

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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Blessings.

Today we continue with our series of inspirational messages that will focus on Homes, as we take time to stroll our neighbourhoods, back yards, parks, or just sit and look out a window. This resource is adapted from, and used with permission from, The Prayer Bench (<https://prayerbench.ca/>). Our Habitat for Today: *Earthworms on a rainy day.*

## **Reflection: The Gift of a Rainy Day**

It was a rainy day when I first read this (last Friday). The birds were happily pecking at my lawn, searching for earth worms! Abundant in North America, the earthworm is a common creature on our driveways and sidewalks after a rain. They are a bit of a wonder under our feet. They breath through their skins and need regular moisture to do so. The earthworms don't have lungs like you and I do.

You might want to pause for a second before you continue reading to take a few conscious breaths, feeling the gift of your lungs filling and emptying.

Our earthworm friends find it easier to travel when it is wet. A rainy day is a good day for a worm migration. The reddish-grey earthworm lives in a burrow deep in the soil. They are vital to soil health. These earthmovers improve the soil by their burrowing and feed on organic matter and microorganisms. An earthworm can eat up to one third of its body weight in a day. The soil is improved with nutrients and minerals through their waste.

I invite you to reflect on – how do you change your world around you?

A rainy day may be more welcome to an earthworm than it is to you (unless you are a farmer!) Today we consider the gift of the earthworms and their delight in the rain, and we hope you consider the gift of a rainy day.

Peace to your journey Earthworms. May God cause all to be well with you.

## **Focus for Your Stroll**

As you Stroll today, be on the look out for earthworms. Offer them gratitude for their work of earth moving and soil enrichment, especially if you are a gardener.

Check the weather. Is it raining? Sometimes we have too much and sometimes not enough. As you Stroll today be grateful for the miracle of rain to refresh the earth.

Here is a scripture verse for you to ponder.

“But I would seek God,  
put my case to God,  
who does great things beyond comprehension,  
wonderful things without number;  
who provides rain over the earth’s surface,  
sends water to the open country,  
exalts the lowly, raises mourners to victory;” - Job. 5:8-11

Rev. Gail office hours: Now that the stay at home has been lifted, Rev. Gail will aim to be in Tavistock on Tuesdays to Thursdays from 10am-3pm. If she is not in the church at those times, she might be out on a pastoral visit. Remember you can reach her anytime at 519 703 1954.

### **Working Together with KW Regional Churches**

Grace United has been asked to take part in an awesome project that shares theological reflections with 10 other United Churches in the Kitchener Waterloo area. Each Minister is creating a worship service on the theme of “Telling the Story of ....” The focus will be on telling the story of one of the lesser-known bible characters, and reflecting on what we can learn from it today. The services will all be shared through a drop box, so we can share our ideas, and worship together. At Grace we will be “Telling the Story of ESTHER” this Sunday (June 6<sup>th</sup>), and then the first Sunday of July and August, we will hear the stories of some others.

### **FOOD for FRIENDS**

Thanks to a grant from the United Church Embrace The Spirit, Grace United is able to start a new program that shares God’s love through Food and Hospitality. (See the attached poster) The Pastoral Care and Outreach team will be cooking a one dish casserole once a month, delivering them to some folks at Grace, and freezing some for the wider community of Tavistock. If you would like to help cook, deliver, or be available for the community pick up, please contact either Bev Neeb (519 655 2695) or Rev. Gail (519 703 1954). Lets be the hands of God together!

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#### Contact us

<i>Rev. Gail Fricker:</i>	<i>cell number 519-703-1954</i>	<i>gfricker@rogers.com</i>
<i>Carol Young:</i>	<i>cell number 519-301-1356</i>	<i>tavigraceyouth@gmail.com</i>
<i>Office Email: <a href="mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com">graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com</a></i>		
<i>E-transfer donation email: <a href="mailto:gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com">gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com</a></i>		

#### Office Hours

*The office hours are limited and will be a mix of working in office and from home. Please call ahead.*

## **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!



[Join zoom link](#)      Meeting ID: 853 8446 4678      Passcode: 455514

If you are having trouble connecting or staying connected, please connect with Carol Young 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.com](http://www.graceunitedtavistock.com)

**June 6th:** Telling the Story of ... Esther

**June 9th:** Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet outside meet

**June 13th:** Calming the Storm

**June 16th:** Zoom Board Meeting

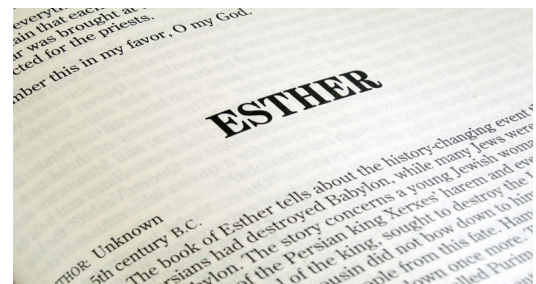
**June 17th:** Drive thru Drop off for Camp Bimini

**June 20th:** Camping Sunday (recorded at Camp Bimini)

**June 27th:** Holy Humour, outside parking lot service

**July 4th:** Telling the Story of ....?

**July 11th:** Water, Water, Water - outside Baptism and New Membership



### **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:



- ◇ Brenda Mohr's brother, Pat, as he was recently diagnosed with an aneurism.
- ◇ Burns Holden as he struggles with health issues.
- ◇ Verna Herold as she struggles with health issues.
- ◇ The family of Beulah Ruby as they mourn her passing.

