



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

January 14, 2024

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



WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME MV122 This Is The Day (2x) (1L)

Community Partner: *Coordinated Care Campus and Northreach*

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Come and see! Come and hear!

See who? Hear what?

The Lamb of God is walking by! Jesus from Nazareth!

Let's go see him together!

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus said "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. "

As this candle light is set up high so all can see by its light, so may we shine in the world.

As people of faith we centre ourselves for worship

OPENING PRAYER

God you see us under the fig tree, or brewing coffee in the kitchen, or relaxing on the couch,
and you recognize us for who we are.

We wonder what you are up to, where you might be found,
and you invite us to come and see.

In this time of worship,

move in our hearts and souls,

**give us the curiosity and the courage to come and see,
and then to share what we have seen and heard.**

We pray in Jesus' name as we share together words he once taught his friends...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn VU 299 Teach Me, God, to Wonder (1L)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

How Has God Touched Your Life This Week?

PRAYER FOR & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Come and see!

God you invite us to explore what you are doing in the world.

Come and see?

But we are sometimes comfortable where we are and maybe a little dubious that there is much to see anyway.

Come and see?

Where we are reluctant to see and hear, where we are reluctant to share what we have seen and heard, strengthen our curiosity, embolden our words, we pray

Come and see! God is at work in the world. God is sharing the news of God's grace and mercy. God is being revealed in our midst.

We come to see, to hear, to be reminded of God's presence in our lives.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

John 1:19-51

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

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

SERMON *Curiosity – a Virtue*

Hymn MV 134 There Was A Child in Galilee

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Making a Home for Refugees*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/your-january-2024-mission-and-service-stories>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication MV 143 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (vs3)

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU 96 Will You Come and See the Light (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

Go and share!

Share the Good News about what God is doing in the world.

Share the exciting news the God is afoot, that the world is being changed

Share the promise that God sees us where we are and welcomes us into the circle.

We have come to see, now we go to share the love of God with the world around us.

And you are not alone. The Three-in-One: Parent, Child and Holy Spirit is with you always.

Thanks be to God!

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU 298 When You Walk From Here (2X) (1L)

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

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

Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: stpaulsucgp@gmail.com

Sunday School: Your name here?

Youth Ministry: Your name here? 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”

Regular Office Hours are Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.
but closed over the noon hour.

“Would you like a visit with Rev Gord? This can be easily arranged by contacting the Call Carla and she will arrange something for you “ 780-532-2415



office.

We are in need of Scripture Readers, and Door Greeters, and Coffee Hosts / Hostesses every Sunday. Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help on any given Sunday.

Have you joined St. Paul’s Recyclable program yet? St. Paul’s has an easy fundraiser to help with the Church renovations. Just 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. Check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags/boxes of bottles/cans you dropped off.

At St. Paul’s the calendar is filling up. **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.** You can also check out our new calendar on the church website, to get an idea who else is in the building and in what room(s) to know if it will conflict with your plans. <https://74071685.view-events.com/calendar/74071685/>

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 to stpaulsucgp@gmail.com with the details.

Thinking About Financial Stewardship – Revenue for local expenses in the week ending January 7th is 2,890 (includes PAR, Sunday offering and e-transfers). To meet the budget, we need 5,231 (total budget divided by 52) If you were offered an opportunity to meet Jesus how would you respond? How can you respond today as a faithful steward of your gifts and talents? Thank you for sharing of all that God has made you !

Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

Reminder Ministry Teams - Narrative Reports from Ministry Teams and other working groups for 2023 are due by **February 5, 2024** .



Are you a music maker, a dancer, an orator, a magician, a clown? Do you like to tell jokes, use puppets, perform skits? Then we want you to share your skills at **“St. Paul’s and Friends Talents Unleashed”**. **Friday, March 15 @ 7:30pm** That gives you two months to prepare!! Entry deadline: March 1 to Paula Anderson 587-343-9878 or Karen Scott 780-933-4055



Explorer's Blessing Bags

Supporting the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre Please take note of the donation box through January to collect the following recommended items:

Warm socks, gloves, hats, for men and women	Lip Balm
Underwear for men and women	Tissue Packages
Razors	Personal Size Wet Wipes
Pads/Tampons (personal pkgs)	Nutrition bars
Brushes, combs	Dried Fruit / Nuts – indiv. Pkgs
Toothbrushes / Toothpaste	Ind. Pkg. peanut butter or cheese & crackers

If you would prefer to make a financial donation please drop off a cheque or e-transfer the church stpaulsucgp@gmail.com and indicate that your donation is for the Explorer's Blessing Bag project.

