

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

April 28, 2024 - Camping Sunday

### VISIT & PARTICIPATE IN PRAYER STATIONS BEFORE CHURCH

- Prayer Tree
- Water Fountain
- Prayer Mirror
- Scrabble Table

### PRELUDE

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Lisa Houston

### WELCOME

### GATHERING HYMN: MV # 8 "And On This Path"

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

So, enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We light this candle to remind us that we are here in Jesus' name, and that our faith is like this flame.

**All: It flickers and changes, and sometimes needs to be relit, but its brightness can fill a space.**

## GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

We humbly acknowledge that we meet on lands now called Canada, home to the traditional territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, each with their distinct cultures, languages, and histories. We are mindful of their unique rights and perspectives, actively seeking engagement and partnership, and striving to build sustainable relationships.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has set up camp in our hearts.

**All: In God's love, we find community.**

Bella: God has made community part of our nature.

**All: In God's love, we find peace.**

Finn: God gives us peace and a calling.

**All: In God's love, we find purpose.**

### OPENING HYMN: MVU # 88 "Over My Head"

**Refrain: Over my head, I hear music in the air. (3X)  
There must be a God somewhere.**

1. Choir: When the storms of life are ragin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air.  
Choir: When the storms of life are ragin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air. Ooh  
Choir: When the storms of life are ragin'  
*Congregation:* I hear music in the air.  
**All: There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)**

2. Choir: When the winds of strife are blowin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air.  
 Choir: When the winds of strife are blowin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air. Ooh  
 Choir: When the winds of strife are blowin'  
*Congregation:* I hear music in the air.  
**All: There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)**
- Refrain: Over my head, I hear music in the air. (3X)**  
**There must be a God somewhere.**
3. Choir: When the tide of hate is risin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air.  
 Choir: When the tide of hate is risin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air. Ooh  
 Choir: When the tide of hate is risin'  
*Congregation:* I hear music in the air.  
**All: There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)**
4. Choir: King Jesus is a-callin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air.  
 Choir: King Jesus is a-callin'  
*Congregation:* Ooh, I hear music in the air. Ooh  
 Choir: King Jesus is a-callin'  
*Congregation:* I hear music in the air.  
**All: There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)**

### **OPENING PRAYER (responsive)**

Children & Youth: Each new day we give thanks to the circle of life.

**Congregation: (Face the east) From the east, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.**

Children & Youth: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

**Congregation: (Face the south) From the south comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.**

Children & Youth: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

**Congregation: (Face the west) From the west comes the rains, purifying waters to sustain all living things.**

Children & Youth: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

**Congregation: (Face the north) From the north comes the cold and mighty winds, white snows giving us strength and endurance.**

Children & Youth: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

**Congregation: (Look downwards) From the earth we come and to the earth we shall return.**

Children & Youth: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

**Congregation: (Look upwards) From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of our breath, and messages from our winged creatures.**

Children & Youth: We give thanks for your creation, oh God!

**All: Amen.**

### **SHARING A CAMPING EXPERIENCE**

## ALL ABOUT CAMPING MINISTRIES

- a church without walls, surrounded by the transforming wonder of God's creation
- an invitation to question everything from the everyday to the mysterious
- opportunities to gain personal meaning through discovering, naming, claiming, and celebrating our God-given gifts talents
- time to stretch our imaginations and grow our creativity
- occasions to build wholesome relationships and engage in acts of mercy and justice
- holistic ministry that combines the body, mind, and spirit, including faith formation programming
- safe and focused time in inclusive and welcoming communities that points toward something larger than individual concerns
- time and opportunities to wonder and deepen our awareness of the environment and respect for nature, connecting to the beauty of God's creation
- faith-filled, life-giving models and mentors for young people to follow
- an experience of 'Sabbath' as we step away from demanding schedules and allow the Spirit to work more effectively
- a safe place for children of all religious or non-religious backgrounds to learn about God
- leadership development opportunities for both staff and campers
- supportive communities that identify and work on needs easily hidden in the home community
- a vision of Christian community for the camper to pursue at home - learning how to become a part of a healthy community in their local church

Camp is the church living, moving and breathing, celebrating God's presence together in creation and community.

