

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

*190 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and Serving others in Christ's name*

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Lent 1

10:30 AM

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*Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ~ Psalm 32:1-2*

## GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE:**

**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 OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: <sup>1</sup>**

**INTROIT: *Open My Eyes That I May See***

Songs for a Gospel People #82

*Open my eyes that I may see Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
Place in my hand the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)***

God calls us to gather, to be God's people.

**We come at God's calling.**

Through God's Word, we learn what it means to be God's people.

**We strive to listen and follow in Christ's way.**

In worship, we celebrate and are transformed by God's presence.

**Let us grow in grace and mercy, as we worship the Lord.**

**OPENING HYMN: *Spirit Open My Heart***

MV 79

**Refrain:**

*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.*

*God replace my stony heart with a heart that's pure and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. R*

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. R*

*May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. R*

**CENTERING PRAYER:**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Loving God, from the beginning you have said it is not good for us to be alone, we were made to live in community. You have given us instructions for how to be your people, yet the dance of living together is difficult. There are times when we are hurt by what others have said and done, or left undone. We also confess that there are times when we have hurt others intentionally and unintentionally with our words and actions. Help us to reconcile, in ways that hold healthy boundaries and reflect your mercy and grace. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen  
*(silent reflection and confession)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**SHARING THE WORD**

**TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART:**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 18:15-35

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ  
Praise be you, O Christ.

**MEDITATION:**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE**

**HYMN:** *Make me a Channel of Your Peace*

Songs for a Gospel People #2

*Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your healing power,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:*

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

**A NEW CREED:**

VU 918

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

**INVITATION TO OFFERING:**

**PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS:** *Grant Us, God, the Grace*

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:** *(In Unison)*<sup>2</sup>

Gracious God, we cannot possibly repay the debt we owe to you for all that you have given us. We are grateful that you do not even ask us to try. You do, however, invite us to participate in a redeemed life, with you. Therefore, we offer you now what we can, that the church may shine your love and the world be richly blessed. Accept the financial gifts given today, and those received in the office, through PAR and e-transfer, and combine them with the gifts of our time and talent for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *(Call & Response)*<sup>2</sup>

Merciful God,  
Hear our prayer.

**LORD'S PRAYER:**

**SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD**

**HYMN: Put Your Hand in The Hand**

*Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee*

*Every time I look into the Holy Book I want to tremble (tremble)  
Or when I read about the part where the carpenter cleared the temple (temple)  
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas than what I profess to be  
And it causes me shame to know we're not the people we should be*

*So, put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee*

*My mama taught me how to pray before I reached the age of seven  
She said, "there'll come a time when there'll probably be room in heaven"  
But I'm feeling kinda guilty 'bout the number of times to do what we must do  
But we forget what he said, then we figure that he'll still make room*

*So, you gotta put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee*

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL CLOSING: Take Up His Song**

**MV 213**

*Take up his song of love, and go into the world.  
Take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives,  
Lay them down in love, lay them down, and take up his song.*

**POSTLUDE:**

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<sup>1</sup> Fern Gibbard, Lent-Easter 2017 Gathering pg 27

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Clergy Stuff February 26, 2023

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**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Chris Grant, Jesus – Alanna Palmer, Slave #1 – Donna Chauvin,  
Slave #2 – Lois Walker, Lord – Patty Trail, Peter – Ron Naugler  
**Greeter:** Mary Stickles **Audio Visual:** John Davis

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WORSHIP SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

Good morning and welcome to EVERYONE. May this worship service be a blessing in your day as we continue to worship together each week in person and by Zoom.

### FUNDSCRIP

FundScrip Deadline for our next order is **Sunday, March 5**. Click here [March 5th FundScrip Order Form](#) for current order form. Forms are also available at the office or pick one up in the Narthex. **New supporters always welcome!** Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*



### REDUCED OFFICE HOURS

The office will have reduced hours while Meghan is on vacation. Volunteers will be available from **8:30am to 1:30pm from Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 7<sup>th</sup>**. I look forward to seeing everyone upon my return!

### DONATIONS FOR WARMING HUB

Our friends at the Warming Hub could use some items! They are looking for donations of: Toilet paper, Ground Coffee, Coffee whitener, Bottled Water, Soft Granola bars and cookies, Fruit cups, Juice, and Ensure drinks. They are located at 435 King Street and are open 8:30am to 4:30pm (they are closed for lunch from 11:15 to 12:30). They do not currently have the capacity to take household or clothing donations.

### PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER HAS LAUNCHED!



**Calling ALL chocolate-lovers!** Want to know that most DELICIOUS way to support us? Order Purdy's chocolates from our fundraiser! St. Paul's has begun a fundraising campaign with Purdy's Chocolatier in support of our outreach programs. This year, our fundraising sales goal is \$4000 and we need YOUR help! We receive 25% back from our total sales order.

From now until the **order deadline of March 14<sup>th</sup>**, you can order Purdy's treats from our fundraiser by joining our campaign and browsing the tastiest selection of Easter chocolates online. Shop gifts for family, friends, neighbours and

yourself in one convenient place. After all orders are submitted, we will sort, distribute, and let you know when you can collect your goodies from St. Paul's.

