

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

September 15th, 2024

17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

VU 400

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

We gather here,

because deep within our souls we hear God's call.

We gather here,

To recount God's amazing promises.

We gather here,

trusting that God's word is strong and true.

We gather to worship even when we struggle to believe and cannot imagine how God's word will be fulfilled,

for within God's presence, we find we do not need to fear, and our hope is restored as we are transformed by the living Christ.

HYMN: *Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing*

VU 223

*Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise:
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;
your servants proclaim the renown of your name
who rules over all and is ever the same.*

*Again we rejoice in the world you have made,
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,
we thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.*

*We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,
the might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.*

OPENING PRAYER

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 15:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Come, Christians, Join to Sing ~ Mueller

MESSAGE

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

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.'*

*As those of old their first-fruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring:
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(In Unison)*

Holy God, on only your word Abram and Sarai packed up and moved out into the unknown, turning their lives and dreams over to you. This morning, accept our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Take these gifts as signs of our commitment to you and use them to transform the fear of this world into faith and love. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

HYMN: *All the Way My Saviour Leads Me*

VU 635

*All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!*

*All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'*

*A world in need now summons us
to labour, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed, by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.*

POSTLUDE

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Alanna Palmer, Lord – Deborah West, Abram – Debbie Allison, God – Chris Grant
Greeter: Ron Naugler *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.

OFFICE HOURS

St. Paul's office has returned to the regular hours of Monday-Thursday from 8am-3pm, and Friday from 8am-1pm.

IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 15TH

There is an important congregational meeting on September 15th to vote on the adoption of the Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement draft. This Agreement lays out the basic structure for how the shared ministry will be lived out. It has been reviewed by St. Paul's Council and St. Andrew's Session. If you have not received your letter with a copy of this agreement in your mailbox by Wednesday, please contact Meghan in the office. Please read the information in the mailout and be prepared with your questions and to vote on the adoption of the agreement at the Congregational Meeting on **September 15th** after worship. To join by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89887629528> Passcode: 110516



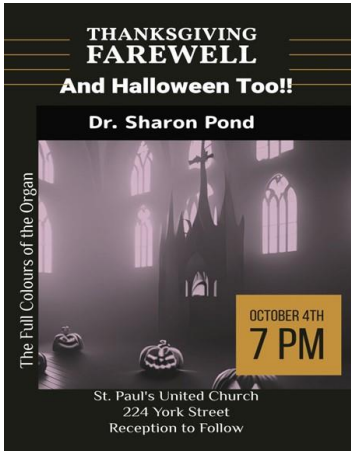
BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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: fruit cups, pasta, rice, Shake'n' Bake, canned chicken, ham & turkey, white & brown sugar, jam, Miracle Whip, molasses, mustard, relish, pancake mix & Syrup, ketchup, tea, cookies, salted soda crackers, nutty peanut butter, Rice Crispies, Corn Flakes, and dish detergent. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!





FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

Interested in hosting Fellowship Hour for the congregation? Get a few friends or committee members together to volunteer. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board outside of the Brown Bag room. Thank you in advance!

THE FULL COLOURS OF THE ORGAN

Thanksgiving, Farewell, And Halloween Too! October 4th at 7pm. A farewell organ recital by Dr. Sharon Pond celebrating St. Paul's United Church and their wonderful Casavant organ, featuring my favourite crowd-pleasing music and special surprises. Everyone Welcome! Reception to follow. Freewill offering for the Food Bank. Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/thanksgiving-farewell-and-halloween>

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

September 15th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister & Kim Keetch
September 15th ~ *Important Congregational Meeting following service*
September 22nd ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosts needed!
September 29th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosts needed!
October 4th ~ Dr. Sharon Pond's Organ Recital ~ 7pm

MODERATOR'S BOOK CLUB RETURNS

Over the last year our moderator has hosted a virtual book study exploring a wide range of books and topics. September the book club will be gathering again to explore and discuss the book Maximus Canada by Doug Saunders on September 26th. For more information and to sign up check out <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project/mods-book-squad>



CRAFT AND FLEA MARKET

Forest Hill United Church, in collaboration with St. Matthew Lutheran Church, will be hosting a Craft and Flea Market on Saturday, **September 21st** from 9 am to noon at 45 Kimble COURT, Fredericton (off Forest Hill Road at the top of the hill by the skateboard park). Please bring your own bags for your purchases. For more information, contact Forest Hill United Church at foresth.office@bellaliant.com or 506-455-0988.

