

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Preaching from the Pulpit

A few of you have asked me why I do not preach from the pulpit. I want to thank you for asking questions, and I want you to know that I have heard you. Healthy conversations are how we learn about each other.

A pulpit is a very traditional part of a sanctuary, dating back centuries. In some churches they are very ornate, and with many steps leading up to them. They placed the Minister in a towering position above the congregation. As a Minister spoke from the pulpit, it was as if they were placed both physically and metaphorically on a high pedestal of importance. The words they spoke from the pulpit were considered the word of God to their congregations and they were rarely challenged. Worship was more often considered a lecture rather than an experience.

As a Minister, I do not believe that I am above any of you. Although I have been trained and called to be a leader in the United Church, I still consider myself as equal to you in the eyes of God. We are all learning, and all listening to how God's Spirit moves us. As I share my understanding of scripture through preaching, my hope is that I am opening up God's word for you to experience the Spirit, rather than simply lecturing you from above. This is one reason why I do not place myself physically above you and preach from the pulpit.

I also believe that it is my role as a Minister to connect with you. Placing myself on a level that is more equal to yours makes this much easier. At times, when Covid allows, I will also move among you in the congregation. Having no barrier between you and I, make it easier for us to connect.

We are in the age of hybrid worship -whether we like it or not. We can rejoice that we are reaching people beyond our sanctuary through the marvels of technology. These people are part of our community of faith, and just because they are at home, they are still part of our family. Preaching on a level that makes it a more positive online experience for them is important. At the same time, I also respect that many in the sanctuary want the camera to be as unobtrusive as possible, so preaching from a position that is in direct line with the camera makes this all more possible.

Finally, I recognize that the pulpit is important for many of you. It is part of your heritage. It would never be my intention not to use the pulpit – but I think that it is way better to be used for the word of God rather than the word of your Minister. That is why I have been using it for reading scripture.

I know that change can be hard. While there are many Ministers that do still use a pulpit, there are also many that do not use anything – like Avondale United and Parkview in Stratford, or Forest Hill United Kitchener. I ask that you please trust me and do not let the fact that I am not preaching from the pulpit prevent you from hearing God speak to you in worship.

I hope this explanation has helped you understand my theological reasons for why I do not preach from the pulpit. If you would like to discuss it with me further, or anything else, please do reach out to me. I am always happy to answer questions.

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

Nov. 21st: 10:30 am Worship Service: Reign of Christ Sunday 'Upside Down Kingdom'

Nov. 24th: 2:00 - 3:30 pm Food for Friends Community Pick Up
7:00 pm Care and Communication Team meeting

Nov. 28th: 10:30 am Advent 1 Communion Worship Service

Nov. 30th: Advent Bible Study 2:00 pm In Person,
7:00 pm Zoom



Dec. 1st: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet, Christmas Social

Dec. 5th: 10:30 am Advent 2 Worship Service
4:30 - 5:30 pm Community Live Nativity - Queen's Park

Dec. 7th: Advent Bible Study 2:00 pm In Person, 7:00 pm Zoom

Dec. 8th: 7:00 - 8:30 pm Christmas Concert

CAMP BIMINI

Online Auction Nov 17—24. Go to Shackleton's to register and bid

[Shackleton's Camp Bimini Online Fundraiser Auction](#)

Annual meeting Monday, December 6, 2021, 7 pm via Zoom

For the purpose of receiving annual report, financial statements, budget, and for election of board of directors and officers. Followed by a 10 minute break and regular monthly meeting. For the annual report and/or the zoom link, please contact us at campbimini@cyg.net or 519-271-4129.

Now Accepting applications for our Program Team

Visit our [website](#) for more details



Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker:

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gfricker@rogers.com

Carol Young:

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tavigraceyouth@gmail.com

Office Email: graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

E-transfer donation email: gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com

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

Jean Lowe 519 655 3205

Paul Bartlett 519 655 3334

Marcia Bender 519 655 2047

Gloria Reibling 519 655 3255

Marianne Ruby 519 274 1422

Elizabeth Halliday 519 655 2246

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.



- ◇ Prayers for Mike Kaufman recovering from surgery at Woodstock Hospital
- ◇ Prayers for Susan Humphrey's husband Harry recovering at home from surgery
- ◇ Prayer for Bill Brown as he has knee surgery this week

HANNAH THOMAS IS COMING TO GRACE

We are very excited that singer songwriter, Hannah Thomas, is coming to Grace United. Hannah has just been nominated for *Young Performer of the Year in the 2022 Canadian Folk Music Awards* for her album 'Christmas Don't Be Late.' She has agreed to be part of our Celebrate Christmas concert on December 8th (see poster). You will not want to miss this amazing rising star, as well as the other special guests. If you've not heard of her - check out her recording of [The Prayer](#).

Go to our [website](#) to see the poster for more concert details.

