

New Year Greetings from St. Paul's

The new year has begun and we have a number of hopes and dreams for this year. This will, God willing, be our first full year in ministry together. That is exciting in itself. As we look ahead we have a number of ministry opportunities coming up from ecumenical worship services to making time to join together to watch the 'Chosen' series and discuss the episodes afterward. This all comes as we are also entering the time of Lent, the time of preparation for Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we have started this new year many people have resolutions that by now are becoming hard to keep. These resolutions are too often made to make us better yet they are being made from a place of lacking or inadequacy, not from a place of love and strength. When we start from the place of knowing that we are dearly loved children of God and that the change we are making is to try to draw closer in our relationship to Jesus. When we take this stance it isn't merely about ourselves but also God's faithfulness. The change isn't meaningless but more meaningful. Yet we have to be careful that we are not adding something to an already exhausted plate.

This is where Lent is valuable. Instead of adding, Lent is has an aspect of taking away from what we have or are doing. An element of sacrifice helps us to change by making more space for Jesus in our lives. Many people fast during Lent. Some people give up a trivial thing in their lives that really isn't meaningful or integral to themselves; they give it up to say they gave something up. Yet Lent isn't trivial. Good Friday and Easter are integral days in the Christian year because they define who we are as Christians. We should not be treating Lent as as just another time of year but as an opportunity to draw closer to our Lord and saviour.

When we fast or make a change, we need to do something that we are going to notice and that is going to make us focus on Jesus more. Maybe it is how we speak, changing our language or trying to be more encouraging. Maybe it is how we respond to requests from our children or our friends. Maybe it is going to be giving up something to make space for prayer and reading the scriptures, or taking time to listen for the Holy Spirit in our lives. Fasting is a powerful spiritual discipline that incorporates other disciplines to help us draw closer to Jesus and live stronger lives of faith. But remember we are starting from a place not of lacking but from God's love for us.

Reverend Ed Charlton

Upcoming Events at St. Paul's

- February 6 St Paul's Ladies Aid Meeting 11:30 am "All About Me" Roll Call is three things to tell about you. Bring a picture of you from your past for everyone to guess who you are.
- February 10 Valentine Strawberry Social hosted by St Paul's Ladies Aid
St Paul's Presbyterian Church 517 Main Street Winchester
11 am to 1 pm
Soup, sandwiches, strawberry shortcake and ice cream
\$15 adults, \$6 children under 10, free children 5 and under
Enjoy music by the Gallagher's (Debbie and Allen)
- February 11 St Paul's welcomes Rev Mark Bourgon as Pulpit Supply 10 am
- February 18 Communion at St Paul's and Start of Lent 10 am
- March 1 World Day of Prayer hosted by St. Paul's 2 pm
Theme is on the Women of Palestine "I beg you.....Bear with one another in love"
- March 5 St Paul's Ladies Aid Meeting 11:30 am Church Hall "Let Us Pray"
Roll Call is a favourite prayer.
- March 17 St Paul's Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting
Finger food lunch followed by Annual Meeting at 12:30 pm
- March 24 Palm Sunday Worship led by the Sunday School 10 am
- March 29 Good Friday Service 11 am
Hosted by St Paul's Presbyterian Church for the Community
Service followed by fellowship time and hot cross buns served by
Winchester United Church
- April 2 St Paul's Ladies Aid Meeting 11:30 am Church Hall Theme "Anne of Green Gables Roll call: Bring an apron and your favourite cookbook
- April 7 Communion at St Paul's 10 am
- April 14 St Paul's welcomes Rev Mark Bourgon as Pulpit Supply 10 am

St. Paul's Annual Report

Session and the Board of Managers will be preparing the Annual Report for our Annual Meeting on March 17th. The Annual Report is posted on the St Paul's webpage at <https://presbyterian-winchester.ca/>

For those who want a printed copy, please order a copy by March 1

1. Add you name to the sign posted on bulletin board in church entry way
2. email Phyllis MacMaster phyllismacmaster@outlook.com or Jen Feeny at jen@jenfeeny.com
3. telephone Phyllis MacMaster 613-774-5748

Community Church Events

Lenten Lunches

Join our community churches for lunch and a reflection on the Lenten Season. Lunch starts at 12 noon and is over about 1 pm

- February 21 Winchester United Church
- February 28 St Clares Anglican Church
- March 6 The Gathering House Chesterville
- March 13 Winchester Baptist
- March 20 St Andrews Presbyterian Church Chesterville

Holy Week Events

These Quiet Services will include prayer, worship songs, and a reflective writing exercise:

Holy Monday March 25 - Quiet Reflective Service at St. Clare's 7 pm

Holy Tuesday March 26 - Quiet Reflective Service at St. Clare's 7 pm

Holy Wednesday March 27 - Quiet Reflective Service at St. Clare's 7 pm

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Maundy Thursday March 28 - Hosted at St. Clares 5 pm potluck dinner and 6 pm service. This service includes both Eucharist and Foot Washing.

Good Friday Service March 29 – 11 am St Paul's Presbyterian Church

Good Friday March 29 – 7 pm at St. Clare's, this is a Liturgy of the Word (no Eucharist) with no fellowship afterwards