

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

116 Woodstock St. S. PO Box 189 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0

graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

519-655-2151



'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.ca

Blessings to you All.

On Tuesday I had the privilege of attending the virtual tour of the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford Ontario. It was once the Mohawk Institute Residential School; it closed in 1970 and has since been restored as a 'museum of conscience.'

To be honest, I didn't know how I would feel taking this tour. A few years ago, at Atlantic School of Theology, I studied the Truth And Reconciliation; the course was taught by an Indigenous elder and it included many debates, stories of genocide, and participation in rituals. I thought I had a good understanding of the issues. And yet, on Tuesday evening I found myself numb from the experience of touring the Mohawk Institute. The only thing I can liken it to was when I toured Dachau Concentration camp near Munich.

I won't describe all the graphic details of the conditions that included malnutrition, severe punishments, slave labour, and sexual abuse. They were too graphic and too many to mention. But I will share one of the things that really struck home to me – each child was just a number!

When the children arrived, they were stripped of their clothes, any possessions from home were taken away, they had their head shaved, and from that time on they were given a number. They no longer had a name – just a number. Their numbers apparently separated them from other members of their family, for example if three sisters arrived together, they were given separate numbers e.g. 10, 18, 29, to keep them apart. Everything the children did was according to their number – they would line up in number, had beds assigned by number, sat in class according to number, bathed and ate according to number, and were only ever addressed by their number. As I took in this information, I felt that all humanity was stripped from these children, as they were stripped of their name and identity.

The gospels report that Jesus describes how God loves us so much, that every hair on our head is counted (Luke 12:7, Matthew 10:30). If we are this important to God, how is it that we can treat others with such indignation and indifference? And this is not just the story of a few children - there were 150,000 children in the residential schools.

I share this information with you to encourage you to reflect. We are all called to live in respect and peace with each other – not just because of the Truth and Reconciliation, but because we are people of faith. We are 'commanded' to love each other. The survivors of the residential schools just want to be heard. Let us take time to allow them to tell their truths. We can not ignore and bury this painful part of our history if healing is to occur.

If you are interested in finding out more information, or contributing to the Save The Evidence campaign, please go to: <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/the-campaign/>.

Peace, Rev. Gail

## A New Way To Celebrate Mothers – every where.

Mother's day is just over two weeks away. It is a great day to celebrate extraordinary women, but it can also be an opportunity to share what we have and to encourage generosity. It can be a pastoral moment to acknowledge loss, challenge, and different types of families. This year, your Pastoral Care and Outreach team is suggesting that we try to do something a little bit different.

The United Church Mission and Service team have created a special campaign. They are inviting you to make a gift online to support prenatal and parenting classes, respite for families, medical clinics for babies and mothers, safe shelter, and education for children. The gift can be made in honor of a mother figure in your life, and a special e-card will be provided to you to send to them. Your online gift can also be credited to Grace United as part of our Mission and Service giving's for the year – just indicated that you wish for your gift to part of Grace United M&S giving's when you donate.

**Let's make Mother's Day more meaningful, inclusive, and compassionate by using it as an opportunity to do good, as well as be prophetic and pastoral.**



To donate, click on this link and follow the details: <https://united-church.ca/donation>

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### 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 Email: [graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

E-transfer donation email: [gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com](mailto:gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com)

### Office Hours

The office hours are limited due to the provincial stay at home order.

We will work from home as much as possible.

## **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: 856 0626 6599      Passcode: 274267



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

### **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)

**April 25th: Faith Alive In The Home**

**April 28th: Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet Zoom meet**

**May 2nd:** Rev. Gail is on vacation - the service will be a link to "Jazz Worship"

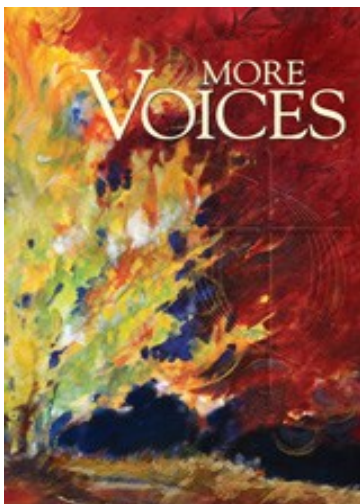
**May 9th:** Everything you know you learnt from Mom