Donation Deadline is February 4th.

FUNDSCRIP – Gift Card Orders – All Year Fundraiser - We are proposing submitting an order every couple of months for those that are interested in ordering more Gift Cards for everyday food, gas, eating out, clothing retailers etc, to help St Paul's raise money by getting a percentage of the gift card value for our church. Order forms are available [on our website](#), at the back of the sanctuary or from the office. **Next order will be going in Sun., February 25th. Gift Cards will be here March 3rd.**

This is open to you and your neighbours and friends, as a way to buy gift cards but also support a local charitable organization. Feel free to just email us the order details: for example...1- \$100.00 Extra Foods; 2 - \$10 A&W; 2 - \$25 Canadian Tire – Total \$170.00 or submit an order form indicating the amounts and values. Send a payment by cheque, or e-transfer indicating Fundscrip order.

If you have any questions feel free to talk to Margaret Taylor 780-882-3803, or Sharon Adams 587-297-1570.

NEW AV TECH TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the two new trainees for the AV Tech Team!!! Happy learning.

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We are still looking to find a couple new volunteers to learn the PowerPoint side of things. It's very easy, just press the down arrow to move to the next slide when it's needed. Please feel free to speak to Sharon Adams, Desiree Maitland, Keziah Isito, Eileen McCollum, or Linda Wagner if you have any questions about what is involved. We can get you in the rotation as soon as you want to give it a try. 😊

## THIS COMING WEEK

**Sun. Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am – Pathfinders Lunch 'n' Dialogue** book a spot with Patti Stebbing 250-262-6173.

**Mon., Jan 15<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice**

**Mon. Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Council – 7:00 pm** - in the narthex

**Tue., Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study on Zoom** –The link and scriptures will be sent out in the Friday e-blast the week before and on Tuesdays.

**Tues., Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers**

**Tue., Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – 6: 00 pm - Compassionate Friends** in the Friendship Room

**Wed. Jan 17th - 12 noon – Pathfinders Lunch ‘n’ Dialogue** book a spot with Patti Stebbing 250-262-6173

**Thu., Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Thu., Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am - Music Mornings** Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

**Thu., Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers** –in the small basement.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Fri., Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – Pizza ‘n’ Games 5:30 – 8:30** in the Friendship Room  
Pizza \$2 / slice; Canned beverages \$1. Then stay for conversation and / or games.

**Sun., Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Labyrinth Walk**

**Sun., Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - Congregational Meeting** –re feedback from Pathfinder’s Task Group after church.

**Wed., Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am - 11:30 am - Stephen Lewis – Grandmothers to Grandmothers Muffin Morning**  
The annual coffee and muffins party hosted by the UCW will be held Wednesday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. This will be the 15th fund raiser the St Paul’s United UCW has had in support of the ‘Stephen Lewis Grandmothers to Grandmothers’ campaign! Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

**Sun., March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Annual Congregational Meeting** – After church.

### **FINANCIAL DONATIONS**

**Interac e-Transfer** is a simple, convenient, and secure way to send and receive money directly from one bank account to another. All you need is access to online or mobile banking through a participating financial institution, and you can send money to St. Paul’s United Church — without sharing any personal financial information. It’s a great alternative to cheques and cash.

To give using Interac e-Transfer please use this email address to send your donation to St. Paul’s United Church - [stpaulsucqp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucqp@gmail.com)

In the note field of your transaction request, please indicate your envelope number (if you have one) and what fund(s) you are wanting your donation to go to. You can split your donation between funds (Example: If your donations is \$100 your note could say - \$25 GF, \$50 MS, \$25 OU or any other combination of amounts and funds you would like to support).

Fund: (Code)

- General Fund (GF) Mission and Service (MS)
- Capital Fund (CA)
- Outreach (OU)

Any donations made without a fund code will be considered a “General Funds” donation.

**Offering Envelopes** - Making your donation using a set of offering envelopes is the easiest way to ensure you receive a tax receipt for your donation(s). 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 indicate your envelope # on your donation(s) so it can be accorded to the correct person

**Sign up for PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance)...just talk to Carla and she’ll send you the form to fill out, or adjust the amount you wish to remit each month, at any time.

**Canada Helps** – You can also donate through Canada Helps. (Please note - These donations will be receipted by Canada Helps directly, not St Paul’s United Church) <https://stpaulsuc.ca/index.php/donate/>