

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Fredericton, N.B.

May 14th, 2023

Easter 6 – Mother's Day

10:30 AM

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." ~ Matthew 11: 28-30

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Aria ~ Rawsthorne

GREETING/WELCOMING:

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

INTROIT: *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*

VU 179 ~ Refrain

*Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ.
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) ¹

When we pay attention to what is behind us...

we notice God's presence.

When we pay attention to what is beside us...

we know God is here.

When we draw our attention to what is before us...

we realize that the path is unclear, but we know Christ's promise.

No matter who we are,

No matter where we come from

No matter where we are going...

We are not alone!

So we gather to worship

Taught by Christ,

Moved by the Spirit,

And loved by God.

OPENING PRAYER:

*Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.*

*Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.*

*Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.*

*Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.*

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR SCRIPTURE: *Listen, God Is Calling*

MV 97

*Listen God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:28-30, 5:1-8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *I See a New Heaven*

VU 713

*I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.*

*There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be. R*

*There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain. R*

*There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love. R*

*There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.*

MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR THE DOWNTOWN UNITED PROJECT ²

INVITATION TO GIVE FROM THE HEART: ³

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS: *In Gratitude and Humble Trust*

VU 544

*In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.*

*O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (In Unison)

While we do not know what the future holds, we know your heart and your will. O God, we offer ourselves and our resources in your service. Please take the work of our hands, the gifts of our time and the money we present and let them be building blocks for your way in our world. Let these gifts, given and returned to your service, be sources of hope and joy for us and the world. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Eden's Song ~ Schweizer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

VU 120

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

*O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.*

COMMISSIONING: (Responsive)

We go now singing praise,

For God is faithful in our joy and sorrow.

We go now in confidence,

For we are God's Children loved and be loved.

We go now, laying down our fears

For God has prepared a future for us, and God is good.

We go now, into the world, bravely, boldly, and knowing,

We are not alone!

BLESSING:

CHORAL CLOSING: *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

VU 424 ~ v1

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

POSTLUDE: Toccata in D Minor ~ Nevin

1 Adapted from Richard Bott, *Gatherings L/E 2023*, pg 3

2 Cathy Stewart, *Credence and Co. for Downtown United*

3 Joanne Carlson Brown, *Ministry Matters*, March 12, 2023

Scripture Readers: Narrator 1 – Deborah West, Narrator 2 – Andrew Steeves

Greeter: Mary Stickle **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY MAY 14TH, 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.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Sunday is Mother's Day, a day to celebrate and give thanks to all of the mothers for their caring hearts, relentless spirit and ability to keep it together through the ups and downs of motherhood and life. Wishing you all a relaxing day that is well deserved!

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." ~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

REDUCED OFFICE HOURS

The office will have reduced hours from **May 18th through 23rd**. Volunteers will be holding down the fort from 8:30 to 12:30 during that time. Those wanting to drop off plants for the sale on Saturday can do so Friday from 9-12pm. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE

St. Paul's Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday **May 20th** from 9am to noon. Come pick up plants for your garden, balcony and home. **CASH ONLY**. 224 York Street in the George St. parking lot – corner of York & George Streets.



SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

St. Paul's is seeking to fill 2 summer student positions for July and August: Office Administration Clerk and Building Maintenance Worker. These positions fall under Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) funding and are 35 hours per week for 8 weeks. Eligibility criteria is: Between the ages of 16 and 30, Canadian Citizen, Have a valid SIN#. More information can be found on our website at [employment-opportunities](#) Interested candidates can forward a resume and cover letter to stpauloffice224@gmail.com Attn: CSJ or drop-off to the church office at 224 York Street. Application deadline is **May 31st**.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM



This week, the program needs **juice boxes and fruit cups**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: honey, coffee, peanut butter, cookies, white sugar, vegetable oil, frosting, brown sugar, vinegar, juice boxes, can tomatoes, flour, honey, salt, butterscotch pudding, dish and laundry detergent. Thank you for your continued support!

WARK/ST. PAUL'S SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who are members or adherents of St. Paul's and who plan to pursue post-secondary studies this fall are invited to apply for financial support from the Wark/St. Paul's Scholarship Funds. Details on eligibility and application guidelines are available at [scholarships-bursaries](#) Applications must be received on or before **July 31st**.



BROADVIEW MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION



Broadview magazine features award-winning coverage of spirituality, justice and ethical living stories and images, inspiring readers to live a purpose filled life. If you would like to subscribe or renew your subscription, St. Paul's group subscription rate is \$25 per year, for 8 editions, mailed directly to your home. You can pay for your subscription in the office via cheque (payable to St. Paul's) or cash or by e-transfer.

