



# St. Paul's United Church

December 2nd, 2018 - 1st Sunday of Advent

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.*

*Matt 26:36-38 - Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.'*

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Prelude:** Sleepers Wake Bach

### \*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.**

### \*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:

Pastor Sarah, James, Emma & Muriel Rogers

Hope isn't about knowing what's coming,

**it's about not knowing and trusting anyway.**

It's about watching the leaves fall, and trusting in the cycle of the season.

**It's about waiting through the long nights for the coming dawn.**

Hope is rejoicing in the Lord even when we are burdened,

**because we know that life is a blessing.**

*[light HOPE candle]*

We light this candle to symbolize our Hope in the Lord,

**Trust in the one who never fails to bring us from what is into what might yet be.**

\* **Introit:** There was a Child (vs 1) MV 134

## Welcome & Announcements

## St. Paul's Contact Information

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Tel. 458-1183 Fax: 458-1944

<http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsunitedfredericton>

**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

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

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

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

**Providing a Warm Safe Space:** After receiving overwhelming support for the idea of opening our gym overnight for those without shelter, the board has been hard at work looking into the details. We now need to create a list of people who are committed to be part of the overnight supervision team to ensure we have enough people to make this work. If you will serve overnight for this outreach please sign up on the sheets in the Narthex and the Hall today.

**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

The **Advent Carol Festival** will take place here 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

\* **Gathering Hymn:** Bless Now O God the Journey VU 633

\* **Call to Worship (Responsive):**  
We start another advent journey today,  
**we come so we do not have to walk alone.**  
The journey will take us through the joy and sorrows,  
**we come to be led to the place where God touches the brokenness of the world, with healing and grace.**  
**We come to be moved to jump for joy and gratitude in God's mercy and blessing.**

Together here we find hope for the future, hope for now,  
**as we worship together, in our joy and sorrow, lifting our praise for the one who has come and is coming.**

### Prayer of Approach

**Children's Choir:** I Wanna Be Ready Joseph Martin

**Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart**  
**Family Hymn:** A Candle is Burning (vs 1) VU 6

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**  
**Lord, in our broken relationships and fallen world there is so much anger, hurt and violence that is our own doing. We cry out to you asking "why do you not save us?" Yet you have made the way clear, you have written on our hearts the truth, you come among us to show us the way and still we turn from you upset that we do not see instant results, that the way is not easy. Forgive us God when our pride clouds your vision. Forgive us when we believe our call to you falls on deaf ears. Forgive us when we forget that you are the one who strengthens us and calls us to a better way.**

### Assurance of God's Love

### LISTENING FOR TRUTH

**Today's Scripture:** Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19 Ron Naugler  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** Let The Christ Child In Althouse & Albrecht

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn: My Soul Cries Out MV 120

\* Invitation to Offering

Offertory Music Song of the Crib Reesor

\* Dedication Verse: In the Bleak Winter (vs 4) VU 55

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.

\* Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Having searched for your presence in our lives O God, we offer these gifts with praise for all the times we have seen your guiding hand, received your strength in adversity and experienced your faithfulness revealed. Bless these gifts and those given through PAR, that they may be used to demonstrate your love and foster hope in our hurting world, through Christ we pray. Amen

Sung Communion (see insert)

SENDING FORTH

\* Closing Hymn: Once In Royal David's City VU 62

\* Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):

We go from here in hope

Hope born not from wide eyed dreams and ungrounded optimism, but in the hope born as a child in Bethlehem

We go to face the world with hope,

Even though the world seems crazy and the challenges of life seem overwhelming, we go with hope because of Emanuel, God is with us!

Greet the week all who come rejoicing in the Lord, and as you take this advent journey know deeply the love of God is with you, the light of Christ will guide you and the Holy Spirit will sustain you, each step of the way. Amen.

\* Choral Closing: Hope is a Star (vs 1) VU 7

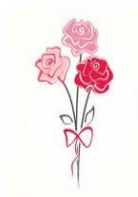
Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

Ministry of Music: Toccata in Mendelssohn Long

Please feel free to stay and enjoy the postlude

Ushers: Left Side: Colleen Hanna & Bob Miller  
Center: Isabel Green  
Right Side: Greg Morton & Florence Bartlett  
Upstairs: Hope, Andrew, Laura & Graham Steeves

Coffee Hour: Pantry



Announcements

Flowers have been donated in loving memory of Gillian Fletcher by her parents Don & Margaret Fletcher.  
Flowers have also been placed in loving memory of Gillian by her sister and family.

Sympathy and condolences are extended to Tammy Coughlan and Dean Jones in the death of Tammy's brother James Coughlan of Sussex.

Anyone wishing to donate Poinsettias or other floral arrangements for the Christmas season in memory of loved ones are asked to let Cathy Simpson know for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. 458-1183



Today in Sunday School: **Advent with Your Family.** Dec. Bible Verse: "In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my saviour: (Luke 1:47) **Bible Story:** Elizabeth and Zechariah

**CHRISTMAS WISH TREE!** Just a reminder to return all tags with gifts to the Church by next Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry outreach which helps bring joy to a child this Christmas!

## **CHURCH OFFERINGS: PAR**

We encourage St. Paul's members to make their offerings by using the PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) system. 71 members are now using PAR and find it very convenient and easy to manage as your Bank Account is automatically charged monthly (20th of the month) by the amount you choose. No more envelopes or writing cheques or having the right amount of cash. Once signed up, future changes can be made by simply contacting the Church office. The system also makes it easier for the Church as the Sunday collection counting is eliminated or reduced and for preparing the church's budget. Please contact Cathy Simpson 458-1183 for more information.

### **Financial report to October 31, 2018**

Our weekly offerings to the end of October are \$47,000 below budget and while historically, November and December are usually good contribution months, we bring the matter to your attention and solicit your assistance so that we can continue to share Gods love in worship and in our outreach.

**Fresh Double Sided Evergreen Wreaths:** The wreaths will be ready for pick up at Wilmot Church in the gym today.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S**

December 5th	Advent Carol Festival	7:30 pm
December 12th	FHS Jazz Ensemble	12:10-12:50 pm
December 16th	'Twas the Night Before Christmas	7 pm
December 19th	Sharon Pond/Vocal Collective	12:10-12:50 pm
December 23	Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols	10:30 am
December 24th	Children's Christmas Eve Service	3 pm
	Traditional Christmas Eve Service	7 pm
	Carols & Communion	11 pm

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