



Summer Season

Summer Newsletter ~ June 21, 2023

Rest, Relaxation, Renewal and So Much More

Summer as a season is seen as a time of rest and renewal. Children are off of school, cabins and camps are open for recreation, and so many pressures seem to release for the warm summer months. Truly, summer offers a different pace which allows for renewal. This summer, I hope that you will drink deeply of the rest and recreation that this season offers, so when we reconnect in fall you will have renewed energy for the discussions and decisions ahead of us.

However, rest is not the only thing summer has to offer. It also a time that fosters growth. It is during the long days of light and heat that plants mature and prepare to bear their harvest in fall. What would it be like for us if this Summer, we not only took time to enjoy the rest and relaxation of this season, but also took the time to engage in practices that helped us grow so that we were ready for a fall harvest too?

We know that the fall will bring important questions and discussions on what are our next steps as a congregation. We will need the renewed energy that summer rest will afford. We also need a grounding in God. Prayer is a good place to start. Thom Rainer in his book *Who Moved My Pulpit? Leading Change In The Church*, goes so far to say that he has never seen successful and sustaining change in the Church without prayer, not ever! One of my prayers is that we do not try to make these decisions by ourselves, but that we pray to God for wisdom, courage and strength.

Just like we do not know today what harvest we will reap from our gardens for our Thanksgiving meal in fall, we do not truly know what the future of the church will be either. Prayer puts us into contact with the one who knows the future. Payer shifts our perspective from trying to do it all ourselves, to letting God take the lead. As we pray for God’s wisdom, we gain the perspective to know what changes we need to make, and as we pray for courage and strength, we gain the power to make the change happen.



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As we are enjoying the long days of summer, soaking up the sun, I want to invite you to spend at least a few minutes, maybe even longer, praying for your church. Praying for wisdom for our church leaders, praying for courage to honestly face what the future holds and pray for strength to take the actions we are called by God to take. If we start this practice of prayer now, and continue it through this season of growth, just imagine how our relationship will be with God when we come back together in fall, and the fruit God will give us when we lean into the promise found in Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on our own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." May God bless us with not only rest, but his wisdom, courage and strength this season.

Rev. Michelle



Property Committee Update...

The property committee for St Paul's United Church is responsible for the physical operations of the sanctuary, Fraser memorial Hall and the 8 rental units. The sanctuary and Fraser Memorial Hall as well as the fire escapes, exterior and interior steps, keeping the boiler working (it loves to surprise us at the most inopportune times) and work to keep the grounds looking attractive. Yes, Rusty does most of that work and we were able to make it easier for him when we replaced several of the equipment items (vacuum cleaner, lawnmower and a whipper snipper donated by members of our congregation). Our goal is to keep our facility in good repair but the problems happen frequently because our beautiful facility is old and needs in excess of one million dollars to repair the roof alone... **if we could find competent and willing contractor in Canada to do**

the work. Meanwhile we patch, paint, nail, and try not to say bad words.

Our committee consists of Kyle Mathers, Walter Bidlake, Brad Webb, Derrick Grant, Greg Morton, Ron Yateman, and their token woman, me, Patty Trail. Our team is super, but they are overworked and we don't want any of them to wear out.

We would happily welcome a few more members to our committee who enjoy repair carpentry work AND if we had a larger budget... If you have any questions about how we might do our work more efficiently and you hesitate to talk to one of us, talk to Meghan in the office. She will gladly connect you with us.

Patty Trail,
Property Chair

Sabbatical Essentials

- ◆ Rev. Michelle will be away from June 6-September 6.
- ◆ Emergency Pastoral Care will be provided by Bev Sharpe. Her telephone number is 506-471-4326.
- ◆ Pastoral Charge Supervisor is Rose-Hannah Gaskin .
- ◆ Worship will be held in our summer rotation with Wilmot and St. Andrew's.



HEY ADULTS! Are you available to help with the Sunday School for three-week stretches?

We are looking for leaders to help share the love of God with our youngest congregation members. All serving in the Sunday School will need to provide a valid vulnerable sector police record check.

Themes from the Curriculum called Living the Word includes:

- **God Creates Family** (Sept. 10-24)
- **Responding to God's love** (Oct. 1-15)
- **God's way of Leading** (Oct. 22-Nov. 5)
- **Our sin, God's Faithfulness** (Nov. 12-26)
- **Promises Made, Promises Kept** (Dec. 3-17)

If one of these themes piqued your interest or you want to help our children grow, please contact Erin Hayes at hayes.erin11@gmail.com!

Christian Education...

The Christian Education committee has gotten together to plan ahead for the summer months and preparing for the Fall Kick Off on **September 10th** for the 2023-2024 year!

Again, we are welcoming **children ages 5+** to Sunday School during the Sunday service each week.

The Downtown United Youth Group is made up of a combination of youth from United Churches in Fredericton. Downtown United Youth Group is available for **children ages 9-10+** on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Location and start dates in September 2023 are TBA, stay tuned for more details!