## PRAYER FOR CAMPING MINISTERIES

One: Creator God, we pray this morning for our United Church of Canada Camping Ministries. We pray for all of the directors, staff, and volunteers who work to make your love evident in our camping ministries.

**All: May you give them guidance, insight and wisdom as they plan for camp this year.**

Natalie: We pray for all those who will come and see you through one of these camps.

**All: May they know your love and grace for each of them.**

One: For the children who will experience your creation this summer,

**All: For the campers who will experience love and acceptance,**

Amelia: For the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened,

**All: For the youth who will come to know you more deeply,**

One: For all the friendships that will be made and strengthened

**All: For all who will serve and will offer others Christ.**

Adelaide: We give you thanks, O God.

**All: May your blessing be on our camping ministries in the coming weeks of summer camp and may you receive the glory.**

## CAMPING SING ALONG

### JESUS HOKEY POKEY

Put your right-hand in. Put your right hand out

Put your right-hand in. And you shake it all about

If you give your heart to Jesus, He will turn your life around. That's what it's all about!!

### **Verses**

2. Left hand
3. Right Foot
4. Left Foot

### **BINGO**

There was a farmer who had a dog and Bingo was his name O.

B-I-N-G-O

B-I-N-G-O

B-I-N-G-O

And Bingo was his name-o

Repeat each time you sing the next verse substitute a letter with a clap.

### **ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT**

Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream  
Merrily merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream

Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream  
Merrily merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream

### **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME**

Take me out to the ball game. Take me out with the crowd.  
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack. I don't care if I never get back.  
Let me root, root, root for the home team. If they don't win it's a shame.  
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out. At the old ball game!

### **KUMBAYA**

Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya. Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya  
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya. Oh Lord, kumbaya

Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya. Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya  
Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya. Oh Lord, kumbaya

Someone's laughing Lord, kumbaya. Someone's laughing Lord, kumbaya  
Someone's laughing Lord, kumbaya. Oh Lord, kumbaya

Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya. Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya  
Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya. Oh Lord, kumbaya

Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya. Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya  
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya. Oh Lord, kumbaya

Someone's sleeping, Lord, kumbaya. Someone's sleeping, Lord, kumbaya  
Someone's sleeping, Lord, kumbaya. Oh Lord, kumbaya

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**SCRIPTURES:** Epistle: 1 John 4:7-11 pg. 241  
Reader: This is God's Word.  
All: We offer our praises for the Word. Amen.

**SERMON:** "God's Love and Ours" Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

**SELECTION:** "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing" - The Choir

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Video

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** MV 191 "What Can I Do?" (x 2)

What Can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)**

**God of grace and love, we present to you our gifts of gratitude, of hope, and of joy. May these gifts be used to bring your kingdom near on Earth. May these gifts offer love, peace, hope, and comfort to those in need in our church and community. We give generously because of the gifts you have given us, and we are grateful. Amen**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Divine Source in whom we live and move and have our being, we celebrate your presence this day.

**All: We give you thanks for the many years of vibrant ministry shared in the camps within our United Church of Canada.**

One: Thank you for the unique ways each camp shares your presence and call to be loving co-creators with you in this world.

**All: Inspire us today to hear your call and to participate in the ministry of camp in concrete ways.**

One: Ever-present God, this day and every day we pray for peace.

**All: We dream of a world in which peace with justice is the norm: peace in the world, peace in our communities, peace in our homes, and peace within our beings.**

One: Compassionate God, empower us to be more active in our concern, more generous with ourselves and our resources, that we might actively participate in the creation of peace within our world, community, church, workplaces, schools, and camps.

**All: Give us the courage, the patience, the honesty about ourselves, and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil.**

One: As our work requires the balance of worship to be sustainable, remind us to also "be still" in meaningful ways.

