

### **From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam**

Tomorrow, April 26<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of my last month as your minister at St. Paul's after almost 13 years. It has been a wonderful journey and Keith and I are happy to be part of the congregation. There will be opportunities in this next month to say our goodbyes. Many have asked us what our plans are for retirement and if we will be moving away from the area. Currently the plan is just to take time to have a second cup of coffee and relax. We will be remaining in the area; however, I will not be attending St. Paul's and will not be having conversations about what is happening at the church. All of us, including Keith and myself need to grieve and make room for welcoming a new minister called to be at St. Paul's. Like everything in life, new beginnings are just around the corner for all of us.

### **Worship – Sunday, Apr. 28, 2024**

Tongue in cheek, join us as we "interview" potential candidates for the position of the new minister at St. Paul's United Church. You will even get to vote for your favourite person. Of course, with Holy Humour Sunday, there is always a twist so be prepared to laugh and enjoy God's gift of humour this coming Sunday. Just click on the link or come in person!



<https://youtube.com/live/S2ZRqNMd-yA?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>

### **Congregational Life – Bowling this Fri. Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**We're going bowling again this Friday, Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.,** at Knight Haven Bowling Lanes in Penetanguishene. All ages are welcome - juniors, seniors, families, singles, doubles. The Congregational Life committee will pay for the bowling and shoes. Snacks can be purchased at the snack bar with cash only. Please attempt to have your teams of up-to-six organized so there will be less confusion when we register. To sign up, please contact Lynne Angus at 705-529-2347.



## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering is this **Sat. Apr. 27<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.



## In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee will be **on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>**, following worship.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** last week. Congratulations to each and everyone of you who makes a difference in the lives of others!

## Save the date

Karen's last Sunday at St. Paul's will be on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please plan to attend the service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception in the Great Hall.



## Red Dresses Campaign:

The red dresses hang in our trees at the front of the church to remind us that families still mourn their missing and murdered daughters (and sons) and that the loss of lives of indigenous women continues. Please pause to pray, ponder and work for change in our Canadian society. Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> we will have a special service and communion.

## Butter Tart Festival Fundraiser

St. Paul's will be holding a 'penny raffle' during this year's Butter Tart Festival **on June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider making a donation to our prize table and/or volunteering for a couple of hours that day. This was a successful fundraiser last year and we hope to do as well in 2024. Please contact Sheila at 705-526-2186 or by e-mail at [rmsmt2612@gmail.com](mailto:rmsmt2612@gmail.com)) for further info.



## Lifelong Learning

We have received many requests for information about caregiving and navigating the health care system. In response, we will be hosting guests from the Ontario Caregivers Association and a system navigator from the Couchiching Ontario Health Team. Stay tuned for more details.

## Volunteer opportunities

Do you enjoy organizing and helping with educational events? The **Lifelong Learning Committee** would love to have you join our team. Please connect with Kathy at 705-529-6121.

Volunteers are needed for the **St. Paul's team** that do the **Meals on Wheels and Driving programs** at the Red Cross. If you are able to volunteer for either of these very important initiatives, please connect with Lois McQuirter at 705-526-6854.

## 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**



**Cast and audiences learn and share a story of cultural resilience.**

Storytelling is a powerful way to preserve and share history. The theatre performance, *Bunk #7*, does just that.

*Bunk #7* shares the true story of six boys rioting against the mistreatment and many forms of abuse they received at Edmonton Indian Residential School in St. Albert, Alberta, in the early 1960s. Written by the late Nisga'a MLA Larry Guno, the play is based on his own experience at the residential school and named for his bunk number.

The cast features Indigenous youth and young adults, offering a powerful way for the cast and audiences to learn and share the story of cultural resilience. In November 2021, the play premiered at Raven Theatre in British Columbia to a full audience. With overwhelming support, the performers went on a tour of northwestern BC to share the transformative journey. Performances in fall 2023 were once again met with great support.

Your gifts to Mission and Service open opportunities for storytelling to move forward in an impactful and powerful way. Thank you for your generosity.

### **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), [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