

St. Paul's United Church

November 25th, 2018 - Reign of Christ Sunday

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.

Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.

Matthew 21:12-13 - Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"; but you are making it a den of robbers.'

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude: Chacone Buxtehude

*Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

* Lighting the Christ Candle

* **Introit:** Come Touch Our Hearts (vs 3) MV 12

**Come touch our minds
and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come, touch and bless our minds.**

Welcome & Announcements

* **Gathering Hymn:** All Glory Laud and Honour VU 122

* Call to Worship (Responsive):

You, each and every one of you have been called by God to proclaim the Good News.

But some days we feel too old. And some days not old enough. How can God use me?

God has been calling to you since before you were born, and will call to you even to your last breath.

But I don't know what to say. I don't know how to pray. How can God use me?

St. Paul's Contact Information

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Ministers: Rev. Michelle Armstrong michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com

Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.com

Pastor Sarah Magie sarah.magie@gmail.com

Music Director: Dr. Sharon Pond spond@bellaliant.net

Choir Director: Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com

Custodian: Eric Hotte

Office Admin: Cathy Simpson cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

New Office Hours

	Rev. Richard	Rev. Michelle	Pastor Sarah
Cell:	(506)262-2150	(306)858-7602	(613)329-6315
Sun.:	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment
Mon.:	9am - noon	10 am - noon	8:30 am - noon
Tues.:	By Appointment	By Appointment	1-3 pm
Wed:	12-2 pm	10:30-12:30 pm	Day off
Thurs.:	12-2 pm	12-2 pm	8:30-12
Fri.:	Day off	Day off	By Appointment

These hours are subject to change due to Emergency Pastoral Care, meetings and other church business elsewhere.

Upcoming Weekly Activities

Monday-Friday	8:30 am-4 pm	Adult Learning Association English Second Language
	11:30-1 pm	AA - Downstairs Lounge
Mon., Wed., Friday	12-1 pm	Exercise Group - Gym
Tuesday & Thursday	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
Mon., Tues. & Sat.	7-9 pm	AA - Downstairs Lounge
Mon-Thurs	6:30-8 pm	Taekwondo
Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	F'ton Choral Society
	7 pm	Barber Shopper Chorus
Wednesday	9 - 11am	Pantry
Thursday	7-8:15 pm	Senior Choir
Friday	7-9:30 pm	Youth Group (next on Dec. 14)
Saturday	10 am-noon	Taekwondo

Experience our Holy Scriptures! Lectio Divina is a spiritual practice of experiencing the words, feelings, and call from God in our Holy Texts. Through Advent, Rev. Richard will be facilitating this unique form of Bible Study. No prep is required. No previous Bible study is needed. All ages and experiences are invited. There will be two sessions running in parallel. One taking place **in the building on Sunday mornings (9:30 AM)** through Advent. The other session will be **online on Monday evenings (7:30 PM)**. Links will be made available in the eNews the week before. Can't get online? Come Sunday Morning. Can't get a babysitter? Log in from home! Start dates below: **Online:** 7:30 PM Monday, November 26th (Tomorrow)
 Link for Session: <https://zoom.us/j/981400235>
 No sign-in required!
In Person: 9:30 AM Sunday, December 2nd
 Ladies' Parlour

Christmas Carols, the story of Christmas and Glowsticks! Fredericton's first ever Carols by Glow Stick is happening at St. Paul's United Church on November 30th 6-7pm. This indoor Christmas Carol event is a great way to kick off the season as we join our voices together to sing our favorite carols by child friendly glowstick. Come out and raise your voice, swing your glowstick and enjoy the glow of the season. Stay after the singing for cookies and apple cider. Your tickets include one glowstick per person. Join us for this all ages event. Check out Facebook for ticket information!

The Annual **Advent Carol Festival** held each year at St. Paul's United Church (corner George and York) will take place on Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. Local church and community choirs will present a program of familiar, as well as new, Christmas music. A freewill offering will be received on behalf of the CBC Feed a Family campaign to support the 12 food banks in this area.

The **Pantry** is in need of a few volunteers. It involves one day a month from 8:45 AM to 11:00. There are three volunteers each Wednesday morning plus a leader. It isn't a difficult job and very rewarding when you consider the needs of our clients. If you can help, please call Lois Walker at 459-1458 or 292-9335 any time. We are in need of the following items: pie filling (cherry, blueberry, lemon), coffee, tea, syrup, sugar, jam, mayo, flour, salmon, meat flakes, juice (large), canned fruit, brown sugar, stove top stuffing.

Like the breath in your lungs, God will put the words in your mouth.
But I am afraid.
 God says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you."
Then I am ready because God has made me ready. Let us worship together!

