

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

What did you 'loose' in COVID?

Blessings,

The other day my son received the news that his convocation for his Royal College of Music Associate Diploma (ARCT) was to be virtual and online. He has worked hard the last 10 years on this, and he felt cheated. He said to me: *"it's not fair that I don't get to wear the robe and stand in front of the sign that says 'this is my moment.' I've worked hard for my moment."*

I knew exactly how he felt. In April 2020 I had to forgo my graduation at Atlantic School of Theology after 5 years of study, and my ordination into Ministry in October 2020 was wonderful, but very different from what I expected or would have liked.

On Sept 19th we are very excited at Grace as we plan to come back to the sanctuary to worship. But before we move on with joy and expectation, let us take a moment to acknowledge and grieve what we have lost and missed during the last 18 months. I am sure we have all lost something.

- Did you miss holding a newborn grandchild?
- Did you miss celebrating a milestone birthday with friends?
- Were your retirement celebrations different to what you had dreamed of?
- Did you need to say goodbye to a loved one without being surrounded by friends?
- Did you miss getting together with friends socially?
- Have you just missed singing in church?

Before you enter the sanctuary on Sept 19th, I invite you to reflect on 'what has been the biggest loss for you?' Let us then name those losses, so that we can hand them over to God on Sept 19th.

There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance

Ecclesiastes 3: 4

Peace, Rev. Gail.

Upcoming Services and Dates:

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

www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Sept. 12th: 'Back to School' Intergenerational Recorded Worship led by Christian Ed

Sept. 13th: 6:00 - 7:30 pm AV Equipment Orientation

Sept. 15th: 7:00 pm Board meeting

Sept. 19th: 10:30 am 'Welcome Back to the Sanctuary' in person worship

Sept. 26th: 10:30 am Creation 1: Listen to Me, in Person Worship

Sept. 28th: Food for Friends Cooking and Drop off

Sept. 30th: 7:00 - 8:00 pm Sing-a-long

Oct. 3rd: 10:30 am Creation 2: Love Me - World Wide Communion

Join Us for our recorded "Back to School" Intergenerational Worship

Christian Education will lead us in intergenerational worship service this Sunday. The service will be recorded only and will be available for viewing at 10:30 am. After careful consideration about making return to worship in the church safe we felt it was the right decision to offer the service as a recording only.

Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker:

cell number 519-703-1954

gfricker@rogers.com

Carol Young:

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tavigraceyouth@gmail.com

Office Email: graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

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Office Hours

Rev. Gail Tues to Thurs 10:00—3:00 pm

Katherine Tues. and Thurs. 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Care and Communication Team

Rev. Gail 519 703 1954

Marcia Bender 519 655 2047

Jean Lowe 519 655 3205

Gloria Reibling 519 655 3255

Elizabeth Halliday 519 655 2246

Paul Bartlett 519 655 3334

Marianne Ruby 519 274 1422

Return to In-person Worship

As we look forward to our return to worship in the sanctuary on September 19th, we would like to highlight how things will be set-up at the church. Our Safe Return Plan will follow current Public Health guidelines for Step 3 Re-opening. Please note that guidelines may change as required by changes to Public Health directives.