Ordering is as easy as eating chocolate! To view and download Easter Chocolate Sales Brochure and Order Form, available on our website, [click HERE](#).

#### Ordering Options:

##### 1) Orders Place Offline through the Office:

If you would like to **place an Order Offline**, bring your completed order form and cash or cheque payable to St. Paul's United Church to the Meghan in the Church Office. Please contact Meghan with any questions at 506-458-1183 or [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

##### 2) Online Orders:

What you will need to **Order Online:**

1. Our campaign number: **67403**
2. Go to our fundraising website: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1719957-105534>
3. Click: **"Join Campaign"**
4. Shop, shop, shop away! Payment is by Visa & Mastercard

Thank you everyone for your support. Even if you can't buy chocolates from us, it would mean the world if you could share this fundraiser link to everyone you know!

## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program is in desperate need of **proteins with flip top lids**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry needs: pasta, white sugar, ketchup, salt, large orange juice, coffee mate, laundry detergent and Mr. Clean. Thank you for your continued support!



## LENTEN REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

You are invited to join us in a small group circle during Lent for individual reflection and spiritual practice. Rose-Hannah will facilitate a 3-week group meeting from noon to 2pm on Saturday **March 11th, 18th, and 25th**. No previous experience is required, just bring your open heart and curiosity. The gatherings are held in the Parlour at Wilmot United Church. We begin by sharing a potluck lunch. To register, please contact Rose-Hannah Gaskin at [rosehannah.gaskin@gmail.com](mailto:rosehannah.gaskin@gmail.com)

## CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER TO ST. PAUL'S & WILMOT

This is an opportunity for both congregations to gather together and discuss how Downtown United might develop a collaborative project and process that will sustain and enhance both congregations' missions of service within the greater Fredericton community. Cathy Stewart and Marijke Strong from Credence will be with us in person to facilitate both days of discussions. Dates (Please choose one): Saturday, **March 18, 9-12 am** at St Paul's OR Sunday, **March 19, 1-4 pm** at Wilmot. Lunch will be provided on both days. Please sign up so that we have enough food! Call the church office (458-1183) by Wednesday March 15th to register which sessions you will be attending.

## BIBLE STUDY IS FOR EVERYONE

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This year we will be reading through the Gospel of Matthew, with a focus for this week on Matthew 20:1-16. Join us in the conference room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190. Interested in an evening bible study?



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CHURCH

We are seeking lay and ministry personnel leaders for roles on the General Council Executive, the General Council Planning Committee, a special task group, and a new interfaith opportunity. Please visit the [United Church website](#) for more information. Deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 23, 2023.

## SOUND & PROJECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sound and projection are vital parts of our service and right now we are looking for at least one more person to step forward and join the team. Training provided! We are hoping to develop a rotating team. Please contact Meghan to express your interest at 458-1183 or [stpauloffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpauloffice224@gmail.com)

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## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees
  - March 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P
  - March 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ World Day Of Prayer ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship
  - March 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Conversations That Matter ~ at St. Paul's ~ 9am-12pm
  - March 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Downtown United Service at Wilmot
  - March 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Conversations That Matter ~ at Wilmot ~ 12:30-3:30pm
  - March 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach
  - March 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Annual General Meeting at 1pm
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## FUNDRAISING DINNER AT WESLEYAN JOURNEY CHURCH

On Monday, Feb.27 at 5:00pm a group of 18 new Ukrainian families will be hosting a fundraising dinner/evening organized by Scott Wood of Boaz Lighthouse International. They are preparing a Ukrainian meal, sharing stories and entertainment. The tickets are available by e-transfer to [boazlighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:boazlighthouse@gmail.com) and the price is \$100 - \$20 for the cost of the meal, and you will receive an income tax receipt for the \$80 donation.

This will be at the Wesleyan Journey Church on Duncan Lane. Follow this link to their Facebook notice of this event.

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid03jgJz5cAhLXUnsrDgs1EFYyAH2NrZS6JUU88UHJuL5aA4EG7HwFAhYrTvBS7udrnl&id=674921945&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=RUBZ1f](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid03jgJz5cAhLXUnsrDgs1EFYyAH2NrZS6JUU88UHJuL5aA4EG7HwFAhYrTvBS7udrnl&id=674921945&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=RUBZ1f)

## WARMING CENTRE

Did you know there is a warming centre at 435 King St. open to guests from 8:30am - 11:15am and from 12:15 - 4:45pm Monday-Friday? These hours have been established to coordinate with access to meals at the Community Kitchen. Coffee, hot chocolate and light snacks will be available at the warming centre. The centre will have both regular staff and volunteers. At least one of our members is already volunteering with this program. If you would like to help or to find out more information please call Joan Kingston at (506) 999-5626.



## ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

*190 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and Serving Others in Christ's name*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

Web: [www.stpaulsunityed.ca](http://www.stpaulsunityed.ca) | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**Minister:** Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organists:** Dr. Sharon Pond & Alexis Ervin

**Church Administrator:** Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Rusty Blakely