

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.

Sept 17th, 2023

16th after Pentecost

10:30 AM

*"Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."
~ Mark 10:27*

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Menuet Gothique ~ Boellmann

WELCOME

GREETING: *(Responsive)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(Responsive)*

Once there was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people began to follow him. One day they asked him who he was, and he responded, "I am the light."

This light is present in our world and in ourselves. This light draws us here today, on this day to celebrate, with all creation, so let us sing!

INTROIT: *This is the Day*

MV 122

This is the day that God has made;

We will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made;

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*¹

In this holy ordinary place,
with these holy ordinary people,

God appears.

In this holy ordinary time,
in this holy ordinary life,

God is doing amazing, unexpected things.

We gather for holy ordinary worship

**That we might experience yet again the joy of worship
and God's extraordinary promise of love and grace.**

*Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.*

*O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.*

*You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.*

*Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.*

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION: *(Responsive)*¹

You appear, O God,
Yet we do not always look up to see,
nor do we spring into action in welcome.

**Though we pray to get a glimpse of you,
too often we don't truly expect it will actually happen.**

You appear, O God,
Yet we do not always engage you,
**and sometimes we do not recognize your messenger,
so we dismiss what we hear.**

Forgive us, Lord God.

**Make us open enough to welcome the stranger,
bold enough to be honest in community,
responsive enough to embrace the wonders you are doing,
right now.**

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Sing a New Song ~ Schweizer

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *Give To Us Laughter*

VU 624

*Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.*

*Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.*

*Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.*

*Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.*

BRINGING FORWARD OUR GIFTS FOR GOD

DEDICATION VERSE: *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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father Who art in heaven
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On Earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespassed against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and Ever. AMEN

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *To Abraham and Sarah*

VU 634

*To Abraham and Sarah
the call of God was clear:
“Go forth and I will show you
a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey
for I have pledged my word:
that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.”*

*From Abraham and Sarah
arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey
on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written
by God this saving word:
“that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.”*

*We of this generation
on whom God's hand is laid,
can journey to the future
secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness
and trusting in this word:
“that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Go to the World*

VU 420 v2

*Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

POSTLUDE: Toccata ~ Boellmann

¹Adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, *Bibleworm Liturgy* September 17th, 2023

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Jane Banks, Abraham – Ron Naugler, Visitor – Kelly Simpson, Sarah – Ann Krause, Lord – Cathy Davis

Greeter: Mary Stickles Audio Visual: Murray Simpson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

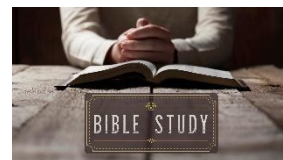
FREDERICTON DIRECT CHARGE



THANK YOU! TO THE FREDERICTON CO-OP
We would like to extend a sincere Thank You! To the Fredericton Co-Op for their very generous contribution to our Pantry and Brown Bag Lunch Programs. St. Paul's was graciously awarded \$3600 towards these much-needed food programs that help the most vulnerable folks in Fredericton and surrounding areas. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY READING

Mondays 11:00-12:00pm. We are venturing into a new format for our exploration. Dig into the scriptures, join with others as we seek to deepen our relationship with God. No prior experience needed.



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Do you enjoy coffee and conversation after church? Do you bake? Can you pour a cup of coffee? Are you willing to learn how to use the dishwasher? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are who we need. This post-service ministry is a great way to support and serve the community without being part of a committee. You have the flexibility to serve for one Sunday or more if it fits with your schedule. If you can help support the committees in this important community time, please sign up in Fraiser Memorial Hall or by calling Meghan in the office.

EVENING SMALL GROUP FAITH EXPLORATION

We have heard an expressed desire for an evening program for those who work in the day. If this of interest to you, please contact Rev. Michelle michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com or 506-259-7602.

ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an announcement you would like included in our weekly eNews or bulletin? A reminder that announcements will be accepted by the office weekly until **12 noon Wednesdays**, in person or by email to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com All announcements will be included for a two-week period, unless otherwise requested.



BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Have you ever been interested in helping your church community move forward? The Board at St. Paul's is looking for 2 new members. The positions that need to be filled are general director and secretary. If interested, please contact Donna Chauvin.

FABRIC & YARN SALE

Cleaning out your sunroom? Don't know what to do with leftover balls of yarn? We have a solution! On Sept 30th, St. Paul's Quilters are joining with Wilmot for a Fabric & Yarn Sale at Wilmot United Church. Donations of fabric and yarn can be dropped off at St. Paul's office or Quilting Room until 28th.





BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs **proteins with flip top lids fruit cups and granola bars**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: white sugar, soda crackers, ketchup, pancake mix, Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, cookies, jam, flour, apple sauce, flakes of ham, can milk, Hamberger Helper, Stove Top stuffing, oatmeal, Mr. Clean and dish detergent. Thank you for your continued support!

ZUMBA® FITNESS CLASSES WITH LESLIE

Every Tuesday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm from September 12th to December 19th, 2023, in Fraser Hall at St. Paul's United Church. Join dance fitness classes that are fun, easy to follow, and help you feel your best. These classes bring people together to enjoy moving to Latin and World music and rhythms. Each class includes both high and low intensity moves so you can choose your activity level. Open to everyone 16+ years. No experience needed. No need to register. Wear comfortable clothing, indoor sneakers and bring water. \$6 per class. For more information visit Leslie Marques•Zumba Fitness on Facebook or email Leslie at LSHMARQUES@hotmail.com



LOOKING FOR USED SNOWBLOWER

Winter is just around the corner and at St. Paul's, that means having to clear a lot of snow. We are seeking a gently used snowblower to help make this job a bit easier and faster. If anyone has a snowblower to donate, that would be greatly appreciated.

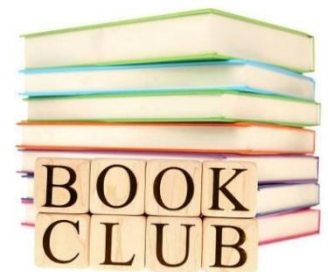


SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED

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. If interested, please contact Erin at hayes.erin11@gmail.com

JOIN THE MODERATORS BOOK CLUB

Brew a cup of tea or pour a glass of your favourite drink and snuggle in with a good book. Oh, and you can discuss the book with at least two friends—the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, and her guest—in one of Canada's biggest book clubs. More info and sign up <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project/mods-book-squad>



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 17th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by UCW
- September 24th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P
- October 1st** ~ World Communion Sunday ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed
- October 8th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir
- October 15th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship
- October 22nd** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Trustees

FLOOR CURLING

Forest Hill United Church is offering Floor Curling Wednesdays from 10am–12pm starting September 13th. Location: 45 Kimble Court. Registration fees are \$10 plus \$2 each time you attend. For more info or to register, please contact Mary Grant at 506-459-8525

FLEA MARKET VENDORS WANTED

Forest Hill United Church, in collaboration with St. Matthew Lutheran Church, will be hosting a Flea Market. The Market will be on Saturday, September 23rd from 9 am to noon at 45 Kimble COURT, Fredericton. The location is 45 Kimble COURT (not Kimble Drive), which is off of Forest Hill Road. A variety of items will be for sale, including: baked goods, Tupperware, and crafts. The proceeds from the St. Matthew table will go toward sponsoring a refugee family. There are tables still available for vendors. If you are interested in signing up as a vendor, contact Forest Hill United Church at foresth.office@bellaliant.com or 506-455-0988.



FLOOR CURLING
All Abilities Welcome!

Fee
\$10 registration fee plus
\$2 each time you attend

Location
Forest Hill United Church
45 Kimble Ct. Fredericton

Time
Wednesday, 10 a.m. - noon
Starting Sept. 13th
Contact Mary Grant at 506-459-8525 for information



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CONTACT INFORMATION

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

Web: www.stpaulsunited.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