SIMPLY COUNTRY PRESENTS

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 22nd, 2-4pm**, as we welcome back Simply Country – “The Women of Country”, singing country gospel and old-time hymns. This event will be held in the sanctuary of Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street and the cost is \$15.00 at the door. Hope you can join us!

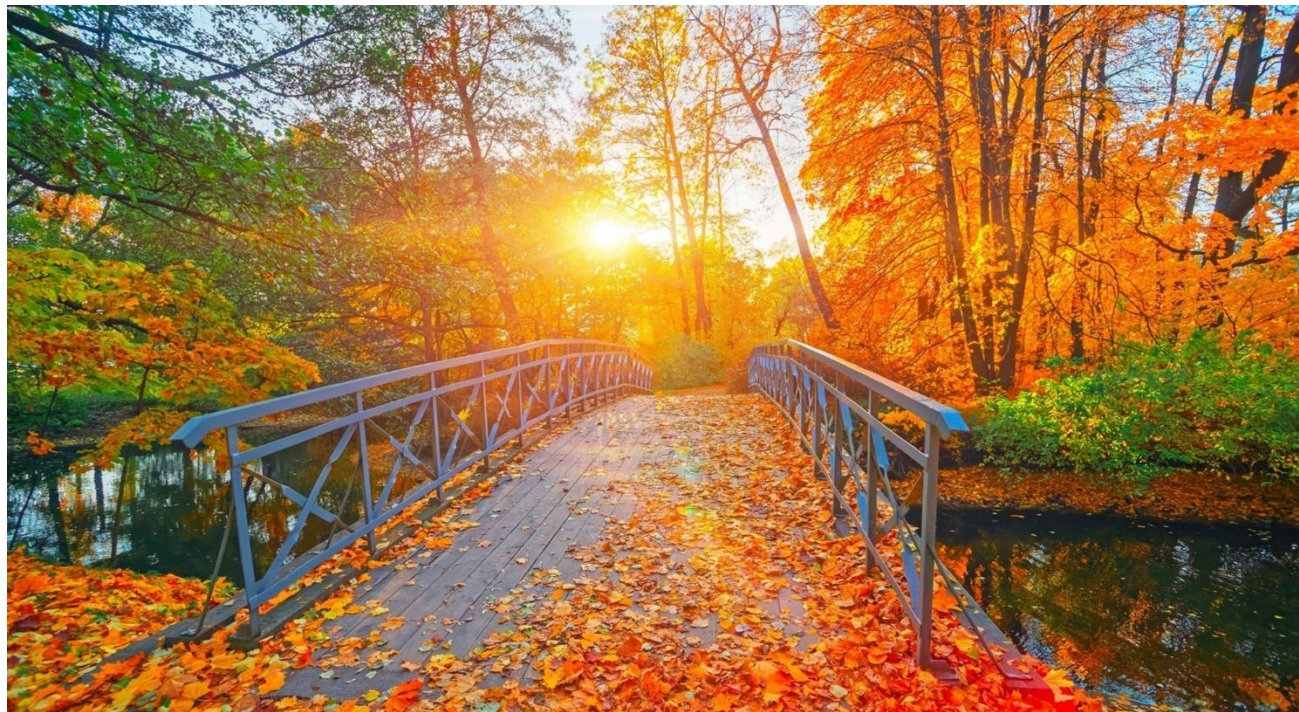


CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES AT ST. PAUL'S

Fever is presenting a Candlelight Concert Series in the sanctuary at St. Paul's. Two Concerts on **September 27th** feature 1) Vivaldi's Four Seasons (**SOLD OUT**), 2) A Tribute to Taylor Swift, and two on **November 9th** featuring 1) A Tribute to Coldplay, and 2) A Tribute to Abba. Tickets are ONLY available online. For more information and to purchase tickets [CLICK HERE.](#)

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH OF FREDERICTON

The Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary on **September 28th** at Wilmot United Church, 473 King Street, Fredericton at 2:00 PM. The Theme is "Shining the Light". The entrance off Carlton Street has a lift device and fewer stairs and easier to get into the sanctuary. We will have the honour of Catherine MacKeil, Executive Director of the Women's Inter-Church of Canada and Shirley DeMerchant, Past President of the Women's Inter-Church of Canada present at our celebration. Following the Service there is a reception downstairs. All are welcome. Deborah Heustis, Publicity for the Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck