



St. Paul's Weekly Update – February 6, 2025

Minister's Message, Sunday, February 9, 2025

As we celebrate Black History Month today, there is an invitation to reflect on the fact that history, especially personal history, has been deliberately erased or obscured. Black History Month is about finding it again. The reflection below is about ancestry. It starts with the stark reality of what enslavement meant for people. It cut them off from family, communities, and culture. And yet there has been resilience. This hopeful reflection encourages us all to reckon with the difficult past, to recognize the harm done. And then look forward, to the strength and beauty of the diaspora. We are invited to celebrate and honour the creation of a new family.



**Holy
Wholly
Loved**

February 9, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/UI6IZQjOGws?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.

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

Coffee Hour: Our next coffee hour will be on **Sunday**, February 16th, 2025.
Joan Lavin is Captain of the Greeters for the month of February.

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. All money raised will go to support the work of the church. For more information, please contact Gail Wilcox at 705-526-6368.



Outreach



Coldest Night of the Year - bundle up for the Coldest Night of the Year, a winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk for charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community. Please join or support our St. Paul's Team!

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026483&langPref=en-CA>

Stock Exchange

Our first soup sale was a success! We sold out and raised \$180 towards our outreach efforts such as preparing meals for the Guesthouse, life-long learning events and more. We will offer this again during the first coffee hour in March -with more soup. **Thank you for your support!**

Pause for Peace

The outreach committee will be hosting the **Pause for Peace** event again this year on Wednesday February 19th and February 26th, anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Invite your friends/community to join us as we spread the message of peace. It is an opportunity to come and sit quietly, light a candle, make a craft for kids, hang a symbolic dove as we collectively take a moment to promote peace in our communities, within ourselves, our families and the world around us. Share a prayer or whatever has meaning to you for peace.

How can you help? We need some volunteers-ambassadors to greet/welcome visitors make cookies, attend to show your support. You can distribute the flyers in our community (available on the desk outside the office). If you can help reach out to Carol MacDonald (g.c.macdonald8@gmail.com) or Kathy Stewart (kathy.stewart@sympatico.ca).

UCW notes and news

The next UCW meeting 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

Training helps farmers find stability and hope for the future.



In the rugged hills of India's Badabasko village, Jaiprakash Paharia, a determined 60-year-old farmer and his wife, Rami Paharin, have battled against nature's odds. Their land, stony and dependent on increasingly unpredictable rains, yielded meagre crops of maize, cowpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum each year. Their family had literally hit rock bottom.

Faced with declining harvests, they turned to goat rearing in search of a more sustainable livelihood. Left with no other choice, Jaiprakash invested all he had in what seemed to be a promising venture. However, these efforts were marred by heartbreaking losses. Year after year, diseases claimed up to 20 of their precious goats, threatening their hope for a steady future once again.

As they were counting their losses, through Mission and Service partner Canadian Foodgrains Bank, member Tearfund Canada brought life-changing support to their village through The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR). The project team provided thorough training on livestock management practices and taught about essential deworming and vaccinations to best sustain livestock.

Jaiprakash was skeptical at first about giving these treatments to his goats. However, as he learned how they could safeguard his livestock's health, he took on these practices graciously and achieved transformative results. For the first time since they had started keeping livestock, their goats remained healthy throughout the season, with zero losses!

Jaiprakash and his family are endlessly thankful to Tearfund Canada and EFICOR for their radical support. Their training not only improved the health and well-being of their livestock but also equipped them with the tools and understanding to sustain themselves through future adversity.

Thank you for supporting our [Mission and Service partners](#) and people around the world, as they walk toward a more sustainable future.

Blessings everyone

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