

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

HOPE. PEACE. LOVE. JOY

Blessings All,

We are about to enter the third week of Advent; the week when we light the candle of Joy. And, for some reason I find that I can't help stop smiling. I know I have a child like love of Christmas, and I enjoy putting up decorations, listening to Christmas music, and even Christmas shopping. But this year, I feel that the Joy I am experiencing is different.

I think it began with the Live Nativity in Queen's Park last Sunday when between 150-200 people were willing to brave the cold to remember the Christmas story. There was definitely a sense of the Joy of Advent as we watched the recreation of the birth of a Jesus in a stable.

There was also an overwhelming sense of Joy at the Christmas concert on Wednesday. As we sang Silent Night together, and listened to Mary Did You Know, followed by The Prayer – there was an undeniable sense of Divine presence in the sanctuary. It made people smile with Joy.

And, I have also experienced Joy as I journey with 14 wonderful women through our Advent small study group either online or in person. As we share, laugh, discuss, and pray together, we are 'Waking Up' to the Joy of Advent in a new way.

How are you feeling a sense of the Joy this Advent?

How does the birth of the Christ Child fill you with Joy?

As you reflect on that, I leave you with this poem from William Blake:

*I have no name
I am but two days old.—
What shall I call thee?
I happy am
Joy is my name,—
Sweet joy befall thee!
Pretty joy!
Sweet joy but two days old,
Sweet joy I call thee;
Thou dost smile.
I sing the while
Sweet joy befall thee.*

With Peace and Joy, 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. 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

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

Dec. 26th: No Service at Grace. Please join with another faith community either in person or online.

Christmas office hours: Closed Dec. 24th, Dec. 27th—Dec 30th.



Journey to the Stable update: Due to a lack of actors and with many families celebrating Christmas with extended family on December 19th, we have to cancel Journey to the Stable for 2021.

We look forward to a future year of Journey to the Stable. Many thanks to those who were willing to participate!

Broadview Magazine

SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING

Broadview subscriptions are due Jan 7, 2022. The Annual Group subscription rate remains the same at \$25. Please email debstevely@hotmail.com or call the office 519-655-2151

or Deb 519-655-3219 to let us know if you wish to continue your subscription. Cheque/cash in an envelope, clearly marked with your name and for 'Broadview', can be put on the offering plate or left in the office.

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

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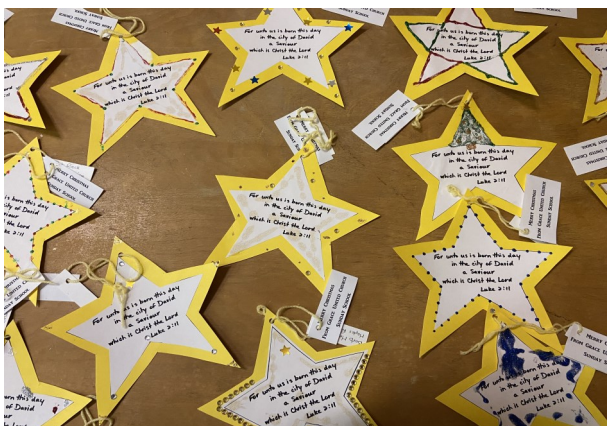
Do you have a prayer request?

"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
- ◇ Pray for Barb Matthies and her great grand-daughter Nessa who is in ICU in Ottawa.



The Sunday School students have made Christmas stars for G.A.P. (Grace Assistance Program). The stars are 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. This Sunday, Dec. 12 we would ask that you please pick up a star or two and deliver them for us.

*Thank you to all who gave
to Project GoodTidings!!
Because of our gifts
together, many children,
teens, adults and families
will be able to feel a bit of
joy at Christmas. Together,
we collected gift cards/
donations for Tavistock
Assistance Program (TAP),
Stratford/Perth Shelterlink
and the House of Blessing.*

Thanks to all!





Christmas Good News at Grace Newsletters: There will be no newsletter Fridays, December 24th or 31st. Please submit articles accordingly to accommodate no newsletters these weeks.

Christmas office hours: The office will be closed Fri. Dec. 24th, and Monday, December 27 to Thursday, December 30th. We ask that if you are planning to make a yearend donation please ensure it is received before Dec. 31st, 12:00 pm. The last deposit of the year will be Dec. 31st.

A reminder that we are able to receive donations by e-transfer. Please send them to gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com, the password is Grace1980. Please include in the message any instruction for a special donation and that your contact information includes your full name. Thank you for your donations and generous support of Grace!



Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Tree fundraiser. Our 100 trees sold out quickly. With your support Adult Fellowship will be able to continue supporting projects at Grace as well as TAP, Camp Bimini, Stratford Hospital, The Rotary Hospice, and Sakura House.

Celebrating Christmas



We had a wonderful Christmas concert on Wednesday night with an almost full sanctuary. Thank you to all who helped with the evening, especially Keith who worked hard to get the sanctuary looking beautiful. We collected several baskets of food for TAP and House of Blessings, and after expenses we also raised \$500 for Grace United. Hannah Thomas also generously donated \$120 from the proceeds of her CD sales to the House of Blessings.

A group of people, including a woman holding a baby, standing in front of a wooden structure decorated with orange and yellow streamers. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening or indoor setting with artificial light.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Or join the in person group
on Tuesdays at 2-3pm.

A word cloud of Christmas-related terms. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'love' and 'joy' being the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'hope', 'peace', 'adventure', 'expectations', 'anticipation', 'caring', 'excitement', 'fun', 'come', 'faith', 'incarnation', 'incarnate', 'sharing', 'family', 'change', 'expect', 'light', 'giving', 'candlelight', 'listening', 'prepare', and 'friends'. The words are in various colors and orientations, creating a festive and celebratory feel.