

St. Paul's United Church

March 24th, 2019 - Third Sunday of Lent

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.

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever. Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; -Psalm 45:6-7

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude: O Gott du Frommer Bach

* Greeting (Responsive):

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

And also with you.

* Lighting of the Christ Candle

* **Introit:** We are One (vs 2) VU 402

**We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.**

**We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.**

Welcome & Announcements

* **Gathering Hymn:** As We Gather at Your Table VU 457

* Call to Worship (Responsive):

Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

We come on your invitation, seeking to be fed.

Feed on the love of God in Jesus Christ

We come on your invitation, needing healing.

St. Paul's Contact Information

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Ministers: Rev. Michelle Armstrong michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com
Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.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

Office Hours

	Rev. Richard	Rev. Michelle
Cell:	(506)262-2150	(306)858-7602
Sun.:	By Appointment	By Appointment
Mon.:	9am - noon	10 am - noon
Tues.:	By Appointment	By Appointment
Wed:	12-2 pm	10:30-12:30 pm
Thurs.:	12-2 pm	12-2 pm
Friday:	Day off	Day off

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
	8-5:30 p.m.	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's Chorus
Wednesday	9 - 11am	Pantry
Thursday	7-8:15 pm	Senior Choir
	9 am-noon	Play Group - gym
Friday	7:30-9:30 pm	Youth Group (twice a month)
Saturday	10 am-noon	Taekwondo
Sunday	9:15 am	Bible Study - Conference Room

Lenten Lunch Recitals: Wednesdays from 12:10 – 12:50 pm
Free Will Offering will be received.

April 10th: Featuring a Love themed vocal and piano duet by Dianne Roxborough Brown and Kathrin Welte.

April 17th: Spirituals by the Vocal Collective, Organ works by Dr. Sharon Pond and featuring a Pedal Extravaganza by Leo Sowerby.

On-Line Bible Study: Winter makes it hard to get out even on a good day. So, join Rev. Richard online and share the Good News as we engage with and experience the Word together. We will be meeting online on Monday's at 7:30 p.m. until April 15th. The link to the study is <https://zoom.us/j/280179122> and you can check any time before the meeting to make sure your computer/phone/tablet works. The reading for this week is **Matthew 25:1-13**. May we walk with Christ on this journey through Lent.

Streaming Sunday Worship: We want you to feel like you can worship with us even when you can't be in the sanctuary. If you can't be with us for some reason - maybe you're travelling, maybe you're sick, or maybe you get a little anxious in a new place and want to see what we are about - we hope that you tune in by following this link <https://zoom.us/j/549001732>. You should be able to hear the worship service and see what is on the screens.

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Today in Sunday School: **Observing Lent with Your family.**

Bible Verse: "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives." (Mark 1:15) **Bible Story:** The Last Supper was a symbolic act. Interpreting the Passover elements was a standard part of Passover tradition but instead of using standard explanations, Jesus interpreted two elements in a new way.

Support the youth: Looking to buy bulbs or seeds through Vesey's the youth group will be raising funds to support their programing and the wider work of the church again this Spring. Catalogues will be here coming soon! Despite the rough start to the growing season that hurt many flowers, your support last year helped grow our youth program to bloom.

Be healed by God's gracious mercy

We come on your invitation, longing for forgiveness

In Jesus' Name, you are loved, healed and forgiven.

Praise be to God for a love that knows no limits. Amen

Prayer of the Day

Family Hymn: The Church is Wherever (vs 1) VU 579

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Family Hymn: The Church is Wherever (vs 2) VU 579

Lenten Liturgy:

God, Help us to reach for the Grace that you give so freely

when we are tempted to go our own way.

Give us the forethought to understand how each step away from you is a step into the darkness, how each choice to serve ourselves rather than sit at your table leaves us hungry.

Give us the wisdom to see that the path you lay before us is one of freedom, not imprisonment, that sharing from our abundance leads to wholeness not emptiness...

(silent reflection)

Forgive us for the times when you have called to us, and we have turned a deaf ear; when you have prepared the way before us and we have turned a blind eye. Call us again and we will answer.

When we are tempted to close ourselves off to your call, burdened by the comfortable darkness we wrap ourselves in, may we hear your voice, feel your light, and be uplifted by your ever-present grace.

Anthem: The Wedding Banquet Medical Mission Sisters

Today's Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14 Chris Walker

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message The Unopened Gift Rev. Richard

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*** Hymn:** Come In, Come In And Sit Down VU 395

Scouting Sunday has been set! We are excited to have the Scouts be a part of our worship and fellowship on **April 7th**. We look forward to celebrating our Cubs/Beavers/Scouts and program leaders.

OTHER NEWS

Lenten Rocks: Today at the door, you should have received a rock with your bulletin. We invite you to carry this small stone with you through the season of Lent. When you feel anger, frustration, sadness, grief—any emotions that draw darkness over the light in our lives—squeeze the stone. Remember you are not alone. We also ask that on Good Friday, you bring your stone with you to the 10:30 am worship service.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP THROUGH LENT

Services of Healing & Release:

Lent is a great time to lift up to God that which is holding us bound and holding us back. This year we will be hosting 3 special services of healing and release in April, they will be held on the evenings of:

Wednesday April 3, 2019

Wednesday April 10, 2019

Wednesday April 17th, 2019

These services start at **7:30 PM**. All are welcome

Holy Week Services:

Wave palms, sing praises, and come before the cross in prayer throughout Holy Week. Experience the triumph and the tragedy, and ultimately the glory of God revealed. Below are a list of the services happening through Holy Week.

Palm Sunday:	Sunday, April 14th	@ 10:30 AM
Maundy Thursday (Wilmot):	Thursday, April 18th	@ 6:00 PM
Good Friday:	Friday, April 19th	@ 10:30 AM
Sunrise Service (Pedway):	Sunday, April 21st	@ 6:30 AM
Easter Communion:	Sunday, April 21st	@ 10:30 AM