

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Welcome Back Grace!

This Sunday, 19th September, we will be opening the sanctuary for our Community of Faith worship for the first time since March 2020. If you are like me, you are both excited and a little bit anxious. For me it will be wonderful to meet some of you for the first time; starting ministry in a new community of faith during a lockdown has not been easy to get to know folks. When I am out in the community, it never ceases to amaze me how many times folks say "I go to Grace" – but of course I haven't yet met them.

At the same time, these last couple of weeks have been very busy, and a little stressful, getting the church ready for reopening. I want to thank several people for all their work, and forgive me if I miss some.

- Keith has worked tirelessly cleaning the building, working with the property team for the new technical upgrades, and finding creative ways to mark off safe places to sit in the sanctuary.
- The property team have pulled together to get the new technology all installed and working for our first service. A special shout out goes to Dale Brenneman, Jesse Weicker, John Markle, Dale Ruby and Ron Wiffen.
- Katherine has put in many extra hours learning new programs for us to project our services using Power Point, so we can do away with bulletins and save many trees.
- The Reopening Committee have carefully considered the safest 'Back to Worship' plan.
- Bev Neeb and the choir have created a schedule of reduced numbers so that we can safely hear some wonderful singing in our sanctuary again.

Thank you to all of you! This has been an excellent example of how we can work together as a body of Christ, sharing our gifts and talents.

But perhaps you don't yet feel comfortable coming back into the sanctuary – and that is OK. You are still an important part of our community of faith, and we will continue to record and post the worship service on our website for you. We look forward to your return when you feel safe.

So, let us continue to journey together, at home or in the sanctuary, knowing that God walks with us, guiding us in whatever the future holds. 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. 19th: 10:30 am 'Welcome Back to the Sanctuary' in person worship

1:00 - 2:30 pm Youth Event Gr. 5 and up

Sept. 26th: 8:30 - 10:00 am Outdoor Breakfast for youth Grade 5 and up - Ruby's

10:30 am Creation 1: Listen to Me, in Person Worship

Sept. 28th: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit, stay n' crochet (outside)

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

Notice of Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held Sunday, October 31 following worship for the purpose of electing new representatives to serve on Session, Church Board, Trustees and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (WOW-RC) representatives. Nominations are now being accepted for Session and Board. No nominations are needed for Trustees this year and we have two nominations for representatives for WOW-RC. Please prayerfully consider serving on Session or Board.

Contact us

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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
- ◇ Logan Wilson and family as Logan recovers from surgery



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.



Youth Events

- © On **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1-2:30 pm** there will be an outdoor event for kids and youth grade 5 and up. It will be in the back parking lot of Grace. We're going to do Bleach T-shirts! So bring a dark cotton t-shirt (100% cotton is best if possible). It can be red, blue, black, orange, green. Come directly to the back parking lot. If raining, We'll meet in Zion Hall. Please bring your mask!
- © And on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 8:30-10 am** will be BREAKFAST for kids and youth grade 5 and up!! meet at the Ruby's (2186 Road 29) for an outdoor breakfast cooked in the great outdoors! Please bring a lawn chair and a mask!

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>

'SELLING FAST - order yours now! Rev. Gail will deliver them next week in time for worship.'