Deadline is June 1st. For more information on Broadview click [HERE](#). Reach out to Meghan with any questions or to register or renew at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or 458-1183.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This week we will be focusing on Romans 6:1-14. Join us in the board room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190.



YOUTH @ REGION! (FORMERLY I@C AND YF!)

Registration for Youth @ Region **closes TODAY!** Join youth from across the region **May 26-28, 2023 at the University of PEI** and make your presence known at the **Regional Annual Meeting**. The cost of Youth@Region is \$75 per participant (this cost reflects a \$100 grant from the Region). This fee includes all activities, meals, accommodations, and a t-shirt. Travel expenses are in addition to this price. To register follow this [link \(https://ucceast.ca/77646-fsldw-weekly-announcements-april-19-2023\)](https://ucceast.ca/77646-fsldw-weekly-announcements-april-19-2023). This program is for all youth, grades 6-12 in your community of faith and beyond. Have questions? Email Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, cstuart@united-church.ca.

DOWNTOWN UNITED PROJECT

The Downtown United Project team, working with our Consultants Cathy and Marijke last weekend, presented 4 questions for all people of St Paul's to reflect on this month to further our discernment on a way forward. Your participation is vital to shape the nature of the project which will be determined. We are asked to spend at least 5 minutes a day reflecting on one of the questions before us. Each week we will receive a reflection guide. Follow the link to access this week's guide. [downtown-united-project](#)

TALK ABOUT IT AFTER WORSHIP

May 14th & 21st join with others to share your thoughts and ideas about the Downtown United discernment and reflection questions, which can be found on the website here: downtown-united-project It is also an opportunity to share your experience of the process and ask any questions which will be passed along to the Downtown United Project team. To join the conversation, take a seat at the discussion table, where you will also find printed copies of the questions and report.



NEW ZOOM LINK

As some of you are aware, we were victims of Zoom bombers last weekend. We deeply apologize for any distress you have experienced, please reach out to Rev. Michelle for support. Because of this incident, we will be changing not only our link but a few processes behind the scenes. You are encouraged to log in promptly so that the meeting may be locked, after which you will not be able to join. We will also be removing the ability to unmute your own microphone and have made changes to the chat settings. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834519740> Passcode 657067. You can still join by phone only, if you don't have a long distance plan charges will apply. All you need to do is call 1 647 558 0588 and follow the prompts to enter Meeting ID 81834519740 and Passcode 657067.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 4th will be a joint service at Wilmot at 11:00am. Our consultants will be joining us to lead a discussion and deepen our discernment. We have heard feedback about length of the morning, so plans are underway to shorten worship and structure meeting differently. Your attendance is very important to the outcomes. Please book the time now to ensure you can fully participate. This is the last large congregational meeting prior to the presentation of project recommendations, which will be released in the fall.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 14th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship
- May 20th** ~ St. Paul's Annual Plant Sale ~ George St. parking lot
- May 21st** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir
- May 28th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach
- June 4th** ~ Downtown United Service at Wilmot at 11am
- June 11th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Board
- June 18th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Education

SAINT ANDREW'S SPRING YARD SALE

St. Andrew's is holding a yard sale on Friday, **May 12th**, 2-7 p.m. and Saturday, **May 13th**, 9 until Noon at 512 Charlotte St. *Masking is appreciated.*

YARD SALE AT NEW MARYLAND UNITED

New Maryland United Church - Large Yard Sale - Saturday, **May 13th** from 8 am to 12 noon at New Maryland Centre (754 New Maryland Hwy). Hot dogs and drinks available. Sponsored by New Maryland United Church.

MUSIC NIGHT AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, **May 14th** at 6 p.m. Come and join the worship team from St. Luke's Protestant Chapel, Base Gagetown (including your pastor who had been a long-time member) as we present an evening of music and relaxation. Come prepared to sing and join us in worship and praise. We look forward to seeing you there. Please invite your

friends. You are invited to bring a toonie or greater as you feel led (Homeless Shelter), and a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank. *It is Spring, so let's all sing!*

"SONGS OF GLADNESS: SINGING IN SPRING"

The Fredericton Kiwanis Youth Choir under the direction of Ross Simonds will present its spring concert, "Songs of Gladness: Singing in Spring," on Wednesday, **May 17th**, at 7 pm at Grace Memorial Baptist Church. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth, and \$25 for a family, and can be purchased from choir members, at ScandiModern (61 Carleton Street), or on Eventbrite at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fredericton-kiwanis-youth-choir-presents-songs-of-gladness-singing-tickets-582420765187> Come celebrate with us!

YARD SALE AT GIBSON MEMORIAL

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a YARD SALE on **June 3rd**, 2023, 8 a.m. - 12 noon. All are welcome!



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

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Web: www.stpaulsunityed.ca | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

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

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