



THE Messenger

January Edition, 2024

New Month - New Year

January was named for the Roman god

Janus,
known as
the



protector of gates and doorways, who symbolizes beginnings and endings. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future. What a fitting symbol for this first month of the year — our door into the new year

*Janus am I; oldest of potentates;
Forward I look, and backward, and below
I count, as god of avenues and gates,
The years that through my portals come
and go.*

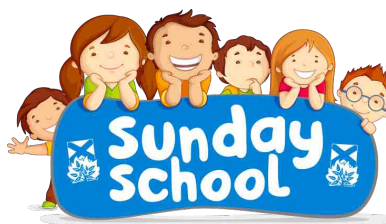
– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
American poet (1807–82)

Messy Church

Messy Church is being held Sunday,
January 21, 2024 at
St. Giles from 4 –
6pm. Everyone
Welcome! Families
encouraged!



Sunday School at St. Paul's



The Leadership Team has been discussing and brainstorming in regards to having Sunday

School (children's time) at St. Paul's. If you have any ideas or thoughts concerning this idea, please share with a member of the Leadership Team.

Men's Ecumenical Breakfast

A time of fellowship and discussion over breakfast will be held at St. Paul's Auditorium at 8:00 am on Sunday, January 14, 2023. All men are encouraged to attend. These breakfast gatherings are scheduled to happen on the second Sunday of each month.

Mission Statement: St. Paul's United is a prairie-rooted, people church, centered on Holy Mystery. We experience the gift of grace – forgiveness, new life, God's unconditional love – as we open our doors and hearts to people of all ages, stages and walks of life. We live as a community of faith carried on the winds of God's Spirit.

Stay in Touch

Important and timely information often needs to be shared with our church family.



The most efficient method is to email our church family.

Thank you for sharing your email address with us!

We ask that you please keep your contact information up-to-date with our office.

Have a favourite hymn or a suggestion?

If you have a favourite hymn that you would like to have sung during worship, please write it down on a suggestion card and place in the suggestion box in the Narthex. The same for any suggestion you may have to make worship more meaningful for you.

Birthdays

January Birthdays – are you celebrating a birthday this month?

Please let us know

by signing the

birthday board in the Narthex.



Financial Matter\$

January 1, 2023 — November 30, 2023

Income: \$136,535.84

Expenses: \$133,056.31

Surplus (Deficit): \$3,479.53

CEBA Loan Repayment

The unforgivable portion (\$40,000) of the \$60,000 CEBA loan was paid back on December 29, 2023.. The response to this

Website: <http://www.stpaulsestevan.ca>

need was met by the generosity of several of our church family! Their gifts toward the repayment totalled over \$28,000. Our gratitude to Shelly Bert, Audrey Johnson, Mike and Nadine Donovan and Barry and Bonnie Rittaler.

Book Study Opportunity

Archdeacon Wilma Woods from St. Giles

Anglican Church

will be leading a Book Study in the new year for any interested members of St.

Paul's, Trinity

Lutheran, and

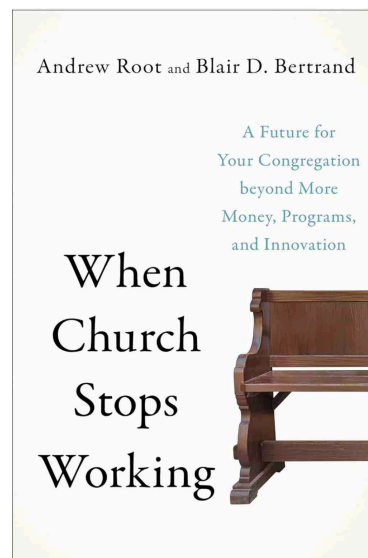
St. Giles. The

book is called

When Church

Stops Working

by Andrew Root



and Blair Bertrand. The group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings, beginning on January 17, 2024.

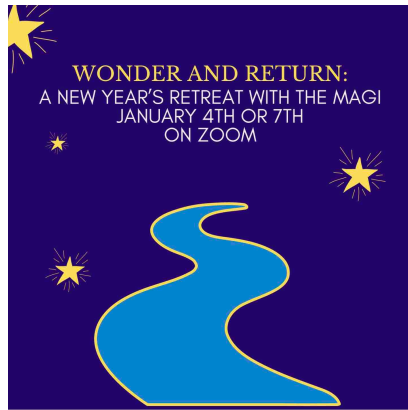
Anyone interested in attending can order the book on their own (for e-reader, audio book, or hard copy) or contact Wilma (Office: (306) 634-4113) and she will order for anyone wanting her to do so.

