



World Day of Prayer 2019

Friday, March 1, 2019 World Day of Prayer 2019, is an ecumenical celebration on the theme "Come, Everything is Ready."

Services will be held:

- at 2:00 PM at St Marks's United Church, 201 Centre St. S, Whitby
- at 7:00 PM at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 35 Church St, Ajax

The service has been written by the World Day of Prayer Committee in Slovenia, Europe.

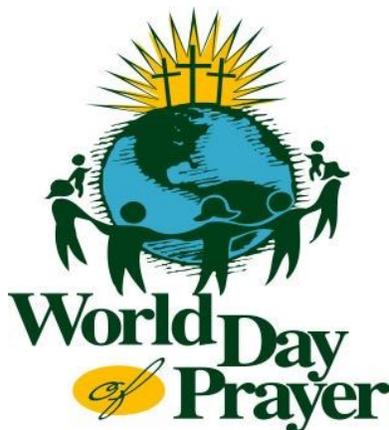
What is World Day of Prayer all about?

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the US and Canada became involved in activities to support women at home and around the world. It has evolved over the years and has grown worldwide, and is now carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.

It is a movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

It brings together women of various races and cultures and traditions to closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

Each year the service is prepared by a different region – this year the service has been prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee in Slovenia.



For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Although we are now a month into 2019, in some ways February and the Annual Congregational Meeting also mark a new year for St. Paul's. It is at the Annual Meeting that we set the course for our congregation for the coming year. As we gather to set our course for the coming year, I am reminded of John Wesley's Covenanting Prayer, traditionally said on New Year's Eve.

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed by you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low by you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and fully yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be confirmed in heaven.
Amen.

In saying this prayer, the Christian dedicates themselves totally to God, committing to follow God's lead wherever it might take them. It is my hope that this prayer will be the prayer of all of us at St. Paul's as we set our course for 2019, that we might keep our focus on God, and doing God's will everyday.

FINANCE*Financially Speaking : Update, December 31, 2018*

Donations From All Sources	December	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$18,969	\$171,050
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	\$21,663	\$190,786
What We Spent	\$18,905	\$193,104
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	\$2,758	\$2,318
Capital Fund Donations	\$879	\$22,516
M&S Donations	\$2,420	\$15,729

December givings of \$21,663 were above our budget target by \$2,694. This is terrific. Our December expenses of \$18,905 were lower than expected by \$308. Very positive. As a result, December's results meant that our net financial position was a positive amount of \$2,758. This is a tremendous result. Partially because December was such a good month that our bank balance could be almost \$17,672. (See the chart below). I can't remember when this happened last.

This is a great time to reflect on and be thankful for the strength of our congregation and how it has responded to the needs of our Church home, St. Paul's. This year, 2018, when our need has been great, we have seen fantastic participation in our fundraising activities, an increase in regular givings from the congregation, and increased attendance on Sundays which seems to be an even further source of givings in support of the ministries of St. Paul's. It is wonderful that the message of St. Paul's is reaching so many and seems to be expanding in our community.

Our Capital Account givings were very healthy at \$22,516 for 2018. M&S givings were at \$15,729 – approximately \$1,200 below budget. Gifts such as these are a way for all of us to support the work of St. Paul's as a part of our legacy to the world we have left behind.

More details about our financial position can be found in the 2019 Annual Report. As you know, stewardship is rendered in many forms whether as gifts of time, talents and skills, or treasure. Your gifts are appreciated. Financial donations to further the mission and work of St. Paul's are greatly appreciated. Gifts of your time are also very valuable to your Church.

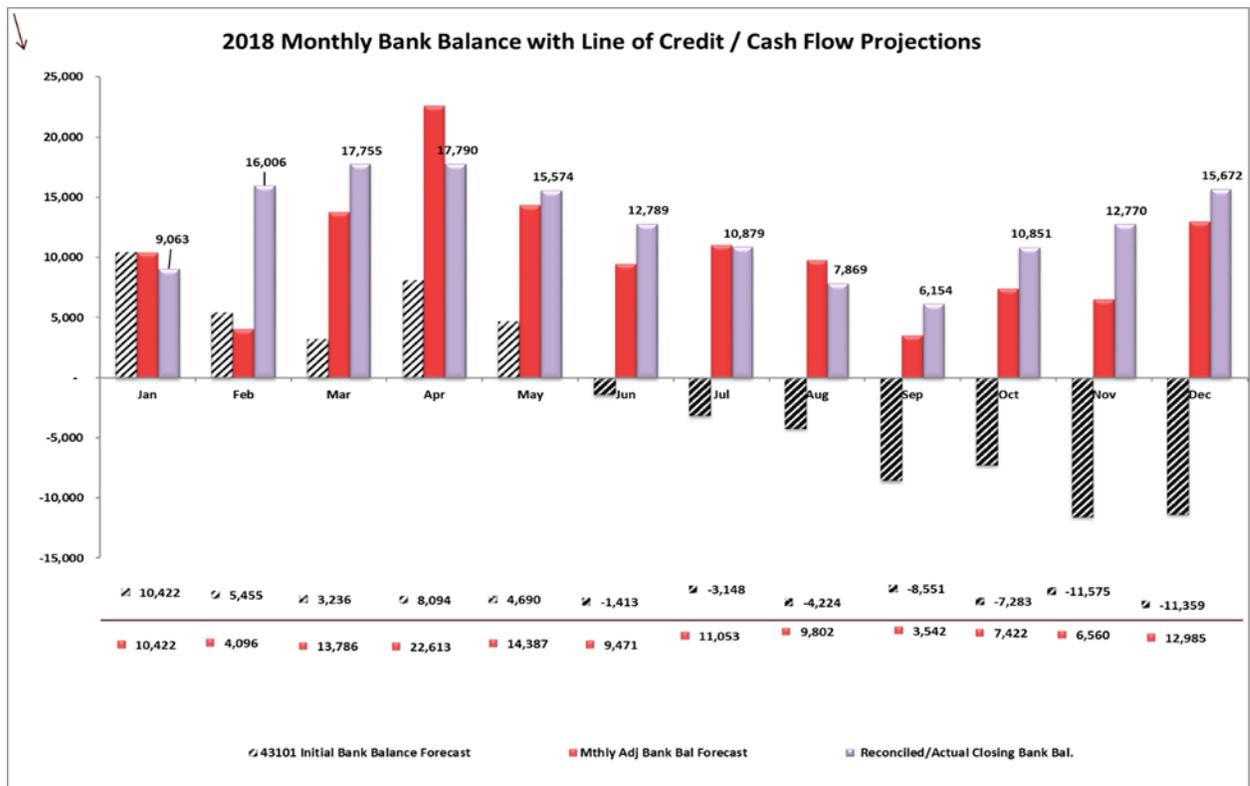
St. Paul's is in need of volunteers to help keep your Church home in a state of good repair. These are mostly supervisory roles. Please prayerfully consider lending some of your time and skills to your Church. You need not commit for a lifetime of servitude!! Lol. We desperately need some helpers, short term, to assist us on specific projects. As always, your gifts will help St. Paul's to continue to be a place for everyone to reach out to for worship and prayer, for comfort, for social interaction, and for help.

