

Thank you from Karen and Keith

How do we begin to say thank you for the wonderful celebration this past Sunday? The worship was touching and the deconvenanting ritual certainly started to make goodbye more real. The choir's special anthems and the Discovery Kid's songs were great. For those in leadership and behind the scenes with the worship service, our thanks. Thank you for the group picture. To all who were involved in the luncheon thank you! We were taken aback with the "Hands and Hearts" quilt. Truly beautiful and touching with so many of you taking the time to trace your hand and write a note on the heart. The team under the direction of Gail Wilcox did a great job putting it all together. We will treasure it always.



Thanks also for your generous financial gift. To those who contributed we thank you for your kindness. Most importantly, thank you for the journey together as St. Paul's United Church. Your support, compassion, willingness to step up and pitch in whenever needed, your love of God and living the teachings of Christ have been greatly appreciated. A passion for justice for all, including the earth itself, is deeply valued. Your love and care for us has meant a lot. And so we say thanks and goodbye. We wish the congregation God's continued guidance as you journey into the future as the light of Christ. May the Spirit within you be present as you walk the talk of faith.

Blessings, from Karen and Keith

From our Official Board Chair – Sue Dorion

Well here we are at the beginning of yet another chapter of St. Paul's United Church.

Last Sunday there was a wonderful farewell/retirement celebration for Karen and Keith and I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in making this a tremendous success! From the secretive Tim's meetings (church meeting couldn't happen naturally), trip to Costco, invites sent, food prep, tables set up, clean up afterwards, etc. as well as the service/deconvenanting, DK kids involvement and group photo done ... it was a ton of work, but oh so worth it to see the look on Karen's face throughout the day!

So on that note, we now need to look to the future and what that may entail for our church family. Over the next three months our Worship Committee will have guest preachers in place and for that I am so very grateful! Our Search Team for a new minister is working diligently and I have every confidence in this committee to see it through to fruition.

Also I'd like to say a humble thank you to our wonderful team of staff who always ensure St. Paul's keeps on ticking with so many behind the scenes issues being dealt with daily along with our many volunteers stepping in often at a moment's notice. We are truly blessed to have an **outstanding St. Paul's Church Family** who will continue to support each other through this transition.

Worship – Sunday, June 2nd, 2024

Welcome to the **Rev. George Moore**, our Guest Preacher this Sunday. Join on as we celebrate Pride Sunday. If you are not able to join us in-person on Sunday morning at 10 a.m., please click on the link below and join us on-line any time.



ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
June 2, 2024 – Pride Sunday
Guest Preacher:
Rev. George Moore

<https://youtube.com/live/WbpV66BNCC8?feature=share>

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>

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. If you haven't done so yet, please bring your coleus to the church **this Sunday** or during office hours Tues. Wed. or Thurs. morning, as we are planting soon. If you are able to help with this light planting, please call or text Carol MacDonald at 705 828 2158. Many helpers create beautiful gardens. Thank you so much for your nurturing care.



In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday**, June 2nd, 2024, following worship. Sheila Thompson's team will be hosting. Sheila is also Captain of the Greeters for the month of June.

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.



Next UCW meeting

is on Tues. June 11th. We will be having a finger food potluck luncheon in the Atrium at noon. All ladies in the congregation are welcome to come. Call Judy McConnell at 705 529-1826 for more info.

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:

Lifelong Learning Event-plan to join us on Tuesday July 16th from 2-4 for our Caregiving Session. Our guest speakers are Katie MacDonald from the Ontario Caregiver Organization and Sandy Dupuis from Couchiching Family Health Team. Please see the attached poster for more information. If you are able to distribute posters, there will be some available at the side entrance table so please help yourself. Please leave a message at the church at 705-526-6077 if you plan to attend.

The UCW

is looking for help to prepare sandwiches for the Soup Kitchen for four Tuesdays during the month of August. We need to prepare eight loaves, individually cut and bagged and they need to be brought to the church by 9:00 a.m. Please call the church office at 705-526-6077 if you can assist.

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

Safe Food Handling Course- please register before the middle of June if you are interested in completing this course. It is a good idea for anyone who helps out in our community kitchen at St. Paul's. Please submit your receipt to Louise at stpaulsunited@rogers.com
The link for registration is <https://ingoodhands.ca/> from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

This Week's Minute for Mission



Young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals explore and reconcile their faith with their identity.

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

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.