



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

Minister's Message, Sunday, March 30, 2025

Beyond Sunday: Being a Listener

The world is a noisy place. And in order to function in it we absolutely need to be able to filter out a lot of the noise so we can hear what we need to hear.

Sometimes it is a matter of safety. So many people wear headphones and have trouble hearing danger coming towards them.

Sometimes we simply can't hear. We may have hearing loss or other noises are too loud or distracting.

Sometimes though, it is about not listening to things that we don't want to hear. We might tune out the voices of suffering. We might turn off the news because someone is saying something we don't like. We might close our hearts to someone saying something we disagree with. We might not want to hear about pain that we have caused to someone.

The challenge is to find a balance.

There is a kind of prayer called, "Listening Prayer." It is simplicity itself. You sit down. Clear your mind. And listen for God's word to you. It is a form of meditation.

Did I call it simple? It is. It is also very hard. Clearing your mind is difficult. Being open and listening is challenging. Being still is tough. However, being in that still place, being in that attitude of listening, being open to God's word can bring insight and knowledge and grace.

I commend to you the old saying about listening, "God gave us two eyes to see the world, two ears to hear the world, and one mouth to give thanks for all that we see and hear."

Blessings of Good Listening, Rev Kirsty



<https://youtube.com/live/GB6rixLWacl?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 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 **this Saturday**, March 29 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's United Church. The service will be followed by a reception at Carson Funeral Home at 290 First Street, Midland.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is **this 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.



Congregational Life

At our recent Congregational Life/Visitors meeting, a suggestion was made that we attempt to contact every person on our St. Paul's directory on a quarterly basis. The purpose of the call would be to confirm information (i.e. address, phone number, e-mail address) and make a personal connection. We would be looking for volunteers to help us with this major endeavour. You would be given a list of names (no more than five) and be asked to telephone these folks four times a year and report back with changes to their information and other ideas or suggestions that may come up. We have some work to do to put this together but please consider helping with this valuable tool for keeping St. Paul's connected. For more information, please speak to Sheila Thompson.

Coffee Hour

Our next coffee hour will be on April 6th. Marilyn Broome is captain of the greeters for the balance of March.

During the April 6th coffee hour, **frozen soups will be available for sale** in 500ml portions. This makes great meals for all sorts of needs. Funds go to support our outreach efforts. Cost is \$6 each or 2 for \$10. We will have chicken noodle or sweet potato carrot ginger soup available.

United Church Women (UCW)

The next UCW meeting is on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025, with guest speakers Nancy and Randy Hargrave. They will speak about Life4Kids Canada – a Canadian charity that provides a home to the most destitute abandoned boys in Nairobi. Come and hear about the amazing work that this organization is doing in Kenya.

Save the date for Family Fun Night with **Pasta and Bingo** on Friday, April 11, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. There will be prizes for the bingo games. This is an all-ages family event and a free-will offering will be collected to off-set costs.

Fundraising

Purdys Chocolates - Thank you to everyone who purchased chocolates in our Purdys Easter/Spring Chocolate fundraising campaign! We've exceeded our expectations and doubled our fundraising goal!!! A final total will be announced after orders are distributed. Online orders are no longer being accepted as we await delivery of the sweets from British Columbia.

For those who placed an order, you may pick up your chocolates at St. Paul's Atrium on Friday, **April 11** (10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.), Saturday, **April 12** (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) and Sunday, **April 13th** after church from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. If you have questions, please email Christina at cstrong@rogers.com. Thank you for your support!

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

United Church Calendars - With only a handful of 2025 United Church calendars left, grab one while you can at the **low low discounted price of \$10!** See Sue Dorion or Sharon Foster after church to purchase yours before they're gone!

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.**

United Church of Canada 100-year anniversary



Save the date: Sunday, June 8th, 2025, for a celebration picnic in honour of the 100-year anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Join St Paul's and friends for a picnic at Little Lake Park after church on Sunday for food, fellowship, games and campfire songs. Please submit any songs you remember from summer fresh air/church camps or scouts/guides/retreats/protests, etc. and we will make a songbook for the day. Please dig out your old photos of United Church events over the last 100 years and we will do some displays. More details to follow. Contact Pat File at pat@patriciafile.ca if interested in helping or contributing.

One hundred trees to plant in honour of the 100-year anniversary of the United Church of Canada and our commitment to the future. St Paul's is asking for your help in planting 100 trees and helping us to document with photos, stories, etc. We have ordered 100 trees through SSEA that will come as bareroot tree seedlings at the end of April or early May. Other tree suggestions to follow. We will have order forms at church in the Atrium after church on the next few Sundays for people to pre-select their tree(s) of choice to be ready for pick up when they arrive. More details to follow. Contact Pat File at pat@patriciafile.ca if interested in helping or contributing.

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...

A thank you message from Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Keith and I would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful plant that arrived at our door this week. It is striking with an arrowhead plant, fuchsia crown of thorns, ivy and pussy willows. Your kindness, thoughts and prayers are much appreciated. It is four weeks since I fell skiing and broke some bones and shattered my knee. It will be a long, slow recovery before I will be able to walk again. In the meantime, Keith and I continue to offer God thanks and gratitude for each day. We pray for you the congregation and still feel so blessed to have shared all those years in the ministry of Christ with you. May you continue to live your faith with compassion, justice and grace. A new journey with Kirsty has begun and I am happy for all of you. Thanks again.

Community News

In Grandmother's Hands invites you to join them for their annual **Pasta Dinner on Friday, 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.

Order of the Eastern Star are having a **Soup and Sandwich Spring Lunch** in the Great Hall at St. Paul's on **Saturday, April 5th**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

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 1stpenetangguides@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

Working to empower women and change the world



In India, social and cultural factors limit access to theological education for women in comparison to men. The Rev. B. Silpa Rani is actively encouraging women to pursue theological education and engage in leadership roles.

When Silpa started her first degree in Theology, she spent two years as the only woman in a class of sixteen. Now, years later, as she works on her doctoral dissertation, she has seen a gradual increase in the enrolment of women in theological programs. While this is encouraging, Silpa recognizes that there is still a long journey forward. While she seeks to empower modern women, she is also working to shed light on the experiences of women and minorities of the past.

Silpa was the recipient of a theological education scholarship, which paved her way to join the faculty at Bishop's College, Kolkata. She has been exploring the unique identity of the Qumran community within the context of the Dead Sea Scrolls. She is actively researching to identify the women, children, and minority groups of the society, drawing parallels between the Qumran context and contemporary Indian context.

Your [Mission and Service](#) gifts provide support to leaders like Silpa, who are actively working to empower women and change the world.

Blessings everyone

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

Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church), 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 705-526-6077