Wonder and Return: A New Year's Zoom Retreat with the Magi

Many of you will remember Brenna Baker (Nickel) from her time in ministry with us.

Office: 306-634-2885

Brenna is currently working with the General Council office in a role that focuses on teaching stewardship. She recently sent information about a 2



hour Zoom retreat that she will be leading in January, and an invitation to anyone who would like to attend.

"As we begin a new calendar year, many of us are seeking signs of change and joy. Tired of patterns of frustration, despair, and the status quo, we wish to chase after spiritual stars that lead us from the old and comfortable to something new - something that we hope will make this year different - for us and for the world.

In this two-hour Zoom retreat, we'll gather to learn from and reflect on the Bible story of the Magi (Wise Ones from Matthew 2). Where might you experience holy awe in this season of life? How can you practice curiosity in order to encounter the Divine? Is there a self who God might be inviting you to rediscover, to return to, in order to transform your community?

Our time will utilize journaling, artwork, silence, and (optional!) breakout rooms to discern the journey God is calling us on in this new year."

Note: After registering, you will receive a Zoom invitation and link through your email. The link to register is: <https://www.holy-babble.com/resources/p/wonder-and-return-a-new-years-retreat-with-the-magi>.

Special Music

If you are able to provide special music for our worship services, please contact the office. Solo, duet, small ensemble — whatever you may be part of would be appreciated.



Ministry & Personnel Committee

We are still seeking someone to serve on this committee. If interested, please contact Chairperson Diane or the church office. Your volunteerism would be greatly appreciated.

Frozen Desserts

Frozen rhubarb and Saskatoon desserts are still available. Contact Patty in the office. Large rhubarb:\$10 each; mini rhubarb & Saskatoon: 3/\$10.

House Groups

House Group leaders are responsible to get greeters. Greeters are asked:

- to get a key from the office ahead of their Sunday;
- unlock the doors of the church;
- greet the worshippers;
- bring offering forward during the service;
- ensure candles are out and lights turned off;
- lock the doors after service; and
- drop the key in the brown mailbox outside the front door.

January's hosting House group will be "The Coffee Muggers".

Worship Service Leaders (WSL) involved with Rural Connect are assigned by the office from a list of volunteers or from the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The WSL participates in the service where agreed to and lights the Christ Candle.

Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization



The 44th General Council met virtually between February 2022 and August 2022.

At that meeting, the General Council approved an amendment to the Basis of Union in The Manual of The United Church of Canada to establish an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. It also authorized a Category 3 Remit to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

Information and a study guide for leaders and communities of faith can be found on our website.

An educational opportunity for our church family is being planned for the month of January following worship services.

Budget Preparation for 2024

Budget preparation for 2024 is beginning and will be presented to the Leadership Team at their January meeting. The budget will be presented at our Annual Congregational Meeting upon recommendation from the Leadership Team.

Leadership within St. Paul's for 2023:

Leadership Team

Diane Wrubleski - Chairperson
Lawrence Burnard
Cheryl Deren
Jordan Cantwell - Regional Rep
Gail Schlamp
Greg Suchan

Wendy Suchan

*Astrid Friesen - Recording Steward

*Don Kindopp - Treasurer

* — non-voting member

Ministry & Personnel Committee

Emily Gillies

Jim Pratt

* Reserved for you

Trustees

Dennis Bode

Paul Deren

Diane Wrubleski

Dr. A.E. Elliot Education Fund Rep

Diane Wrubleski

Living Skies Regional Rep

Don Kindopp

Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee

Cheryl Deren

Sandi Klatt

Jim Pratt

Upcoming Events

- **December 24 2023 — Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- **December 24 2023 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** @7:00 pm. Plans are tentative. Rachel Andrist, Audrey Andrist and James Stern will be our musical guests.
- **December 31 2023 — Ecumenical Worship Service** @10:00 am hosted at St. Giles Anglican Church.
- **January 7, 2024 — Worship Service** — 9:00 am at Knox and 10:30am at St. Paul's led by Don Kindopp.

Website: <http://www.stpaulsestevan.ca>

- **January 10, 2024 — Leadership Team Virtual Meeting** @7:00 pm. All are welcome! Contact Don Kindopp (306-461-6723) for the link to the meeting.
- **January 14, 2024 — Ecumenical Men's Breakfast** @ 8:00am. Hosted at St. Paul's UC.
- **January 14, 2024 — Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- **January 21, 2024 — Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- **January 21, 2024 — Messy Church** at St. Giles @4-6 pm. Everyone welcome! Families encouraged!
- **January 28, 2024 — Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."
— Edith Lovejoy Pierce



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