

### Minister's Message, Sunday, April 27, 2025

#### **Beyond Sunday: Touch Grass**

"Go touch grass!" is internet speak for you have gone too far. It usually means you have lost touch with reality, or got too angry, or just need to take a break. It can also be a gentle chiding, "you need to leave the computer and go outside."

It is also a truth. Being outside is a good way to reset. Part of the reason the winter is so hard on some people is that they are not able to go out easily. Spring is a wonderful time to be outside. It is warmer, there are little flowers coming out, mushroom hunting season begins...

Being in nature can reduce stress and ease strain on our eyes. It is good for us.

But not everyone has easy access to natural spaces. That's why camping ministries are so important. They are an opportunity for children to be outside, to explore the natural world, to challenge themselves physically, work on social skills, connect with their spirituality, and make friends. This year as we move into summer,

I invite you to reflect on your own camp experiences. Consider donating time or resources to United Church Camping ministries. Offer prayers for all those who will be camp leaders counsellors. Pray especially for the children who will be attending camp. That in this stressful world they will have time to be outside and simply play, get dirty, jump in the lake, and yes, touch grass.



<https://youtube.com/live/IFzc37akPbg?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](mailto: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!

### **Fundraising**

**The Talent Auction** is this Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. **For those of you who are contributing baking**, please bring in your baking by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Don't forget to invite your friends and family to come to the auction with you. It is a morning of fun and fellowship. Lunch will also be available at a cost of \$5.00. **\*\*Please see the handout listing all of the great items included in the auction.** Thank you everyone for your donations. Hope to see you there!



### **Official Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Official Board is on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The next Men's Breakfast is **this Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** 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 Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> following worship.

### **National Volunteer Appreciation Week**

"Volunteers Make Waves" is the theme this year for Volunteer Week (April 27-May 3<sup>rd</sup>). All volunteers are welcome to join us for cake and coffee after worship on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Let's get together to honour the work that is accomplished by all of you at St. Paul's United Church. See you there!

### **Outreach**

**Guesthouse Meal Preparation**- Did you know that teams of St. Paul's Volunteers create a meal for the guesthouse twice a month? In addition to that, we also have another team that prepares meals that can be frozen and served "as needed" by the Guesthouse staff. This is such important work by our Outreach Committee and we thank all the Volunteers. There are a couple of ways to get involved including donating to the Benevolent Fund, offering to make a meal or even one piece of the meal such as dessert. Let Zena (zenapendlebury@hotmail.com) or Kathy Stewart (kathy.stewart@sympatico.ca) know if you would like more information.

### **Red Dress Campaign**

Looking for a volunteer to organize this for May 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 24<sup>th</sup>**. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**



**Don't forget to order your tree seedlings** to be part of our 100 trees project in celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the UCC. Pick up is now expected to be May 9-11, 2025. We have ordered 70 tree seedlings 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](mailto: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.

## **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 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.

**VOX Huronia Community Choir** presents "Over the Sea and Back Again", on Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's. Tickets available at Johnstone's Music Land, from choir members and at the door.

## **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**



**These young leaders are now poised to advocate for climate justice and inspire their communities.**

In 2024, Mission and Service partner the World Student Christian Federation Asia-Pacific collaborated with the Bangladesh Student Christian Movement on a workshop called "Youth Leading Change: Climate Justice through Cultural Movement." Through discussions and activities, it aimed to

raise awareness among young people about climate challenges and empower them to take local actions.

Over four days, 50 passionate students from various regions of Bangladesh came together to address the critical issue of climate change. They explored the severe impacts that climate change has on communities and livelihoods in Bangladesh, particularly the displacement caused by floods. Floods force families to migrate to Dhaka, now one of the world's most densely populated cities.

The heart-wrenching stories of displaced families deeply resonated with the participants, igniting their determination to drive change. Equipped with knowledge and tools, these young leaders are now poised to advocate for climate justice and inspire their communities.

Your generous support of [Mission and Service](#) helps make empowering work like this possible. Thank you.

### **Blessings everyone**

**Minister:** Rev. Kirsty Hunter, **705-717-1918** [revkirsty@gmail.com](mailto:revkirsty@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church), [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto: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](mailto:officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com) 705-526-6077