

St. Paul's Focus

A publication of St. Paul's United Church
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Easter 2024



Worship Services

March 24 – Palm Sunday at St. Paul's
Bells will ring and palms wave! 10:30 am

March 28 - Maundy Thursday
Service at First Wesley 7:00 pm

March 29 - Good Friday
Rev Desire leads Service at Trinity 10:30 am

March 31 - Easter Sunday
Sunrise at Lakeview Presbyterian 7:15 am
Easter Service at St. Paul's 10:30 am

April 6 – Intercultural Prayer
Meeting and Supper 4:00 pm



A Message from our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe Lent will be over before we know it and Easter will be celebrated. We are experiencing a time of renewal! Spring is upon us, although it is hard to tell when it began! We are seeing renewal in the church! We welcomed three new Board members, pancake and spaghetti dinners were held, our children and youth are enjoying the books purchased for them and when the sleigh ride was cancelled due to lack of snow, they had a great time bowling. We have new faces in the congregation. Some of our committees have experienced growth, with new members joining. We have much to look forward to with our Lenten services, the music which is such an integral part of our church, and the St. Patrick's dinner. There is much to celebrate! We are invited to the Lakeview Presbyterian Church to share their sunrise service and breakfast, before we celebrate Easter service in our church.

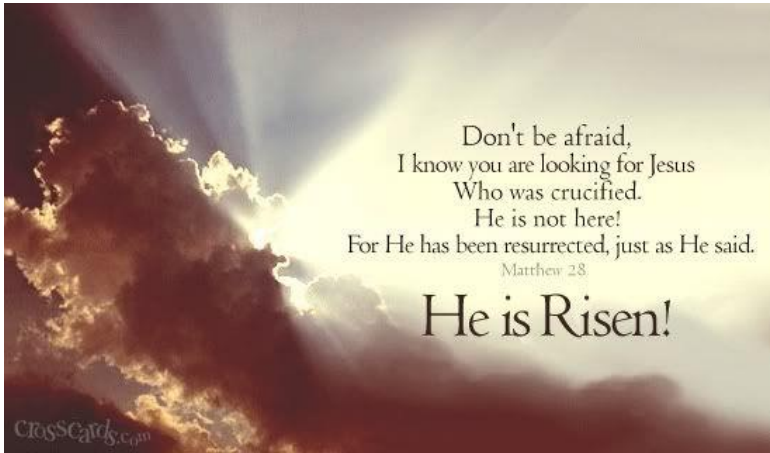
On behalf of the Board, we wish each of you a very Happy Easter!

Laurie Forbes
Board Chair



Psalm 51:10 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Happy Easter Message from Rev. Desire Tiriwepi



Do Not Be Afraid! He is not here! He has risen!

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay."

(Matthew 28:5-6)

Happy Easter to you all, I am wishing Easter Blessings to you and to your families and friends.

The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed!

At St. Paul's Church family, we participated in the Lenten journey, a forty-day season of prayer, fasting, repentance, submission, and self-introspection.

The Easter story is a story of the proclamation of the risen Lord, the resurrection, new hope and new life. It is a story of the empty cross, empty tomb, several testimonies and multiple appearances.

The Easter story reveal how God is always working for good in our lives and in the world bringing light into darkness, hope out of despair and turning tragedy into triumph.

There is nothing impossible for God!

Through Easter, God reminds us that we have the promise of new life and hope in Jesus Christ and we have this invitation to claim the power of his resurrection in our personal lives.

As a community of faith, we are challenged to live victoriously, relying on the Lord's endless supply of grace, love, light, and hope and never to yield to fear, doubt and cynicism when we face challenges, troubles and uncertainty.

The power of his resurrection can permeate even the darkest of situations and bring forth healing, peace, and reconciliation.

I challenge St. Paul's Church family to live with this resurrection power. Let us live and expect resurrection!

Expect Christ to show up and manifest His Glory and power in our personal lives, our families and the church and the world. Expect love to be the dominant force for good, for unity, reconciliation and togetherness.

Expect the peace of Christ to rule and reign in our hearts. May the resurrection power help us to be more inclusive and more welcoming, opening our doors wide, open to everyone without looking at religion, gender, race, creed, class, sexuality, age and physical ability.

May the resurrection power help us to build an inter-cultural community where All are truly welcome.

We have noticed the trickling of new people in our church and the coming back of some old members, may this resurrection power enable us to love, embrace and welcome everyone.

I know that resurrection brings healing to broken relationships, healing to our physical bodies, healing, and comfort to those who are hurt and are bleeding.

Our love can sooth their wounds. Through love, the hungry will be fed, the naked will be clothed, the homeless can find shelter. Together we can bring hope to the hopeless and help in restoring their dreams. I challenge St. Paul's be the place where the marginalized will be liberated from wars, injustices, and all forms of oppression.

There is nothing impossible for God!

As disciples of Jesus Christ, let us take the lead to the mission of the transformation of the world bringing healing and hope.

