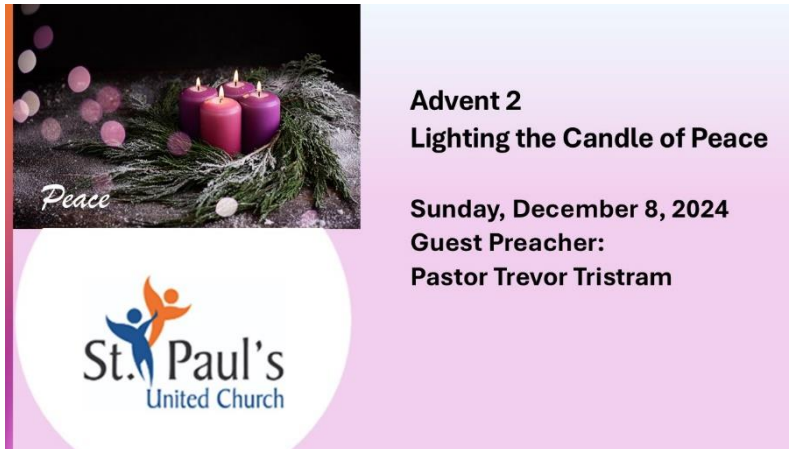


Worship – Sunday, December 8, 2024

Welcome to Pastor Trevor Tristram, our guest minister 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 2
Lighting the Candle of Peace

Sunday, December 8, 2024
Guest Preacher:
Pastor Trevor Tristram

<https://youtube.com/live/HXOaoGzvKw8?feature=share>

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

- 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.



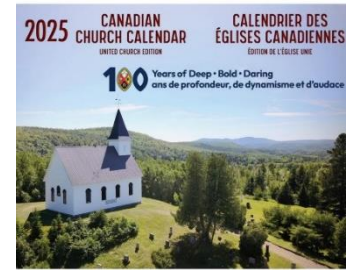
Foodgrains Campaign

With all of your generous donations, this year we raised **\$8,965**. At last week's Official Board meeting, matching of \$2,500 was approved, bringing our total to **\$11,465**. Our donations will also be matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government.
Great job St. Paul's!

Fundraising

Thank you so much everyone for making our **Beat the Deficit luncheon** last Sunday so successful! Despite the weather (and a broken elevator) almost everyone who attended worship came down for some hot soup, fellowship and to watch the young folks raise and decorate the Christmas tree. Our donations to reduce the projected deficit exceeded \$2,000!

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 mail sharonfoster000@gmail.com or sues0703@gmail.com



Congregational Life

HELP! The St. Paul's greeter/ushering teams have lost a number of volunteers and are looking for new folks to help with this important job in our church. There are currently three teams (we would love to have four), who commit to one month at a time. They greet folks at the door with a friendly smile and collect the offering. Please consider this as a way to support St. Paul's. Please reach out to Sheila Thompson if you're interested.

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 by phone or by e-mail.

Faith Formation

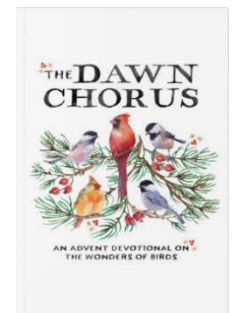
We are looking for folks who have something to share for videos that are being prepared for Christmas services. Do you have a photo of wildlife or the local area in winter? Or perhaps you could share a brief written reflection on why the birth of Christ is important to you in these times. If so, please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

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.

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. **The study group is taking 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. The ladies are asked to bring toiletries and/or feminine hygiene products for the less fortunate. 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 concert at St. Paul's

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



With your support, we can change lives.

This past year, Wesley supported over 1,000 newcomers from Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and other countries. This is the story of one family of refugees.

Christine is a courageous and resilient mother who has been through unspeakable danger and sorrow to ensure the safety and success of her family. Christine, her children, and her grandchildren can teach us about self-sacrifice, endurance, and dedication to those we love. Initially from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Christine and her family fled to a refugee camp in Zimbabwe after a violent attack in their village. They lived through deplorable conditions and danger for ten years before finally being granted asylum in Canada.

When Christine and her family arrived in Canada, they were exhausted and emotionally drained from their long journey and years of unrest. Their first stop was Wesley's Newcomer Reception Centre, where they found support from Wesley staff and a comfortable place to rest. With the help of Wesley's programs and services, the family is rebuilding their lives in the Hamilton region. Christine's dream for her children and grandchildren is to have a safe and bright future filled with opportunities. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Wesley can provide supportive programs to newcomers, those experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health barriers, and local families experiencing poverty. With your support of [Mission and Service](#), we can change lives.

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