Community Live Nativity

On December 5th at 4.30, the Tavistock and area churches are coming together to present a Live Nativity through scripture, song, and live animals. It will be at Queen's park. Everyone is welcome!

Please let Rev. Gail know if you would be willing to be an angel or a shepherd - the more the better! No rehearsal or word learning required.

Tim Hortons will be providing hot chocolate, and we are asking for each congregation to provide 10 doz cookies - please let Rev. Gail if you can help with this.

Tavistock Mennonite is taking the lead on creating a community choir, and details of one choir rehearsal will follow.

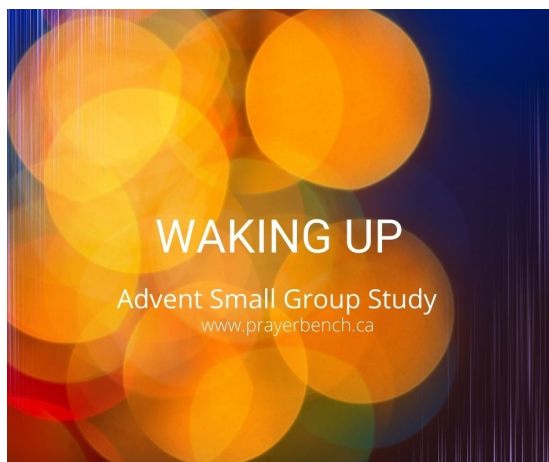
Let's make this a great community event where we can all join together to share the good news!





Journey to the Stable

Wanted and needed: Actors (shepherds, angels, innkeeper, women, Mary, Joseph, merchants and more—those with lines and those without lines), animals (sheep, donkey, calves, and more!), Musicians, people to serve hot beverages outside, people to set up, people to take down for **Journey to the Stable on Sunday, December 19 outside at Grace UC (late afternoon/evening--time to be determined)**. Any age will be welcomed! Please talk with Carol Young if you are interested in being part of this time to share the great story of Christmas.



We wait. We wonder.

We watch.

And we wake up.

Join us for this four-week study group as we listen to reflections, join in conversation together, and wake up anew to the Mystery of Christmas.

Come to one week, or come to all.

Join in person in Knox Parlour on Tues at 2-3pm or join by zoom on Tues at 7-8pm (link will be provided)

Nov 30th, Dec 7th, 14th, 21st.

Let Rev. Gail know if you wish to join by Zoom so we can send you the link.

Mission and Discipleship means...



At the WOW Regional meeting last weekend the Mission and Discipleship Commission asked everyone to suggest one word of what does mission and discipleship mean to them. These words were then put together in a Word Cloud (above). When the word is bigger, it is because it was mentioned more times.

What words would we at Grace United use to describe our Mission and Discipleship?

Send your words into the office and Rev. Gail will create a word cloud just for Grace and post it in next week's newsletter.

Financial Update

Month of

October

	2020	2021
Anniversary	0	3,230
Core Receipts	6,361	2,652
		transferred \$6,260 to Grace Living Legacy
Other Donations	0	0
Misc. Receipts		
Funeral Donations	0	470
Manse Rental	875	875
Misc.	142	159
	1,017	1,504
Total Receipts	7,378	7,386
Expenses	17,593	13,514
	pd \$6,465 WOWRC fees	
Surplus/Deficit	-10,215	-6,128

Anniversary offering to November 14th: we have received \$3380.
Thank you for your generous donations.



Fundscrip: Grace will be running the gift card fundraiser in time for Christmas orders.

Place your order for Christmas gift cards by Nov. 28. Click the link below to see the November and December Christmas promotions and use the code QM53WE to support Grace United Church:

[November and December Promotions Paper Order Form](#)

Or order from the fundscrip website, click the link below to support Grace United Church:

<https://www.fundscrip.com/support-a-group/QM53WE>

Paper copies are available from the church as well. Paper forms should be submitted to Gail Woolcott by leaving them in the drop box in the office before church Sunday, November 28.



Christmas Trees are coming! Once again Adult Fellowship group will be running their Christmas Tree Fundraiser. More details in next week's newsletter.



As we are reaching capacity for worship on many Sundays, the Reopening Committee made a recommendation to the Grace Board that we should move to require proof of vaccination. This would allow us to remove some of the physical distancing restrictions, while also ensuring that everyone, including our most vulnerable in our church family, are kept safe. To this end, only fully vaccinated people will be allowed into the church building at this time. This does NOT apply to those too young to be vaccinated, or people who are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons. **As of November 28th, we will require in-person participants for worship to show proof of vaccination.** This only needs to be presented once as we will keep a record of your status on file. We do not require a copy. To help make a smoother and faster transition, we are inviting people to volunteer their proof of vaccination on November 21st, but this will NOT be a requirement for worship until November 28th.

