

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.ca

A Message from M&P

This week we welcome Rev. Gail Fricker to Grace United Church in Tavistock; we are entering a new relationship. Our new minister was ordained in October of 2020 having served her student ministry from 2016 at Knox United in Ayr and serving as their minister until February 2021. Within the Western Ontario Waterways region, Rev Gail was a supply minister, a leader in workshops, a youth group leader and was involved in pastoral care. As an educator her work within the Avon Maitland School Board from 2000-2016 provided the development of the skills of communication, strong problem solving abilities, organizational and administrative details and the ability to work as a team player. She earned a reputation as an international storyteller with an understanding of many cultures and lifestyles through working in Japan, Kenya, Thailand and Europe. Volunteering with World Vision has enhanced her passion for outreach and mission and she has volunteered overseas several times.

Wouldn't it be great if we were able to worship in the sanctuary and enjoy coffee hour but we are not there yet. Until we can meet I invite you the members of Grace to use the telephone to welcome her and let her know something about yourself. We are so very proud of our staff team here at Grace and welcome her to that team. They will be a great asset in this transition phase of your ministry here at Grace.

Welcome Rev Gail Fricker to Grace United Community of Faith.

Meet the Minister

Blessings to you All!

I am so excited to be joining you at Grace United. I have known Rev. Mary for a long while, and when I started as a student with Huron Perth Presbytery, she always encouraged me to consider Grace United should an opening occur. Little did we know what God's plan would be 5 years later. I am also delighted to be working with Carol Young – she has known our family for a long while, and I have enjoyed participating and leading retreats with her at Camp Bimini.

Some of you already know that my background is in theatre and storytelling. I came to Canada on tour with a theatre company from England and I ended up becoming a Canadian Citizen. I worked for many years as a professional storyteller and arts educator. I met my husband, Blair, when I moved to settle down in Stratford; Blair works as a scenic



Contact us:

Rev. Gail Fricker, cell number 519-703-1954
gfricker@rogers.com. Office Hours
for Rev. Gail Tues. to Thurs. 10:00—4:00 pm

Carol Young, tavigraceyouth@gmail.com
cell 519-301-1356
Office Hours for Katherine Brenneman Tues. and
Thurs. 9:30—12:30 pm



artist for Stratford Festival. We have one son, Gavin, who is in his second year studying piano performance at Wilfred Laurier. Gavin also works as a music director at Grace Mennonite Brethren church in Kitchener. Music plays a big part in our family, and Blair has always enjoyed singing in the church choir. When Gavin was growing up, I returned to teaching drama so that I was not touring so much. I was also an adjunct professor of Storytelling at Tyndale and Emmanuel Bible College. While teaching I took the Licensed Lay Worship Leader course at Five Oaks – and it was then that I truly felt the call into accountable ministry.

In 2015 I began my training at Atlantic School of Theology (AST) in the Summer Distance program. I would attend AST in Halifax during the summer for 6 weeks and continue online throughout the year. I graduated in May 2020 and was ordained in October.

Looking back, I can see how God has prepared me for ministry. I enjoy the opportunity to use the gifts of storytelling and drama in worship to make scripture alive and relevant. I love working with children and youth and enjoy being creative with inter-generational worship. I am also able to live out my passion for mission and outreach. I believe that God is doing amazing things in the local and global community, and we are being called to join God in this Divine work. Being 'church' outside the building is especially important to me, and I think COVID 19 has taught us all the importance of living out our faith even when church is closed.




One of the challenges of starting in a new community of faith during a pandemic is that it is hard to get to know folks. In the weeks ahead I plan to attend as many small groups as possible. I hope that you will join me on the zoom Sunday Coffee and Chat so I can get to meet you. You might also find that I just call you up for a chat sometime, and as soon as the weather gets warmer, I will start some front porch visits.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call me up anytime. My office hours are Tuesdays to Thursdays 10.00- 4.00, and you can always reach me on my cell phone 519 703 1954.

Peace. Rev. Gail.

Looking for volunteers. As we continue to video the worship services, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to come and help video. It would just take about an hour on a Thursday afternoon (2ish) You do not need to be good with a camera – Rev. Gail promises to show you how to turn it on and point in the right direction!

 If you think you could spare an hour on a Thursday for this important ministry, please let Rev Gail know by email (gfricker@rogers.com) or cell (519 703 1954)

Upcoming Services and Dates:

(until further notice, all the worship services will be online)

ALL SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE:

www.graceunitedtavistock.ca

March 7th: Lent 3 - Covenant of Love (Exodus 20:1-17)

March 14th: Lent 4 - Covenant of Healing (Numbers 21:4-9)

Wed. Mar. 17th: 7:00 pm Board Meeting by Zoom

Sat. Mar. 20: 10am -12 noon Drive Thru for TAP

March 21st: Lent 5 - Covenant of Hope (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

March 28th: Palm Sunday – Halle Halle Halle (Mark 11:1-11)

April 2nd: Good Friday – Were you there?



