

ST. PAUL'S, ESSEX FALL NEWSLETTER 2026

"Sensing Water" – A Sermon Series

When asked about the wonders of the world, one person responded: to smell, to hear, to taste, to see, and to touch.

Our senses gift us with tangible ways to interact with our world. As we consider our connection to water, we can think about these tangible interactions:

- *The smell of the salty air as we look out over an ocean.*
- *The sounds of a waterfall splashing over a cliff.*
- *The taste of freshly caught seafood.*
- *The sight of a peaceful, babbling brook.*
- *The cool feel of water on a hot summer day.*

Water connects us in meaningful ways to each other, to the more-than-human world, and to the Creator. This Season of Creation we will explore these connections through the lens of our senses, each week focusing on a different sense and asking what we can learn through each sense about our relationships and what we can do better.

Come and explore as we "Sense Water" together beginning Sept. 6 at 11am.

SEASON OF CREATION – LIVING WATER

This summer, folks have been invited to gather small samples of water from meaningful places and bring these to worship during our celebration of the Season of Creation. "Living Water" is this year's theme creating an interesting link to our journeys, our stories, and our connections to water.



How many have had special experiences near water – whether that is streams, rivers, lakes, or oceans? In what ways have our senses come to life in and around water helping us connect to the more-than-human world in meaningful ways? What stories could we tell? What memories come to life? What meaning can we make from a small sample of water that points to something bigger, some moment, some sense of life that is more than we can ask or imagine?

We are connected to water in so many meaningful ways. Our first environment is in the womb of another surrounded by water. Water flows through our bodies. We need water to survive! To what extent do we also consider how much of our day involves water? Every time we turn on a tap, flush the toilet, and shower we are using water. Our clothing and dishes are cleaned by water. Water is needed for our food. Water is used to produce our electricity and cool systems connected to AI. We need the streams, rivers, and lakes that surround our region far more than they need us.

To what extent do we consider the human impact of our need for the water that surrounds our world? To what extent are we conscious of the importance of ensuring that the water remains safe not only for our generation but for generations to come? This Season of Creation invites us to look more closely at our relationships to water, to Creation, to each other, and to God.

Beginning Sept. 6, worship will include Creation themed elements with a particular focus on water. Through prayers, music, and reflections, we will journey together, seeking to better understand the gifts of water and Creation and how to engage with these respectfully and reciprocally. We will celebrate this journey together and renew our Baptismal Covenant Thanksgiving weekend, Oct. 11th.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, OCT. 4, 1PM

It has become an annual tradition to include in our celebration of the Season of Creation, a blessing of the animals. All those who love animals are encouraged to participate in this simple, outdoor service (weather permitting). Animals are welcome. Photos are acceptable for those who are otherwise unable to bring their animals. Donations of money or food are encouraged to support the work of the Windsor Humane Society, this year celebrating its 100th anniversary!

All are encouraged to share this opportunity with family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and anyone else who has a heart for animals.

Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 4, 1:30pm



Donations to Windsor-Essex Humane Society are welcome!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING, OCT. 11, 11AM

Harvest Thanksgiving

Giving Thanks and Renewal of Baptismal Covenant



Oct. 11, 11am
Come and be blessed in the Living Water

In Canada, we celebrate Thanksgiving as a National Holiday on the second weekend in October. As people of faith, what better way to give thanks than to begin with gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts, the One who has made us and all of Creation?

Beginning Sept. 6th individuals will have the opportunity to bring forward water collected from special places and share a bit of why this water and these places are special. These offerings will be placed on the Baptismal Font throughout the Season of Creation so that when we celebrate Thanksgiving we can give thanks for these places and stories, thanks for the water, and use this water as we renew our Baptismal Covenant committing, with God’s help, to be stewards of

relationships that are respectful and reciprocal with each other, with the land, with the water, and with God.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share our stories, our faith, and our commitment with family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and strangers welcoming all to come and be blessed in the Living Water.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2.0

At this year’s vestry meeting, a commitment was made to create a strategic plan identifying how we will use our time, talents, and treasures over the coming years as we work to improve our overall sustainability. Your wardens and rector have already begun this process by working to transform the budget into a narrative one, and naming how we are currently using our time, talents, and treasures to serve our ministry goals and the purposes to which we feel called as a community of faith. Want to help?

We encourage everyone to prayerfully reflect on the ways you share your gifts to support the ministry of St. Paul’s at present and what contributions you would be willing to offer in the coming year. You are encouraged to use a table like the one below to help with this reflection. Be prepared to share your reflection with council as we develop strategic plan 2.0. Thank you for all the ways you share your gifts with St. Paul’s. May we continue to trust that God, working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Gifts	Currently Providing	Willing to Offer in 2027
Time		
Talents		
Treasures		

LEGACY OF HEROES 2026 – ALZHEIMER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Welcoming the Alzheimer's Day Haven program to Dell Hall this June has made us aware of the importance of respite programs for individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer and dementia. These programs can be an important lifeline for caregivers and individuals. This year, we have chosen to celebrate the vital ways caregivers and the Alzheimer's society support those with Alzheimer's and dementia.

