

Minister's Message, Sunday, April 6, 2025

Beyond Sunday: The Storm

Last week we did not have worship in our church. The power was out, the ice was everywhere. So many of us were in our homes, getting cold because no power means no heat. And then survival starts.

One of the things that many dystopian books (and movies) get wrong, is how people behave in difficult circumstances. We don't quickly descend into chaos. So many times, when things get tough, people get helpful. Neighbours show up and form a bucket brigade when the sump pump fails. Homes are opened to friends and relatives who need to warm up. And people are out talking to each other at central resource areas. Catching up on the news. Sharing stories. Just meeting the neighbours (maybe for the first time?). Our shared struggle can bring us together. And so can gratitude. Gratitude for the road crews and hydro crews. Gratitude for arborists. Gratitude for cooks and grocery store workers. Gratitude for all of those helping to make the world a little bit easier.

Blessings to each of you. I am glad you weathered the storm.
Rev Kirsty



<https://youtube.com/live/sXM1SEQPjfY?feature=share>

Due to continuing uncertainty about power etc., we will not be doing communion, but you are welcome to join us for worship as long as power is fully restored by Sunday. Please note there may be connection issues for at home worship so the service may not be available live but will be posted as soon as possible.

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!

Coffee Hour

Our next coffee hour is this Sunday April 6th. During 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.

Outreach

Starting this Sunday until Easter we will be collecting non-perishable food donations as part of our Annual Easter food drive. There is a collecting container in the Sanctuary. With the number of people in our community facing food insecurity and having lost perishable foods to the recent power outage, we hope that those who are able will give generously to this campaign.



Monetary donations are encouraged as well and will be distributed to the Georgian Bay food network and Salvation Army.

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.

United Church Women (UCW)

The next UCW meeting is **next 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

Thank you to everyone who purchased Purdys chocolates in our Spring fundraising campaign! Your order will be available to pick up at St. Paul's Atrium on **April 11** (10:30am-1:30pm), **April 12** (9:00am-12:00pm) and **April 13th** after church from 11:00am-12:00pm. 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

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 s 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...

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's Soup and Sandwich Spring Lunch scheduled for Saturday, April 5th, has been **cancelled**. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

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 1stpenetanguiguides@gmail.com or by calling Juli Robitaille at 705-279-3334.

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

Talented and diverse youth are committed to developing leadership among their peers.



"100 years from now, I definitely see the church being a diverse and open space for all because of the program boards that are being put in place."

These are thoughts from Mariana Muhumuza, one of The United Church of Canada's Youth Forum Leadership Animators, on her vision for the next 100 years of the United Church of Canada. More of Mariana's thoughts on the United Church's Centennial can be found on [YouTube](#).

In July 2024, Mariana was among eight passionate youth from across Canada who gathered in Calgary. Together, they worked to lay the foundation for 100 young people under the age of 30 to attend The United Church of Canada's General Council 45 in 2025, coinciding with the church's Centennial commemorations.

This group of talented and diverse youth is committed to developing leadership among their peers. After their time in Calgary, they returned to their local communities and regions to work on learning goals and projects for four weeks, and to remain engaged throughout the year.

The group focused on building leadership and guiding their peers as they explore their roles in the church. Their placements in local and regional communities are designed to help them grow and prepare for the future.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support youth as they inspire communities and engage in leadership. Thank you.

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