



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**March 12, 2017**

*Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.  
 The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead.*

**WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME:** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights vs.1&2 #108 Voices United  
**LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome! Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

We come together today, with open hearts and open minds.

**In this place, God's Spirit is with us.**

**In this place, we listen and learn.**

**In this place, we become conscious of the multitude of blessings we have been offered.**

We accept the gifts given to us with glad hearts.

**Thanks be to God.**

**WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The candle is lit, a simple flame, a symbol of so much more.

**May its light reach through our busy days and nights, reminding us that we are a part of something much larger than ourselves.**

As the flame comes to life, let us take a moment to remind ourselves of the vastness of our Father's love, the complexity of our Creator's plan and the many blessings that the Spirit bestows on our hearts. *(Silence.)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

I bless Thee, O Father, for all the seemingly ordinary things –

**A cup of tea at rising;**

**A letter through the post;**

**A bunch of flowers in a vase.**

I would not take for granted any gift which brings me joy –

**Health and strength and good food;**

**A walk with another in the sunshine;**

**A favorite book passed on by a friend.**

*(Adapted from "Ordinary Things" by Rita Snowden)*

Honored by the unending list of Your gifts, we begin again to articulate our gratitude with the words You have taught us:

**JUST A REMINDER...**



For those parents with small children, please be reminded there is a nursery available when your children need more room to run around, or are upset and inconsolable. The nursery is conveniently just down the hall across from the Friendship Room.

**Parents** – If your children are using the nursery, please tidy it up before leaving.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Line Dancing in the Basement Each Friday**  
 Parking lot door open 6:30 - dancing 7-9 pm - cost \$5.00
- **Council meeting March 21 @ 6pm**



This month we would like to make sure we recognize and celebrate the following people having birthdays this month.....

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Hofmeister; 10<sup>th</sup> – Gord Waldie; 12<sup>th</sup> - Laurie Anderson;  
 15<sup>th</sup> - Karen Scott; 22<sup>nd</sup> - Tanya Ayre; 25<sup>th</sup> - Alec Brown; 27<sup>th</sup> - Blake Brown  
 27<sup>th</sup> - Mason White; 28<sup>th</sup> - Kaitlynn Brown

**Scoff and Schuffle** - A huge thank you to Everyone at St. Paul's for the wonderful support for our East-coast event. We advertised, printed tickets, prepared food, decorated, donated silent auction items, set out silent auction, Welcomed visitors, hosted the dinner, had entertainment and cleaned and tidied the spaces when all was said and done. We shared the leftover food with people in need. During all of that we also had fun, visited and laughed! There were major players and minor players but so many people played it was fantastic! Thanks to all of you for the part you played now put your feet up for a little while but not so long you forget how good this feels! Yes we did make a financial profit of \$4054.39 after expenses but even better we profited each other by working and playing together. Luvs Ya b'ys! Sherry and Neil Alstad

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymn: This Is God's Wondrous World

# 296 Voices United

**WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:**  
A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Creator God, Your many gifts surround us. In the air we breathe, in the food we eat, in the places we call home, Your hand is at work.

**You have given us so much.**

We wonder at Your generosity. Amidst our trinkets and treasures, our business and hurried days, we forget to acknowledge the bounty of blessings all around us.

**Sometimes, we admit that our 'forgetfulness' is intentional.**

There are times, many times, when we do not believe we are worthy of Your gifts. How could we deserve the wonders that Your will provides?

**We are only human, after all.**

But God, deep in our hearts we know that You love us as Your children. Beneath the doubt, beneath the fear, we remember that You provide all that is needed for the flowers of the valleys, the bees in the air and all creatures throughout the Universe. All Your creation is worthy of Your blessings.

**And so, You say, are we.**

Hymn: Grateful

#182 More Voices

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:19-34

SILENCE Trusting that God is at work in our midst, we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls.

MESSAGE *Simply Grateful*

Hymn: Simple Gifts

(2X)

#353 Voices United

**WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND PREPARE FOR MINISTRY IN THE**  
**WORLD**

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute:

The Invitation:

Dedication: Give what you can, Take what you need *Words&Music-Bryan Cook*

Give what you can,  
Take what you need.

For the body of Christ, is enough to feed.

The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love.

Give thanks when you can to our God up above.

