

DOWNTOWN UNITED
A service of St. Paul's and Wilmot United
Fredericton, N.B.

May 7th, 2023

Easter 5

10:30 AM

*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ~ John 12:24*

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Jesus Loves Me ~ Payne

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)

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

We rejoice in our God, who makes a way through the deserts of this world

We come to worship God, who gives us what we need

We praise our God, who grants water in the wilderness and streams of mercy that never end

We take our place in creation, giving thanks to God, who formed us as a people

Let us worship the One who leads us into our future, proclaiming, behold I am doing a new thing!

OPENING PRAYER:

HYMN: *In Loving Partnership We Come*

VU 603

*In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.*

*We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.*

*Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.*

*In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.*

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: Isaiah 43:18-21, Acts 1:1-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

MV 703

*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

INVITATION TO GIVE FROM THE HEART:

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)

O God, we bring our offerings, in celebration of what has been, in hope of what will be, and in trust that you will move us from here to there. Take the gifts we offer, gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and send your blessing on them, and us, so that we may be animated to be part of your ever-renewing ministry of love, mercy, grace, and hope. Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM: The King of Love My Shepherd Is ~ Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *On Eagle's Wings*

VU 808 ~ Psalm 91

*You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,
my Rock in whom I trust.'
'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'*

*The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God's wings your refuge,
God's faithfulness your shield. R*

*You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. R*

*For to God's angels is given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

*'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'*

COMMISSIONING: (Responsive)

God is preparing us for a new day

With Christ by our side we will say goodbye to what has passed and hello to the present moment and all it brings

God is bringing forth a new day

With the Holy Spirit we will rise up and meet the future

God had given us what we need

We go now to boldly proclaim God's realm of love and justice, mercy and grace.

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 ~ Bach

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Cathy Stewart, Jesus – Barbara Cull-Wilby, Disciples – Ron Naugler,
Angel – Cathy Davis

Greeters: Erin & Brad Webb *Audio Visual:* John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY MAY 7TH, 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.

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

Updated COVID Protocols for In-Person Worship Services:

- Masks are highly recommended, but no longer required.
- Congregational singing is permitted.
- You are encouraged to spread out to maintain social distancing. Anyone wanting extra space is invited to sit in the balcony.
- Sanitize or wash hands on entry into the building or the sanctuary.
- Offering plates are located at the door.

As always, if you are unable to join us in person we hope to see you on Zoom - link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854718551> Passcode: 165090

FUNDSCRIP ~ MAY PROMOTIONS

If you are still putting together your next FundScrip order (deadline **Sunday, May 7th**), please note that several retailers have increased the value of their donations to St. Paul's for the month of May. They include Boston Pizza, Chapters, Hello Fresh, Chef's Plate, Winners/Home Sense/Marshalls and American Eagle. Gift cards will arrive for distribution on Sunday, May 14th (Mother's Day . . . *hint, hint*). Order forms are available in the church office, in the Narthex or click here [May 7th FundScrip Order Form](#). **New supporters always welcome!** Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*



DOWNTOWN UNITED – PRESENTATION

The Downtown United committee invites you to stay after church this Sunday **May 7th**, for the interim report from Credence and Co. This will guide the next phase of our discernment of ways to go forward. Join us for lunch as we continue the discussion of how to be the church, together.

TALK BACK TUESDAY

So often we are asked to listen in the church, let's start talking. Tuesday, **May 9th** at 11 am you are invited to join a time of conversation in the Ladies' Parlor. We will use the report presented by Credence and the follow-up questions as our jumping-off point.

YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE

This Sunday **May 7th** the Youth Group, which meets Sunday evenings at Wilmot, will be hosting a bake sale in the hall. Grab some baking to take home for after lunch and the presentation from Credence and Co. and support our young people.

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, Miracle Whip, peanut butter, vinegar, molasses, sugar, coffee, vegetable oil, large juice, tin foil, Mr. Clean and dish detergent. Thank you for your continued support!



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#, Only employed under 1 CSJ grant. Interested candidates can forward a resume and cover letter to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com Attn: CSJ or drop-off to the church office at 224 York Street. Application deadline is **May 31st**.

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 <http://www.stpaulsunited.ca> under "Resources". 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.



KINDRED WORKS PROJECT UPDATE



Our exploration into a housing project with Kindred Works has taken another step forward. The first 3 members have been appointed to the Development Committee to represent St Paul's interests in coming up with a plan to present to the congregation. Our thanks and congratulations are due to **Carole Peacock, Cathy Davis and Jane Blakely**. <https://www.kindredworks.ca>

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This week we will be focusing on Romans 3:28-30; 5:1-11. 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 is now live! 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.

CAMP WEGESEGUM – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

Camp Wegese gum – 100th Anniversary Party July 15, 2023. We are so excited to finally announce the [schedule of events](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=548053527455477&set=a.395014366092728) <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=548053527455477&set=a.395014366092728> for our 100th anniversary party! Mark your calendars! Come celebrate with us!!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

May 7th ~ Downtown United Service ~ Fellowship and Lunch provided ~ Hosted by M&P followed by a presentation from Creedence Consultants

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 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the UCW

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!*

AFTER HOURS SUPERVISORS NEEDED AT WILMOT

Wilmot United Church is looking for a few after-hours supervisors (weekdays and/or weekends). This is a paid position with highly flexible hours. Successful applicants will be given a list of upcoming shifts via email which they can accept or reject depending on their schedules. Supervising after office hours involves:

- Letting users of the space (renters or church group attendees) in and out of the automated locked entrance
- Light custodial duties
- Operating the lift should someone need that

Training is provided. Shifts are usually quiet and relaxed. Paydays are biweekly.

This position is appropriate for a wide range of candidates from responsible teens all the way to retired individuals looking for a few hours of work each week or month. Please contact Wilmot United Church for more information at wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca or 506-458-1066. We look forward to hearing from you!



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 | 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