

St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. September 18, 2016

* Please stand as you are able, sit as you prefer *

Prelude

Rhosymedre

Williams

We Gather in Community

Greeting (Responsive):

Masters, two and more, competing for our money, clamouring for our time, creating chaos in our lives.

Master, one God, quiet us and draw us near.

Introit:

Lord, Prepare Me

MV 18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true,
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.**

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Psalm 113

Praise the Eternal God! All you who call yourselves children of God, come and praise His name!

**May God's name be lifted high in the hearts of His people. At all times and in every place,
may the name of the Lord be praised!**

Prayer of Approach (Unison):

Inspired by Psalm 113

God of all life, beyond our imagining, and yet coming so close; you refuse to leave those in need on the rubbish pile. You give the poor a place of dignity among the powerful. You make a home for the homeless, and bring joy abounding to families and communities such as ours.

As we gather to celebrate and give thanks for your harvest of blessing, may we live within your reality, share your vision, and do your will, that the whole earth may echo your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Time for the Young at Heart

***Opening Hymn:**

Great is thy Faithfulness

VU 288

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Inspired by Luke 16:1-13; Matthew 6:33

O God, we want to have our cake and eat it, too: we want to be a friend of the world and still be your friend, too. Yet, Jesus taught us: "No one can serve two masters." Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight: help us to seek your kingdom first. Help us to live

faithfully and joyfully in the world, and to be friends with the people you call us to serve. Help us also to remember that our best relationship is the one we have with you. (*Silent Confession*)

Assurance of God's Love

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Sung Prayer for Illumination: Listen God is Calling MV 97
Listen God is calling,
through the word inviting.
Offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13 Colleen Hanna
One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem I Was Glad When They Said Pethel

Message The One About Money Pastor Sarah
***Hymn:** God of The Bible MV 28

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering
Offertory Canzonetta RC Bayley

***Dedication Verse:** What Can I Do? MV 191
What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy! I'll say a prayer!
I'll bring my love! I'll do my share!

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**
God, as your church we reflect your hopes for humanity. We offer these gifts and ask you to guide us to shrewd and loving management of all we are given in order to further your work in our midst. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: ...we pray to you, O Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

***Hymn:** Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples VU 507

***Blessing and Sending Forth (Responsive):**

Go now and continue to offer prayers and thanksgiving for everyone. Be shrewd in dealing with the world around you but do not be seduced into serving wealth. Weep for those who suffer and share faith and truth with all.

God welcomes us all with love; Christ Jesus gives us knowledge of the truth; and the Holy Spirit sends us forth in godliness and dignity.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
... in the name of Christ. Amen.

***Choral Closing:**

Take Up This Song of Love

MV 213

Take up this song of love and go into the world.

Take up this song of love in every moment.

In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives.

Lay them down in love, lay them down and take up this song.

Postlude

Trumpet Tune

Hoffman

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Greeters: Sept. 11: Sadie Miller & Shirley MacLeod
Ushers: Left Side: Linda & Alastair Lamont
Middle: Larry Buick
Right Side: Gail Simmons & Isabel Green
Upstairs: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones

Coffee Hour: Sept. 25: Congregational Board

A Congregational Meeting will be held after church **today**, for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of moving forward with a second, paid, full-time minister. A representative of Woolastook Presbytery will be present, all are welcome to attend and discuss, and all confirmed members may vote.

Spirit Sisters, a women's spirituality/discussion group will be gathering this fall. The next meeting will be a meet & greet, in the Ladies' Parlour at St. Paul's on **Monday, September 19th**, at 7pm. This will be a weekly group (except for holidays), and for the fall session, we will be looking at Stormie Omartian's book "The Power of a Praying Woman" which is available at Chapter's, Lighthouse, and through Amazon. All who self-identify as women and sisters in Christ are welcome to come and explore your spirituality with us. Any questions, queries, concerns, and conundrums can be addressed to Pastor Sarah at sarah.magie@gmail.com.

The **UCW** will gather in the Ladies' Parlour on Wednesday, **September 21st** at 10 AM. Please answer Roll Call with items for the Brown Bag lunches – protein flip top products, juice boxes, granola bars, Rice Krispies squares, small chocolate bars, small bags of chips. If you are interested in our group, please feel welcome to join us. Donna Chauvin 458-5885

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday - Sunday, 25 September. Starting this fall, the last Sunday of **every** month will be a designated "bring a friend to church Sunday". We will be discussing throughout this fall ways of being invitational in our church community, and this is one of the initiatives we will be trying. Printed invitations will be provided in the bulletin two weeks prior to our first "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday", and we would like to challenge you to the **10 by 10** challenge: that means, for 10 days prior to the event, invite 10 people you interact with each day. That means everyone would have invited 100 people! Everyone is welcome here at St. Paul's!