Prayer of Approach

Family Hymn: One More Step (vs 1) VU 639
Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart
Family Hymn: One More Step (vs 2) VU 639

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

In our lives, You call to us. Sometimes that call is clear, coming to us like a shout. Other times it is a whisper on the wind. Forgive us when we close our ears and our hearts to your call. Forgive us the excuses we make for not serving. Remind us that because of you, we have much to give back to this world, and with you all is possible. Fill us again with your Spirit, and guide us by your will. In the name of Christ we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Today's Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11 Lynne Naugler
 This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem Praise the Lord Handel, arr. Hopson
Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow me VU 567
 * **Affirmation of Faith** VU 918

* **Invitation to Offering**

Offertory Music The Fifers Dandrieu
 * **Dedication Verse:** Grant us God VU 540

Grant us God the grace of giving with a spirit large and free. That ourselves and all our living, we may offer faithfully.

*** Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

In your call to serve you, O God, you have reminded us of all that we have to give to this place and to the world. We offer these gifts, fruits of our labour that we have placed in the plate, given through PAR, and offered in work and care for your children and creation. Bless them and us we pray as we continue to share your love and grow your kingdom. In the name of Christ our center we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

*** Closing Hymn:** Today We All Are Called VU 507

*** Commissioning (Responsive):**

Giving of ourselves over to God's call, to fully serve the one who has shaped us into all that we are will not be easy.

But God stands behind us to support us.

Lifting up the Good News will not always be popular, even if it is exactly what someone needs to hear. Sometimes the road will be lonely.

But God will go beside us to befriend us.

And we will be called to places we do not know, do not want to go. Sometimes it will be dark.

But God will go ahead of us to show us the way.

*** Choral Closing:** Because He Lives
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
because He lives, all fear is gone
because I know He holds the future
and life is worth the living
just because He lives.

Ministry of Music: Toccata in D minor Stanford
Please feel free to stay and enjoy the postlude

Greeters: Anna & Frank Goddard
Ushers: Left Side: Roger Miller & John Gaskin
Center: Isabel Green
Right Side: Ann & Harold Raper
Upstairs: Hope, Andrew, Laura & Graham Steeves
Coffee Hour: Trustees

Announcements

A donation has been made to St. Paul's in loving memory of Wilma MacLean by Sadie Miller.

CHRISTMAS WISH TREE! Every year the people of St. Paul's share their Christmas spirit and generosity by buying gifts for children. The Children's Wish Tree has gift tags bearing Santa wishes from 30 children whose families are being looked after by the Food Bank. Please select a tag, buy a gift and return it to the Church by December 9th. Many of you look forward to sharing in this tradition. We hope we can count on your support again this year.

Do you find yourself at home here at St. Paul's? Have you been worshipping with us regularly? We invite you to become a full member of St. Paul's on Joy Sunday (December 16th)? Speak with any member of our ministry team to determine what would be involved for you today!

Today in Sunday School... Different Kinds of Family. Bible Verse: But Ruth replied "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God." (Ruth 1:16) Bible Story: Esther & Mordecai

Seeking your thoughts! The St. Paul's Board is discussing a response to the Homelessness problem in Fredericton, specifically around those having to sleep in tents on freezing cold nights. We are considering opening our doors on nights where the temperature dips below -10 C to no more than 10 people in need. This sort of venture would require a minimum of 2 volunteers. The doors would be open from 8-9 PM and locked through the night. Those staying would be asked to vacate the church at 7 AM. The Board is asking the congregation to consider a test run for the month of December. Insurance inquiries are being made, and on nights without enough volunteers we won't open the doors. What we are asking from you is a simple "Yes" you are in favour of St. Paul's initiating this or "No" you are not in favour. In your bulletin is a piece of coloured paper with "Yes" on the top and "No" on the bottom. Please tear this sheet in half and place your response in the offering plate.

The **Brown Bag** program is in need of napkins, juice, pudding/fruit cups and proteins - thank you for helping out!



Fresh Double Sided Evergreen Wreaths: Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers Fredericton are selling fresh, double sided Christmas wreaths. We support grandmothers in Africa with a variety of resources including food, school fees, medicines, counseling, and more. November 25, Nancy MacGarvie will be taking orders at coffee time after church for undecorated 12 inch balsam fir wreaths @ \$13 each and for decorated ones @ \$15 each (with a single red bow). Or you can call Nancy at 455-3026 or Sue Short at 455-5377. The wreaths will be ready for pick up at Wilmot Church in the gym on December 2nd.

Group Committee will be meeting Wednesday, Nov 28th, 6:30—8.
If anyone is interested please come and ask questions. - Jo

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

November 30th Carols by Glow Stick 6-7 pm
December 5th Vocal Collective/Sharon Pond 12:10-12:50
Advent Carol Festival 7:30 pm
December 12th FHS Jazz Ensemble 12:10-12:50pm
December 14th Youth Christmas Party 7-9:30pm
December 16th 'Twas the Night Before Christmas 7 pm
December 19th Sharon Pond/Vocal Collective 12:10 -12:50

Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss any of these special events.

Christmas Dinner: Sunday, December 2, United Church C.E.Center, Harvey Station. 2 sittings: 4 and 5:30 pm. Adults \$15, Children \$5, under 3 Free. Take out orders are available and welcome. Call Sherry at 366-2814, Des 366-3189, Jack 366-3249

Christmas Tea, "Angels Among Us", on Friday, Dec. 7th 1 - 3 pm at Nashwaaksis United. Admission by donation. Everyone welcome!