

Minister's Message, Sunday, March 23, 2025

Beyond Sunday: Lessons From My Cat

I am not a "cat person" or a "dog person." I am simply on the side of whichever animal is living at my house. Right now, it is a cat named, "Buffy the Cat Toy Slayer." She is kind of a delicate thing, and this hasn't been a good week for her. When animals are sick, or sick of us, one strategy they have is to hide. Sometimes Buffy does this when someone has held the outside door open too long. Suddenly there is a lot of running around trying to find her. Is she inside? Did she get out?

The thing is, we often don't find her. She finds us. At some point she appears in the hallway, sitting primly, looking at us like we have lost our minds, and we imagine a thought bubble saying, "Why are you so frantic, I've been here the whole time."

That happens to me a lot. More than I am comfortable with really. I run around and around and around... and then... there it is... the answer... and unlike my cat, it was there the whole time.

When you get lost in the woods the advice is to STOP (Stop, Think, Observe, Plan).

Being quiet. Being still. Thinking. Pondering.

These are hard things in our ALWAYS BE (closing, busy, insert action word here) culture. Lent is a chance for us to be deliberate. To check and see if we are feeling a bit lost. Then STOP. Breathe. And see if the answer is there. Looking at us. Like it has been there the whole time.

Blessings of Peace and Quiet
Rev Kirsty



<https://youtube.com/live/L5D6w7va0M4?feature=share>

Special Service on Sunday, March 23rd

As announced last week, the Official Board approved a testing of the Church Hub with two churches interested in experiencing what St. Paul's is able to provide with the technology and technology team at St. Paul's. **This Sunday, 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.

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 meets every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the Atrium. Anyone wishing coffee and informal conversation is welcome to drop in!

Celebration of Life

Please join the family and friends of **Jean Wagg** for a service on March 29 at 11:00 am at St. Paul's United Church. The service will be followed by a reception at Carson Funeral Home at 290 First Street, Midland.

Study Groups

Are you looking for something to take up during Lent? There are currently two new opportunities happening every Thursday until April 17th.

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 Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlour until April 17. There is no sign up required but please let Rev Kirsty know that you plan to attend.

Bible Study: Join in a wide-ranging discussion of scripture. Bring your own Bible or borrow one at the church every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlour, until April 17th. We will be approaching the text using the knowledge and experience we have gained in our own lives. Drop-ins are welcome!

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.



Coffee Hour

Our next coffee hour will be on April 6th. 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



Tick tock, it's chocolate-o'clock! This is your **last chance** to submit your orders for Purdy's Easter/Spring treats before our fundraiser ends. If you haven't already, click the link below to order all the extra-special treats you want and help us raise money for St. Paul's. This spring, we're hoping to raise at least \$500, so please support us if you can, or share the link with anyone you know who would be interested. The deadline to order is **Tuesday, March 25th**.

Campaign link: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/2108500-126806>

Campaign number: **80085**

Your order will be available to pick up at St. Paul's Atrium on **April 11** (10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.), **April 12** (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) and **April 13th** after church from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Email Christina at cstrong@rogers.com with any questions. Thank you!

Update on Talent Auction: Auction is Saturday, April 26th. We invite everyone to come ahead of the start time, at 9:30 a.m. to view all items to be auctioned. The Auction starts at 10:00 a.m. sharp! **Just a reminder to please fill out your Talent slips and hand them in no later than Monday, April 14th**. You can either hand them in to the church office, put them on the collection plate or you can give them to Gail Wilcox on a Sunday. Your items are to be handed in no later than April 15th or given to Gail on a Sunday. For anyone donating baking, please bring your baking in by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Auction.

This is a great opportunity to show off your talent and help raise money for our church. Some of the items being auctioned include quilting, dinners for eight and five, monthly morning morsels for a year, half a dozen muffins, scones or breakfast treats, knitting, homemade soups, strawberry jams and much more.

We will also be having a **Silent Auction**, so you can donate a gift card or a gift basket or something special purchased. If you think you have something special from your home you would like to part with, it can go into the Silent Auction but please speak to Gail about it first. These items will be at the discretion of the committee as to whether we will accept them. There will also be a limit of items that we will accept. For more info, please contact Gail Wilcox (705-526-6368) or email at quilterlady146@gmail.com

Save the date for Family Fun Night with **Pasta and Bingo** on Friday, April 11, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. This is an all-ages family event.

Easter Sunday

Come and celebrate Easter at the small shelter in Little Lake Park, at 7:00 a.m. April 20, 2025. Huronia Christ Catholic church will be organizing the service this year and our own Kirsty will deliver the message. Afterwards, everyone is welcome to come back to St. Paul's for a continental breakfast. **There will be no coffee hour on Easter Sunday.**

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...

Community News

In Grandmother's Hands invites 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.

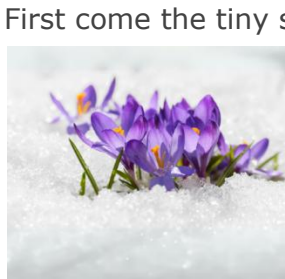
Guides Spaghetti Dinner: The Penetanguishene Girl Guides are raising money for camp. On Saturday, April 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, they will be hosting a pasta meal with salad, garlic toast, coffee and tea all included for \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. Please come out in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

The Ladies Auxiliary Royal Canadian Legion Branch 523 Victoria Harbour are hosting a Fashion Show/Mother's Day Tea fundraiser on May 3rd, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., with proceeds going to the St. Vincent de Paul Foodbank. The show will be at the Oakwood Community Centre on Park Street in Victoria Harbour. There will be fashions from Maurices (Mountainview Mall) and Lilies Boutique (Norman's Garden Gallery) and music by Gary Ball. Cost is \$20 with advance tickets only. For tickets call Doreen at 705 209 0534 or Ann at 705 534 7819. Deadline to order tickets is April 12, 2025.

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



First come the tiny snowdrops, bravely peeking out over the melting snow. Then, the crocuses with their delicate purple petals, followed by the buttery-yellow daffodils. By the time I'm bundling up for Easter service, tulips in every colour of Joseph's splendid coat are blooming. Spring reminds us of renewal, of hope, of life returning. And in this Easter season, I see that same renewal in the Mission and Service work that your generosity makes possible.

Because of you, Mission and Service partners are like the first flowers of spring—blooming where they are needed most. Your compassion takes root and becomes warmth and care for those in crisis, hope for those facing hardship, and new possibilities for communities near and far.

This Easter, may you be like the first flowers of spring—vibrant, alive, and bringing joy to those around you. In this time of renewal, know that your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) will help even more seeds of hope take root and grow. Thank you.

Blessings everyone

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