



St. Paul's United Church
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A voice of one calling:
—“In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 40

December, 2021

Greetings in Christ, this blessed Advent Season:

The words of the prophet Isaiah speak relief to a people who had long given up any sense of comfort or assurance of God's care. These words also speak clearly to us today. At this time we are still reeling from the effects of being in lock-down, struggling to make sense of a pandemic, gradually adjusting our needs and expectations with both employment and family issues. To say that lives have been disrupted is a great understatement.

COVID has taken its toll in our church family- economically, our church is struggling. We have not been able to host almost any fundraisers for the last year and a half, and the lack of that accustomed revenue has left a deep void in our bank accounts. During this time we were fortunate to be able to do the sanctuary renovation work without having to tap into any existing bank accounts. Special funds and grants, as well as hundreds of hours of donated labour, made this possible, and we are enormously grateful for the work that was done, and the ability to do it without depleting our funds.

Now, we are working on our church budget for the coming year, and the news is troubling: We are looking at a deficit of over \$60,000 for 2022. Our appeals and fundraisers really need the support of the whole community, in order for St Paul's to maintain its work in our community and our world.

Did you gasp when you read that number? So did we-- the Stewards and Trustees-- when we worked on our budget. But that is the stark truth. And the programs we want to share, the worship and care and community connections that are vital to our sacred life, depend on money. We recognize how much folks have struggled this past year and a half, and now we are asking you, please, if at all able, to give a little more. We have not sent out a direct appeals' letter in a number of years, but we are asking now. If you value the work that St Paul's does in our community and in our wider world, may you be moved to extend the generosity of Christmas that marks the arrival of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, this season. May you be blessed in giving, knowing that Christ's work is our work, and that we need financial resources to make that happen.

If you are able to help St. Paul's financially, you can make your donation via e-transfer (stpaulsuc@nexicom.net), cheque, or if you go to our [Donation Page](#), there are other options there

In faith,

The Rev. Meggin Hare