

International Potluck today @11:30am in the Auditorium immediately following the worship service. Everyone welcome.

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered their time and shared the delicious Christmas baking cookies for the Christmas Eve! As well, thank you to those who practiced wonderful radical hospitality!

Christmas Eve special offerings \$1,027.75 proceeds to the FASD Network for their caregiving retreat. Thanks to all of you!

Community Soup Lunch, Wednesdays @noon. Everyone is welcome.

Bell Let's Talk 2019 Wednesday January 30 @ 7pm, Service of Remembrance – for all those who died in the struggle of mental illness. This also includes those who are still living but lost to us in the disease of addictions and untreated illness. It is a time to gather, to support one another and to continue to break down the stigma of mental health and remove the barriers that prevent folks from seeking treatment. Know that all are welcome. This is a family friendly event and we hope to see you there.

You are invited to join Kathryn Holfley (Stewardship & Gift Officer serving the Prairie Region of UCC) to attend **“Stewardship Buzz! 6 steps to take right now!” on Wednesday, February 6 @7:00 – 9:00 PM** at McClure United Church (4025 Taylor Street East).

Warm Mittens and Scarves are needed for the students at Sutherland School. Please bring your donations and place them on the Christmas Tree in the foyer during this Advent Season. Spread the warmth of God's Love. Thanks to Janet Potter for donating this Christmas Tree! Thanks to Evelyn Bowman for her skillful knitting.

Stay Connected: visit our website spuonline.com and “like” us on Facebook at [facebook/stpaulsuc](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuc). Great way to keep current on events!

It's a New Year and **Spiritual Growth Groups** at St. Paul's have taken on a new look for the months of January/February. The SGG Teams are challenging you to read the book **Seven Fallen Feathers** by Tanya Talaga. This means everyone and anyone! Previous participation in a SGG is not necessary. The book can be purchased at a local bookstore for under \$25. **In mid-February** the SGG Team will host a discussion forum for participants to share their thoughts. For more information contact Cheryl Wilken at c.wilken@shaw.ca, Ellen Wilson at ellenwilson302@gmail.com or Diane Barker at dianebarber@shaw.ca.

Please feel free to take a copy of *Observer* and/or *Mandate* magazine on the desk in the foyer to home. Hope you enjoy it.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 - Please Join Us for Daily Morning Services at 8:00am.

- Monday, January 21—St. Matthew's Anglican Church, 135-109th St. W.
- Tuesday, January 22— Holy Covenant Evangelical Orthodox Church, 1426 Alexandra Ave.
- Wednesday, January 23—St. Martin's United Church, 2617 Clarence Av. S.
- Thursday, January 24—Sts-Martyrs Canadians, 1007 Windsor St.
- Friday, January 25— Redeemer Lutheran church, 812 Preston Ave. S.

Next Management Team meets January 22, 2019 @10:30am at the Front Lounge.

Did you know that **SPUC sermons** are posted on our website? If you have missed a Sunday service, you can catch the message @ spuonline.com/#/sermons.

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 – 3:00pm

We inhabit the land of TREATY 6. May we live in respect.

Go Home By Another Way

January 6, 2018 @ 10:30 A.M.

The story of the visit of the Magi, the Holy Family's flight to Egypt, and even their haphazard return to the Holy Land should help us reflect on the plights of those who cross religious, political, and ethnic boundaries in the pursuit of loving Jesus. Matthew 2 uses the Magi to highlight the universal importance of the advent of the Messiah – this is our confession as Christians, that Jesus Christ is LORD, not Herod, not Pharaoh, not money, not our jobs or status, not where we are from or who our fathers are. The birth of the long awaited Messiah meant something new. Even priests of other religions were quick to seek him out. No place or people, whether Greek, Egyptian, Samaritan, Roman, Edomite, or Persian, was outside the story or beyond the influence of the young messiah and king. When we preach Matthew's gospel, we would do well to reflect on the cosmopolitan society, the dangers of empire, and the life-saving necessity of migration in the particularities of Jesus' young, incarnational life. It is a story worth hearing again.

Scripture of today: Matthew 2:1-23

Core Value: To Communicate Openly

Prayer for Today:

Extravagant God, you sent magi with generous gifts to visit the baby Jesus and proclaim his reign to all the world. Make our voices heard when we proclaim God's love to all. Amen.

Seed of Learning:

Do you remember your “Star Word”? What has been your experience in connecting with that word?