

Worship – Sunday, December 1, 2024

Welcome to Pat McDonald and Shaun McIntosh, our guest preachers this 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.



Advent 1 & Communion | **Sunday, December 1, 2024**
Guest Preachers: Shaun McIntosh & Pat MacDonald

https://youtube.com/live/hSGzcQ_JRYE?feature=share

Special Advent Christmas Worship Calendar 10:00 a.m.

Advent 1 – Dec. 1st – Communion and Beat the Deficit Soup Luncheon

Advent 2 – Dec. 8th – Guest musicians: Bay Sound VIVO

Advent 3 – **Dec. 15th** Children's Musical, "We Three Spies"

Advent 4 – Dec. 22nd – Choir Cantata, "Night of the Father's Love"

Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve service, 7:00 p.m.

There is no service on Christmas Day.
We invite you to watch an earlier service online.
Join our live-stream service at
stpaulsmidland.org.



Congregational Life

This Sunday, December 1st, replacing our Social Hour, we will be having a "**Beat the Deficit Soup Luncheon**", as well as **decorating the Christmas**

tree. Come and share a meal of homemade soup, bread, crackers, veggies and ice cream treats, then help decorate our 16'

Christmas Tree. Your free-will donation will be used to help off-set St. Paul's 2024 deficit.



Outreach

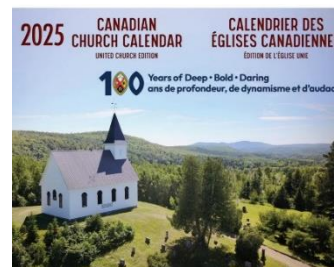
This Saturday, November 30th is the annual **Midland's Santa Claus Parade**. The St. Paul's Outreach Committee is serving free hot chocolate to the crowd in front of the church. **We need volunteers for 10:00 a.m.** to help set up tables, carry out water, fill cups with hot chocolate etc. If you can help, please contact Lois McQuirter, 705 526-6854. Come join the fun!

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is **this Saturday, November 30th at 9:00 a.m.** at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

Fundraising

Getting a head start on Christmas? A great way to support St. Paul's and have a great stocking stuffer is by purchasing a calendar celebrating the United Church of Canada Centennial! With only limited number that we could get our hands on, get them while they're hot at just \$20 each! See Sharon Foster or Sue Dorion at church or contact them by email sharonfoster000@gmail.com or sues0703@gmail.com



Congregational Life

It is with sadness that we mourn the death of Joseph Faragher. The funeral will be held on **Monday, December 2nd at 11:00 a.m.** at St. Paul's. Visitation will start at **10:00 a.m.** A light lunch will be provided following the service. The service will be live streamed so if you are unable to join in person, you can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/live/97o5JvLv6J8>. Joe was much loved. He was the brother of Lenore Price, brother-in-law to Ivan Price. He was a compassionate man who was committed to his family, his community and his faith. You can view the obituary at <https://www.echovita.com/ca/obituaries/on/midland/joseph-faragher-18933304>

A message from the Minister Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Kirsty Committee would like to thank the 14 people who have volunteered to host small group gatherings beginning in the last week of January 2025 and continuing throughout February. Hosts have a list of people that they will be contacting, including those who have indicated their wish to join group and others who have been identified by the hosts themselves or the welcoming committee. Dates and times for these gatherings should be available during the coming week.

If you have not indicated your interest in joining a group, or have not yet been contacted by a host, please contact Louise Leck. If you would be willing to host a group, please contact Louise as well at: 705-526-6389 or 705-528-4951 or louise.leck@gmail.com. It seems that Kirsty will be well and truly welcomed to St. Paul's!



Automated External Defibrillator training

We now have eight people who have volunteered to take the two-hour AED course, and a training date has been set for **Friday, January 17th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Upper Room. There is still room for participants to join, so if you're interested, please contact the church office with by phone or by e-mail.

Faith Formation

We are looking for folks who have something to share for videos that are being prepared for Christmas services. Do you have a photo of wildlife or the local area in winter? Or perhaps you could share a brief written reflection on why the birth of Christ is important to you in these times. If so, please email dkygstpauls@gmail.com by December 8th.

