

Minister's Message, Sunday, May 29th, 2025

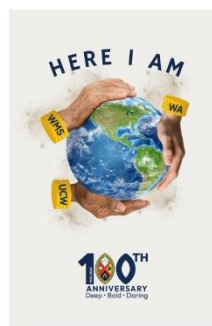
Beyond Sunday:

Friends, we are approaching the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. As we think on our path to the future, let's take a moment to look back. Below is a brief excerpt from the sermon of Rev. Samuel Rose, at the inaugural worship of the United Church of Canada. The style of language may be a bit different than we are used to, but the meaning of the words remains relevant today. Blessings to each one of you. Hope to see you all on June 8 in worship and/or at the picnic!

Rev Kirsty

Excerpt from, "The Cross at the Heart of Life."

"Jesus did not discover the law of the Cross, nor was he the first to practice it, though never before nor since has it been obeyed so perfectly and with such glorious consequences. The law is universal. The grain of wheat that does not die perishes. The life governed by the maxim "safety first" is a lost life. He who is willing to accept salvation selfishly for himself alone has already become a castaway. You and I find ourselves as we seek not our own but the good of others. And this law is binding upon the Christian community as certainly as upon the individual believer. Only insofar as The United Church of Canada owes her birth to obedience to this law, only to that extent that she is loyal to it in the future, may she vindicate her right to live and grow. There is no prayer so fitting to this hour as the humble petition for pardon for whatever of vanity, or self-love, or self-will has mingled with loftier motives in bringing us together as denominations into this new fellowship. There is no sacramental oath so appropriate as the promise by divine grace, as individuals and as a Church, to follow Christ all the way, for, believe me, thus and thus alone shall we find the way of life." Rev. Samuel Rose, June 10, 1925, Centering Prayer is so called because the idea is to become more and more acquainted with God as the centre of your life, as well as more and more authentically who you are meant to be at your personal center. We put up many barriers and walls between our being and how we show up in the world (face to face or online). Sometimes it is almost as if we are playing a character with our name.



**UCW Worship Service
for the 100th Anniversary
of the United Church of Canada**

10am Sunday June 1



<https://youtube.com/live/PX8vKg7y7-k?feature=share>

New Office Hours

The church office is now open Monday thru Friday from 9am to noon.



New Administrator: Our new administrator John Craig is now in the office.

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.

Covenanting service for Rev. Kirsty Hunter June 12, 2025

Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by the service at 6:30 p.m. If you want to volunteer to help prepare dinner, greet or serve communion, please send an e-mail to Rev. Kirsty at revkirsty@gmail.com. Dinner is by free will donation.

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 **Sunday, June 1st** following worship.

Volunteer needed

We are looking for a volunteer to do coverage for our Custodian while he is on vacation. This would be light duty work and would be for the periods of June 19 and 20th, June 30th to July 4th and August 5th to August 8th. Please contact Bruce Wilcox at 705-529-6728 if you can lend a hand.

Congregational Life

St. Paul's will be hosting a bowling evening on Friday, May 30, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Knight Haven Bowling lanes in Penetanguishene. The Congregational Life committee will cover the costs of bowling and shoes and there is a snack bar available for refreshments (cash only). Please arrive about 30 minutes early to pick teams and get your shoes. This is an all-ages family event - nobody is too old - nobody too young!! Call Sheila if you have any questions or want to sign up 705-526-2186.

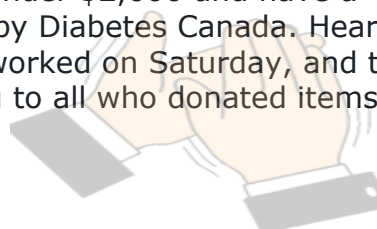
Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 31st at 9:00 a.m. at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

United Church Women

The Spring **Garage Sale was a big success**. We made just under \$2,000 and have a manageable amount of leftover items which will be picked up by Diabetes Canada. Heartfelt appreciation goes to all the volunteers who set up on Friday, worked on Saturday, and then, cleaned up; without you this would not be possible. Thank you to all who donated items, baked muffins, served coffee, and came out to support the Sale.

Our Fall Sale will be on September 20th.



All funds raised by the United Church Women support the UC Mission and Service Fund, and provide financial support to 10 organizations in the community and beyond, that give a hand up to people in need. Again, thank you for your support!

UCW June Meeting

Tuesday June 10th - 11:45 - Operation Grow - 436 Bay St

Soup / salad / dessert luncheon

\$10.00 - please bring cash

Program and tour of this innovative social enterprise focused on empowering women facing challenges of poverty and trauma!!

RSVP essential to Judy McConnell - 705 529 1826 by June 4th

United Church of Canada 100-year anniversary

Join us for a celebration picnic on Sunday June 8 at the pavilion in Little Lake Park after the worship service. You can pre-order a boxed lunch (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children) through the church office or after Sunday worship until June 1st. **See attachment with this weekly update for all the delicious food choices available.** If anyone interested in helping out with the June 8th picnic, please meet in atrium meeting room after church on Sunday, May 25th or contact pat@patricia.ca



Please 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.

Butter Tart Festival

Once again St. Paul's will be running their annual "Loonie Raffle" during the June 14th Butter Tart Festival. We will be selling raffle tickets on the church lawn and the winners will be picked that afternoon. If you are able to donate a couple of hours to help with this fundraiser, please contact Sheila at 705-526-2186. Thank you!!



Faith Formation

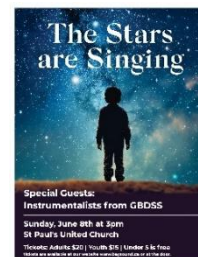
SAVE THE DATE! St. Paul's Discovery Kids Camp will be held August 11-15, 2025. It will be a FULL DAY program running from 9-3. Details soon...

Community News and events

Travel with Carol - Come and travel with Carol MacDonald as she presents her Cycle Tour from Victoria Falls to Cape Town. Travel from lush green scenery in Victoria Falls thru the deserts to the greenery in South Africa. A river cruise and a safari will bring you up close to the animals and birds of South Africa. Carol is looking forward to sharing her adventure with you on June 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

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

The Bay Sound Choir concert will take place at St Paul's on **Sunday, June 8 at 3:00 p.m.** This year's concert will, of course, include all the Bay Sound Choirs: Little Treble Makers, Children's Choir, VIVO and the Bay Sound Singers and our special guests will be young musicians from Georgian Bay District Secondary School. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth and under age five is free. Tickets are available on our website at www.baysound.ca or at the door.



Sing It Women's Choir presents "Singing from the Heart", on Monday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth between ages 13 to 16, kids under 12 are free. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling 705-875-5438.

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

We are blessed to live in Canada, a country that recognizes the right to love whoever you want, regardless of their gender or sex. And while we haven't always done what is right, The United Church of Canada now recognizes that all love—including Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ relationships—is holy and blessed by God. But those rights do not exist in many parts of the world today.



"One of our partners in Kenya has advocated strongly for the human rights of sexual minorities, and that has caused him to be in jail, caused him to risk his life to be able to do that," says the Rev. Michael Blair. The church's first openly gay General Secretary is now helping to advocate for sexual and gender minorities in foreign countries.

"When we hear these stories, we can see that this is a life and death matter." Your gifts for [Mission and Service](#) help shelter refugees as they escape repressive governments. As of May 2024, 64 jurisdictions criminalize private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity, and 12 countries have jurisdictions in which the death penalty is imposed or at least a possibility for private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity.

To date, Mission and Service has supported consultations in Latin America and the Philippines. "We are bringing together leaders to explore how the church can be a place of liberation and life for sexual and gender minorities in those communities. That is happening because of the folks who contribute to Mission and Service," says Blair. Thank you for helping to protect sexual and gender minorities. You are saving lives and changing views around the world!

Blessings everyone

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

Church Administrator – John Craig (New) office hours are Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm Noon
stpaulsunited@rogers.com