- ◇ Masks will be required for all people at all times while they are in the Church. Exceptions are:
 - * Anyone who is speaking during the service
 - * Anyone who is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability
 - * Children under the age of five.
- ◇ There will be no Sunday School during worship, but there will be a time for Young and Young at Heart and activity clipboards will be available for children during worship.
- ◇ Children's programming will continue throughout the week both in-person outside, and virtual (details will be in the weekly newsletter.)
- ◇ There will be no after church coffee time.
- ◇ Entry and exit for worship will be through the side door only.
- ◇ Signs are posted at all entrances so individuals can self-screen for COVID-19 before they enter.
- ◇ Contact information will be recorded upon entry as required by Ontario Public Health Step Three Guidelines.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer is available, and everyone will be requested to sanitize their hands on entry.
- ◇ Floors will be marked at 2 metre (6 feet) spacing for physical distancing.
- ◇ Some pews will be unavailable to ensure 2metre (6 feet) distance between seating. Ushers will show you to your seat to ensure physical distancing and try to accommodate your wishes.
- ◇ As the weather cools, everyone is asked to take their coats to their pew.
- ◇ All washrooms are open.
- ◇ Hymn books and Bibles will remain in the pews.
- ◇ The community of faith will be invited to place their offerings on the offering plate as they enter or leave the Sanctuary.
- ◇ The community of faith will be invited to hum or sing quietly, with masks on, during worship.
- ◇ The worship service will also be recorded and posted to our website for those not comfortable or unable to attend in person.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND ENCOURAGED THAT ALL PEOPLE 12 YEARS AND OLDER BE FULLY VACCINATED

Thank you for keeping us all safe!

From your Reopening Committee.

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:

- ◇ Verna Herold and her family, as Verna is at Stratford Hospice
- ◇ Dianne Harris and family, as Dianne's mom struggles with ill health
- ◇ Tricia and Doug Wettlaufer as they mourn the passing of Doug's sister Dorothy Campbell
- ◇ Bev Vandervliet recovering from cataract surgery
- ◇ Logan Wilson and family undergoing surgery at Sick Kids for arrhythmia on Sept. 14.



Sing Songs of Praise!



As we move into worshipping together, we hope to have the Praise Team open worship once a month. To introduce you to some of these new praise songs, we invite you to a sing-along on **Thursday Sept 30th 7-8pm**. Come and make a joyful noise to God!

No singing ability required, just a willingness to join in the fun, clap your hands, and sing with friends!

And don't worry - participation in this sing along does not mean that you are joining the Praise Team or Choir!

We will meet in Zion hall, and masks will be required.



COME AND LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW AV EQUIPMENT

We are excited about our new technology in the church, and the ability to provide a digital worship experience. Moving forward, we will need a team of people to operate the camera, the sound system, and the power point projections on a rotational schedule.

We invite you to come out to the sanctuary on **Monday Sept 13th from 6- 7.30pm** to see and hear how the new equipment operates – all are welcome!

Please contact Dale Brenneman if you are interested (Cell: 519 536 6704)



Sept 30th is Orange Shirt Day!

Orange Shirt Day is the legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013.

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, a former student, shared her story of how the new orange shirt her grandmother bought her was taken away from her on her first day of residential school when she was six years old. Phyllis's story resonated with other Residential School Survivors and opened the door to the discussion of the harm done to generations of children by residential schools and the healing journey of survivors and their families.



Today, we wear orange in affirmation of our commitment to reconciliation and anti-racism, and the belief that every child matters. In the light of recent events, this is more important today than ever. This year, 2021, will be the first year that Sept 30th will be a statutory holiday to remember a Day of Reconciliation.

Grace United has ordered 30 T- Shirts designed by Mi'kmaq artist Natasha Root (to read her story – click here - <https://www.indigenousspringing.ca/abouttheartist>) . She says: *"My design is a reflection of love, resilience and strength for our children.*

The design has an eagle (feather style) that protects the children who are grasping onto fallen feathers but also symbolizes falling leaves on a tree that is in the centre point of the design. Children in residential schools have grown with strength - and this is the resilient story that the design tells. Every Child is a warrior. Every child matters."

It is our hope that you will buy one of these T-Shirts for just \$12 and wear to church on Sept 26th, when we will take a photo of us all in our shirts. Email Rev. Gail (gfricker@rogers.com) to let her know if you want Small, Medium, or Large. **All proceeds will be donated to the Orange Shirt Society.**

This is a Great Way to show your support for Reconciliation!

For more information on the United Church response to the Orange Shirt Day:

<https://united-church.ca/news/orange-shirt-day-2021>

