the United Church is with us, walking with us in prayer, supporting us, remembering us in their lives.'"

Blessings everyone

Minister – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, **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