



St. Paul's Weekly Update – May 23, 2024

From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

These past number of weeks in the Weekly Update I have been sharing my gratitude for the work and ministry of St. Paul's United Church. Forty years ago, I could not have imagined how enriching the order of ministry would be for me in the different ministries that I have shared over the years. It has been a journey of living out Christ's call to all of us in a faith community.

These next months will be a transition time until a new minister arrives. This is the time when St. Paul's needs you the most. Please step forward to pick up some of the work that needs to be done. Call, visit, text someone who might be lonely. If someone is ill, check in on them. If you know of someone who is in hospital, email or call Shaun McIntosh. Shaun has been asked to work four hours a week doing some pastoral care and hospital visits. Shaun is available for funerals and pastoral emergencies. **Shaun's contact information is listed at the end of the weekly update.**

During this time of transition, continue to come out and worship. Some of you will be leading in worship while others will work behind the scenes. The ministry of St. Paul's continues because it is our ministry and it is shared by all. Committees and volunteers will continue to do their work and fulfill their mandates. The church is not on hold until a new minister arrives. Sue Dorion, our Chair of the Board, along with others in leadership are people you can contact if you have questions, concerns, hopes and ideas. We are blessed with such a wonderful leadership and staff. Continue to move forward trusting in God and in each other for new beginnings and a future rich with potential. Discern that future and chose to be part of it! The journey continues. Be the heart of Christ sharing the good news in thought, word and deed.

Worship – Sunday, May 26, 2024

This Sunday is my last Sunday as your minister. Keith and I know that for us goodbyes are not easy. We love the people of St. Paul's. We have been blessed in the ministry that we have shared. Our appreciation is genuine. There has been wisdom, laughter, compassion, working for justice, forgiveness and God's grace all wrapped into our journey together. Thank you. Thank you. We will miss you.

This Sunday's service will include a "**decovenating ritual**" at the very close of the service in which we intentionally seek to acknowledge that the torch is passed into other hands. The Rev. Todd MacDonald, the Personnel Minister for Shining Waters Reginal Council, will be joining us for this service. I have requested a **group photo** at the close of the service so please do not leave or go downstairs but rather come right up to the chancel so we can all have a picture of everyone to treasure. Let's laugh and cry and celebrate together. God is good. Life is good.



<https://youtube.com/live/1aJ8JPQbloQ?feature=share>

Karen's last Sunday at St. Paul's is this Sunday May 26th, 2024. Please plan to attend the service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception in the Great Hall. A group photo will be taken at the close of the service before heading down for the reception.

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>

Calling all Garden Angels – a message from Carol MacDonald & Christina Strong:



The gardens are now warm enough for the coleus that you have been nurturing over the winter. We have heard some wonderful stories about the success of your adopted coleus and how many more "slips" have been rooted. We certainly will have a colorful garden. Please bring your coleus to church **this Sunday**, May 26th or during office hours Tues. Wed. or Thurs. morning. We will be planting them sometime the following week. If you are able to help with this light planting, please call or text Carol at 705 828 2158. Many helpers create beautiful gardens. Thank you so much for your nurturing care.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering is **this Sat. May 25th at 9:00 a.m.** at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee will be on June 2nd, 2024, following worship

Butter Tart Festival Fundraiser

St. Paul's will be holding a '**loonie 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.

Bay Sound Concert

On Saturday, **June 8th at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's, Bay Sound Choirs presents "**Music Changes the World**". Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth and children under five are free. Tickets are available on their website at www.baysound.ca and will also be available at the door.



DATE CHANGE for Sundaes on Sunday



Please adjust your calendars: we will be hosting our **DK "Sundaes on Sunday" on Sunday on June 9** rather than Sunday June 23 as previously scheduled. To celebrate the friendships that have formed and all the ways we have learned and grown in faith this year, all Discovery Kids Families are invited to join us after worship on June 9th for an ice

cream celebration.

Save the date:

On **Tues., July 16th** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., we will host a **Lifelong Learning Event** at St. Paul's. Our guests from the Ontario Caregivers Organization and a Nurse Navigator from the Couchiching Ontario Health Team will share caregiving ideas and how to navigate the current healthcare system. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to learn more about caregiving and the resources available in our community. We never know when we may be called to help out a friend or a neighbour. **Please let Kathy Stewart know if you plan to attend @ volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com** or leave a message at the church office 705-526-6077.

Camp Awesome this year is from **August 12-16**. More details will follow but be sure to know it's always an AWESome time.

Volunteer Opportunity

The St. Paul's kitchen has received "Community Kitchen" approval from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. One of the requirements is for us to have some kitchen volunteers to have their Safe Food Handling certificate. We are looking for leadership volunteers to complete the online training and as we have some training funds left in our Community Service Recovery Fund, we will be able to reimburse you for the costs. We also will be planning a celebration lunch for all who complete the course. The course will take approximately eight hours to complete but can be completed over a couple of days. The link is <https://ingoodhands.ca/> from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Please contact Kathy or Zena if you have any questions. You can e-mail Kathy at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com or Zena at zenapendlebury@gmail.com

This Week's Minute for Mission

Supporting people's dignity and well-being. Being able to take a shower can have a positive impact on a person's mental and emotional health. It provides a sense of dignity, self-worth, and normalcy that contributes to overall well-being, especially to people living on the streets.



In downtown St. Catharines, ON, Silver Spire United Church's shower and laundry program is changing lives. Three mornings a week, people are offered an opportunity to refresh and recharge. The two shower rooms can be locked and each have a changing area, so patrons have space to secure their personal belongings. The laundry room next door means that after they shower people can dress in their own clean clothing. Cellphone chargers are another small but helpful detail.

This program goes beyond being a practical service. It embodies compassion, addresses fundamental needs, and provides comfort in a welcoming space. In the sweltering heat of summer, a cool shower can make a huge difference.

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) helps programs like Silver Spire's to support people's well-being. Thank you.

Blessings everyone

Minister – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, **705-433-1224**, minsucmidland@gmail.com

Pastoral Care: Shaun McIntosh **705-427-2466** spuc.studentminister@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

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and noon.