**All: Remind us to breathe deeply and to centre ourselves in your unfailing presence with and within us. Help us to see you in the faces and the actions of all whom we meet.**

One: These and the prayers that we hold within our spirits we offer to you with the prayer of Jesus... **Our Father....**

**IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE**

**CLOSING HYMN: MV # 209 "Go Make A Diff'rence"**

**Refrain:** Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see  
the love of God for you and me.  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. **(Refrain)**

We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,  
the face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. **(Refrain)**

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.  
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. **(Refrain)**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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**We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.  
TODAY is Camping Sunday – enjoy the camp fire!**

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Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments in the Friendship Room  
down the hall after today's service. Today we have Hot Dogs. Members of the  
Membership, Fellow and Care Committee are hosting today.



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**In our thoughts and prayers this week is:**  
Jim Withington, Margaret Vanderzweerde and her granddaughter Emily.

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The flowers today are in in loving memory of **Dr. James, Elizabeth  
and Robert Clark and are given by the Clark family**  
and will be delivered to the sick and or shut ins.



~~~~~  
We celebrate two **April 29<sup>th</sup>** birthdays this week:  
**Donna Kirktown and Liz Riley-Gould.**

Many Birthday wishes to **Rev. Karlene on May 1<sup>st</sup>** and  
**Jim Jeffery on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



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Our sincere appreciation for all the good wishes for our 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and  
for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. Thank you sincerely, Dave & Jenny Ramer

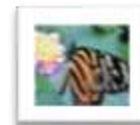




The UCW are selling geraniums again this year. They will be \$3.50 each. The colours available will be red, white, pink, and coral. Delivery date is May 11. **The last day to order is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If you wish to order geraniums please call either Rita Van Lamoen (519-842-9271) or Wilma Jeffery (519-688-0065). Thank you for your support.

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**Messy Church May 4**  
**BIRDS, BEASTS & FLOWERS TOO!**  
10a.m. – 12 noon  
Join us for Crafts, Games and Music



**What's New??? Come and see the changes on Sunday May 5**

There have been several changes taking place recently.

1. View the family washroom and learn the proper way to use **the new mechanism** for the door. Dave Morris will explain the new door.
2. View the Community Kitchen area including the new Community Closet. Chat with Julie and Keith, the coordinators to **learn all about what's happenin' in the Multipurpose Room.**
3. View the new storage area for Messy church – Norma, the programme coordinator, will be present to chat and update you about all the work/organizing that has taken place in the Messy church storage room (soon to get a new name).



**On May 5 our regular refreshment time after worship will be in the banquet hall allowing you to view all the changes.**

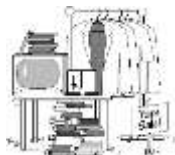
**Join in the excitement, to learn more about our church and our outreach programmes.**

**See you there –May 5 after worship in the banquet hall.**

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**Helping Hand Foodbank needs for April**

- |                      |                             |                         |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Small jars of coffee | Small jars of peanut butter | Kleenex                 |
| Tuna & canned meats  | Canned tomatoes             | snacks for kids lunches |
| Fruit cups           | Canned vegetables           | paper towels            |



Please think of St. Paul's when 'cleaning out' your home; we could probably use it for our yard sale scheduled for Saturday June 8th from 9-1. We will be sorting the goods in the choir room.

We take anything and everything in 'good condition'. **We are especially looking for tools, children's books and toys.**

The UCW will once again have a 'bake table'. We will have BBQ'd hot dogs etc. etc. also.

Items can be dropped off from 10:30 A.M. until noon on Wednesdays and Fridays. The items can be left at the Bidwell entrance inside the doors not blocking the entrance please. They can be put on the trolley and we will get them downstairs for sorting.

Now we just need a 'good weather' day on June 8th!

Thank you in advance for your co-operation." Lesley, Brenda and Karon

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For friends or family in hospital (here in Tillsonburg or elsewhere) please contact our Church Office (519-688-0011) with Hospital name and details to let our minister know so she can

follow-up with a visit or a phone-call. Hospitals no longer provide daily lists of patients wanting visits and we would not want to miss you.

DID YOU KNOW?	...that you can serve in unusual areas like getting stuff ready for our Garage sale? Or decorating for special occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas?
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LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572