



St. Paul's Weekly Update – January 30, 2025

Minister's Message, Sunday, February 2, 2025

February is Black History Month. It is an opportunity to reflect on our past and dream of shaping a future where all are welcome in Beloved Community.

As followers of Jesus, we remember the calling of the disciples and the way they were asked to simply set aside their lives and take up a whole new way of being. We recall that Jesus reached out beyond cultural barriers and physical boundaries. We hear the prophetic voices crying out for all.

It can be hard to do this. We must be ready to face the reality of violence, pain, and injustice. We must be honest about what has and has not changed. We must be brave to dream of a new way of being. And we must be strong to commit ourselves to changing the world.

It is also easy to do. Because a world where everyone is beloved and embraced in a warm welcome is a joy to consider. Our children and grandchildren living in a time where all gifts are supported and celebrated is a hope worth working towards. The Apostle Paul wrote, "now I see through a glass darkly, then face to face." (1 Cor 13:12) We do not know what will happen. We know that if we trust in God, it will be good.



<https://youtube.com/live/5YOtIKKvNUE?feature=share>

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.

Pastoral care:

For Pastoral Care, please contact Rev Kirsty Hunter at 705 717-1918. She wants to know if you are in hospital and seeking a visit from her. You can email her at revkirsty@gmail.com.

The Connections Group meets every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the Atrium. Anyone wishing coffee and informal conversation is welcome to drop in!

Congregational Life

Our **greeter/ushering teams** are looking for help with this important job. Currently we have three teams and we'd love to have four. The commitment is for one month at a time. Greet folks at the door with a friendly smile and collect the offering. Please consider this as a way to support St. Paul's. Interested or have more questions? Speak to Sheila Thompson.

Would any of our members or friends appreciate a **friendly visit or phone call** or be interested in making those friendly visits or phone calls? Contact Sheila at 705-526-2186 for further info.

Coffee Hour: Our next **coffee hour is this Sunday**, February 2nd, 2025. Sheila Thompson's team will be hosting.

Joan Lavin is Captain of the Greeters for the month of February.

Faith Formation

The next Adult Social is next Wednesday, February 5th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meet in the Great Hall to hang out, listen to music and make some simple decorations for the St. Paul's February 8th fundraising dinner. Open Gym is cancelled for February due to set up for the fundraising dinner.

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 – selling out fast! Come out in celebration of Love and Friendship on Saturday February 8th. A chef inspired five-course meal will be served alongside live entertainers in the Great Hall or the meal can be delivered to your door! Adult tickets are \$45 Children \$15. Purchase your tickets through the church office or after service. Any questions please call Juli Robitaille 705-279-3334.

Women's Grief Support Group

We will be offering a grief support group for women who have had a partner pass away. This group will meet weekly starting Wednesday March 5th to Wednesday April 30th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Room of Requirement. This is a time to support and comfort each other. Please contact our facilitators Sandra Flint at 705-529-6462 or Linda Fong at 705-209-8284.

The Talent Auction is coming back! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26th for this fundraising event. The committee is asking for donations of knitting, crocheting, baking, preserves, sewing, dinners, gardening and we could go on and on. These items will be auctioned off and all money raised will go to support the work of the church. For more information, please contact Gail Wilcox at 705-526-6368.



Outreach

St. Paul's is once again participating in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk. Please also consider joining our fundraising efforts for the Guesthouse Shelter. To sign up to walk or donate to the St. Paul's Team visit:

<https://cnoy.w-ith.me/StpaulsunitedMidland>



NEW! Stock Exchange

To fund our Outreach Efforts, the committee volunteers who are also safe food handlers are making nutritious soups in our inspected kitchen for you, the congregation! **The soups will be available at Coffee Hour this Sunday** - 1/2 L containers \$6 each or two for \$10. If you are an *At Home Faithful* and would like to inquire about purchasing soup for delivery, please contact stpaulsunitedchurchoutreach@gmail.com

UCW notes and news

The next UCW is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

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.

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

English language classes are part of a psychosocial support program in Ukraine

Signing up for a course is both exciting and nerve-wracking.

In Sambir, Ukraine, English teacher Ilona, who was displaced by the conflict in Ukraine, is encouraging her learners to challenge that way of thinking and enjoy the aspect of social time with one another while learning English. This class, supported by Mission and Service partner ACT Alliance, is part of a psychosocial support program for Ukrainians displaced by war.

In-person learning expands opportunities and access while also providing crucial social engagement and human interaction. As Ilona says "When we come together and get to know each other, we have a community. We can open up and share our thoughts, feelings, and experiences." In a low-pressure learning environment, students can feel comfortable as they learn skills and learn about each other. Thank you for the support you show to through [Mission and Service](#) as our neighbours endure the ongoing impacts of war and conflict.

Blessings everyone

Minister: Rev. Kirsty Hunter, **705-717-1918** revkirsty@gmail.com

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