

From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

One of the things that I note each year are the families that arrive on Mother's Day to go with Mom or Grandma to church. It is a wonderful gift. My own mother rarely had that opportunity to go to church with me as I worked on Sunday. When we did manage to attend her church together, she always said it was a gift. It was a recognition that this was a sacred place for her, and she wanted to share it.

Every Mother's Day I am aware that some families are getting together while others have kids or parents that live far away. I know it is a time of joy and celebration as well as grief. Some grieve the death of a parent. This day reminds them of their loss. Others grieve that they did not have kind, loving or supportive parents and hence this day is awkward at best. Others say to me frequently, "she was like a mother to me" or "he was like a father to me". That speaks volumes. All of us have an opportunity to be "as family" in all the healthiest and kindest ways. Stepping in and reaching out with caring and loving hearts can make a huge difference for others. This Sunday we celebrate that all those people whose love, support and care have made and continue to make a difference in our lives.

Within our church family, we also find others who reach out and care for us. Hopefully we do the same for others. Is there dysfunction sometimes just like any family – yes there is. There is also much laughter, support and transformation in this congregation. So I thank you for these past 13 years for your encouragement and caring not just for myself and Keith but for each other as well. You folk rock!

Worship – Sunday, May 5, 2024

This Sunday is Christian Family Sunday. It is a recognition of the relationships in our lives that show us love, support and encouragement. We are also blessing the Prayer Shawls and invite you to take one or two home with you to give away to others. I want to thank all our Prayer Shawls knitters and crocheters for their wonderful gifts to be shared. Thanks also to those of you who donate wool to make this happen. Click on the link below or join us in person.



<https://youtube.com/live/aG-7oextWvk?feature=share>

St. Paul's website

Want to know what's going on 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>

Congregational Life:

101st Birthday on Sunday - we have learned that **Joan Goodfellow** has a very special birthday this coming Sunday, May 12th when she'll be 101. **Happy birthday Joan!!**



Congratulations to **Ken and Dorreen Gunson**, who will celebrate their **60th wedding anniversary** on May 15th. We wish you many more years of love and good health together.

Name Tags: Judy and Kathy are working through the directory to make sure that everyone has a **name tag**. If you have taken your tag home with you, could you return it just until we make sure that we have one for everyone so that we can avoid duplication. Thanks to everyone for your help!



Condolences:

We offer our condolences to Joanne and David Purchase on the loss of their son-in-law on Feb. 15, 2024. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers. Joanne is the first on-line adherent to be officially welcomed to St. Paul's. She has been on-line with us for coming up to seven years now. She is a member of our Worship committee and Search committee. We are a hybrid church so these meetings are all on-line as Joanne lives in another community several hours from here.

UCW Meeting:

The UCW will meet on Tuesday **May 14th at 1:30** in the Parlour. This month, our special guest will be Shaun McIntosh, our Candidate for Ministry. All ladies of the church are welcome. Next month on **June 11th**, we will have our finger food potluck luncheon! For further information, you can call Judy McConnell at 705 529-1826.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is on **Sunday May 19th**, following worship

Save the date

Karen's last Sunday at St. Paul's will be on **May 26th, 2024**. Please plan to attend the service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception in the Great Hall.

Free Books:

Each week Karen puts out more books that are free for the taking. There are a variety of books – devotionals, bibles, church history, theology, old hymnbooks, social justice and what it means to live our faith in today's world. Check them out just outside her study anytime. Help yourself.



Butter Tart Festival Fundraiser

St. Paul's will be holding a 'penny raffle' during this year's Butter Tart Festival on **June 8th**. Please consider making a donation to our prize table and/or volunteering for a couple of hours that day. If you would like to make a donation to the prize table but don't know what to offer, gift cards are a good idea. Lots of choices and you can

choose a denomination that you're comfortable with. Please contact Sheila at 705-526-2186 or by e-mail at rmsmt2612@gmail.com) for further info.

Lifelong Learning

We have received many requests for information about caregiving and navigating the health care system. In response, we will be hosting guests from the Ontario Caregivers Association and a system navigator from the Couchiching Ontario Health Team. Stay tuned for more details.

Volunteer opportunities

Lifelong Learning- are you interested in working on a team to provide interesting learning opportunities at St. Paul's? This is one of the programs that we would like to continue after Kathy's employment under the Community Service Recovery Fund ends. Let's make St. Paul's a leader in the community by continuing to offer these events. If you would like more information please reach out to Kathy at 705-529-6121.

Office Hours

The office is open on **Tues., Wed. and Thurs.** mornings from **9:00 a.m. until noon.**

This Week's Minute for Mission

Mission and Service does a surprising amount of development in your local church, recruiting new ministers and funding theological schools. It even shapes the hymn books you sing from every service. Another important way Mission and Service supports local ministry: by providing academic bursaries for students studying to become ministers and theological leaders.

"The church has a lot to offer in terms of witness to the community and supporting people who are struggling," explains the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the United Church's Executive Minister for Theological Leadership. "The money is really helpful," she says "but the other thing that is so important to students is realizing that people throughout the church cared enough to donate to Mission and Service."

The Rev. Alexa Gilmour received one of these bursaries when she was still a ministry candidate. "I was a single parent, and I knew I couldn't get through without support," Gilmour says. "I felt blessed by God through people who donated and who, by giving, encouraged me on my journey. I have tremendous gratitude for that important role the church played in my life at that time."

"Giving to [Mission and Service](#) is an opportunity to support future and current leaders. Those gifts make a significant difference." A more detailed video, [A Deeper Look: Educating the Ministers of Tomorrow](#), is available on YouTube.

Blessings everyone

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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