**In Memory of Beulah Ruby.** Beulah was a lifetime member of Grace United, and a much cherished member of this community of faith. I know that many of you would probably have attended her funeral this week under different circumstances. The family would like me to share with you this YouTube link to the recording of her Celebration of Life: [Video - Celebration of Life for Beulah Ruby](#).

Rev. Gail

### **Supporting our Partners in Faith**

June 19, about 10 am: Roy Lichti and Pastor Jim Brown are planning a "parade walk" through Tavistock. Plans include Pastor Jim pulling Roy in a red wagon, cutting Roy's pandemic hair, colouring Pastor Jim's beard and more. Lots of sponsors are needed to raise funds for Mennonite Central Committee relief work internationally. Contact Pastor Jim or Alyssa Kerfoot [office@tavistockmennonitechurch.ca](mailto:office@tavistockmennonitechurch.ca). Go to [Canada Helps](#) to donate to this fundraiser and see updates.

### **Remembering the 215 children**



After the horrifying discovery of 215 children's bodies at the Kamloops Residential School, many monuments have been created in memory.

I invite you to create your own way to remember these children.

We can not be silent.

If we are to work towards truth and reconciliation we must hear these stories of pain from our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Please hold them all in prayer in the days ahead, as we continue to seek healing. And, please contact me if you wish to talk about this in anyway.

Peace Rev. Gail

**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. June 8 for next week's newsletter.  
[graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

**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. Grace United Church is hosting a drive thru drop off on Thursday, June 17th from 6:00—8:00 pm. Thank you for supporting Camp Bimini.

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Happy Birthday to:

Hunter Bayer - June 1  
Randy Harris - June 2  
Andrea Jutzi - June 3  
Ruby Jackman - June 4  
Kamryn Lamond - June 6  
Lydia Parr - June 7  
Marjorie Wisby - June 8  
Hayley Harris Ayotte - June 12  
Logan Wilson - June 17  
Aaron Smythe - June 23  
Jolene Herlick - June 23  
Kayla Shantz - June 24  
Susan Pellow - June 27  
Kristene Ankenmann - June 30

### Happy Anniversary to:

Tim and Amanda Metski - June 2  
Wayne and Carol Shewfelt - June 4  
Bill and Elaine Green - June 4  
Gerald and Judy Zehr - June 5  
Paul and Joan Bartlett - June 5  
Brian and Elysia Cook - June 7  
Ken and Karen Brenneman - June 10  
Wayne and Linda Stock - June 13  
Bill and Wanda Brown - June 18  
Tiffany and Jamie Sangster - June 25  
Shaun and Amanda Miller - June 26  
John and Shelia Roppel - June 29



# Grace United Church Scholarship

## Update from 2020 Recipients:

### Erin Brenneman

I'd like to start by once again thanking everyone at Grace for the opportunity this scholarship has helped to provide me and all the other youth in our congregation, as well as for all of your support and encouragement over the years in pursuing my goals.

At the end of April, I completed my first year at Sheridan College for their Honours Bachelor in Creative Writing and Publishing. While the year certainly wasn't as I had pictured it, I'm thankful for all the experiences I've gained in the process. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend classes on the Mississauga campus, instead, participating in online classes from right here in Oxford County. It presented some challenges—rural internet connections being trying at times, as I'm sure many of you can sympathize with! That being said, I was also able to learn so much about the intricacies of the publishing industry, and about myself and my writing. My professors challenged and encouraged me to experiment with new forms of media, and I even got the chance to write an original pilot episode for TV among many other fun projects! I'm currently at home for the summer, working and reading and writing in the hopes that I'll be able to attend classes on campus in the coming fall (the chances are looking good!).

With that in mind, I'm also hopeful to be seeing you all again in person on a Sunday in the not-so-distant future, but until then, take care and blessings to you all!