Men's Conversation Group will be starting up again **Tuesday, September 27th** at 6:45 pm. Our focus will be the book **Three Ways of Grace**, a collection of ways that we in the church have come to experience the mystery of the Trinity. For more information contact Rev. Richard at rev.bowley@outlook.com

We will also be having a **soup & sandwich potluck luncheon** after church on **Sunday, 25 September**. There won't be a sign-up sheet for this event, it will be a true smorgasbord of whatever people feel like bringing, but we suggest soup and sandwiches, because it's easy. Everyone is welcome, and we'll make sure there is enough soup and sandwiches for all!

On **October 2nd @ 11:00 am** we will be worshipping with our brothers and sisters at Wilmot United Church. On this day, they will celebrate their status as an Affirming Congregation and the Moderator, Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell will be in attendance. All are encouraged to join in congratulating the congregation of Wilmot on their prayerful work.

Office Information needed:

Have you moved, do you have a new email address, wish to use envelopes or join the PAR program or have other information that needs to be changed on your family records here at St. Paul's? Please inform Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183 or email cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

Lectionary Readings

Wondering where we get our ideas for scripture readings Sunday morning? Here are the next few weeks so you can get an idea of what we might talk, pray, and sing about.

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1–15, Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16, 1 Timothy 6:6–19, Luke 16:19–31

October 9

Deuteronomy 26:1–11, Psalm 100, Philippians 4:4–9, John 6:25–35

October 16

Jeremiah 31:27–34, Psalm 119:97–104, 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5, Luke 18:1–8

October 23

Joel 2:23–32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18, Luke 18:9–14

Financial Contributions for September 11, 2016

2016 Weekly Budget for September		\$ 5,250.00
Envelopes	1,583.10	
Loose	8.00	
PAR	<u>2,032.48</u>	
	\$ 3,623.158	- \$1,626.42

Thank you and may God truly bless and multiply your gifts

From January 1, 2016 through to August 31, 2016 donations through PAR and offering envelopes for the operating account have been \$144,900. Budget for the same period is \$145,000.

Interested in PAR? You can help increase the above figure by joining the “**PAR Team**” or by increasing your monthly PAR contributions. Contact Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183 if you are interested in either option. Offering envelopes are also available if you care to donate through that system.

Remit #1

Recently the Board of St. Paul’s United Church voted on a church-wide Remit concerning the national church structure. Here’s some information about the Remit and the vote.

What’s a Remit anyway?

The General Council may change the Basis of Union only if the change is approved through a remit. A “remit” is a vote by presbyteries or by presbyteries and pastoral charges to change the Basis of Union. In the case of a pastoral charge vote, the Board (or equivalent governing body) reviews the information, engages in discussion, and votes either with or against the Remit.

Remit #1: Three Council Model

The United Church of Canada, organized as a three-council structure, would consist of communities of faith, regional councils, and a denominational council as follows:

Communities of Faith

A community of faith is any community of people within the United Church that:

- gathers to explore faith, worship, and serve, including but not limited to pastoral charges, congregations, outreach ministries, chaplaincies, faith-based communal living, house churches, and online communities; and
- is recognized as a community of faith within the United Church by the regional council through a covenantal relationship between the community of faith and the regional council.

Regional Councils

A regional council is a decision-making body responsible to serve and support communities of faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight.

Denominational Council

The denominational council is the decision-making body for the United Church as both a denomination and a legal corporation.

This is different from the current model which is a four court system consisting of Pastoral Charges, Presbyteries, Conferences, General Council. To give some context, we are the St. Paul’s United Church Pastoral Charge, and we exist within the bounds of Woolastook Presbytery, which is a part of Maritime Conference, and the General Council is the national body of The United Church of Canada.

That's not a lot to go on, how could the Board make a decision?

What is shown here is extremely pared down. The full Remit and informational document can be found here: <http://www.gc42.ca/remits>. Also available on this page are links to other Remits that your Board will be addressing over the coming months, as well as study guides for the Remits, and some informational videos.

OK, so how did the Board vote?

After several meetings over a few months where the Remit was a topic of discussion, and with prayerful consideration, the Board of St. Paul's United Church voted to support the Remit moving forward.

So when does the change come into effect? Tomorrow?

The when is a little trickier. Every pastoral charge in The United Church of Canada has the right to vote on this Remit. Because of the denomination-shaping nature of the Remit, Presbyteries will also be voting (*The Manual, F 2.1.3*).

After all the voting, one of two things happen. If there is a majority of Pastoral Charges **and** a majority of all Presbyteries voting in favour of the Remit, it goes for final voting at the General Council level (*The Manual, F 2.2.7*). If the majority is not in favour (either by voting no or abstaining as that is counted as no) , either at the Pastoral Charge or Presbytery level, the Remit is defeated.

Voting on this Remit must be concluded by June 30th, 2017 so that the General Council may decide whether or not to enact the Remit (should it pass) at the 43rd General Council in 2018. So when could this Remit take effect? As early as August, 2018.