



St. Paul's Weekly Update – January 9, 2025

Worship – Sunday, January 12, 2025

Welcome to Fran Hill, our Guest Preacher 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.



<https://youtube.com/live/-0hEh8YWcPU?feature=share>



We are very excited that our new minister, the Rev. Kirsty Hunter, will be joining us next Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Rev. Hunter is a graduate of both Emmanuel College University of Toronto (Master of Divinity) and the University of Calgary (Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology). Kirsty brings 17 years ministerial experience, having served at Knox (Sutton) Pastoral Charge/Virginia Pastoral Charge, Minesing United Church Pastoral Charge and as Youth Minister at Holly United Church Mission. Rev. Hunter has ministered congregations through change and transformation, including becoming an Affirming Congregation. She is committed to the United Church's mission, values and theology including demonstrating this at the congregation level and the regional council. Her interest in and aptitude for outreach and social justice will compliment a vision for growing together in faith.

Meetings and gatherings have been set up throughout January and February 2025 by our Minister Welcoming Committee to help welcome Rev. Kirsty Hunter to St. Paul's.

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.

The Connections Group will resume this Thursday, January 9th at 2:00 p.m. Anyone wishing coffee and informal conversation is welcome to drop in!

Automated External Defibrillator training

We still have space available for the two-hour AED course being held on **Friday, January 17th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** please contact the church office if you're interested in joining.

Faith Formation

Next date for our **DK open gym is January 10, 2025**, 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.

Official Board Meeting –

All Board members please mark Tuesday, January 28th 7:00 p.m. on your calendar for in-person/zoom meeting and submit reports to Louise Therrien asap.

Congregational Life

Rick and Gabriela Dell are the proud grandparents of a grandson, Kurt Dell, born on December 30, 2024. Congratulations to all!

Fundraising

United Church Calendars: We still have some United Church of Canada Centennial calendars available for sale at \$20 each. See Sharon Foster or Sue Dorion at church or contact them by mail sharonfoster000@gmail.com or sues0703@gmail.com

Fundraising dinner on February 8, 2025: Tickets for the dinner are now available on Sundays after church or from the church office between Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to noon. Our stay-at-home faithfuls are welcome to purchase tickets as well and we will deliver meals to them between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. on the 8th.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help with this event as well as entertainers for the event (guitarists, singers, pianists, poets). If you help, please contact Juli Robitaille at julifong8022@gmail.com or call **705-279-3334**. **If you can help with ticket sales after Sunday service, please reach out to Julie.**

UCW notes and news

The UCW will not hold their regular monthly meeting in January, but will resume on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

The UCW executive will hold their meeting on Tuesday January 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Helping those in need: Thank you to everyone who has already contributed much needed items for the Guesthouse Shelter. 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.

From Compassion to Action

In early November, a group of local Rotarians and friends travelled to Nairobi, Kenya to visit "Life4Kids", a home for homeless and abandoned boys. Local Rotary Clubs and local residents have been compassionately supporting the home for years. Now the group was actually visiting the home and undertaking projects to enhance the boys' lives.

On Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m., you'll have an opportunity to hear stories from the travellers: stories about abandoned little boys living along in the slums in fear and deprivation; stories about how a dedicated staff and fearless leader in Kenya, with the support of donors in Canada, are inspiring these forgotten children to be future leaders of Africa. **Meet the travellers and hear their stories in Rotary Hall at the Midland Cultural Centre. Registration is free.**

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>

This Week's Minute for Mission

Support youth as they inspire communities and engage in leadership.

"I want The United Church of Canada to continue the policies as well as the vision and the actions that make our slogan 'Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, and Deep Spirituality' truly mean something."



These are words from Matthew Tyhurst, one of The United Church of Canada's Youth Forum Leadership Animators. More of Matthew's thoughts on the United Church's Centennial can be found on [YouTube](#).

In July 2024, Matthew was one of eight passionate youth from across Canada who gathered in Calgary. Together, they worked to lay the foundation for 100 young people under the age of 30 to attend The United Church of Canada's General Council 45 in 2025, coinciding with the church's Centennial commemorations.

The group of talented and diverse youth are committed to developing leadership among their peers. After their time in Calgary, they returned to their local communities and regions to work on learning goals and projects for four weeks but remain engaged throughout the year. The group focused on building leadership and guiding their peers as they explore their roles in the church. Their placements in local and regional communities are designed to help them grow and prepare for the future.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) support youth as they inspire communities and engage in leadership. Thank you.

Blessings everyone

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