Erin

### Alyssa Lupton

Grace Community,

It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since we have been able to meet together in person. I have been able to complete a full year at college since I have seen many of you last. At the end of April, I finished my first year in the Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) – Accounting, Audit, and Information Technology at Conestoga College. Due to Covid, all my classes were moved to the online format. As a result, I was unable to go to residence which was something I was looking forward to. I was also not able to meet any new people at school or make new friends. Regardless, these are just the downsides, which I find people tend to focus on. For me, learning online and Covid in general has brought many upsides as well. Online schooling gave me more flexibility. While I still had set class times, as long as I had an internet connection, I could attend class from anywhere I wanted. This allowed me to spend more time with my grandma and grandpa. Not going to residence also meant that I could spend more time with family. I am very grateful for this as it allowed me to spend ample time with grandma when she fell terminally ill. She was even able to listen in to a few of my classes and in between, we were able to have many conversations. Therefore, while we wait for life to return to “normal”, I will continue to reflect not on the negatives that Covid has brought but on the positives and the moments that would have otherwise been missed. I look forward to the day where we can all see each other in person again.

Alyssa Lupton



## **2021 Recipient Jordan Bartlett**

Jordan Bartlett who will be beginning first year at the University of Windsor for their nursing program.

From her application, "As many of us young adults prepare for upcoming years of further education in our field of choice, it allow us to reflect on our younger years and take notice of what has influenced and taught us along the way. Family, school, friends, faith and community all have important roles in our growth as an individual. Grace United Church uses the phrase "Bricks and Mortar" to describe our spiritual growth and faith during our childhood and teen years spent at this church. I feel this description really emphasizes how a church family and the involvement in a church can help us young adults appreciate and grow from what it provides us....The bricks and mortar of Grace United Church has helped me with continuously building my faith and spiritual growth and I want to continue to be once it can open its doors again after COVID-19." CONGRATULATIONS JORDAN--BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

**We continue to hold Alyssa, Erin, Jordan and all students in our prayers as they grow and be the hands and feet of Christ.**

## **Prayer for the Students of Kamloops Residential School**

*by Moderator Richard Bott, The United Church of Canada*

O God, we are grieving.

O God, we are shocked.

O God, we are horrified.

But, God, if we truly listened, we can't be surprised.

The Elders and the Communities had already told  
the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,  
told the governments and the world,  
the stories of the children, dead and buried,  
unnoted by the settler systems,  
but never ever forgotten by their siblings, their parents,  
their communities.

We grieve for the Indigenous children,  
taken from their homes and parents by the government,  
handed over to the responsibility of the Christian church,  
the children who died under its care,  
never to be held by their families,  
never to be returned to their communities—  
not only the 215 children of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc  
and other Indigenous communities along the west coast and interior  
whose bodies have now been found  
on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds,  
but all of those children  
whose bodies have not yet been found  
who died in any of Indian Residential Schools.

We grieve for the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools,  
the children who did come home,  
but were changed by their experience,  
the children who grew up,  
and have the trauma of remembering, again,  
what happened to them.

Even as we give thanks for their families and communities,  
who hold the stories of the children,  
who have kept searching,  
who keep searching,  
we grieve that that search is even necessary,  
that even one child was taken,  
that even one child died,  
that even one child's death went unnoted by the system.

Help us to stop, to sit in silence,  
to remember the names we do not know.  
May their spirits have peace,  
and their bodies be brought home to their lands.

And God?  
Help us to take this grief,  
this shock,  
this horror,  
and turn it into right action—  
action that works for right relations—  
action that works for healing and justice and hope.

And, please,  
don't let those of us who are settlers  
and descendants of settlers,  
newcomers to this land,  
let the horror, the shock, and the grief  
just be an outpouring of words,  
or tears,  
or ineffectual hand-wringing.

Let this be a moment that changes,  
a moment that transforms the brokenness,  
that we might walk in right relations,  
for the good of your children,  
for the good of your world.

Please, God.

These things we pray,  
in the name of the one who brought Creation into being,  
in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend,  
in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
whose wings spread across the sky.

Amen and amen.



# GRACE UNITED CHURCH SERVES FOOD FOR FRIENDS



A CASSEROLE  
MINISTRY FOR  
THE  
COMMUNITY

**FREE**  
SINGLE/DOUBLE  
PORTIONS  
AVAILABLE EVERY  
4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY  
OF MONTH 2-  
4PM

For more information, contact:  
[graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

Tel: 519-655-2151



This project is made possible by a grant from United Church

*Sharing God's love through food and hospitality.*

# FUN WITH WATER



## **TUES JULY 6TH - THURS JULY 8TH SUMMER DAY CAMP**

**9.00- 12.30pm**

**FREE Event for ages 7-10**



**SPLISH! SPLASH! SPLISH!**

**Science  
Experiments!**

**Storytelling!**

**Crafts!**

**Games and more!**

**Bring your own  
snacks**

**Pre- register at  
Grace United  
Church.**

**[www.graceunitedtavistock.com](http://www.graceunitedtavistock.com)  
(limited capacity)**

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