



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – Mar. 7, 2024

### From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

This week I encourage you to mark your calendars and be sure to invite others to our special services during the rest of Lent as well as our Holy Week services. The services are listed below. All will be in person as well as online. Palm Sunday will start with hosannas, take us to the Upper Room, the garden of Gethsemane and then to the cross. Maundy Thursday communion is one of my personal favourite services. It is rich with music and symbolism. On Good Friday we gather to mourn and then Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. at Little Lake Park starts our day with Hallelujahs! An Easter breakfast is provided at St. Paul's at 8:00 a.m. All are invited. Then at 10:00 a.m., we celebrate Easter. Come join us.

### Worship – Sunday, March 10th

Join us this Sunday as we continue our Lenten journey. We will be welcoming our newest Members and Adherents. Truly a Sunday to offer gratitude for their presence in our congregation. If you are not able to join us in person on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m., just click on the link below and you can join us online anytime.



<https://youtube.com/live/np8tevCewdE?feature=share>

### Daylight savings time – spring forward this Sunday

Just a little reminder before you go to bed this Saturday night - get all your clocks together and set them ahead by one hour!



### Holy Week/Easter Services – Mark Your Calendars



**Sunday, March 24/All Ages Palm Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, March 28/24 Maundy Thursday Communion 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, March 29/24 Good Friday Service – 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, March 31/24 Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m. Little Lake Park**  
**Breakfast for all 8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.**



## 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>

## Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Iris Williams, who passed away on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral service will be on Wed. March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel at Nichol's Funeral Home. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our condolences also go to Victoria Warwick on the death of her cousin, Mark McLeod who died this past week. Before moving away from the area, Mark was an active member of St. Paul's. He sang in the choir for years. He loved to cook and helped with many dinners here.

## 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. Thank you to our volunteers headed by Louise Leck who are there to support others and enjoy just connecting.

**The UCW will meet on Tues. Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlour. This month's speaker is Kathy Stewart, the newest member of the St. Paul's team. Kathy will be speaking about volunteerism. All ladies of the church are welcome. Our meetings consist of a short business meeting, a speaker and refreshments.



## Open Gym Drop-In

Children, families and their friends are invited to an "Open Gym" drop-in in the Great Hall of St. Paul's on **March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 -8:00 p.m.** A small snack, beverage and gym activities will be provided. There is no need to RSVP. Contact Rebecca by email for any questions at [dkspumidland@gmail.com](mailto:dkspumidland@gmail.com). Childcare is not provided so children need to be accompanied by an adult. Come in your best St. Patrick's Day spirit and we hope to see you there!

## St. Paul's Outreach

Thank you to the committee members who are making meals for the Guesthouse. We have been able to increase our donation by four meals during the year for a total of 16 meals. For that, we are very grateful. We prepare meals for approximately 25 people and the cost is \$125, which is around \$5 per person for the meal. Our volunteers do great work sourcing out food on sale etc. when planning nutritious meals. There are two ways that you can help with this important outreach work. You can become a meal prep volunteer OR donate to the Benevolent Fund so that we can continue to do this important work in our community. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Stewart at [volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com)

## In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is on **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**, following worship. Sheila Thompson is Captain of the Greeters for the month of March.

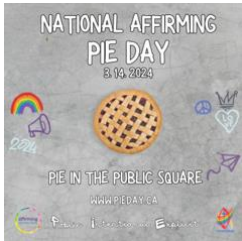


**Save the date** for our next Lifelong Learning Event, scheduled for **Tues., Apr. 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** Stay tuned for more details.

## **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**



**Celebrate the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in faith communities and beyond.**

March 14<sup>th</sup> is PIE Day. In church circles it has nothing to do with math. PIE is short for "public, intentional, and explicit." These are the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to be affirming, welcoming, and inclusive.

PIE Day was co-founded by Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections. Every year, Affirm United invites us to celebrate the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in faith communities and beyond. The day challenges us to widen our welcome, to embody love, and to celebrate gender and sexual diversity.

It's critical that we do. Gender identity and sexual orientation are used to justify human rights violations around the world. Same-sex sexual activity is a crime in 71 countries; in 11 of these the death penalty can be imposed.

Here in Canada, 1 million people identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. In 2019, police reported 263 hate crimes targeting people for their sexual orientation. This was a 41 percent increase over the previous year and the highest number since 2009.

Your gifts through Mission and Service sustain life-transforming advocacy and education. They support refugees fleeing for their lives because they identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. They support safe shelters, community awareness education, human rights programs, and safe spaces. Thank you for giving through Mission and Service. God's compassionate love knows no boundaries. Your generosity shows ours doesn't either.

## **Blessings everyone**

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