

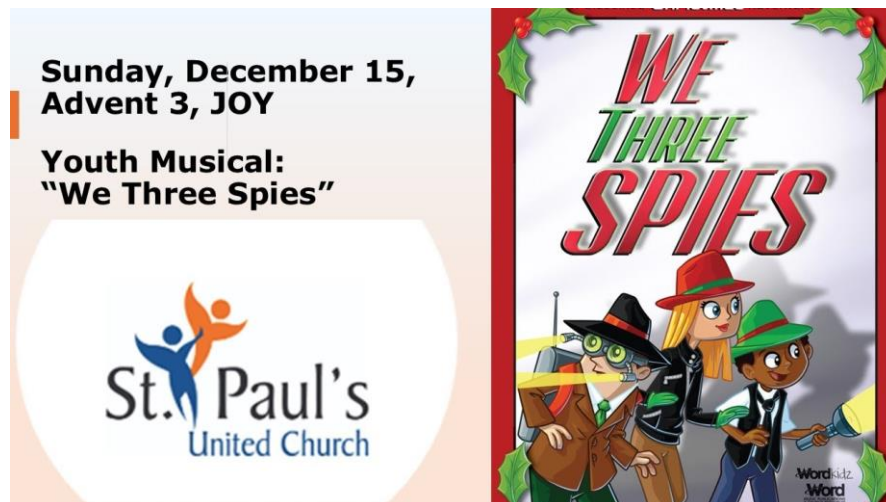
### Worship – Sunday, December 15, 2024 Children's Christmas Musical

As the musical opens, we meet the "Christmas Intelligence Kids" (CIK), a covert group of ordinary kids who go undercover every Christmas season to secretly bring holiday cheer to those around them.

Under false pretenses, a wealthy client, Ms. Harriet (pronounced Harret) King, hires the CIK sleuths to infiltrate a warehouse that she owns at 2000 Bethlehem Way. The three spies, Agents E, L and F, scout the location and find a cast and crew preparing for a Nativity play. When some of the actors fall ill, the three spies are cast in the roles of the three wise men in the Nativity. Ms. King, who discloses she doesn't like Christmas, is intent on destroying all celebrations of Christ's birth, including community outreach providing gifts for families in need. The three spies don't realize Ms. King's despicable intentions until too late. When the three spies report their classified findings back to base operations, they inadvertently put the Christmas Nativity play, as well as the community outreach, in jeopardy. With glee, Ms. King shuts down the Nativity play.

Much to Ms. King's surprise, Ms. Maple and her Nativity cast and crew teach the three spies that God is in control and is bigger than any obstacle that Ms. King can put in their way. The believers present the truth of God's greatest gift – the Gift who was born in a manger without any props, sets or presents.

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.



<https://youtube.com/live/Qfu1ccjSbnk?feature=share>

### Special Advent Christmas Worship Calendar

10:00 a.m.

**Advent 4** – Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Choir Cantata, “Night of the Father’s Love”

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** - 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](http://stpaulsmidland.org).



### Congregational life

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Shirley Dixon**, who passed away on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shirley and her late husband, Morris Steffler, were very involved in the life of St. Paul's. Shirley is also the sister of Marilyn Broome. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

**HELP!** The St. Paul's greeter/ushering teams 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### A message from your Stewardship Committee

Below is the financial status for St. Paul's United Church as of the end of November 2024. We are grateful to all of you who have generously contributed to St. Paul's to help us meet our ongoing operating expenses. With your continued financial support, we can turn this deficit into a surplus before December 31st.

#### **Financial status as of the end of November 2024:**

Total Income: \$227,941

Total Expenses: \$241,812

Deficit: **(\$13,871)**

**As in past years, the deadline for year-end donations this year is noon on Dec. 27th** for personal tax savings in 2024. Although the office will be closed, the mailbox will be checked daily.

## Fundraising

**United Church Calendars:** 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](mailto:sharonfoster000@gmail.com) or [sues0703@gmail.com](mailto:sues0703@gmail.com)

**Fundraising dinner on February 8, 2025:** We are looking for volunteers who would like to help with this event. A planning meeting will be held in the Great Hall **this Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.** We're also looking for entertainers for our event (guitarists, singers, pianists, poets). If you can't attend the meeting but would like to help, please **contact Juli Robitaille at [julifong8022@gmail.com](mailto:julifong8022@gmail.com) or call 705-279-3334.**

## Faith Formation

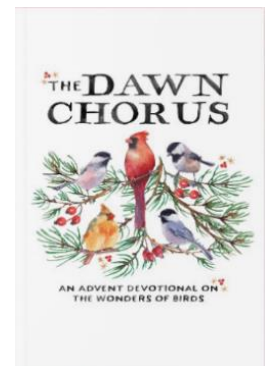
We are looking for folks who have something to share for videos that are being prepared for Christmas services. Do you have a photo of wildlife or the local area in winter? Or perhaps you could share a brief written reflection on why the birth of Christ is important to you in these times. If so, please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

## **DK Open Gym**

Next date is this Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

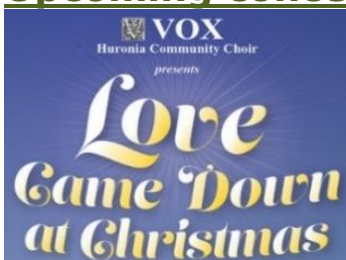
Faith Formation is offering an opportunity to participate in an Advent Devotional either in a group or in your own reflective time. The theme is A Dawn Chorus. **The study group is taking place on Thursdays from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Parlour.** If you're interested, please RSVP to Victoria Tovell.



## UCW notes and news

**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" **this Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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**



Give meaningful gifts that transform lives.

It's almost Christmas, and time seems to really fly at this time of year. If you still have someone on your list, instead of searching "last-minute gift ideas," why not try Gifts with Vision?

With Gifts with Vision, you can give meaningful gifts without the stress of packaging or last-minute mall dashes. Every gift helps transform lives across Canada and around the world. With gifts in categories such as addressing poverty and hunger, healing and reconciliation, and education, there is truly something for everyone.

Each Gift with Vision supports a unique Mission and Service project that wouldn't be possible without your help. So, this Christmas, skip the rush—[Gifts with Vision](#) is just a click away!

## **Blessings everyone**

**Pastoral Care:** Shaun McIntosh **705-427-2466** [spuc.studentminister@gmail.com](mailto:spuc.studentminister@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church), [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto: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](mailto:officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com) 705-526-6077