



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
March 26, 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

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

In this Lenten season of reflection and preparation,

we gather for worship

In this Lenten time of reflection and preparation,

we ask each other who God is calling us to be,

we ask what God is calling us to do,

we ask

As we gather as a community of faith and love, we greet our neighbours with signs of love and peace...

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this Candle to light our way as we journey to Jerusalem, the cross, and the tomb.

May it's light strengthen us where the road is hard, embolden us when our hearts lose courage, and bring hope as the road grows dark.

As God's light fills our souls we center ourselves for worship

OPENING PRAYER (by Rev David Sparks)

A love that will not let us go,

You have declared the height, breadth, and depth of your love in Jesus Christ:

A love that searches out the lost and rejected,

A love that brings wholeness and healing,

A love that is not satisfied with half-truths or evasion,

A love that confronts evil and injustice head on,

A love that accepts the despised and unlovely,

A love that stayed faithful to you, O most loving God, all the way to the Cross.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

#574 Voices United



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

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

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.

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) 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

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.

Vacation Bible School

July 10-14

9am-12pm (more info to follow)

To volunteer, please contact Holly at 780-933-9937

WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION/ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, there are times when we lose our way on the journey of life.

Days when we simply get confused which way we should go and make a poor choice.

God there are times when we intentionally leave the Way you would have us follow.

Days when we turn our back on the wisdom you offer. Days when we demand our entitlement and use it for our own selfish pleasures and purposes.

God, there are times when find ourselves hiding in a corner somewhere.

Days when we are convinced that we are not worth finding. Days when we wonder why you would look for us.

God, for all the times we get lost, when we take the wrong turn in life...

Forgive us and draw us back to The Way...

...time of silent prayer...

The Psalmist writes "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven". The Gospel reminds us that God is always happy to find the lost, that God is always welcoming us back home with open arms. We are forgiven and loved.

Thanks be to God! Amen

GIFTS OF MUSIC: Consolation No 3 in D Flat Major – Liszt

Ken Riley

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 15:1-32

SILENCE

(trusting that God is at work in our midst we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls)

SERMON *Lost and Found*

Hymn: A Woman and a Coin – The Coin is Lost

#360 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: May the God of Hope Go With Us

#424 Voices United

COMMISSIONING:

We who are sometimes lost have been found.

And so the party of life continues.

We go out as people whom God has welcomed with open arms.

We go out to welcome others with open arms as we share God's words of love and acceptance and hope.

And where ever our journey takes us, when we are sure of the way and when we have gotten lost, we take strength from knowing that we are NOT alone. We live in God's world and God is with us.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Sung Benediction: As the Sun with Longer Journey vs.: 1&2

#111 Voices United

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Ministry by: *The Congregation*

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

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

Sunday School: *Holly Loughead*

Youth Ministry: *Janis Schau-Steinke*

Music Director: *Alison White.*

*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: Betty Dunsworth & Jenny Tetreau

Candle lighter: Miriam Waldie

Scripture Reader: Barbara Hofmeister

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 1st 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 March 1-23 we gave out 6 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$425.00 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.

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.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

WEAR YOUR ST PAUL'S SHIRT WITH PRIDE!

Order a shirt from Communications Team up until **March 26th.**

- 4 styles T-shirt; Golf shirt; Baseball; or Sweatshirt Hoody
- up to 17 colours (depending on style)
- all sizes up to 5XL
- choose your logo size and colour.
- Prices range from \$10.00 (youth t-shirt) up to \$33.00 (adult golf shirt)

Here's your chance to purchase a potted hydrangea to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Orders will be taken on **April 2nd and 9th.** You would be able to pick up your plant after worship on Sunday, April 16th. This would be a good way to give Easter greetings to friends, family, shut-ins, local lodges etc. We are charging \$20.00 and are willing to deliver the plants if you are unable to do so. The order list is on the table in the foyer and a UCW representative will be on hand to collect the money.



COUNCIL INVITES YOU – MARCH 26th - after church

to have lunch and learn about the changes being discussed to the governmental structure of the United Church of Canada. Each presbytery and each board or council in a congregation is asked to vote on these. If no vote is submitted it will be counted as a “No” vote.

UCW are catering the lunch – We hope you’ll join us to discuss:

Remit 1 - Does the congregation agree that:

- a) the United Church be re-organized into the three-council model approved by the 42nd general council 2015; and that
- b) the basis of union be amended to reflect the change?

Remit 2 – Does the congregation agree that

- a) The processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the united church be eliminated, including the elimination of the general council transfer committee; and that
- b) The basis of union be amended to reflect this change?

Remit 3 –Does the congregation agree that

- a) A denominational office of vocation be established in the structure of the united church with responsibilities and structure as approved by the 42nd general council 2015; and that
- b) The basis of union be amended to reflect this change?

Remit 4 Does the congregation agree to a new funding model for the United Church with the budgeting process guided by the following principles?

- 1) use mission and service to fund ministry and mission activities;
- 2) fund governance and support services of other courts/councils by assessing communities of faith/pastoral charges;
- 3) share assessments equitably across the whole church;
- 4) permit Conferences/presbyteries/regional councils to use additional resources for regional purposes; and
- 5) encourage sharing of all resources across the church.

Why no basis of union statement – because general council does not have to ask this they already have the power to decide on their own.

COME JOIN THE DISCUSSION - let Council know your thoughts before they vote.



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