

### From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and we have some truly wonderful worship services lined up. Each service will take us to the deeper understanding of who Jesus was and what he was prepared to do in the name of compassion and justice for people to have an experience with God. As I did last week, I encourage you to attend in person or watch online. Invite others to join you. Holy Week reminds us that there cannot be Easter without Good Friday. It reminds us that joy and suffering are both part of the very fabric of life and being human. It is a time to be still and to know that sometimes our values cost us and that is ok.

Easter Sunday begins at Little Lake Park for some of us, standing in the cold and starting the new day with such joy. This year we have six churches involved. Come join us after that for breakfast or come early before our 10:00 a.m. service for breakfast first. Let sorrow and Hallelujahs capture us this week.

### Worship – Sunday, Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday and Communion

Join us this Sunday as we continue our Lenten journey. This Sunday the children will join us for worship. We will start with hosannas and end at the cross. We will hear an ancient story that is also our story as Christians. Please note that during the service we will not be taking up the offering but invite those of you who put envelopes or cash on the plate to look for our ushers either before or after the service to put your donation on the offering plate. For those of you who will be joining us online, you are invited to have bread/cracker and a beverage with you so that you can join us in communion. 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/a3-MojVNrDA?feature=share>

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

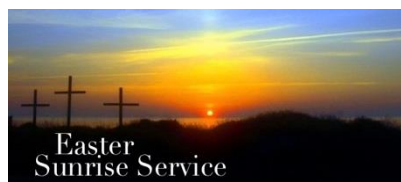


**Sunday, March 24/All Ages Palm Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.**

**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:

As mentioned last week during the service, we offer our condolences to Zena and the Pendlebury family on the death of Zena's sister-in-law (Cliff's sister) this past week. Please keep this 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. Thank you to our volunteers headed by Louise Leck who are there to support others and enjoy just connecting.

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering will be **Sat. Mar. 30<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.

**Save the date** for our next Lifelong Learning event on **Tues. Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** We will welcome Holly Archer as our guest speaker. Holly is a local professional artist and art educator. She has just finished a very successful art installation, "A Cultured Diet" at Quest Art Gallery. Holly's conversation will include the art world and entrepreneurship, her recent show and the inspiration behind it. Please join us to hear from this dynamic young woman. Please let Kathy Stewart know if you plan to attend at [volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com)

**Grandmother's Helping Hands** is once again hosting a Pasta Dinner on **Fri., Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>**, at St. Paul's. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Gluten free and vegetarian is options are available. Purchase of the dinner is by donation with all the proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Donations of \$20.00 or more will get an income tax receipt Please ask at the door for the income tax form. To reserve your seat please call Cathy 705 527 1324.

The Grandmothers' Solidarity Quilt will be on display on Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a commemorative quilt in honour of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's 20th anniversary. All the Grandmothers around the world contributed material for this amazing quilt and it was quilted by Grandmothers.

## In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is this **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**, following worship.

## National Volunteer Week

On **Wednesday Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**, we will be celebrating our volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in the Great Hall at St. Paul's. Due to limited space and budget, this event is for St. Paul's volunteers only. This event is made possible through the Community Service Recovery Fund grant. Please see attached poster for more details.

## Outside Inside – Sharon MacKinnon’s Art Exhibition

Sharon MacKinnon, a member of St. Paul’s, has an upcoming solo exhibition, “**OUTSIDE INSIDE,**” a colourful abstract series, inspired by nature. She writes, “During the challenging times of COVID, I found solace and inspiration in creating this series. It kept me motivated and connected to the world around me, even while in hibernation. Each piece is a reflection of the resilience that surrounds us, even in the most unusual of times. I am grateful to Quest Art for the opportunity to share this exhibition with you.” There is an opening Gala on **Friday, Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** The exhibition will run from **Apr. 12 to May 26, 2024**, at the Midland Cultural Centre.



**DID you know** that the North Simcoe Ontario Health Team has a new 1-844-806-3093 navigation line where anyone can call to speak to a live person **to access health and social service resources available** in our community? You can also visit their website at <https://www.nsoht.ca/local-health-services/> to navigate the services that are offered. You can also sign up for their newsletter at <https://www.nsoht.ca/newsletters/>

NORTH SIMCOE  
**Ontario Health Team**

## 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

Take a moment to think about your favourite story. Now imagine that story being at risk of disappearing because the language it’s written in is endangered. This is something that nine Elders from Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, are passionately trying to change.



Once there were over 15,000 fluent speakers of Haida, but today, because of assimilation tactics like residential schools, almost all Haida people speak English at home. The nine Elders—with an average age of more than 80—represent about half of the fluent Haida speakers who remain. With partner support, the work of these Elders in a research-based revitalization project keeps the Haida language alive and growing.

The Elders teach students the words, phrases, songs and stories of their ancestors. The response has been empowering, with language learners near and far dedicating themselves to study. Lessons are given through the Longhouse of Skidegate village, but the program reaches much further, with more than 120 online lessons available. The opportunity to connect across the globe has allowed Haida language, stories, and culture to be shared broadly.

The program also gives young people from the Haida Nation the opportunity to connect with the Elders to nurture their cultural pride and understanding. “I appreciate the work the Elders are doing with our language and culture,” said one young student. “They work very hard every day so that my generation can remember.”

The Haida language is not the only Indigenous language that has been endangered. Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) support programs and partnerships for Indigenous cultural revitalization around the world.

## **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), [stpaulsunitied@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunitied@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