Sunday Zoom Coffee Time

Please join us on zoom at 11:30 on Sunday for a time of social chat and get together - bring your own coffee! Rev. Gail would love to get to know some faces.

[Join zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 868 4045 9085

Passcode: 256236



Do you have a prayer request?

“In all things let your requests be known to God in prayer.” (Philippians 4:6)

Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to our Minister, Rev. Gail, or to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb, and we will begin praying for you.

And please keep the following people in your prayers this week:

- ◇ Greg and Kristine Ankenmann, and family, as they grieve the loss of Greg's Step-Father.
- ◇ Ken Brenneman, and his wife Karen, as Ken gets rest and recuperation in Stratford General Hospital.
- ◇ Donna and Clarence Herlick, and family, as Donna struggles with cancer.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

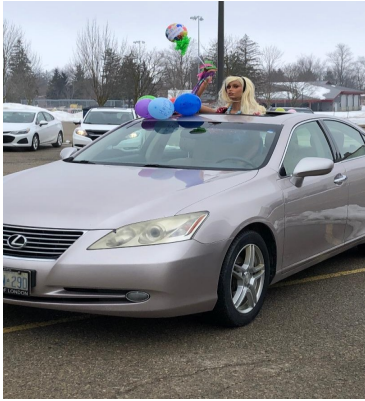
Even though we can not meet in person – we have not forgotten you! We would like to wish the following members of Grace Family a Happy Birthday:

- ◇ Marianne Ruby March 3rd
- ◇ Mary Ann Krantz March 3rd
- ◇ Joan Bartlett March 3rd
- ◇ Brian Gerber March 4th
- ◇ Elysia Cook March 4th



Please call them up and remind them that their church family celebrates with them!

Happy Retirement Rev. Mary



On Sunday, February 28th Rev. Mary officially retired from Grace. In honour of Rev. Mary's retirement the congregation participated in a drive by.

Pictured are two of the 37 vehicles that took part in Rev Mary's retirement drive by. Thanks to all who participated!

Best Wishes Rev. Mary!!



Good News at Grace Submissions

We welcome your good news stories and pictures along with announcements. Please have your submissions emailed to Katherine by Tues. March 10th for next week's newsletter.

Grace United Church Drive-thru for TAP

Saturday, March 20th 10 am to 12 noon. We are collecting the following items: diapers (all sizes), toilet paper, facial tissue, hygiene items such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste. They are NOT accepting food items at this time. A Grace United Church Youth and RECESS project.



'Step into the Story' Rev. Gail leads an on-line workshop series in partnership with Five Oaks

Learn how to bring scripture and sacred story alive through the ancient art of storytelling. Step into the shoes of biblical characters to gain a deeper sense of Spirit and an understanding of a chosen scripture. This course is designed to help anyone who wants to use storytelling in worship, in ministry with seniors or youth, or who just wants to explore a new way to spiritually reflect.

No previous experience of storytelling is necessary. It will be fun, interactive, and practical.

Join a small group in March/April for this 4 week session hosted by Five Oaks. We will meet once per week on Monday evenings on zoom for a 1.5 hour session of lecture, discussion, reflection, storytelling, and story listening. There will be an opportunity to work on your own story between sessions.

To register go to the link at Five Oaks: [Registration link](#)



Five Oaks



Camp Bimini Fundraiser Drive-Thru Dinner on Sunday, March 28th, 2021 from St. Marys United Church parking lot! *Featuring:* Tomato & Mozzarella Salad, Roast Pork Loin, Wild Mushroom Sauce, Savoury Rice with a Vegetable Medley, Apple Pie from Brenda's Place and Bakery (Stratford) ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY BY MARCH 21, 2021 ADULTS \$20, 12 YEARS AND YOUNGER \$10 for ticket purchase: <http://campbimini.ca/event/drive-thru-dinner/>

Call Susan 519-440-2908 with your questions. Also see the attached poster.

PICK UP TIMES BETWEEN 4:30PM AND 5:30PM



CAMP BIMINI FUNDRAISER

DRIVE-THRU DINNER

SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2021

ST. MARYS UNITED CHURCH Parking Lot

Featuring :

Tomato & Mozzarella Salad, Roast Pork Loin, Wild
Mushroom Sauce, Savoury Rice with a Vegetable Medley
Apple Pie from Brenda's Place and Bakery (Stratford)

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