

Grace United Church March 26, 2021

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.ca



Blessings!

I was wondering what to write for the front page of the newsletter. Going into Holy week is sometimes a time of so many mixed emotions. We have the celebration of Palm Sunday, and the excitement of Easter, but in-between we have the walk through the difficult and sometimes dark days of Holy Week.

I was reflecting on what emotion is surfacing on this week before Good Friday?

Then, when walking downtown Stratford – it was as if God hit me over the head with an answer to my thoughts. In the middle of the town square there is a huge HOPE sign that has been the focus of the winter Lights On Stratford Festival. Every evening from 6-9pm this 3-meter-high sign lights up with neon colours. It is a symbol of better things to come for a town that has been deeply hit by unemployment and lack of tourism during the pandemic.

But, of course, the sign is also a reminder for us as people of faith that HOPE always prevails. It is HOPE that carries us through Holy Week. It is HOPE that we see all around us as we become more aware of God's presence in everyday things. It is HOPE that we share with others who may be searching for answers.

My prayer for you is that you find HOPE in the week ahead as we journey together.

Peace,  
Rev. Gail.

## **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: 845 8892 7469

Passcode: 500958



If you are having troubles connecting or staying connected, please connect with Carol 519-301-1356



## **From the Office: GRACE HAS A NEW EMAIL**

- The office is switching to gmail. Please send your office emails to [graceunitedtavisock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavisock@gmail.com)
- E-transfer donations should be sent to [gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com](mailto:gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com) (security question answer Grace1980)

### Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker:

cell number 519-703-1954

[gfricker@rogers.com](mailto:gfricker@rogers.com)

Carol Young:

cell number 519-301-1356

[tavigraceyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tavigraceyouth@gmail.com)

### Office Hours

Rev. Gail is available in office Tues. to Thurs. 10:00—4:00 pm

Katherine Brenneman Tues. and Thurs. 9:30—12:30 pm



## Drive Through for TAP



We had a great turn out at the Drive Through for TAP last Saturday. The youth made sure that everyone knew which way to enter and exit in the parking lot!



And they enjoyed stacking all the donations into the car.



At the end of the morning, we had about two full carloads of various paper products to take to TAP. A big 'Thank you' to everyone who donated, and to everyone who helped out!



## Congratulations!



Parents Courtney McKay and Keenan Gould welcomed baby John Robert Gould on March 17th, 2021 at 3:51 am. 6 lbs 12.6 ounces, 21.25" long. Proud grandparents are Bruce and Jane McKay.

### **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](http://www.graceunitedtavistock.ca)

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

**March 31st:** 10am– 12 noon Zoom Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet

**April 2nd:** Good Friday – Were you there?

**April 4th:** Easter SONrise 7am - Online service led by the Youth

**April 4th:** Alive, Alive! An online celebration service introducing the praise band, and sharing Communion.



Thank you to everyone who came to wave palm branches last Saturday, or dropped by the office this week, or invited me to your home. It was wonderful to meet you all. We had 70 people participate! I hope you enjoy the short 2 minute video as part of the service this Palm Sunday—see how many of your Grace family you can recognize.

### **Exciting News !!**

If you are a fan of the tv show Jeopardy you might want to tune in on Thursday, April 1st at 7:30 pm. (if you have Rogers it is channel 17) Scott Shewfelt will be a contestant!! We think it's quite exciting! So tune in and yell your answers at him.



### **God Sightings!**

Signs of Hope and Spring

## Do you have a prayer request?



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

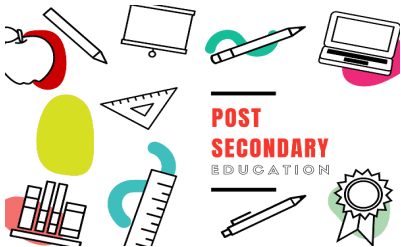
Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to our Minister, Rev. Gail, or to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb, and we will begin praying for you.

