



From the Minister

As we continue with this Advent journey, we remember that it is an invitation for us to take the time to reflect and ponder anew our own faith and what it means to live it in real ways. This coming Sunday, like every year in Advent, that growly one named John the Baptist is back to remind us of a few things that can change our lives. This Sunday we are also having communion. I ask that you invite family and friends to attend our special services!

Upcoming Advent/Christmas Worship Services

Advent Services Calendar – 10:00 a.m.

Advent 2 - December 4th - Communion

Advent 3 - December 11th - Children's Musical
'A Christmas Yarn'

Advent 4 - December 18th - Choir Cantata
"Have you Heard: A Celtic Christmas Celebration"

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

Dec 25th - There is no church service on Christmas Sunday. We invite you to watch an earlier service online.

Join our live-stream service at stpaulsmidland.org



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.

"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!

Please wear your Christmas sweaters in celebration of the musical.

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.



Salvation Army Food Drive:

We are currently accepting **food items donations to give to the Midland Salvation Army Food Bank.** If you are attending in person service and would like to contribute, we thank you in advance. You can leave your donations near the door by the organ.

St. Paul's Coffee Hour

In-person Coffee Hours are still temporarily cancelled for health and safety reasons and will not resume until the new year. We will continue with our ZOOM Coffee Hours on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Office Hours

The office is open on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 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 stpaulsunited@rogers.com or at her home phone number 705-526-1640.

Congregational Life

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jean Dick on Sunday November 27th. Jean and Milne were very active members of our congregation. Milne unfortunately passed away several years ago, and Jean was recently living closer to her children in a long-term care facility.

A Memorial Service is scheduled for Tuesday December 6th at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m. here at St. Paul's. All are invited to attend. Please keep the Dick family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

We also want to express our condolences to Rick and Ria Gerritsen on the loss of Ria's mother who died in the Netherlands on November 30th. Ria is one of our captains overseeing the counting of our offering and Rick sings in our choir. Their son Wim and his wife on occasion worship with us and their children have been involved with our Discovery Kids. Please keep the Gerritsen family in your thoughts and prayers.

Outreach

Our Canadian Foodgrains Campaign ended on November 30th. All together, we raised \$7,895 through your generous donations.

Great job everyone! Your donations are greatly appreciated. The St. Paul's Special Project Fund will contribute another \$2,500 for a **total of \$10,395**. As well, the Canadian Government matches our donation 4:1. Thank you for your support in helping to reduce world hunger!



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 deadline to order has been extended to December 11th**. The pick-up date will be on December 14th between 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. **Order yours today!**



Please note that the UCW potluck scheduled for December 13th has been cancelled. The meeting will go forward as originally planned however on **Tuesday December 13th at 11:30 a.m.** in the Parlour. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Faith Formation

Discovery Kids are wanting to let families know that we are inviting all children attending our Christmas Eve service to be part of our mini pageant. There are no rehearsals, just come a bit early to allow time for a costume change and to get ready for the service. Grandchildren and great grandchildren are welcome!

Furnace Update

We are getting close to our fundraising goal of \$85,000! To date, we have raised \$61,640. We have also been approved for a \$20,000 grant of which we have now received \$19,000. This leaves us a **balance of \$3,360 yet to raise. GREAT JOB ST. PAUL'S – WE'RE ALMOST THERE!** 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.

Community Concerts/events here at St. Paul's

Together Again at Christmas: A Concert by Bay Sound Choirs

Join us **this Saturday December 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's for this fun-filled Christmas concert. Performances will be held by Bay Sound Children's Choir, Bay Sound VIVO, and Bay Sound Singers. Special Guest appearances will include Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir and Georgian Bay Ringmasters Handchime Choir. Tickets are for sale on the Bay Sound website at www.baysound.ca and at the door. Prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth and free for children age 5 and under. We hope to see everyone there!

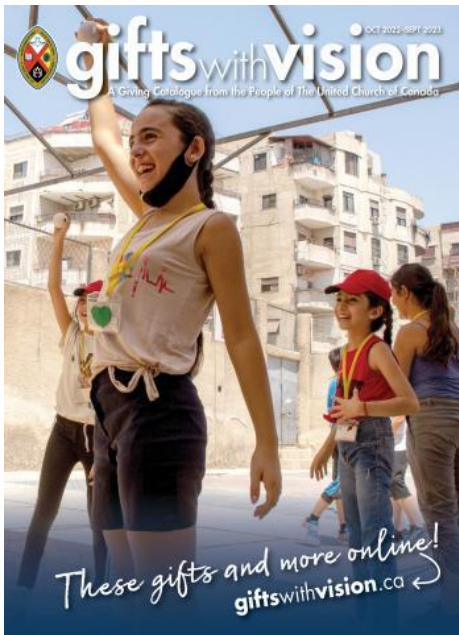
DELUXE MIDLAND is sponsoring a **"Gift of Giving" event** in the Great Hall at St. Paul's on **Thursday December 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This is an invitation **for those in need** in our community to shop free for Christmas gifts for family and friends!

Vox Community Choir: Come to the Music

Come and join us for this this uplifting Christmas concert on **Saturday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m.** It will be held at St. Paul's and doors open at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, plus a non-perishable food item donation for the Midland Salvation Army Food Bank. Students aged 16 and under have free admission. Tickets can be purchased at Johnstone's Musicland, from the VOX Choir members or at the door. This is a mask friendly event and our choir will be masked. Please wear yours, we don't want anyone's Christmas to be ruined! We hope to see everyone who can make it there.

This Week's Minute for Mission

GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS



Is there someone on your Christmas list who is hard to buy for or doesn't need yet another gadget or figurine? Do you long to sidestep the consumerist trappings of the season for something more meaningful?

Gifts with Vision—the United Church's giving catalogue—is the answer.

Gifts with Vision is full of gifts that will help transform people's lives throughout Canada and across the world. While Gifts with Vision continues to feature gifts for Ukraine and COVID-19, we have been busy adding new gifts to support people across the world who are experiencing the effects of climate change, economic instability, and war. Our primary focus is helping children, and there are several new gift

options available for children in this year's catalogue.

We have also added a new category: anti-racism. Projects in Nunavut, Guatemala, and Palestine—just to name a few—support the rights, culture, and dignity of people who experience racism daily. In addition, several gifts that have been very popular in the past, such as Operation Backpack, Help Build a Well, and A Safe Place to Heal, are returning in this year's catalogue.

And that's only the beginning!

Mindful of the environment, the print catalogue continues to be small—but there are a lot more gift choices on the Gifts with Vision website. Stories of our partners' projects are also available there.

Every Gift with Vision provides support for a specific Mission & Service partner offering a unique project. Without Mission & Service, Gifts with Vision projects would not be possible. Thank you for supporting both.

When Christmas rolls around, remember that a meaningful gift is a simple click away. If madly dashing around the mall on Christmas Eve is not your gift-buying style, kick back and relax. Gifts with Vision has you covered!

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 stpaulsunited@rogers.com
Louise works at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays only.