



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

January 21, 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 MV 122 This Is The Day (2x) (1L)

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the hustle and bustle of life we hear a whisper.

Urging us forward, challenging how we see the world.

In response to the whisper we gather with the community of faith.

Here we say "Speak God, your children are listening"

God has called us together

Here we seek to understand how God would have us live.

As we gather for worship we turn to the members of our faith family and greet each other with words and signs of Christ's Peace.

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

Loving God, we open our hearts and souls to you.

In this time of worship whisper in our ears,

fill us with a Word to share with each other

and give us the courage to share that Word.

Then, we pray, lead us back into the world,

to share the promise of love, to share the vision of the Kingdom

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who taught his friends to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn MV 113 Jesus Saw them Fishing (1L)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *Christian Unity*

PRAYER FOR & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God we grow comfortable, and we seek rest.

But you continue to whisper in our ears.

We hear the whisper but we fail to understand what it is,

or we fail to help others know what they hear.

Then we wake up, we realize the truth and we listen.

But sometimes the words are hard, and we would rather pretend we did not hear them.

God of grace, God of wisdom,

open our ears to hear hard truths.

God of grace, God of wisdom, God who calls us to action,

give us the courage to share hard truths with the world around us.

God of grace, God who knows us deeply,

touch our hearts, calm our fears,

hear our confession for those times we choose not to listen and for those times we choose not to respond.

...time of silent prayer...

God is gracious and forgiving. God continues to call us until we respond. When we slip or miss the mark God calls us to learn and to try again. We are forgiven, and in God's grace we are called forward.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Jonah 3:1-5

Mark 1:14-20

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)

VIDEO – Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

SERMON *Open Ears*

Hymn VU 562 Jesus Calls Us (PD)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story

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

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication MV143 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (vs3)

How Has God Touched Your Life This Week?

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU 507 Today We all Are Called to Be Disciples (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

Stop! Listen! Do you hear it?

Like the whisper of the wind, like the roaring of the storm.

God is calling us onward and outward.

As our worship concludes our service continues, as we share God's truth and God's love, may we know that the God who calls us by name is with us always.

Thanks be to God! Amen

SUNG BLESSING: 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 office. Call Carla and she will arrange something for you " 780-532-2415



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 as groups are starting to meet again. **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 14th is \$3,658 (includes Canada Helps, PAR, Sunday offering, rent and e-transfers). To meet the budget, we need \$5,231 (total budget divided by 52) "Fishing for people and caring for our catch should be our greatest work. Honouring the time and energy invested by church members is an essential part of stewardship" (UCC Stewardship Second)
Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

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

THIS COMING WEEK

Mon., Jan 22nd - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice

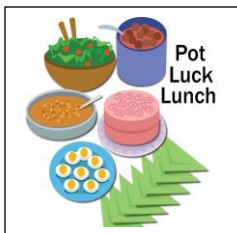
Tue., Jan 23th – Bible Study on Zoom –The link and scriptures will be sent out in the Friday e-blast the week before and on Tuesdays.

Tues., Jan 23th – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers

Thu., Jan 25th – 10:30 am - Music Mornings Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

Thu., Jan 25th - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers –in the small basement.

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



Lunch and Learn!

All are invited to a **potluck lunch following worship on Sunday January 28th.**

After we eat and visit we will take time to learn about Remit #1.

Remits are part of how we make changes in the United Church, this one is about the future of the Indigenous Church. For more information on the remit question check out page 14 of the latest Newsletter.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun., Jan 28th – 7:00 pm – Labyrinth Walk

Sun., Feb 4th – Informational Congregational Meeting –an update from the Pathfinder's Task Group after church, there will be no voting happening.

Wed., Feb 14th – 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., Mar 3rd – Annual Congregational Meeting - after church in the Sanctuary.

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 - stpaulsucgp@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/>

PS...We are working on getting / creating some QR codes so folks can look us up and learn about us more easily.

Here are the first ones we've created.....

One to get you to the donate page on our website,

one to take you to our YouTube page

and one for the Facebook page.

