GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'

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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

HOPE. PEACE. LOVE. JOY

Blessings to you All.

We are in the second week of Advent – a time when we light the candle of Peace. But do you stop and reflect on what Peace means to you?

Perhaps you have a special place that you go to that always evokes a sense of peace. For me, that place would be sitting on the shores of Bob's Lake at our cottage. In the summer I like to do this especially in the morning when the water is calm and still, and sometimes when the mist is just rising. Perhaps it is the stillness that evokes a sense of peace in me as I marvel at the mystery of Divine creation.

In the winter, I find peace when I cozy up beside the fireplace, and especially when I can see fresh fallen snow outside.

For you, maybe peace comes at a certain time of day – maybe as you lay down after a busy day, and the moment just before sleep engulfs you? Or maybe peace comes when you are surrounded by others – like in church and listening to the sound of music, or in quiet prayer?

These are all wonderful moments of peace. But the PEACE that we think of Advent is beyond these captured moments of peace. It is a PEACE with a capital 'P'. It is Peace incarnate. It is Peace that comes with the birth of the Christ child. Think about that for a moment.

How do you experience Peace incarnate in this season of Advent?

If this is a new idea for you, I encourage you to try this spiritual practice:

- Find a quiet space, maybe light a candle, and take a moment with your eyes closed.
- Slowly breath in and out and become aware of your breath.
- As you breathe in think of Peace incarnate, and as you breathe out release the worry and stress of this season.
- Do this 3-4 times, and once you feel aware of that sense of Peace incarnate, then maybe repeat aloud the words from Jesus: "my peace I give to you."

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

Dec. 5th: 10:30 am Advent 2 Peace

4:30 - 5:00 pm Community Live Nativity - Picnic Area at Queen's Park

Dec. 6th: 2:00 pm UCW

Dec. 7th: Advent Group Study 2:00 pm in Knox Parlour 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 Group Study 2:00 pm in Knox Parlour 7:00 pm Zoom

Dec. 15th: 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Dec. 16th: 7:45 pm Choir Practice

Dec. 19th: 10:30 am Advent 4: Love - A service of Lessons and Carols

4:30 pm Journey to the Stable

Dec. 21st: Advent Group Study 2:00 pm in Knox Parlour 7:00 pm Zoom

Dec. 24th: 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

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 2 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. Or see the poster included with the newsletter. SUNDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO BRING IN YOUR DONATIONS. Thank you for your support.

Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker: cell number 519-703-1954 gfricker@rogers.com
Carol Young: cell number 519-301-1356 tavigraceyouth@gmail.com

Office Email: graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

 $\hbox{\it E-transfer donation email: } gracetavistock donation @rogers.com$

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 Marcia Bender 519 655 2047 Gloria Reibling 519 655 3255

Paul Bartlett 519 655 3334 Marianne Ruby 519 274 1422

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 Ken Brenneman recovering at home from surgery



This 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!

We are in desperate need of shepherds. Please let Rev. Gail know if you are willing to be a shepherd - the more the better! No rehearsal or word learning required.

There will be hot chocolate and cookies. (If you agreed to provide cookies please bring them to church Sunday morning)

Community choir rehearsal will be at Tavistock Mennonite Dec. 5th at 11:30 am.

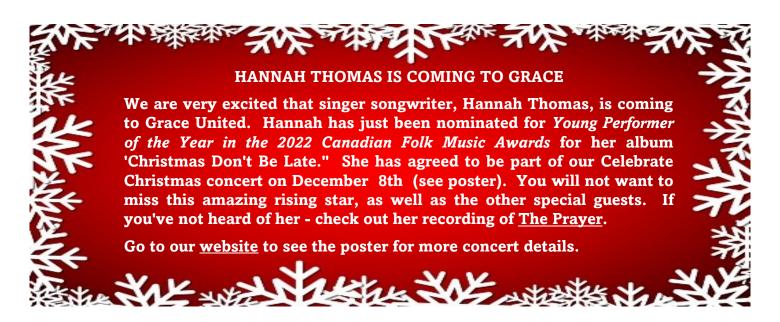
Let's make this a great community event where we can all join together to share the good news!





Journey to the Stable

Actors still needed! If we don't have enough by December 5, this event will not happen in 2021. 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.



Sign Installation Complete:

Dale Brenneman and John Markle supervised the installation of our new sign out front.

We are very happy to be sharing news and information with the community, and we are grateful to the Browns for their generous donation to make this possible.





Our sign will be dedicated in the New Year with a ribbon cutting ceremony once the donation plaque is installed.



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.



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.



If you would like to join Mary Ann Klein and Bev V. for the in person study group on Tuesdays at 2-3pm, please let Rev. Gail know by Monday evening.

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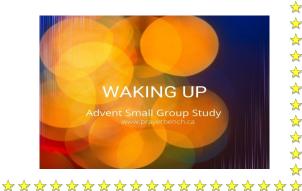
All are also welcome to join by zoom on a Tuesday at 7pm.

To join, go to http://www.zoom.us.

Click on 'Join A Meeting'.

Enter Meeting ID: 885 6529 8787.

Enter Password: 978354.



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Anniversary to

Greg and Kristene Ankenmann - Dec. 6

Bruce and Joanne Bean - Dec. 10

Happy Birthday to

Joanne Bean Dec. 2

Bently Sebben - Dec. 8

Rosemary Stein - Dec. 8

Amanda Cortes - Dec. 9

Barb Matthies - Dec. 11

Pat Shantz - Dec. 11

Ben Reibling - Dec. 12

Brandon Mogk - Dec. 14

Bo Herlick - Dec. 15

Bev Neeb - Dec. 15

Logan Herlick - Dec. 16

Courtney McKay - Dec. 17

Dale Smythe - Dec. 18

Brianna Harris-Ayotte - Dec. 19

Larissa Mogk - Dec. 21

Mary Otto - Dec. 22

Carol Weitzel - Dec. 23

Lisa McKay - Dec. 23

Mary Holden - Dec. 24

Rory McBride - Dec. 25

Mark McKay - Dec. 28

Gary Zehr - Dec. 30



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 thereplease talk with Carol Shewfelt)
- <u>RECESS</u>— 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 atrisk 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!