

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

*191 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, and serving others in Christ's name*

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

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## GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

**PRELUDE:** Prelude in Classic Style ~ Young

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT:** *Jesus, Stand among Us*

VU 396 vs 1&2

*Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;  
let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.*

*Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;  
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Responsive)*<sup>1</sup>

In deep gratitude, we come to worship God.

**We recognize God as the source of all goodness.**

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

**love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.**

We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

**We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.**

**CENTERING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN:** *We Are Pilgrims*

VU 595

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.*

### **LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

#### **STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART**

#### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS BY ADULT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION**

##### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. For many baptism comes when one is a young child, at this time parents make promises on the child's behalf, and we celebrate the Grace of God that comes to us and claims us when we are not even aware of God's presence. The rite of confirmation marks the point where those who were baptized as children proclaim the faith for themselves. Today is a day to celebrate as we welcome three people into full membership of this congregation through baptism and confirmation.

So Kindred, let us remember that by water and the spirit we are called, claimed, and commissioned.

**We are called God's own, welcomed as children of God. We are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, united with one another and the Christian community of every time and place. We are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.**

##### **READING: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4-13a**

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body.

There is one body and one Spirit,  
**we have one hope in Christ.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God,  
**Creator of us all.**

Out of the water of baptism, we rise with new life,  
**forgiven, renewed, and at one with Christ.**

### **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES:**

On behalf of the congregation of *St. Paul's* United Church, I present the following *persons* for initiation into the body of Christ through profession of faith and baptism: *Shawn Scott Meister and Kimberly Rachel Keech.*

I present the Elizabeth Catherine Meister who seeks to renew the faith proclaimed in *her* baptism, through Confirmation.

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES:**

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

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in Christ in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT:**

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people,  
we commit ourselves to support and uphold you  
within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

**Amen.**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**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.

**HYMN: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized***

VU99

*Christ, when for us you were baptized,  
God's Spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove and yet  
as urgent as a flame.*

*God called you, 'My beloved Son,'  
called you, 'My servant true,'  
sent you God's kingdom to proclaim,  
God's holy will to do.*

*Straightway and steadfast until death  
you then obeyed the call  
freely as Son of Man to serve  
and give your life for all.*

*Baptize us with your Spirit now,  
your cross on us be signed,  
that likewise in God's service we  
may perfect freedom find.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water.

**Over the unshaped promise, your spirit hovered over the waters at the time of creation's birth.**

Through the waters of the exodus, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

**In the waters of the Jordan, your child Jesus was baptized.**

Jesus began his public ministry proclaiming the Good News of your love and forgiveness, healing, reconciling and revealing your love in all its fullness.

**Through the living water of baptism, you bless us forever more.**

May your spirit be upon us and what we do that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray,

**Amen.**

**POURING OF THE WATER:**

Listen to its free-flowing powers;

Listen to its releasing powers;  
Listen to its welcoming powers.

## **BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD**

### **BLESSING:**

May the blessing of God, Source of Love,  
Jesus Christ, Love incarnate,  
and the Holy Spirit, Love's power,  
be with you today and always.  
Amen.

### **THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**

#### **LAYING ON OF HANDS:**

*Shawn/Kimberly*, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,  
that being born of water and the Spirit,  
you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*Beth*, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power,  
guide you, inspire you, and work within you,  
all the days of your life.  
**Amen.**

### **LIGHTING OF A CANDLE**

### **PRESENTATION OF BIBLE**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME:**

Into the household of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**We are members of the Body of Christ.**

**We are inheritors of God's promise.**

**In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

#### **BLESSING:**

**May God bless you and keep you.**

**May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.**

**May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.**

**Amen.**

### **SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *Holy Spirit, Hear Us***

**VU 377 vs 2**

*Holy Spirit, shine now on the book we read;  
light its holy pages with the truth we need.*

### **SCRIPTURE READING: Lamentations 3: 16-25, Romans 8:22-28**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Fairest Lord Jesus ~ Makes

**MESSAGE**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE**

**HYMN:** *Teach Me, God to Wonder*

**VU 299**

*Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;  
let your world of beauty capture me.*

**Refrain:**

*Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,  
life be celebrated, joy you give.*

*Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;  
let your world of people speak to me. R*

*Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,  
in your world of loving my place take. R*

*Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,  
see you in my neighbour when we meet. R*

**THIS IS MY STORY** ~ Chris Grant

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS:**

Offerings are collected at the door to the sanctuary, or via e-transfer to [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com). To set up Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) monthly contributions, please contact Meghan in the office.

***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***

**VU 541**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**GOING FORTH WITH GOD**

**CLOSING HYMN:** *We Have This Ministry*

**VU 510**

*We have this ministry  
and we are not discouraged;  
it is by God's own power  
that we may live and serve.*

*Openly we share God's word,  
speaking truth as we believe,  
praying that the shadowed world  
may healing light receive.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.*

*O Christ, the tree of life,  
our end and our beginning,  
we grow to fullest flower  
when rooted in your love.  
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,  
called to service by your grace,  
different cultures, different gifts,  
the young and old a place.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.*

*The yoke of Christ is ours,  
the whole world is our parish;  
we daily take the cross,  
the burden and the joy.  
Bearing hurts of those we serve,  
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,  
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,  
we die and rise again.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.*

## COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Dance with the Spirit*

MV 156

*Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.*

POSTLUDE: Dorian Toccata ~ Bach

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<sup>1</sup> Presbyterian Church of Canada

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*Scripture Readers: Voice 1 – Cathy Davis, Voice 2 – Debbie West  
Greeter: Mary Stickles Audio Visual: John Davis*

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## 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.