**May 16th:** Holy Homour (more details to follow)



### **Raise Your Voices in Memory or Honour of a Loved One ! FINAL CALL**

A new hymn book to compliment (NOT replace) Voices United, entitled 'More Voices', is needed in our pews. This book includes more contemporary songs, many of which we have been using in worship. For \$20, you can sponsor a copy with a bookplate inscribed in memory of a loved one, or in honour of a loved one, or just make a donation with your name as donor or an anonymous donation. To sponsor a copy, please get in touch with Tricia Wettlaufer at 519-655-9899 or email Tricia at [tricia.wettlaufer@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.wettlaufer@gmail.com) or send an email to the church at [graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com) with 'More Voices Order' in the subject line.



Make your donation by E-transfer to [gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com](mailto:gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com) (make sure to add More Voices to the message) or by cheque made out to Grace United Tavistock with 'More Voices' on the memo line. All More Voices donations are eligible for tax receipts.

UPDATE: We are happy to say that to date we have reached our original goal, and have raised \$1010. **Thank you!** If we raise a further \$180, then we will have enough books for one between two in both the balcony and downstairs, as well as one for each choir member.

## 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:

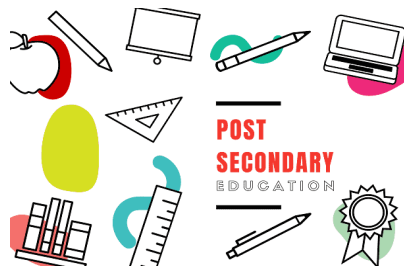


- ◇ Donna and Clarence Herlick, and family, as Donna struggles with cancer.
- ◇ Brenda Mohr's brother, Pat, as he was recently diagnosed with an aneurism.
- ◇ Bill Brown, as he recovers from knee surgery.
- ◇ Burns Holden as he struggles with health issues.

## 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***

*To give to the Scholarships, you can include in offering envelope or in another envelope marked "scholarship". Cheques made payable to Grace United Church.*



# Earth Day April 2021

**Inspire, Empower, Act, Reflect and Share!**



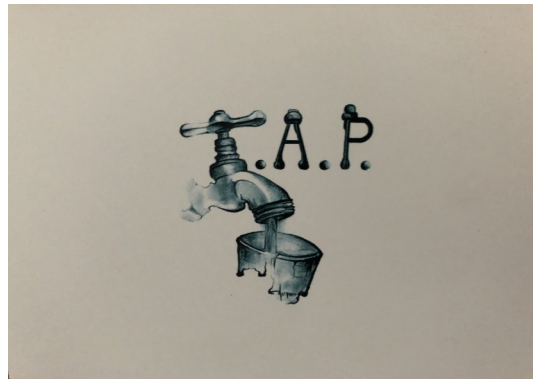
"Thank you to everyone who accepted the challenge of picking up garbage. I know that many of you went out and did not send in photos. That's OK. The important thing is that we care for God's creation!"



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. April 27 for next week's newsletter.  
[graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

**Rev. Gail working from home, study leave, vacation** - In keeping with the Stay at Home order, Rev. Gail will be mostly working from home. She is still available by phone at anytime (519 703 1954), please don't hesitate to reach out, and she can make emergency pastoral visits as needed. She will also be away on study leave Thursday, April 29th, May 6th afternoons to attend Soul of The Preacher retreat. Rev. Gail will also be away on vacation from Wednesday April 28th to Monday May 3rd.

## Thank you Note ...



Monday March 22, 2021

Dear Carol and Grace U.C. Youth

Now! I was sincerely overwhelmed with the generosity, thoughtfulness and manpower that was delivered to the TAP Food Room on Saturday. How very kind of you to think and act so charitably. The items that you collected will serve to help out Neighbours in Need for a few months, I expect. It warmed my heart to see Jayden and Simon working so selflessly for others. I know there were so many more lending a hand. Huge thanks to all.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Nagler  
Program Director

**Camp Bimini Wish List.** Camp Bimini is collecting items for their wish list. You can help with items needed for camp programs, especially crafts. Please visit Camp Bimini's website <https://campbimini.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/wish-list.pdf> for a complete list of Wish List items. We will arrange a date soon for items to be dropped off at the church. Thank you for supporting Camp Bimini.