

Minister's Message, Sunday, April 20, 2025

Beyond Sunday: We Are Not Alone

On Easter Morning we sing vibrant songs, marching songs, play trumpets and shout, "He is Risen!" to one another. And yet, the biblical witness of the time after the resurrection is not that. Rather it is characterized by puzzled disciples, furtive meetings in small rooms, and retreat to a fishing boat.

Gone are the large crowds waiting to be fed, or healed, or just listen. Now comes the ministry of the disciples going out in ones and twos into the world to share Jesus' teachings. Now comes the time of Paul the pastor, founding churches all over the Mediterranean.

And that is important for us to hold onto. After the excitement comes the hard work. After the wedding, the work begins. After the graduation, the work begins. And even if it isn't big crowds, those small groups and individuals working every day can make changes that last, have impacts that change lives. I know that there are people here at St. Paul's who are making a difference every day. Some of you have been doing it your whole lives, in one way or another.

It is such an honour to serve with you in this ministry. Come for the celebration each Sunday, work for a just and caring world every day. Happy Easter! AND let's keep going together!

**Hope
is Rising**

**Easter Morning
10am April 20**



Easter Morning by Frank Wesley

<https://youtube.com/live/Pi8nhnAi0ww?feature=share>

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.

Barb Carswell's team will be hosting the Easter breakfast following the service at Little Lake Park. If you aren't able to make it to the park, please feel free to come to the Great Hall before worship for a continental breakfast. **There will be no Social 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

We will be collecting non-perishable food donations as part of our Annual Easter food drive until Easter Sunday. 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.

Fundraising

What a sweet success for St. Paul's! We are delighted to announce that our very first Purdy's Easter/Spring Chocolate Fundraising campaign raised **\$1254.14!** Thank you to everyone who supported our effort and we'll mark our calendars for the Purdy's Winter/Christmas campaign in November!



The Talent Auction is fast approaching. **Please be sure to have your item handed in no later than today April 17th** except for baking. Please bring in your baking in on the day of the Auction by 9:00 am. Any last-minute items can be given to Gail at the church on Easter Sunday. We still have to sort, number and tag each item prior to the auction date. Don't forget to invite your 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**.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is **on Saturday, April 26th** at 9:00 a.m. at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

Red Dress Campaign

Looking for a volunteer to organize this for May 5th. This involves coordinating with our custodian to get the dresses outside and back into storage afterward. The dresses are in storage at the church. If you are available to do this, please contact Sandra Flint at 705-529-6462.

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 and events

Please join the '**Wallace, Jones, Sproule**' families in celebrating the 70th birthdays of cousins Peggy Wallace (February 18, 1955) and Ruth (Jones) Sproule (July 23, 1955) at The Place (Georgian Shores Swinging Seniors Club) located at 130 Balm Beach Rd W., Tiny, on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Open House from 2:00 -5:00 p.m., family dinner to follow. No gifts please but if you have an interesting/funny story to relate, please do so.

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

Easter is a time of renewal and reflection—a reminder of the boundless grace and love that flow through the world. It is also a time to celebrate the ways that you put love into action through Mission and Service.



For 100 years, the faithful generosity of compassionate people like you has helped The United Church of Canada answer Jesus' call to love and serve. Across Canada and around the world, this support has empowered, and continues to empower, life-changing work. In El Salvador, rural farmers are getting the resources to grow enough food for their families. In Zimbabwe, women are learning skills to build sustainable livelihoods. And these are just two of the countless stories of transformation made possible by Mission and Service partners.

As the church looks toward the next century, this legacy of compassion and justice continues. The impact of every gift, every prayer, and every act of service will echo far into the future, ensuring the church remains a source of love and hope for generations to come.

Thank you for the love you show through [Mission and Service](#). With your help, we will move together with compassion into the next 100 years.

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