Our Safe Return Plan will follow current Public Health guidelines for Re-opening. Please note, that guidelines may change as required by changes to Public Health directives. Here are some more detailed guidelines: Masks will be required for all people all the time they 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.
 - Sunday School will resume on November 28th using a one room model in Zion Hall, with families staying in family groups. Children will go straight to Zion Hall, and NOT into the sanctuary in order to keep everyone safe. We recognise that the children are an important part of our family, and Rev. Gail will spend some time during worship in Zion Hall with the children. ALL Sunday school teachers and leaders will be required to be double vaccinated.
 - Children's and youth programming (for over 12 years of age will resume both in-person outside, and in-side for those that are double vaccinated.
 - There will be no after church coffee time indoors until further notice.
 - 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.
 - Ushers will show you to your seat. We will try to accommodate your wishes if you desire physical distancing.
 - 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 continue to be recorded and posted to our website for those not comfortable or unable to attend in person.

Thank you for keeping us all safe!

From your Reopening Committee.

Please note – if you know of anyone who is unable to attend worship in-person, and would like to take communion in their own home, please reach out to Rev. Gail or the office.

PROJECT GOOD TIDINGS

“...For behold, I bring
you good tidings of
great joy which shall be
to all people...” Luke
2:10

Sunday,
November 21st, 2021

To

Sunday,
December 5th, 2021

What is Project Good Tidings?

It's a time for us to gather up gifts to help spread good tidings to all. We collect items in bushel baskets for five weeks and see what our gifts together can do. It's really quite amazing what we accomplish together. It's all organized by RECESS (Grade 5-8s). Project Good Tidings challenges the groups, committees and organizations and everyone at Grace UC to give something that will spread the joy and love we know at Christmas. Come be a part of something incredible!

The people we help are associated with the places that the United Church of Canada supports and/or places that we at Grace UC support in our community.

Here's who each group is collecting for and suggested items:

- * Adult Fellowship—The House of Blessing
- * Board—TAP
- * Choir—The House of Blessing
- * Middle Aged Pews—Shelterlink (for a special stocking project there-- please talk with Carol Shewfelt)
- * RECESS— Shelterlink (items for a special Christmas dinner—please talk with Carol Young)
- * Committees of Pastoral Care & Outreach, Worship, and Christian Education—TAP
- * Sunday School— Shelterlink (items for a special Christmas dinner— please talk with Carol Young)
- * UCW—The House of Blessing
- * Youth Group—Shelterlink (items for a special Christmas dinner— please talk with Carol Young)

Don't worry if you are not in a group, committee or organization. You may add to any of these baskets at any time or there will be a basket available (marked "CONGREGATION") for additional gifts for any of these aid agencies, located in Zion Hall. And please know there is no pressure to give to all the groups to which you belong. Give what you can. Since 2004, over 465 baskets have been collected through Project Good Tidings for local agencies! What a great way to share and care for one another! If the baskets get full, we'll find another one to get filled. Watch the baskets fill and come on December 5th when we bring together and dedicate all our gifts. In advance, we thank you for what you give.

ABOUT THE PLACES WE ARE SUPPORTING AND WHAT TO DONATE:

TAVISTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

This year, these items would be most helpful:

Stocking stuffers for all ages, gift cards in smaller denominations (\$5-20) for local restaurants, coffee shops, gas stations and stores. New items only (no opened packages) and no homemade cookies and candies. They cannot accept items that are expired. www.tapisforyou.com

STRATFORD/PERTH SHELTERLINK, *Stratford* exists to provide Perth County youth ages 16-24, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, with shelter, advocacy services and basic needs. By providing homeless and at-risk youth with the basic needs of food and shelter, they will have more opportunities to make good life style choices, stay in school, find employment or attend counseling. They prefer new items only. The Middle Aged Pews, RECESS, SS and Youth Group will be providing filled stocking bags and items for a Christmas dinner, respectively. Please talk with Carol Shewfelt (MAP) or Carol Young (Youth Group & RECESS, SS) for items needed.

STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING is a non-denominational faith-based organization dedicated to helping anyone regardless of race or religion who is in need of help or support. We will be supporting their food bank. Try to donate foods you and your family like—chances are other families like those foods too. Include healthier choices that are lower in fat, salt or that are higher in fibre and items like Chunky soups, canned fruits and vegetables and healthy breakfast cereals. Suggestions include: healthy kids snacks, juice boxes, cookies and crackers, meals in a can (chilli and stew), gluten-free products, toiletries, toilet paper, hygiene products. Foods NOT to donate: Any perishable food that has not been pasteurized or that comes from an un-inspected premise (homemade); Damaged store-bought canned food (dented cans or label is off); Food items out of date; Open boxes or cans of food. www.shob.org

PROJECT GOOD TIDINGS

“good tidings we
bring to you and
your kin, good
tidings for
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year!”



God, you bless us each day with good things. We live with respect in creation and we are most like you when we share and care for one another.

Bless these empty baskets and our joy in filling them. Amen!