The next **Adult Social will be on Wednesday, December 4th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the Great Hall kitchen. We will bake cookies, decorate them and then eat them with a glass of milk! All guys, gals and in-between pals are welcome. Speak to Faith Formation for more information.

DK Open Gym returns for the fall and winter!

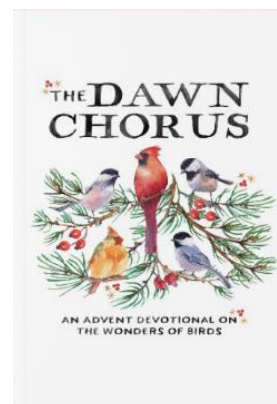
Next date is December 13th from 6:00 to -8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Drop-in after dinner and let the kids free play in the gym while you hang out with other parents or just sit and watch while they play. We will have a self-serve light snack and water station.

Collecting interest for a Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to Rebecca about interest in a Youth Group. Faith Formation is happy to report that a Junior Youth Group (grades 4-8) will kickstart in the new year! Stay tuned for more details and speak to Rebecca if you have any questions.

Advent devotional

Faith Formation is offering an opportunity to participate in an Advent Devotional either in a group or in your own reflective time. The theme is A Dawn Chorus - Songbirds know a thing or two about singing into darkness: in the wee hours of the morning, before the sun appears over the horizon, they begin a great symphony that scientists call the "dawn chorus." Advent is the church's dawn chorus. In this devotional designed for families of all shapes and sizes, we walk with scripture through the season's four weeks of hope, peace, joy, and love, singing into shadows and looking to the light.



The study group will take place on Thursdays from November 28th to December 19th from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Parlour. If you're interested, please RSVP to Victoria Tovell.

UCW notes and news

The UCW will be having their **annual Christmas potluck luncheon** on Tuesday, December 10th at noon. All the women of the congregation are welcome!

Helping those in need: Thank you to everyone who has already contributed much needed items for the Guesthouse Shelter. The staff and residents are grateful for the generosity of the St. Paul's congregation. The boxes will remain in the Utility Room off the Atrium so we can continue to collect for our neighbours. Items needed include non-perishable food/pantry items as well as personal items such as socks, underwear, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste etc.

Upcoming concerts at St. Paul's

The Bay Sound Choirs and the Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir present "Angels Sing", on **Sunday December 1st at 3:00 p.m.** here at St. Paul's. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth and under five is free. Tickets are available on their website at www.baysound.ca and will also be available at the door.



Vox Community Choir presents "Love Came Down at Christmas" on **Saturday, December 14th, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.** Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and seniors, kids ages 16

and under are free. Tickets are available at Johnstone's Music Land, from VOX members and will also be available at the door.



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>

Office Hours

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with Judy in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Louise is in the office on Wednesday mornings. The balance of the time, Louise works from home so you can reach her by phone any time between 8:30 and 4:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

This Week's Minute for Mission



Helping children and communities grow

Becoming a new parent can be overwhelming, with the constant demands of caring for a newborn, sleepless nights, and the pressure to make the right choices for your child. The exhaustion and balancing daily responsibilities while navigating the unknowns of parenthood often leaves new parents feeling unsure and isolated. It's a time filled with great joy, but also uncertainty, as parents adjust to their new roles and work to create a safe and nurturing environment for their little one.

At Fairview Resource Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the New Parents Support group aims to walk with parents as they navigate the complexities of raising a newborn. Once a week, parents gather to meet with a public health nurse who provides education and answers questions. From expectant parents to those with babies up to 18 months, the program provides resources for those who might not otherwise have access to in-person support or resources.

Parents connect not only with health professionals, but form deep bonds with each other, and some are still in contact many years later. Many of us have heard that "it takes a village to raise a child," and Fairview Resource Centre is truly taking action to give a positive space for children in the community to flourish. Thank you for walking alongside our Mission and Service partners as they help children and communities grow.

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