

St. Paul's United Church

March 31st, 2019 - Fourth 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.

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. *Psalm 43:3-4*

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude: Joyfully My Soul, Sing Praises Brahms

* **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:** Take My Life and Let it Be VU 506

* **Call to Worship (Responsive):**

God has called us to this place

Each one of us is unique, with differing gifts and talents.

Yet each talent represented here is valuable in God's realm.

We come seeking help to find ways in which to use our talents for healing and hope.

Let us start by praising the Lord who has called us here.

Let us open our hearts and spirits to God's word for us.

AMEN.

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
Monday	7-9 p.m.	Floor Hockey - gym
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

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:** In the garden Jesus recognized that his Father's will for him included suffering. Once his disciples realized that martyrdom without resistance was the price of following Jesus they fled. Everyone close to Jesus either betrayed or abandoned him.

Support the youth: Looking to buy bulbs or seeds through Vesey's the youth group will be raising funds to support their programming 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.



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 service start at **7:30 PM**. All are welcome

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 your passion
when we are tempted to justify our complacency.
 Give us the forethought to understand how indifference can harden and slowly dry out our hearts, leaving us impenetrable to the suffering around us;
how ignorance caused by dispassion can lead to harsh decisions and quick judgments that feed systems of oppression. Challenge us to realize how our inaction has separated us from you and each other...

(silent reflection)

Forgive us for all the ways that our failure to act has participated in the suffering of others, and lead us toward abundant life.
When we are tempted by the ease of apathy and weighed down by the lethargy of inaction, may we search for and cling to your diligent passion and be uplifted by your ever-present grace. Amen.

Anthem: Joys Like a River arr. D. Wagner

Today's Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30 Andrew Steeves
 This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn:** I'm Gonna Live VU 575

* **Moment for Community & Invitation to the Offering**
Offertory Ave Verun Mozart
 VU 537

* **Dedication Verse:** Your Work, O God
Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

•Closing Hymn: Christ Has No Body Now MV 171

*** Commissioning (Responsive):**

God sends us from this place

to share the gifts we have been given,

to be a part of the building of the kingdom

to share the Good News of healing and hope found in service to God.

Let us go from this place, praising God and inviting others to join in **opening hearts by sharing God's word with all.**

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Closing:** God Be With You (vs 4) VU 423

**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude He Will Suffer God to Guide Him Bach

Greeters: Alan & Brenda Rayner
Ushers: Left Side: Maude McNamara & Florence Bartlett
Center: Isabel Green
Right Side: Lois Walker and Roger Miller
Upstairs: Susan and Graham Spencer
Coffee Hour (Apr 7): Scouting Movement

Bring A Friend to Church: If you are new to this place, welcome! Following worship we are holding a **Potluck Fellowship Time**. There is always enough to go around!

For Pastoral Care Emergencies: Rev. Richard @ (506)262-2150

Brown Bag Lunches: We are in desperate need of supplies, We are very low on proteins, fruit cups and puddings, juices and individual snacks such as granola bars, cheese & crackers, etc, Flip top lids please. Thank you for thinking of these folks as you do your weekly shopping.



Hospital Please advise one of the ministers or the office if you or someone from our midst has to go to hospital. You have to let the hospital administration know that you are in and from what church, then they place your name on a list that Rev. Michelle and Rev. Richard look at each time they go for hospital visitation. We would rather hear 10 times that someone is in hospital than not to hear it at all. Thank you

LENT SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Lenten Film Series This evening we will be showing the adult/mature audience movie **Arrival**. It will begin at 7 p.m. so arrive a few minutes before. Feel free to bring some snacks and enjoy the movie. The last adult/mature audience movie is **Calvary** and will be showed at 7 p.m. on April 14th. The last family friendly movie showing at St. Paul's is on April 7th and is **Inside Out**.

Reflective In-Person Bible Study: Spend time with the word of God, think about what it is saying to you today and what God may be saying through the scripture. No bible experience needed. Join Eric Hotte at 9:15 am until 10am in the church office. Each week the focus on the scriptures for that day, participants say the service takes on a new meaning. Next Sunday March 24th the reading will be **Matthew 25:31-46**. Following the study, there will be a prayer group until 10:20am. Absolutely everyone welcome! Come to one or both of these exciting and faith building opportunities.

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 25:31-46**. 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.

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	@ 7:00 AM
Easter Communion:	Sunday, April 21st	@ 10:30 AM

April is Cancer Awareness Month. St. Paul's has been asked to possibly cover some hours at the Superstore on Smythe Street to sell daffodils. The dates given are Thursday April 11th to Thursday April 18th (weekdays) from 10 AM to 6 PM. We are asking for 2 people at a time to cover a two hour shift, or longer if desired. If you are interested, please telephone Donna Chauvin at 458-5885

Pantry Sunday: (April 7) crackers, cookies, cake mixes and frostings, granola bars, mustard, dish detergent, tin foil, household cleaners

Skyline Acres Baptist Church, 135 Canterbury Drive, Fredericton invites you to the Sunday Evening Hymn Sing Service March 31st @ 6:30 p.m. Come and sing some of your favourite hymns, choruses, and enjoy a brief reflection by our pastor Dr. Karl Csaszar on "Three Life-Changing Words." Why not set some time on the Lord's Day for gathering with others in songs of praise and worship? You are also welcome to stay for refreshments following the service.

"When Love Hurts: Understanding & Healing Domestic Abuse" will be held from 7-9 PM on Tuesday's April 2 - 23 at Grace Memorial Baptist Church. This 4-week support group offers hope and help to those caught in the cycle of abuse. Register at 458-8527 or gracem@nb.aibn.com. No cost.

Delicious Chili Take-Out Supper, Friday, April 5, pick-up 4-6pm, Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street. Enjoy chili (mild beef), roll, side salad and dessert for \$12. Reserve your take-out meals by April 3 with Rindy or Tom Austin, 450-7151.