Furthermore, may this resurrection power inspire our leaders and committee members to organise more Spaghetti and meatball dinners, more Pie Sunday celebrations, more Immigrant Intercultural services, more St. Patrick Day celebrations, more Vacation Bible School, more Services in the Park, more Camp Duncan Outings, more Corn Roasts in the Park, more youth and children bowling activities, more Hymnal fundraisings, more Christmas Tea, more Ladies Lunch, more Men's Supper and more House groups activities!

Lastly, the Easter story reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who is our healer, our hope, and our salvation. Therefore, let us live with a resurrection faith!

Let us believe and expect resurrection today, tomorrow, and always!

Happy Easter



CHURCH FAMILY COMMITTEE

Members: Janie McDaid (co-chair) Susan Phillips (co-chair), Joy Himmelman, Hannah Cryer, Theresa Parr, and Karen Bortolin

Church Family is happy to announce that Karen Bortolin will be joining our committee. Welcome on board Karen. We know you will be a big asset to our committee with all your past experience.

Church Family held a very successful Shrove Pancake Dinner on February 13th. There was a wonderful turnout ... so good to see everyone. We were even recognized in the Chronicle Journal Thumbs Up column.

We netted over \$400 after expenses. This money will be used to purchase lilies for some of our members who can no longer get out to join us. We will be delivering the lilies on Palm Sunday so our recipients can enjoy them prior to Easter.

Our next event will be the Newcomers luncheon, date to be determined.

Happy Easter to everyone. May you spend the holiday with family and friends and remember the reason for the celebration.

Hallelujah Christ has risen!!

Respectfully submitted,
Janie McDaid



From the Music Room

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."



These are definitely words to live by.

All my life I have sung in choirs, at school, in the car, and yes, even in the shower.

When my children were little, I had them singing everywhere too. I remember one road trip to Southern Ontario, back in the days when the radio was non-existent between Thunder Bay and the Sault. My kids made up songs about the things that we passed. Names of lakes, signs they passed, and animals we saw. Because of their enthusiasm for music, they excitedly came to church to learn handbells, sing in the children's choir, and put together musicals once a year. They even brought their friends to join in the fun.

We still make a joyful noise in the church with our Chancel Choir and our Handbell Choir.

I am also thrilled when you, the people of the church, sing with enthusiasm your favourite hymns in our worship services.

Both choirs work hard each week in rehearsals to contribute music in our worship services and for this, we need to all celebrate.

I am so excited about our upcoming services and the music we will be sharing. I am most excited about two upcoming dates that I would like you to mark on your calendar.

Deficit Buster '24

Everyone has their favourite hymns and wishes we could sing them! So here is your chance!! For our part of "Deficit Buster '24" we will be having a: **Hymn Fundraiser Service on Sunday, April 28th**

Simply put \$20.00 in an envelope along with the name of the hymn you want us to sing, and drop it off at the office with Deb.

This amount does not go towards your 'givings' but our service will be filled with all the favourite music you have requested!

As many of you know, every year I go to the Music Matters Conference.

It's a weekend of workshops put on by Music United, a diverse association of people passionate about music in the United Church of Canada.

This year, I am proud to announce that the national conference will be held in Thunder Bay at St. Paul's from May 2 to May 5, 2024!!

Musicians from all over Canada will be coming to learn, to be challenged and to be inspired.

Most of them will also be worshipping with us on Sunday, May 5th with Rev. Alydia Smith as our worship leader.

All seven United Churches will be joining us for this worship service!

In order to get as many people to Thunder Bay as possible, many of the delegates are asking if they could be billeted.

If you have a spare room and are willing to welcome a musician into your home, please contact me by email at dlcwilcox@tbaytel.net

On June 29th, Strikepoint, a handbell choir from Duluth will perform for us!

They are traveling from Duluth, on an unusual tour taking up small bits of the late spring and summer as they prepare for their tour to the International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan in August.

Strikepoint, considered one of the top handbell ensembles in the country, has toured extensively

throughout the United States, Canada, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Japan, England, Scotland, Wales, and Sweden.

The group's 11 members play on six octaves of Schulmerich bronze bells plus four Malmark aluminum bass bells (and counting), 7 octaves of chimes, two octaves of Silver Melody Bells, 3 octaves of Petit and Fritzen bells, and an assortment of other percussion related instruments.

Their music has been featured on many regional, national, and international radio and television programs as well as with many orchestras, choirs, percussion ensembles, and other professional music organizations.

You can visit the Strikepoint website at strikepoint.com or their [facebook.com/WorldHandbells](https://www.facebook.com/WorldHandbells) to learn a little more about them.

Our handbell choir is thrilled for the opportunity to hear and learn from this amazing choir.

Let us make a joyful noise and support others as they make a joyful noise.

Blessings,
Diana Hannaford-Wilcox, Music Director



COMMUNICATIONS

The revitalizing energy of an early spring is upon us and brings such joy.

We extend warm Easter greetings!

Deficit Buster '24

In support of this initiative, we started off the year with a decision to hold a fundraiser for Family Day as part of our commitment to reducing the 2024 forecasted budget deficit.

The 'Love of Family' - Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner was delicious, fun, and successful.

After our first event, we received requests to hold a **St. Paddy's Day Dinner** as well!

