

Minister's Message, Sunday, May 11, 2025

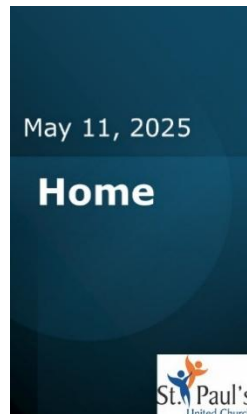
Beyond Sunday: Becoming An Affirming Church

Over the next few months, we will be moving into the process of becoming an Affirming Church. An Affirming Church is a trademarked word that means a church has undergone a time of study, reflection, and deliberation and made a deliberate choice to be a welcoming place for all, especially those who are 2SLGBTQ+. A few years ago, in Canada, this may have been seen as an easy decision. This church, like all churches, already welcomes everyone, so why not?

In this moment, with the very divisive conversations people are having around the world, especially about Transgender issues, it is different. Some in the 2SLGBTQ+ community feel under siege. There is more hatred, more fear, and more exclusion. In such a time as this, it becomes even more important to be deliberately and visibly supportive of "all."

Today's scripture story reminds us that truly all are included in the family of God: Ethiopians are welcome, eunuchs are welcome. Everyone belongs in the beloved community. Everyone is valued in the beloved community. Everyone is welcome to share their gifts in the beloved community. Everyone is cared for and supported in the beloved community. YOU are welcome in the beloved community at St. Paul's!

Blessings of Peace and Joy,
Rev Kirsty



<https://youtube.com/live/O3pp7E-K-ws?feature=share>

Christian Family Sunday - Quilts for Sunday

Christian Family Sunday is this Sunday, May 11. Just a reminder that if you have quilts/blankets that are special to you, please bring them on Sunday. The Worship Committee would like to display them around the balcony and on the pews. Please put your name on them and a brief message as to why they are so special. After worship, we will ask people to go up to the balcony to take a look and ask questions about them.

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 will be on **Sunday, May 18th** following worship.

New Administrator: Our new administrator John Craig will be starting on Tuesday May 13th. Welcome John to St. Paul's!

A Message from your Stewardship Committee

A big thank you to all of you who contributed to the church in many ways in April. We had a significant deficit at the beginning of the month that was cut in half, thanks to you. With your regular givings plus your participation in the church talent auction we are heading in the right financial direction. We even added a new PAR contributor, which is an easy, consistent way for people to give to the church.

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.



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 (kathystewart2025@gmail.com) know if you would like more information.

United Church Women

The next UCW meeting will be held on May 13th at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlour, where we will enjoy afternoon tea, complete with fancy sandwiches; bring your appetite! All women welcome.

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. For more information, please contact Zena at 705-527-6789 or zenapendlebury@gmail.com.

United Church of Canada 100-year anniversary

For those of you who have ordered trees, those **tree seedling can be picked up at the church on Saturday, May 10th in the Atrium between 10:00 a.m. and noon and also after Worship on Sunday.**

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.**



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.



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!!

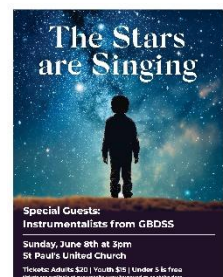
Faith Formation

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

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.



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

Queer Kid Bible Camp is a unique and affirming space that has emerged to provide a supportive environment for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth within the framework of spirituality. Started by Mission and Service partner Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines, Ontario, Queer Kid Bible Camp blends teachings of God's love with messages of inclusivity.



Queer individuals have often been marginalized or excluded in spiritual experiences, which can make them feel isolated and alienated. Queer Kid Bible Camp aims to challenge these negative experiences by fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance in a spiritual context. The camp offers a place for young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals to explore and reconcile their faith with their identity. Through theological and spiritual discussions, youth can openly ask questions without feeling uncertain about their safety.

The benefits of Queer Kid Bible Camp extend beyond its immediate impact on individual campers. The camp experience sparks conversation with parents and guardians who want to connect and understand their children better. As young participants gain confidence and self-acceptance, they become advocates for change within their own communities. The Rev. Karen Orlandi of Silver Spire United Church has seen a wonderful ripple effect, noting that she's seen "healing for queer adults as they see queer kids openly embracing their identity."

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) provides the queer community with opportunities to thrive in safe environments as they learn about God's love. Thank you.

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