



St. Paul's Weekly Update – February 27, 2025

Minister's Message, Sunday, March 9, 2025

Beyond Sunday: Lenten Stations

If you are in person at St. Paul's, you will notice a couple of changes.

The first, is a Lenten activity related to forgiveness. Outside the minister's office is a table with sand and a stylus. You are invited to use that table as a physical meditation on forgiveness anytime you are in the building.

Maybe there is a person that you are angry with. Or perhaps there is a situation that you have been struggling with. Maybe you need to give yourself a break. Whatever it is, you are invited to write out the name or situation in the sand. Breathe. And then wipe the sand and clear it. Actual forgiveness is not so easy. But maybe taking this step: naming it and then imagining letting it go, might be helpful for you as part of your spiritual journey.

The second, is the addition of a table in the sanctuary with candles. On Sunday mornings, you are invited to light a candle as you pray for someone or something. There is a prayer book located on the table, and you are welcome to write your prayer concern in the book. This book will be in a public place so please do not include last names or details. We will reference the book in our prayers of the people.

If you are a part of our online community, please feel encouraged to email or message me before the service and we will light a candle for you and record your request in the book.

Blessings of peace and strength to all.
Rev Kirsty

A Lenten Journey: Our Travelling Companions



March 9, 2025



<https://youtube.com/live/hqndKiq9A1s?feature=share>

Daylight Savings time starts this Sunday. Don't forget to move all the clocks you never look at forward by one hour because you have a phone!

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. Please use Rev. Kirsty's direct phone number at all times to reach her, as there isn't always someone at the church to answer the regular phone line.

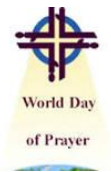
The Connections Group will resume next Thursday, March 13th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Atrium. Anyone wishing coffee and informal conversation is welcome to drop in!

Women's Grief Support Group

We are offering a grief support group for women who have had a partner pass away. This group started **Wednesday March 5th** and will continue until Wednesday April 30th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Discovery Room (formerly known as 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.

World Day of Prayer

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



United Church Women

The next UCW meeting will be held **next Tuesday, March 11**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlour. All the ladies of the congregation are welcome!

Our guest speaker at the March meeting will be the Georgian Bay Food Network; an organization that helps address the challenges of food insecurity in north Simcoe. The GBFN is an independent, non-profit food bank that provides fresh and non-perishable foods, plus the steps to becoming self-sufficient for a growing number of people who are going hungry in Midland, and surrounding communities. This organization is a recent addition to our area, not to be confused with the long-serving Salvation Army Food Bank.

NEW!

Study Groups

Are you looking for something to take up during Lent? There are two new opportunities starting in March.

Book Study: We will be spending time with "How We Learn To Be Brave" by Mariann Edgar Budde. Please purchase or borrow the book on your own and come out to join the discussion on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlour from March 13 to April 17. There is no sign up required but please let Rev Kirsty know that you plan to attend. For the first session you do not need to have the book.

Bible Study: Join in a wide-ranging discussion of scripture. Bring your own Bible or borrow one at the church. We will be approaching the text using the knowledge and experience we have gained in our own lives. There are two opportunities to join the discussion. Thursdays at 11:00

a.m. starting on March 13 in the Parlour, or Mondays at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom starting March 17. Note: this is a drop in style, each session is self contained though we will be working our way through the Gospel of Luke one chapter at a time. Please email Rev Kirsty if you are interested in joining the evening group in order to get the link. revkirsty@gmail.com

Coffee Hour

Our next coffee hour will be on **Sunday, March 16th**, 2025. Marilyn Broome is captain of the greeters for March. We're still looking for additional greeters so if you can help out, please reach out to Sheila Thompson.

Fundraising



There are only a few more weeks to stock up on beautiful Easter/Spring gift boxes, classic Purdys Favourites, Himalayan Pink Salt Caramels, Hedgehogs, Sweet Georgia Browns and so much more. All profits will go directly to St. Paul's United Church. So, satisfy those cravings and get all your Easter/Spring shopping done while supporting our church community. Just click this link: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/2108500-126806>, fill out your info (Name, phone number, and email address), click "Join Campaign", and "Shop Online" to order to your heart's content!

The **deadline to order is Tuesday, March 25th**. You can email Christina at cstrong@rogers.com with any questions. Carolyn Hendry and Carol MacDonald can assist too.

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.



In Granmother's Hands Pasta Dinner

In Grandmother's Helping Hands invite you to join them for their annual Pasta Dinner on April 4th, 2025, in the Great Hall at St. Paul's. There will be various pasta dishes including vegetarian, vegan and regular, sure to satisfy your pasta appetite. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation helping African Grandmothers raise their orphaned grandchildren whose parents died of AIDS. Please call Cathy for reservations 705 527 1324.

Guides Spaghetti Dinner

The Penetanguishene Girl Guides are raising money for camp. On Saturday, April 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, they will be hosting a pasta meal with salad, garlic toast, coffee and tea all included for \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. Please come out in support. Tickets can be purchased by emailing 1stpenetanguides@gmail.com or by calling Juli Robitaille @ 705-279-3334.

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

March 14 is PIE Day, and in church circles it has nothing to do with math. "PIE" is short for "public, intentional, and explicit"—the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to live into being affirming, welcoming, and inclusive people and communities.



PIE Day was co-founded by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections. Every year, Affirm United invites the church to celebrate the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in faith communities and beyond. The day also reminds and challenges us to continue widening our welcome to embody love and celebrate

gender and sexual diversity in all its forms. It's critical that we do.

Gender identity and sexual orientation continue to be used to justify serious human rights violations around the world. Same-sex sexual activity is a crime in 71 countries; in 11 of these the death penalty is at least a possibility. Statistics Canada's recently released [data on police-reported hate crimes](#) reveals a significant increase in hate crimes targeting individuals based on their sexual orientation. These crimes increased by 69% in 2023, up from 3% in 2020, 70% in 2021 and 16% in 2022. Based on this data, this is an increase of 225% in the past five years (2019–2023).

Your gifts through Mission and Service sustain life-transforming advocacy and education work, including supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees fleeing for their lives and providing community awareness education, human rights programs, and safe spaces.

This work is vitally important. For some, it means the difference between life and death. Thank you for giving through [Mission and Service](#). God's compassionate love knows no boundaries. Your generosity shows ours doesn't either.

Blessings everyone

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