In Essex, there is the Day Haven program Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at St. Paul's. There is also "The Social" which is an exercise and cognitive activities program available at the community support centre. In home respite care is available through the Alzheimer's society throughout the county.

This year's Legacy of Heroes will celebrate and raise awareness about these programs. This is also an important opportunity to offer information about the ongoing challenges of caring for those with Alzheimer's and dementia. Prayers are welcome.

We are ever grateful to Diane who generously uses her gifts to gather sponsorships and donations from local businesses for this event. Watch for more information about the auction and spread the word to ensure it is a success. We look forward to celebrating the Alzheimer's society programs in Essex this year.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY – ST. PAUL'S

Stewardship is a fancy word for the way we use the gifts God has given us to care for what God has entrusted to us. St. Paul's is truly a special place filled with special people actively engaged in the work of stewardship.

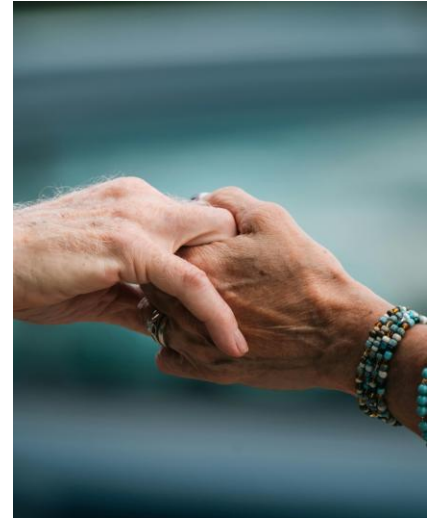


Our recent **Sunshine and Sunflowers Market** was filled with reminders about what makes us special. This was the largest number of vendors we have had to date, with excellent social media promotion, and wonderful engagement. The hard work and hospitality of our volunteers continually make these events feel special. There is a reason why vendors are so positive about participating. There is a true community feel with our markets. We continue to explore how to make these events meaningful and engaging family events.

Fundraising events are essential. They are necessary to support our budget and often offer opportunities to engage with the wider community. How wonderful it is to enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbours at pasta dinners, beef stew suppers, and BBQs. How much fun do we have at puzzle races – even those of us who have yet to complete a puzzle (Rev. Chris and Mr. Chris)? How many people find new to them treasures at our annual yard sale and new to them reads among our books? How many gifts and items have been won in our auctions? To what extent are people happy to participate because they know doing so supports important ministries? Thank you to every single person whose gifts of time, talents, and treasures enable these fundraisers to happen.



Mark your calendars, the next puzzle race will be Sept. 18th at 7pm, the next pasta dinner will be Oct. 2, 5-6:30pm, and the next mark will be Oct. 24th, 10am-2pm. There will be more markets and other events this fall. Stay tuned.



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS, 2026

This summer St. Paul's welcomed the Alzheimer's association who now offer programming Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in Dell Hall. We are thrilled to open our doors to create a safe space for individuals with Alzheimer's to play games, do crafts, and make the most of life while their families and caregivers pursue other activities.

Continuing the annual tradition, this summer we petitioned to have the pride flag raised at Town Hall and held a BBQ in August as our contribution to Pride Week. This remains important as it is one of the few Pride events in the county and offers connections to the various Pride organisations.



Community support for our clothing cupboard blessed us with an abundance of children's clothing following a community clothing exchange in Aug. Volunteers at the clothing cupboard continue to serve those in need, making a difference with every item of clothing.

Summer Social Media Campaigns

Thanks to [Sandra Lypps](#) for the [faith and self-care](#) video series which offered short video reflections on themes that include – self-care isn't selfish, God wants us to care for ourselves, the Gift of Sabbath, and pouring from an empty cup. These videos can be found on our Facebook page and our website.

Inspired by the new Little Library from our friends at Rotary Club of Essex, we also shared some of our favourite books in the [#blessedbybooks](#) series. Thank you to all who contributed their favourite books for this series.



A [special thank you](#) to the generous individuals who donated and assembled the new outdoor shed. This shed holds our BBQ and a donated, newly maintained snowblower ready for the season. Thank you for this generous gift!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Season of Creation, Sept. 1st through Oct. 11th (Harvest Thanksgiving)
- Puzzle Race, Sept. 18, 7pm
- St. Paul's Council meeting, Sept. 20, following worship
- Pasta Dinner, Oct. 2nd, 5-6:30pm
- Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 4th, 1:30pm
- Harvest Thanksgiving, Oct. 11th, 11am
- Oct. 23-24th Diocese of Huron annual Synod
- Market, Oct. 24th, 10am-2pm
- All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1st, 11am
- Pasta Dinner, Nov 6th, 5-6:30pm
- Trans Week of Action event Nov. 12
- Watch for information about fall market(s), puzzle race, Legacy of Heroes auction and presentation, and traditional worship and potential pick a hymn Sunday.

St. Paul's Anglican Church, 92 St. Paul St., Essex

Website: stpaulsessex.ca

Email: stpaulsessex@diohuron.org

Phone: 519-776-7711
