

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

HOPE. PEACE. LOVE. JOY

Blessings to you!

We are about to enter the season of Advent. It is often thought of as a season of preparation, expectation, anticipation and waiting. I know that I am like a little child at Christmas and get excited about putting up the tree, decorating the house, and yes, even shopping for stocking stuffers. Many children, or young at heart, will probably be excitedly opening advent calendars to mark the journey to Christmas – often filled with chocolate! In church we light the advent candles to mark the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve when we can finally light the Christ candle. It is good to be excited as we journey. Certainly the commercialism of Christmas emphasizes the preparation and the expectation of the big day.

And yet, this year I find myself reflecting on why do we focus on the waiting?

What are we waiting for?

If the answer is the arrival of Christ – then why do we not remember that Christ is always in our midst?

Certainly, as we come to the end of what has been an unprecedented year, we know that Christ has been with us every step of the way.

Yes, it is good to be renewed in our faith at Advent when we marvel at the mystery of the Christ child. But this year, I am going to try and focus not on waiting for Christ's coming, but on how we experience Christ's hope, peace, love and joy among us here and now.

In the upcoming week, I invite you to look for ways that you see and experience HOPE. Perhaps keep a small journal or notebook, and jot down the different things as you notice them. It might be through the words of a song that you hear; maybe in something someone says to you; perhaps you see something from your window or when you are out; or it might be just in a moment of silence.

Stop and become aware of the moments of Hope – and at the end of the week, or at anytime, take a moment in prayer to give thanks to the Holy One for the gift of Hope – in Advent, and always.

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

Sunday School starts back up!

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. 6th: 2:00 pm UCW

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

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

Dec. 12th: 10:30 am Advent 3 Joy at Advent

Dec. 14th: Advent Bible Study 2:00 pm In Person, 7:00 pm Zoom

Dec. 15th: Board Meeting

PROJECT GOOD TIDINGS NOVEMBER 21-DECEMBER 5

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.

Please see our [website for more details](#) on the collection.

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

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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.



- ◇ Pray for Mike Kaufman recovering from surgery at home
- ◇ Pray for Bill Brown recovering from surgery
- ◇ Pray for Barb Meisner recovering from pneumonia
- ◇ Pray for Ken Brenneman recovering at home from surgery



Next Sunday, December 5 the Sunday School students are making Christmas stars for G.A.P. (Grace Assistance Program). The stars are being decorated by the students and are for those people we feel could use a "lift" (a smile) and let them know that we care about them. We will need your help to deliver them. Sunday, Dec. 12 we would ask that you please pick up a star or two and deliver them for us.

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.

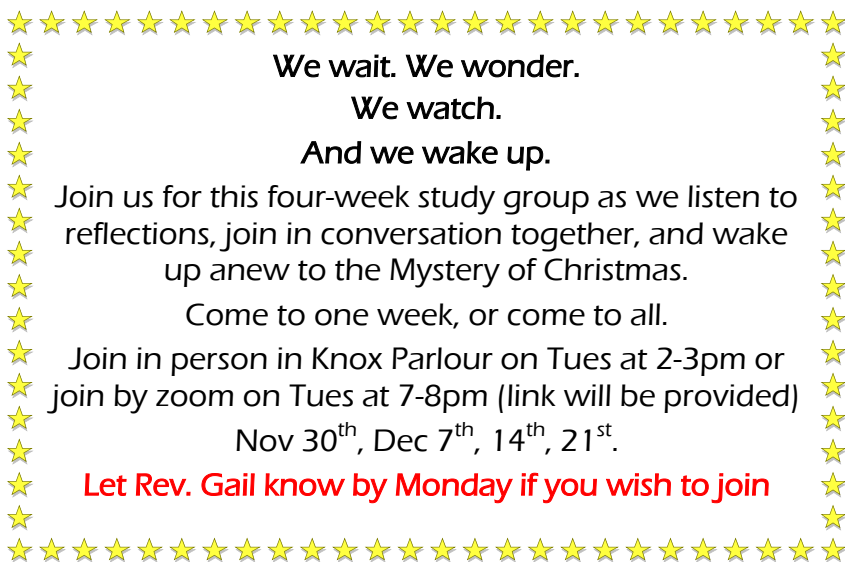
Tavistock Mennonite is taking the lead on creating a community choir, and details of one choir rehearsal will follow.

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





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 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.



Christmas Good News at Grace Newsletters

For the December 10th Newsletter, please submit your articles by Wed. Dec. 8th as Katherine is away Thurs. Dec. 9th.

There will be no newsletter Fridays, December 24th or 31st. Please submit articles accordingly to accommodate no newsletters these weeks.

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.



The Christmas Trees are here! Fresh cut Ontario trees, Scots Pine, Balsam and Colorado Spruce. Available at the home of Mike and Beth Kaufman, 75 William Street North. A fundraising project of the Adult Fellowship. Thank you for your support.

