



St. Paul's Weekly Update – March 13, 2025

Minister's Message, Sunday, March 16, 2025

Beyond Sunday: Seeing

Legacy media, the entertainment industry and social media have demonstrated their impact on our attitudes and beliefs. If we see disinformation enough times, we might just start to believe it. If we hear too much about a disaster we might develop "compassion fatigue." If we don't hear about something we might assume everything is just fine.

In this environment it can be easy to dehumanize other people. Or stop listening to their distress. Or just assume what we know is the truth, rather than acknowledging we might have a gap in our understanding.

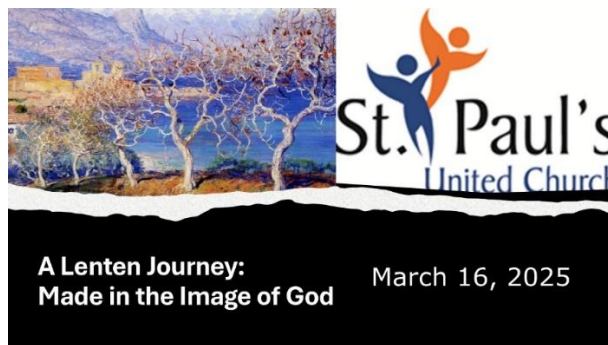
Our faith calls us to see things in a different way. There is a biblical saying that we need to be in the world not of the world. For me, this means that I will insist on weeping for others. I will work to keep my heart open. I will stay curious and ready to change and learn.

"Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

Isaiah 58:6-7



<https://youtube.com/live/57DW3yhQbdM?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. **Please use Rev. Kirsty's direct phone number at all times to reach her**, as there isn't always someone in the church office to answer the regular phone line.

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

A Message from the Official Board

The Official Board approved a testing of the Church Hub with two churches with interest in experiencing what St. Paul's is able to provide with the technology and technology team at St. Paul's.

A meeting occurred with the interested representatives from Mount Forest United, Knox United in Sutton, including the collaboration working group convenor. St. Paul's was represented by Glenn Erwin, Victoria Warwick, Carolyn Hendry and Rev. Kirsty.

On March 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a special service to test the equipment and experience a collaborative venture between St. Paul's (Host Church), Knox United (satellite church) and Mount Forest United (satellite church). Please join us in person or online to witness this service.

A combined Worship Team lead by Rev Kirsty will determine who will be the speakers and what music will be included from all three churches. As Hub Church is interactive, all three churches will be present on video and live audio.

As this is the plan, please note that it is dependent upon timing, follow-up meetings and successful pretests of the equipment. This test is exciting and challenging to all of us. A follow-up meeting will discuss successes and challenges. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

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 every Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlour **starting this Thursday, 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 this Thursday, 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 is this Sunday, March 16th. Marlis Dupuis' team will be hosting.

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



March 13: Less than two weeks to go! The deadline for ordering your Purdys Easter/spring chocolates is fast approaching. 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 (10:30am-1:30pm), April 12 (9:00am-12:00pm) and April 13th (11:00am-12:00pm).

Catalogues are available in the Atrium. Any questions, please email Christina at cstrong@rogers.com. Carolyn Hendry & Carol MacDonald can help too. 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.



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 29th 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 Grandmother'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.

Save the date for Family Fun Night on Friday, April 11, 5:00 - 8:00, in the Great Hall with **Pasta and Bingo**. This is an all-ages family event.

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

Women for Change works to improve conditions in rural communities by empowering women and girls.



In areas where historically there has been little rain, now there are floods, and where there were floods, now there are droughts. That's how Shadrack Chembe, the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager at Women for Change—an organization in Zambia that strives to improve conditions in rural communities by empowering women and girls—describes the changing climate in Zambia. Women bear the brunt.

"In Zambia, women are still responsible for collecting firewood and charcoal and making food. Now, because of climate change, they have to walk a longer distance to gather firewood. Charcoal is harder to get. That means it's harder to make food".

Women for Change was established in 1992, and its long-standing partnership with the United Church stretches back to 1995. From the beginning, mobilizing communities to share ideas and best practices has been key to the work. Since its inception, 1,500 community groups have been established, with 25–40 people in each group and representatives from each forming associations. Weather extremes due to climate change coupled with companies promoting seeds that only produce a single crop increasingly put people at risk.

"The majority of farmers are poor. They can't buy seeds, but companies have created seeds that force farmers to have to purchase them each year," says Chembe. "Groups discuss how they can save and share seeds, what they can plant with longer or shorter rains, and if there are traditional methods that can increase food production," he says, adding, "We are grateful for the United Church's support. The church has really been there for many years, helping us build awareness and resiliency. It's been a real partnership."

Blessings everyone

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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