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

#556 Voices United

COMMISSIONING

For our time together today,

**We give thanks.**

For the lessons we have learned,

**We give thanks.**

For the multitude of blessings bestowed upon us,

**We give thanks.**

For the unlimited opportunities laid out before us,

**We give thanks.**

We go now, excited to share our blessings with others.

Sung Benediction: I Wish You the Blessing

I wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,

Friends to support you, challenge to stir you,

Songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,

Tears to release you, laughter to heal you,

Love to nurture your soul.

POSTLUDE

(2X)

# Announcements

Ministry by: *The Congregation*

Enabling Minister: *Rev. Gord Waldie* Church Office: *Carla Johnson*

Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)

Sunday School: *Holly Loughead*

Youth Ministry: *Janis Schau-Steinke*

Music Director: *Alison White.*

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*If you have a prayer request, please write it down in our prayer book on the table at the entrance into worship. Your needs will be added to our community prayer.*

*Thank you*

*If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person. You may be their "angel!"*

**We are grateful to our many volunteers that assist us with worship  
Sunday mornings.**

**This week we thank:**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Brenda Stouffer

**Candle lighter:**

**Scripture Reader:** Lorena Ramsankar

**Coffee:** Brenda Stouffer

## Church Office Hours!

Our Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

\*the Office is closed during the lunch hour.

**Please join us for a Wedding Shower for Amanda Alstad as we celebrate her upcoming marriage to Mike Bannister.**

The shower will take place on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Friendship Room at St Paul's United Church. If you are able to attend please RSVP to Beryl Alstad at 780-830-7242. We hope to see you there.

**The first Sunday of each month** there is a second offering that is dedicated to local outreach. **This month from February 1-24 we gave out 9 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$750.00 from** our local outreach fund. The food bank is experiencing a shortage; consider bringing a non-perishable food donation. Thank you for your continued support!

**We are in need of Scripture Readers and Door Greeters every Sunday.** Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help during the worship services.

**Church Garage Sale** May 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 Please save the date and start collecting your Household treasures for the garage sale

## **Labyrinth Walks**

*Please join us for meditation*

*an inward journey on a sacred path.. 7:00 pm*

March 26, April 30 and May 28.

**Would anyone be interested in a Sunday morning Walk before Sunday worship services? Please contact Marge Riley or the Church office.**

**At St. Paul's We Are So Fortunate** To Have A Church That Is Busy And Full Of Life PLEASE Be Sure To Check with Carla In The Church Office Before You Expect A Room Will Be Free For Your Use. Rooms Booked With Carla In The Office Will Have First Priority.

## **ATTENTION ALL HOUSEHOLDS**

**Have you joined St. Paul's Recyclable program yet?**

St. Paul's has an easy fund raiser to help with the Church renovations. All you need to do is bag up all your empty bottles, cans and milk jugs and put our **church id # 1468-2415** visible on each bag and drop them off at the bottle depot on Resources Road and before you leave, check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags/boxes on bottles/can you dropped off.

**Offering Envelopes** - Making your donation using a set of offering envelopes is the easiest way to ensure you receive a tax receipt for your givings. If you don't have a set of offering envelopes, and would like some, please contact Carla in the church office. Also please make sure you have envelope # on your givings so it can be record to the correct person.

## **Moved?? New to the Church??**

If you have moved, or you are new to the Church, please stop by the church office or send Carla a quick email ([secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!

**New to the church?** Want a photo directory? See Carla in the church office to buy your copy for \$15.00

The youth group will be collecting blessing bag items.  
 Please round up any items you may have that fit into the list below.  
 We will be packing these bags on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
 Drop off box is in the foyer. Thanks!

» « Blessing Backpack Checklist

<p><b>BASICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie {hat}</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gloves</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scarf</li> </ul> <p><b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nuts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards</li> </ul> <p><b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Journal &amp; pen</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stationary</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stamps</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card</li> </ul>	<p><b>TOILETRIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Comb</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush &amp; tooth paste</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit</li> </ul> <p><b>SURVIVAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool</li> </ul> <p><b>TREATS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Candy {individually wrapped}</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mints</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum</li> </ul> <p><b>SPLURGE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag</li> </ul>
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[HomeSweetRoad.com](http://HomeSweetRoad.com)

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