Please contact Erin Hayes (hayes.erin11@gmail.com) to sign up for **Youth Programming for 2023-2024!**

Adult education opportunities such as Bible Study will resume in September 2023.



UCW Update...

The UCW has been quietly idling in the background these days. For April and May we joined the UCW of Wilmot for their monthly meetings. We catered the combined lunch and meeting with Credence on Sunday May 7th. On Monday June 12th, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Gibson United with the Wilmot ladies and a few gents. We were so glad that Meghan from the office was able to join us and spend some time with our members.

A new visitation group has been created. If you know of any seniors who would welcome a home visit, please let us know.

We are still willing and able to cater small gatherings and receptions. We will be providing a lunch in September for the Choral Society. New members are always welcome. We would be more than happy to have you join our merry band!

Donna Chauvin, St. Paul's UCW

Worship Committee Update...

Hi again! Its Debbie West from St. Paul's United Church radio 102.5 FM with news from your Worship Committee. Actually, not so much NEWS news but we do have an important message for you (more a plea really). "The weather outside is delightful"- sunny, great gardening, walking the trails, sitting on your deck sipping....., going to cottages and of course lounging on the beach weather! All of this is wonderful and important. But here at Saint Paul's, "the weather is simply frightful". We all know and agree that cottage time, family time and vacation time is vital to us. However, this means that we have far less people in our church in the summer months. To reiterate, our commitments are important and some of us are being cautious about continuing COVID concerns as well. But we are missing you terribly. We are not only God's family but also each other's family. This is NOT about finances; It is about Family love and support for each other, especially in these difficult times. It is particularly frightening without the love, acceptance and support from our Family. All of us - the members who attend, the Ministers, the choir, the greeters, the readers, the volunteers and yes, the janitorial staff, find we function less effectively without the love and support of our Family. If it is at all possible, please consider coming to some services this summer when you are available and feel comfortable. And perhaps (GASP) rely a little less on Zoom.

The choir is also functioning with a skeleton crew (just ask our gender neutral members!). It is wonderful seeing you singing the hymns with us in the congregation, but we cannot HEAR you! We need your love and support too. To that end, I would like to invite any of you who would like to join us in the choir loft to sing with us. We will only be singing hymns till September. Also sit near one of us at the other churches too so we don't feel alone. Choir gowns are not mandatory. If this reaches you too late for this Sunday's service, think about it. I, for one, would love to extend this invite for the entire year! Everyone is welcome at the table. It will require permission from a few people but IS possible. If you would like to speak to me further, my e-mail is deborahwest341@gmail.com



Summer Spiritual Practice: Seeing God in our Midst

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

~ Romans 1:20

This reading from Romans tells us that God has not hidden oneself away, but is on display in creation and through that which is created. One of the things that the Downtown United Project meetings did was help us to tell stories of where we had experienced God in the past. This summer lets continue this telling of God's presence here in the present. This summer keep your eyes and heart open for God's presence and then capture a picture of the moments and/or places to share with us all. After all, it has been said that a picture is worth 1000 words. Let us seek to create a visual array of God's presence among us today! Images can be sent to our Facebook page through the message function or attached in email to the church office.

DOWNTOWN UNITED + SUMMER SCHEDULE 2023

Services at 10:30 am from June 25th to September 3rd, 2023

WILMOT UNITED CHURCH & Via YouTube

473 King St. Fredericton | 458-1066

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WilmotUnitedChurch?app=desktop>

June 25th ~ Service at Wilmot with Rev. Mary Leading

July 2nd ~ Service at Wilmot with Bev Sharpe from St. Paul's Leading

July 9th ~ Service at Wilmot with Rev. Darryl from St. Andrew's Leading

July 16th ~ Service at Wilmot with Rev. Mary Leading

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH & Via Zoom

224 York St. Fredericton NB | Tel. 458-1183

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834519740> Passcode 657067

View later: "https://www.youtube.com/St. Paul's

July 23rd ~ Service at St. Paul's with Rev. Mary from Wilmot Leading Passcode 657067

July 30th ~ Service at St. Paul's with Bev Sharpe Leading

August 6th ~ Service at St. Paul's with Rev. Darryl from St. Andrew's Leading

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & Via Zoom

512 Charlotte St. Fredericton | Tel. 455-8220

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287?pwd=RFhERHZiU0hHbVpYcjYxRFFNZWdIQT09)

[Meeting ID: 836 7375 6287](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287?pwd=RFhERHZiU0hHbVpYcjYxRFFNZWdIQT09) Passcode: 839092

August 13th ~ Service at St. Andrew's with Rev. Darryl Leading

August 20th ~ Service at St. Andrew's with Rev. Mary from Wilmot Leading

August 27th ~ Service at St. Andrew's with Bev Sharpe from St. Paul's Leading

September 3rd ~ Service at Wilmot with Rev. Darryl from Leading

Contact Us...

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