We happily obliged and kept the price of both events affordable to enable the ability of entire families to attend.

The income from these dinners will financially support our endeavours to promote St. Paul's by generating lively and fun events that will help build interest within the community that surrounds us.

We're planning a **Community Corn Roast and Intercultural Prayer Meeting** with the African Choir in Waverley Park on Saturday, Sept. 7th.

The following weekend on Sunday, September 15th we will hold our second annual "Sunday Funday" with our **Camp Duncan Invitational Service and Picnic**. The African Choir and congregations from all the United Churches and Lakeview Presbyterian will be invited to join us again this year.

Fundraising for these events that support our endeavours to promote the growth of our church, will substantially decrease or eliminate the use of budget dollars.

In other news:

- Teresa has been hosting a monthly "Coffee Hour" to bring people into the church during a Wednesday morning to enjoy some fellowship and a bit of refreshment. Everyone is welcome to attend our next Coffee Hour on Wed. April 3rd at 10 am.
- Our committee will assist Diana with the National Music Matters Conference in May.
- In October, we hope to resume our "Baking Wednesdays" in preparation for our famous St. Paul's Christmas Tea – which will take place on Saturday, November 16.

Our enthusiastic members are Teresa Parr, Laurie Forbes, Diana Hannaford-Wilcox, Reverend Desire Tiriwepi, Deb Barrett, Andor Petrovich.

If you would like to join this very active, fast-paced committee or if you'd like to help with specific events or functions, we will welcome and appreciate you!

Our meetings are held after Worship Service on the second Sunday of each month.

We send our love and rejoice with you, wishing you a very happy Easter!



Diversity & Inclusion Committee

As I think about Easter and look out my window at the glorious blue sky, what comes to my mind are the words of the delightful springy hymn:

"The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

"The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!

**"New leaf, new thrust, new greening
for the love of Christ"**

**"New bud, new shoot, the spring has come,
new people are the flowers of it!"**

And the picture I have is of people of all ages, colours, talents, loves, conditions springing to life, holding hands, and dancing or wheeling together in the joy of Resurrection!

May we all be a part of that dance, widening the circle and inviting *everyone* in!

A Blessed Easter to you!

Susan Marrier



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Well as you can see the warm weather has been with us for a while and let's hope it continues as that bodes well for our bottom line as heating costs are down and snow removal has been almost non-existent.

Just a few weeks ago we had a pipe on the boiler spring a leak and thankfully Michael was on top of the situation so that the boiler could be shut down and repairs be made without any damage being incurred.

We have just received our Building Inspection Report and will be going over it to see what needs to be done now, and what we need to plan for in the future.

Other than that, we are gearing up for the spring season with cleaning of the grounds and outside maintenance to keep our facility up to standard.

Rejean Langlois
Property Committee Member



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

***“Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain,
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again, like wheat arising green.”***

VU 186 – vs. 1

As we look to Easter this year, we are looking and longing for springtime. With our mild weather spring seems to be just around the corner. With lawns empty of snow, the green grass rising truly gives us that Spring feeling.

Easter is about resurrection in more ways than one as we experience “new life” as the earth warms and releases its budding, and new growth. This new growth can also be within us, as we lean into Easter making it a time to experience a new growth of our faith and embrace all things new - that lead us to the celebration of the risen Christ.

The Worship Committee has been busy planning for services through Spring.

March 17, 2024, we celebrate diversity in a **Public, Intentional and Explicit** way, joining with our Diversity and Inclusion Committee to have an uplifting and love-filled service with special guests and pie for coffee time!

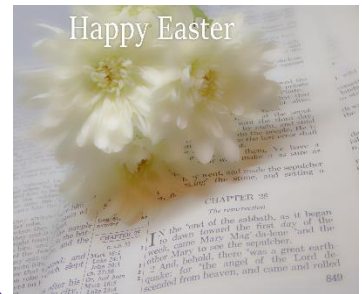
March 24, 2024 is Palm/Passion Sunday and we will begin with parading palms and end with a beautiful liturgical dance, leading us into Holy Week.

March 28, 2024 is Maundy Thursday, and a service is being held at First Wesley at 7:00 pm
March 29, 2024 Good Friday will be a morning service held at Trinity with Rev. Desire in the lead, at 10:30 am.

March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday! We celebrate together with song and bells, and something new, come and see!

May your Easter celebrations bring renewal to your life and your life of faith, deepening your relationship with God, who loves us and is with us always. Halleluiah!

Many Blessings
Cyndy Raby,
Worship Chair



M& P Committee

Well, here we are again, it's springtime and the church is a hive of activities with concerts, Sunday Dinners hosted every other week, and all sorts of other meetings and gatherings going on. Needless to say it has been keeping our staff very busy to say the least.

The one notable item of interest to all is that Reverend Desire has accepted his call to St. Paul's United Church after being fully ordained in the United Church of Canada last fall.

This call became effective the first of February and we look forward to long and fruitful time together as a congregation.

As always, we give thanks to our wonderful staff for all that they do to keep our church running smoothly. Enjoy the warm weather and the new beginnings of spring.

Rejean Langlois
M&P Chair