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

- ◇ Donna and Clarence Herlick, and family, as Donna struggles with cancer.
- ◇ Brenda Mohr’s brother, Pat, as he was recently diagnosed with an aneurism.
- ◇ Ken Brenneman, as he waits to be released from hospital.

## Grace United Church Scholarship

The Grace United Church Scholarship, established in 2014, strives to create, encourage and nurture teen and young adult growth.



This is open to students enrolled or about to be enrolled at a post-secondary institution in Canada.

The scholarship will encourage teen and young adult participation, involvement, and perhaps leadership at Grace United Church, providing an opportunity for them to share their gifts with the Grace United Church family. This scholarship will also provide the opportunity for the Grace United Church family to be a support to teens and young adults in their participation and involvement with the Grace United Church family and a support as they grow and learn. It will be a reminder that Grace United Church is a caring church family where they are welcomed and where they can feel they belong.

The Grace United Church Scholarship will be funded by the Grace United Church family.

*For full information and/or an application to apply, please contact the Youth Coordinator, Carol Young [tavigraceyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tavigraceyouth@gmail.com) or the church office. **Application deadline is April 30, 2021***

## 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 30th for next week’s newsletter. [graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

**Summer Camp** - Camp Bimini’s summer DAY camp registration for 2021 will open up on Monday, March 29 at 6 pm. Registration is online only. Please see our website [www.campbimini.ca](http://www.campbimini.ca) for more details and to register for a great time at camp this summer. If you have any questions regarding registration, please direct them to the camp ([campbimini@cyg.net](mailto:campbimini@cyg.net))



Stewardship report	Month of	FEBRUARY	
		2020	2021
	Core Receipts	8,780	9,113
	Misc. Receipts	2,734	1,880
	Total Receipts	11,514	10,993
	Expenses	13,582	13,392
	Surplus/Deficit	-2,068	-2,399

We give thanks for the continued generosity and support for the ministry of Grace United Church. At this time as you can see, our expenditure exceeds our income. We encourage you to consider your givings to Grace United Church. To make it easy we now have e-transfer. To set it up add your online banking e-transfer contact as Grace United Church and use the email [gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com](mailto:gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com) The security question can be anything you choose. Set the security question answer to Grace1980. Include in the message what your donation is designated for. If you have any questions please call the office 519-655-2151.

### A Story of Transformation from Mission and Service

The transformation that began on Palm Sunday is at the heart of the Easter story. It's at the heart of Jesse's story too.

When Jesse was just 12 years old, he had a traumatic brain injury. His life instantly changed because his brain didn't function the way it once did. By the time he was 17, Jesse had been hospitalized 32 times. Through the ups and downs, his mother took care of him. She was his rock. And then, sadly three years ago, she died of cancer. Without his mother, Jesse's life spiraled out of control. Two years ago, he survived the painfully cold winter sleeping in a storage unit.



*"I lost 40 pounds and all hope. Finally, on one forlorn morning I made a final attempt to better my situation by reaching out to Stella's Circle, a United Church Mission & Service partner. Without hesitation they opened their arms," says Jesse. "Since that fateful morning, their staggering support and generosity has completely altered my life. Because of them, I now dwell in a home I can call my own. They've helped me obtain the counselling services needed to heal from my past, and have even provided me with a washing machine. There has rarely been a day they haven't sought me out to ask about my well-being or if I needed anything."*

Jesse is now completing a greenhouse technician college program, and he also leads a new social enterprise at Stella's Circle that grows produce for sale.

*"Thanks to the team at Stella's Circle, I have new found hope and a proper foothold to help propel me into a more prosperous future," he says.*

Everyone deserves love. No one should be sleeping in a storage unit. No one should go hungry. No one should feel alone. Everyone is someone's child.

Jesse's story is proof that your generosity through Mission & Service truly does help transform lives! Let's be the hands and feet of the risen Christ for everyone who needs to feel his abiding love.

*Please make a special Easter gift through Mission and Service.*