## PROPERTY SALE UPDATE



Since our decision at the Annual Meeting to dispose of the sanctuary, hall and parking lot properties, your Trustees have been working very hard and very efficiently. They followed the process required by the United Church of Canada, obtained Regional approval to retain a realtor and list the property and have already received an offer. This is a lot to absorb all at once - when we were talking at the annual meeting, it felt like things would probably take until the fall before we had decisions to make. But here we are - a little like the dog that caught the bus!

The offer is a good one and as such, it will start the next round of due diligence. Barring any surprises, this will lead to a recommendation to the Council to approve the offer. The Council will consider the recommendation and, again, barring any surprises, recommend it to the Region.

We've got a bunch of things to figure out at this moment – we, being Trustees, Council and all of us as the congregation. We are following the process required by the United Church to get to a "legal" decision. But there is also a process to follow so that we as a church family are ready to implement that decision. The Trustees met last Sunday, the Council will be meeting this Sunday, and we know we need to talk to all of you - we just have to figure out how to make that happen.

It's the most difficult time of year to try to pull together meetings and I don't know if people follow their e-news as carefully over the summer, but today is a "heads up" - there is going to be a lot of activity over the next 2 - 3 weeks that, if successful, will result in the sale of the building. The closing date will be decided as part of that process - that's going to be a key date in the history of St. Paul's. So please stay tuned and we will do our level best to keep everyone looped in on the action. If you have questions, please talk to your Trustees and Council members! ~ Jane

## 190<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PLAQUE

This is a photo of the plaque in the botanical gardens of our 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary tree. You are encouraged to look at our maturing tree which is a 2-minute walk behind the ball field in prospect street. You will be amazed at the growth of this tree. Come and enjoy the benefit of mother nature! ~ Ron



## PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

Pastoral Care emergency contacts during Rev. Michelle's vacation: June 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Lori Beth at 506-262-6752, July 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Richard 506-262-2150.

## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: pudding cups, pasta, chunks of ham, chicken, & turkey, jam, vinegar, large juice, green beans, peas, white sugar, flour, cake mix, cookies, pancake mix, syrup, crackers, coffee, salt, tuna, canned milk, macaroni, spaghetti, granola bars, apple sauce, soda, Comet, Mr. Clean, laundry & dish detergent. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!





## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**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 31<sup>st</sup>**.



### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister & Debbie West**

**June 30<sup>th</sup> | July 7<sup>th</sup> | July 14<sup>th</sup>**

Downtown United Services at Saint Andrew's at 10:30am

**July 21<sup>st</sup> | July 28<sup>th</sup> | August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Downtown United Services at St. Paul's at 10:30am

**August 11<sup>th</sup> | August 18<sup>th</sup> | August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Downtown United Services at Wilmot at 10:30am

### BOOKING MEETING SPACE AT ST. PAUL'S

As the use of our space at St. Paul's gets busier, please remember to book your meetings space through the office. Drop by in person, call 458-1183 or email Meghan at [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com).

### DOWNTOWN UNITED SUMMER SCHEDULE

**Please join us this summer for  
Downtown United +  
Everyone is welcome!**

#### **SAINT ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & Via Zoom**

512 Charlotte St. Fredericton | Tel.455-8220

Sunday Services at 10:30am

**June 30<sup>th</sup> | July 7<sup>th</sup> | July 14<sup>th</sup>**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287?pwd=RFhERHZiU0hHbVpYcjYxRFFNZWdIQOT09>

*Meeting ID: 836 7375 6287 Passcode: 839092*

#### **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH & Via Zoom**

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

Sunday Services at 10:30am

**July 21<sup>st</sup> | July 28<sup>th</sup> | August 4<sup>th</sup>**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834519740> Password: 657067

View later: <https://www.youtube.com/st.pauls>

#### **WILMOT UNITED CHURCH & Via YouTube**

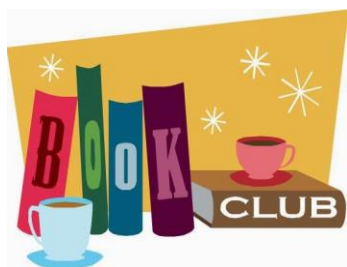
473 King St. Fredericton | 458-1066

Sunday Services at 10:30am

**August 11<sup>th</sup> | August 18<sup>th</sup> | August 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

## MODERATORS BOOK DISCUSSION - JUNE



Each Month our Moderator is hosting a book discussion. This Month, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and her guest Alf Dumont will be discussing Dumont's Memoir, *The Other Side of the Rivier: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge*. Alf served in The United Church of Canada as a minister for over 40 years. Discussion takes place online on **June 27<sup>th</sup>**. Sign up to be part of the Mod's Book Squad to join the discussion <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=2>



### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

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

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**Church Administrator:** Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Jaedyn Williams