



St. Paul's Weekly Update – April 10, 2025

Minister's Message, Sunday, April 13, 2025

Beyond Sunday: Holy Week

Holy Week is full of highs and lows. There is the quiet intimacy of Maundy Thursday, which begins with Jesus washing the feet of the disciples as they gather. It continues with that meal, the communion, we celebrate each month. And includes Jesus offering the gift of a new commandment, mandatum in Latin, hence the name Maundy Thursday.

Then there is the terror, pain, and loss on Good Friday. We stand in the story with the disciples, participating in their grief at the base of the cross. There is the in between time of vigil on Saturday. And finally, the moment of celebration when we gather on Easter.

A colleague of mine used to use this as a quick check in,
"Are you in Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or Easter, today?"

As you move through Holy Week, you are invited to consider what your heart needs.

Come for the comfort, sit in grief, arise early on Easter Sunday, or arrive for the celebration. Experience one or all.

May you be blessed, and surrounded in love, whatever your choice.



Entry Into the City: John August Swanson

**Palm Sunday:
A Time for Singing**

April 13, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/j3-OnJ1Tc2A?feature=share>

All children are invited to gather in the Atrium on **Palm Sunday** before the service to join in the Palm Sunday parade. No need to RSVP. Hope to see you there!

Services during Holy Week

Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service: 7:00 a.m. at the small shelter in Little Lake Park, followed by a continental breakfast at St. Paul's.

Easter Worship service at St. Paul's – 10:00 a.m. No coffee hour on Easter Sunday.

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!

Outreach

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

Our sincerest condolences to the Gillies family, on the **passing of Marjorie Gillies** on Sunday March 20, 2025. Prior to Covid, Marjorie attended St Paul's United Church after moving to Midland and she often sat with her daughter-in-law Patricia File or friends from the Villa or Tiffin Retirement home. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincere birthday wishes to **Lydia Ehmcke** from the folks of St. Paul's on the occasion of her 98th birthday, April 8. Happy Birthday Lydia!

An update from your Stewardship Committee

Your Stewardship Committee is pleased to provide you with a snapshot view of our financial position at the end of March 2025.

INCOME	\$60,652
EXPENSES	\$82,680
SHORTFALL	-\$22,028

Our expenses are actually slightly below what we had budgeted them to be, thanks to careful management. Unfortunately, we are short \$22,028 in contributions from our congregation to cover these expenses. We are confident that you can rise to the occasion by providing, if you are able, a bit more in your weekly givings to minimize any increase in this shortfall going forward. For those of you not on the PAR PROGRAM OF MONTHLY GIVING (pre-authorized remittances), please consider using this easy way to provide regular givings to support the work of St Paul's United Church. Application forms are available outside to the church office.

Save the date for Family Fun Night with **Pasta and Bingo this 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!

The Talent Auction is fast approaching. We hope everyone is working on their Auction item. Just a reminder to have your talent slips in by **Monday, April 14th**. You can put those slips on the offertory plate or put your slip through the mail slot in the office door. You can also give it to Gail on Sunday morning. Please be sure to have your item handed in no later than April 17th, (that's a two-day extension) except for baking. Please bring in your baking in on the day of the Auction by 9:00 am. You can also drop your item to the office between 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. If your item is ready, you can bring it to church the morning of Sunday April 13th or 20th and give it to Gail. It is important we have the items in by the deadline as we have to sort, number and tag each item.



Don't forget to invite friends and family to come to the auction with you on April 26th. It is a morning of fun and fellowship. Lunch will also be available at a cost of \$5.00. Thank you everyone for your donations. Hope to see you there!

Faith Formation

Please join us on **Good Friday** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for some outside gathering and play time. We will meet in the first parking lot at Sainte Marie Park (visible from Highway 12). All ages are welcome! Bring family and friends. We may do an easy walk along the trails or just play in the fields. Please pack snacks and water. There is no need to RSVP but if you wish, you can text Rebecca on Good Friday to let her know you'll be there. (226) 339-8218.

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...

Official Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Official Board is on Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlour. We ask that Committee Chairs submit their reports to the church office by e-mail **no later than April 23rd**.

United Church Women

The United Church Women will be holding a **Spring Garage Sale on Saturday, May 24th**. This is your opportunity to part with items you no longer want or need and let someone else enjoy them! Please drop off your items on May 23rd between 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. We welcome all donations, such as gently used clothing, books, linen, china, household items in working order, small pieces of furniture. Unfortunately, we cannot accept baby furnishings, large furniture, and sports equipment. All proceeds go to the work of the UCW, which supports St. Paul's Mission & Service Fund and a variety of organizations who support people in the community and beyond.

United Church of Canada 100-year anniversary

Orders are being taken for tree seedings that will be available at the end of April/early May for planting as part of our 100 Trees Project at St Paul's United Church in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the UCC. We have ordered 70 tree seedings from SSEA that will be small,



bare root plants ready to go into the ground - 10 each of the following: White Pine, White Spruce, Tamarack, Red/Silver Maple Hybrid, Nannyberry and 20x Red-Osier Dogwood. Please see Pat File after church on Sunday to order your selection or send her an email pat@patriciafile.ca. If you are planning to plant a tree or a shrub this spring - we would like to include it as well for the remaining 30 trees. Please plan to take a photo of your tree or shrub when planting and send it in to be part of our

display.

Also **save the date for a celebration picnic on Sunday June 8** at the pavilion in Little Lake Park. More info to come. We are looking for your memories of songs from camp or other church activities over the years for a song sheet which will be shared at the picnic. Please send along the name of the songs and the lyrics if you have them. Please also lend us copies of photos over the last 100 years of church related activities that we hope to put on display closer to the picnic date. Plan to join us for games, Sunday hats, food and fellowship.

Community News

Guides Spaghetti Dinner: The Penetanguishene Girl Guides are raising money for camp. **This 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.

In Grandmother's Helping Hands Huronia: Thank you to all St. Paul's members and Community for your generous support of our Pasta Dinner. We fed 85 people! All the donations for your dinner will go to support the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers. In today's turmoil of events, the Grandmothers in Africa need our support more than ever. Thank You.

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

The Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES), a Mission and Service partner, is located in an area of Central America that is very vulnerable to climate change. This hot, dry region regularly experiences drought. Mining projects have also negatively affected the environment and the people in the region. ADES and other community organizations decided to act to protect the community's right to a healthy environment.



An example of how ADES has responded is a three-year agroecology project co-funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and The United Church of Canada Foundation, along with Mission and Service. Agroecology benefits the land and water because it recycles nutrients back into the soil. It also reduces production costs, lessening the financial burden on rural farmers.

In this project, ADES works closely with the community to grow food in a rural region of El Salvador, promoting sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, maintains the integrity of the land, and upholds rural culture.

At the centre of the project is the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, where rural families, mainly led by women, learn about agroecology. The school provides training, technical expertise, and seeds indigenous to the region. It focuses on preserving the surrounding environment and on upholding gender and human rights as part of its approach to food security.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) help support ADES' agroecology project. Thank you for your generosity!

Blessings everyone

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