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you

Deuteronomy 16:17

FINANCE (con't)

Financially Speaking : Update, December 31, 2018



If anyone has any comments or simply just wishes to better understand this graph's meaning and how this graph works, please contact Robert Hunt at 416 458 5888. All questions are welcome.

Your Finance Committee

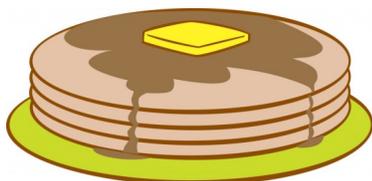
UCW

NOTICE OF MEETING

On Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 1:00 pm the UCW will hold the monthly meeting in the Fellowship Room. Carole O'Neil, president of Lakeridge Presbyterial will be our speaker who will have interesting information to share with us. Everyone is cordially invited.



MEN'S GROUP



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 8:00 am in the Gathering Place. The invitation is open to all men. Come for the first time and enjoy breakfast.

The Men's Group will host the yearly **PANCAKE SUPPER** of pancakes, sausages, ice cream, tea, coffee, and juice on **Shrove Tuesday, March 5, 2019** from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Gathering Place. Free will offering will be taken.

CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

MANDATE is a quarterly magazine for United Church congregational leaders. This magazine provides tools for use in all areas of congregational life, including spiritual growth and discipleship formation, justice and advocacy, worship, outreach, and Mission and Service Fund awareness.

Mandate would be of interest to ALL MEMBERS of the congregation. The UCW purchases one copy which can be found in the Chapel on a shelf with other magazines. It is there for everyone to browse through and borrow, if so desired. Please return when you are finished to allow others to enjoy it as well.



CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

Movie Event

The Exercise Class invites you to bring a bag lunch and stay for a Movie on Sunday, February 17, 2019 in the Fellowship Room following the 10:30 a.m. service. We will enhance the sound. In honor of Black History Month, we are presenting "Hidden Figures."

A Free will offering will be available. All proceeds go to St. Paul's. All are welcome.

Help us choose future films! Make a list of
 a) movies you've never seen and would like to see, and
 b) classic films you'd like to see again.

Please indicate if you own DVD copies of any of the films on your list. Send your list to lcraigflat@gmail.com



I would like to put out a call for anyone who has a Sequence game, that they could lend us for a Sequence Evening at the church, to please get in touch with me.

Catharine Ottaway

I received a request from Grace Sheaves asking for some help. When I replied it revealed itself to be SCAM artists who had acquired Grace's email address and posed as her. They said they were traveling and wanted me to buy 200 dollars' worth of iPhone cards and send them the pin. Hackers are posing as St. Paul's and asking seniors for help as they are "travelling ". If they can pose as Grace, they can pose as anybody.

Mike Morrison

MUSIC**You Know You Want To*****Join the Choir!***

You've heard them sing the Caribbean Mass and it looked like so much fun. You hear them every week, singing Praise to God and you want to be a part of it.

The best time to join the Choir is while there are experienced members to help you learn. We have room for women and men with high and low voices.

For more info speak to any Choir member, or call Lois, the Music Director at 905-427-3800, email her at lcraigbflat@gmail.com, or speak to her after any service.

All enquiries are welcome!



But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.

Psalm 5:11

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

the church with the open arms



St. Paul's United Church

65 King's Cres.,

Ajax, ON L1S 2M4

Phone: 905-683-4740

E-mail:

office@stpaulsajax.org

We're on the web!

www.stpaulsajax.org

The next *Epistle* will be issued on February 28, 2019

DEADLINE for articles is February 22, 2019

Please send articles to Wendy Mason at goosemason@yahoo.ca

JOIN WITH US TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD.

Sunday Worship - 10:30 am

Wheelchair Accessible - Hearing Assistance

Sunday School and Nursery Care available during Sunday Worship.

Fellowship and coffee time follows every worship service.

Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month.

Baptisms and Weddings may be arranged by calling the Church Office.

Meeting Space is available for booking.

Our office is open weekdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Minister: the Rev. Cordelia Karpenko

Office Administrator: Catharine Ottaway

Music Director: Lois Craig

We come to experience, show and share the difference God's love in Christ makes in our lives. We strive to be a people growing spiritually while reaching out to others in response to Jesus Christ.