



St. Paul's Weekly Update – Nov. 17, 2022

Worship

Service this Sunday November 20th will be lead by Fran Hill. We thank her very much for stepping in while Karen is away.

Worship with us in person at 10:00 a.m. or on-line. Visit our website at www.stpaulsmidland.org and use the direct YouTube link at the top of the page, or simply go to YouTube and subscribe to our channel. Just type in "St. Paul's Midland" and you will find us.

Our annual **Foodgrains Campaign** will continue until Nov. 30th. So far, we **have raised \$5,795**. Donations will be matched from our Trust Funds, up to a maximum of \$2,500.00. You can donate by cash, cheque (made payable to St. Paul's United Church) or by e-transfer. For every dollar that you give the Canadian government matches it 4 to 1.



Transition Steering Team (TST) Update

The TST met last week and decided to request that everyone wear masks at church events. Thank you for your understanding and supporting our request.

We have also decided to consult with those teams who are involved in serving **in-person coffee hours and funeral teas**. **Their advice is to pause these activities** for the time being and until the new year, which is what we will do. This seems to be the wise approach at this time. We will continue with our ZOOM Coffee Hours on the second and fourth Sundays of the month starting next Sunday, November 27th.

The November Food and Fellowship takeout dinner will be cancelled as well.

We will monitor the advice from public health and resume these important services when our volunteers feel comfortable doing so.

Office Hours

Starting this week, the office will be open on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon**. Jane will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and Louise will be there on Wednesday mornings. You can reach Jane by email at officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com or by phone at 705-526-6077 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Louise will be working in the office on Wednesday mornings, but the remainder of the time (between Tuesday and Thursday until 4:00 p.m.) she can be reached at stpaulsunitied@rogers.com or at her home phone number 705-526-1640.

Upcoming Christmas Concerts:

A Christmas Yarn:



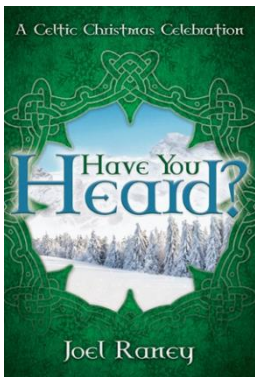
The Christmas Musical "A Christmas Yarn" is scheduled **for Sunday, December 11th at 10:00 a.m.** during our morning Worship Service.

At Unique Gifts from Luxurious Yarns (U.G.L.Y.), ugly is beautiful! From the factory of the world's leading supplier of ugly Christmas sweaters, founder Sam Ebenezer pulls all the strings to make sure that no stitch is dropped. With a huge order looming to get out the day before

Christmas, the team of Bob Cratchit ("that's pronounced Crochet"), Tiny

Tom and others weave together a plan of attack, while Sam encounters three mysterious visitors who not only help overcome some ugly obstacles, but bring the beautiful good news of Christmas! With apologies to a well-loved Christmas Carol, don your ugliest Christmas sweater, and have a dickens of a good-time with A Christmas Yarn! Bring your family and friends for this fun-filled performance!

Have You Heard? A Celtic Christmas Celebration:



Join us for this special Sunday service on **December 18th at 10:00 a.m.**

Our cantata Sunday is the most popular of the year and this event will be no exception. St Paul's choir will be joined by the Bay Sound Singers, instrumentalists and a few "extras" this year as we present this special celebration. All are welcome.

UCW

The UCW will once again be selling Christmas Goodie boxes! The price this year is \$20 per box and all orders can be called in to Marlis Dupuis at 705-549-2018. The last date to order is on **December 4th**. The pick-up date will be on December 14th between 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. **Order yours today!**



Faith Formation

Discovery Kids are invited back into the Sanctuary for the Theme Conversation and Christ Candle lighting at the beginning of each service. Children will go up to DK as a group for lessons after that.

Furnace update:

We are getting close to our fundraising goal of \$85,000! To date, we have raised \$59,940. We have also been approved for a \$20,000 grant of which we have now received \$19,000. This leaves us a **balance of \$ 5,060 yet to raise. GREAT JOB ST. PAUL'S!** We are truly grateful for all the donations already received. In order to meet our target goal and finish paying off the new furnace equipment, we will still need to continue our campaign. If you can

assist at all it would be greatly appreciated.

Outreach

Interested in social justice? Working with the marginalized? Feeding the hungry? The Outreach committee is starting back up with regular meetings in November and would like to invite you to consider joining them as part of St. Paul's outreach to our community and global community. Please contact the office if you are interested.

This Week's Minute for Mission



On November 20th, countries around the world celebrate Universal Children's Day (also known as World Children's Day).

The date marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly adopting both the declaration and the convention on children's rights. On the same day, Restorative Justice Week kicks off.

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**

It's a perfect time to raise up the needs of children with incarcerated parents—the all-too-often forgotten, invisible, or ignored victims of the criminal justice system. No one knows how many children in Canada are affected by the incarceration of a parent. Back in 2007 the estimate was as many as 357,604 children. Advocates think that with the increase in the prison population however, the number is much higher.

While every situation is unique, many children with incarcerated parents face trauma, family instability, social isolation and economic insecurity. On the inside, parents struggle to stay connected with their kids, let go of shame, and deepen their parenting skills so that they can successfully reunite their family when they are released.

That's why Parkland Restorative Justice—a Mission & Service partner based in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan—runs an eight-week parenting course for male inmates called Dad HERO (an acronym for "Helping Everyone Realize Opportunities"). Developed in partnership with the Canadian Families and Corrections Network (CFCN), the course is designed to educate fathers about parenting, how to communicate with their child, and how to work with a co-parent. Afterwards, the dads meet regularly in a group that continues to provide support after their release.

"A lot of people don't think about men inside prisons as heroes. In fact, when we told the men the name of the program some of them said, 'That doesn't resonate with me, I don't really feel like a hero to my kids. But I want my children to look up to me, to think that I have value and worth, that I have information to give them, and that I can be a good parent that is aspiring to be a hero,'" says Louise Leonardi, Executive Director of the CFCN. "We all want the same things for these men. We want them to come out of prison, reoffend less, be with their families, start a pro-social and productive life and to integrate back into society in a well-balanced way. Families want their dads to come back."

No one is disposable and no child should feel forgotten. Thank you for helping to build stronger families and for believing that everyone can be a hero.

Blessings everyone,

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Minister, St. Paul's United Church 705-433-1224
minspucmidland@gmail.com

Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, (Tues. Wed. Thurs.) 705-526-1640
e-mail stpaulsunity@rogers.com
Louise works at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays only.