



St. Paul's Weekly Update – February 20, 2025

Minister's Message, Sunday, February 23, 2025

Beloved Community:

I have truly enjoyed the many conversations I have been having with the "small gatherings." I have a few more to look forward to, but I want to share a theme that has come up at all of them so far. A common longing in all the groups has been for a church that is a welcoming and supportive community. This is a value that I share as well. You will hear me use the phrase beloved community during worship at least once every week, and it is built into our call to worship.

The beloved community is a phrase used by Rev Martin Luther King Jr. as part of his work for civil rights. It is a vision of the kin'dom of God. A community where all are welcome, embraced, celebrated, respected, and honoured. A beloved community is a place of joy and hope. It is a source of strength and support.

There are people and groups in our world who are trying to build anger and fear between us. As people of God, we can work to show another way, a better way, the way of beloved-ness. We can hold one another gently as created by God. We can love one another as Jesus loved us.

Blessings of hope to each of you this week.
Rev Kirsty



Being Together

February 23, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/PD2SROikWUY?feature=share>

Office Hours

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with Judy in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Louise is in the office on Wednesday mornings. The balance of the time, Louise works from home so you can reach her by phone any time between 8:30 and 4:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Pastoral care

For Pastoral Care, please contact Rev Kirsty Hunter at 705 717-1918. She wants to know if you are in hospital and seeking a visit from her. You can email her at revkirsty@gmail.com.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting is **this Sunday, February 23rd**, following Worship. Please plan to attend this important meeting if you are able.

The Connections Group is **cancelled** for the next two weeks (February 20th and 27th) due to ongoing weather concerns. We will resume meeting on March 6th, weather permitting.

Pause for Peace events scheduled for February 19th and 26th have also been **cancelled** due to weather concerns.

Men's Breakfast

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be **this Saturday February 22nd** 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

The Coldest Night of the Year is fast approaching **this Saturday, February 22nd**. We invite all walkers to join us at St. Paul's at 4:00 pm to register and join the St. Paul's team. There will be a short and a longer walk, both starting at 4:45 pm. Following the walks, everyone is invited back to the church for fellowship and refreshments.



We are grateful for all donations received to date. If you still wish to support the St. Paul's team to raise funds for the Guesthouse Shelter, please follow the link below:

<https://cnoy.w-ith.me/StpaulsunitiedMidland>

You can also donate via e-transfer, cash or cheque directly to the church. Please indicate on your payment that this is for the CNOY event.

Nametags

If anyone requires a new or replacement name tag, please let Judy McConnell in the office know. Her direct e-mail address is officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com.

Fundraising



Calling all chocolate lovers! We're trying something new this year. We've teamed up with Purdys (Canada's Chocolatier since 1907) to fundraise for St. Paul's. From now until March 25th, you can order Purdys treats online using this link <https://fundraising.purdys.com/2108500-126806>. Please share this link with family, friends, and neighbours. Once orders are submitted, our volunteers will sort the goodies for you to pick up on April 11, 12 and 13th. More details to follow.

In the meantime, ordering online is simple! Just fill out your info (name, phone number, and email address), click "Join Campaign", and "Shop Online" to your heart's content! Our customer campaign number is 80085. Catalogues are also available in the Atrium. The **order deadline is March 25th**, so you'll have your treats in time for Easter! Email any questions to Christina at cstrong@rogers.com or find Carolyn Hendry or Carol MacDonald to assist.

Thank you for your sweet support!

United Church Calendars: We still have some United Church of Canada Centennial calendars available for sale at \$20 each. See Sharon Foster or Sue Dorion at church or contact them by mail sharonfoster000@gmail.com or sues0703@gmail.com

The Talent Auction is coming back! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26th for this fundraising event. The committee is asking for donations of knitting, crocheting, baking, preserves, sewing, dinners, gardening and we could go on and on. All money raised will go to support the work of the church. For more information, please contact Gail Wilcox at 705-526-6368.



Coffee Hour

Our next coffee hour will be **on Sunday**, March 2nd, 2025.

Women's Grief Support Group

We will be offering a grief support group for women who have had a partner pass away. This group will meet weekly starting Wednesday March 5th to Wednesday April 30th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Room of Requirement. This is a time to support and comfort each other. Please contact our facilitators Sandra Flint at 705-529-6462 or Linda Fong at 705-209-8284.

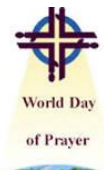
Outreach

Stock Exchange

Our first soup sale was a success! We sold out and raised \$180 towards our outreach efforts such as preparing meals for the Guesthouse, life-long learning events and more. We will offer this again during the first coffee hour in March -with more soup. **Thank you for your support!**

World Day of Prayer

This year's event will be taking place at the Salvation Army Church at 555 Dominion Avenue, Midland, on Friday, March 7th, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. More details to come.



Faith Formation

SAVE THE DATE! St. Paul's Discovery Kids Camp will be held August 11-15, 2025. It will be a FULL DAY program running from 9-3. Details soon...

St. Paul's website

Want to know what's going on at 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>

This Week's Minute for Mission

After the initial response, and after headlines fade away, the emergency and urgency remain.



When we hear of a global emergency, our minds often jump to "how can we help?" Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) enable partners to immediately get to work providing crucial basic needs: food, water, shelter, and medication. But after the initial response, and after headlines fade away, the emergency and urgency remain.

After the immediate shock fades, people living in the wake of a disaster can have difficulty imagining what life will look like down the road. In these times, hope is an

essential, powerful force that gives us the motivation to move forward and inspires us to keep going.

Two years after the February 2023 earthquakes, people in Syria are still experiencing the devastating aftermath, exacerbated by civil war and other natural disasters. And Mission and Service partner the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) continues to be hard at work providing hope. From retrofitting buildings and providing medical equipment to education and trauma healing, MECC is dedicated to sustainable relief. In Aleppo, MECC rehabilitated four schools before the academic year began in September 2023, providing children with a safe place to learn.

Thank you for supporting the work of our Mission and Service partners. Your generosity is a beacon of hope during challenging times.

Blessings everyone

Minister: Rev. Kirsty Hunter, **705-717-1918** revkirsty@gmail.com

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Administrative Assistant – Judy McConnell (**Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00**) officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com 705-526-6077