

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

HOPE. PEACE. LOVE. JOY

Blessings All,

We are now on the final stretch for Christmas. Just one more week to the day of celebration. This week, as we light the fourth candle, we think about Love. There are so many things that I could write about Love, but instead I want to share with you words from Cameron Trimble. In her recent blog she wrote this story about a presentation in a high school:

After the professor finished speaking about the significance of Christ's baptism as a revelation of God's presence in Jesus, a high schooler said without looking up:

"That's not what it means."

Glad that the student had been listening enough to disagree, the professor asked, "What do you think it means?"

"The story says that the heavens were opened, right?"

"Right."

"The heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God came down, right?"

"That's right."

The boy finally looked up and leaned forward, saying, "It means God is loose in the world. And it is dangerous."

Trimble suggests that it might be a shift for us to think that Love unleashed in the world is dangerous. But Love is dangerous if your sense of power comes from dominating and oppressing others ... because Love insists on equality, respect, and kindness.

Love is dangerous if you use your privilege to get ahead in life at the expense of others ... because Love says we are all equally valued, valuable, and deserving.

Love is dangerous if you hoard resources for yourself while others are denied ... because Love calls us to be generous with each other and care for the common good.

Perhaps in these difficult days when the news is filled with stories of oppression, pandemic, division, the Way of Love can seem like a distant, naïve dream. But I encourage you to remember the Advent message: God breaks through.

God is with us and within us.

Love is on the loose.

In Peace and Love,

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. 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 <http://www.zoom.us> Meeting ID: 885 6529 8787 Password: 978354

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.

Jan. 2nd: 10:30 am Worship Service: New Beginnings. 'PJ Sunday' - Wear your PJ's if you wish

Jan. 5th: 10:00 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet

6:00 pm Racial Justice workshop - Zoom

Jan. 9th: 10:30 am Worship Service. [Committee financial books for annual report due.](#)



Christmas Eve Services:

We hope that you will join us for our family friendly worship service at 7:00 pm proof of vaccination required for all those who are eligible.

We recognize that Christmas Eve is an important time for everyone to worship. In an effort to be inclusive we have decided to offer the 10:00 pm Communion Service to everybody. For one time only, proof of vaccination will not be required for the December 24th 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service and physical distancing of 2 meters for groups outside your household/bubble will be in place .

Masks are required at both services. Both Christmas Eve Services will not be recorded.

Contact us

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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

Marcia Bender 519 655 2047

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.



◇ Pray for anyone who is alone or finding Christmas a difficult time

Thank you to everyone who helped deliver the stars for Grace Assistance Program (GAP). Together we helped to bring Christmas cheer to 42 members.



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.

Jan 2nd is PJ Sunday!



Some folks have said they like listening to church in their PJ's – so now is the chance to wear your PJ's to church! (only if you wish)

It will be a very casual Sunday with a hymn sing. Children (and young at heart) please bring one of your Christmas presents to share.

Our theme will be New Beginnings.



Thank you to all who gave to Project Good Tidings!! 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 25 baskets and over \$300 in gift cards for Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP), Stratford/Perth Shelterlink, the House of Blessing and Tavistock Public School's tree of warmth. Thanks to all!**

MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Members of the Care and Communication team went with Rev. Gail into the Maples, the Renaissance, and Village Manor this last week. We had a wonderful time singing carols, praying together, and sharing a Christmas reflection. We were also able to break bread together and share Communion at some places. How great to come together into community!



Now for sale! 2022 Camp Bimini wall calendars with beautiful scenic photos of Bimini to kick-off our 75th anniversary year! \$20 each and available for purchase online. Click the link for [Camp Bimini Calendars](#)

For more information, please contact us campbimini@cyg.net or 519-271-4129. Ready for stocking stuffers and Christmas presents!



Free Virtual Tour: Bethlehem and Nazareth

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 AT 5 PM – 6:30 PM

Online event

Joy to the World in Bethlehem and Nazareth! Join us to experience the magic of Christmas in the Holy Land as we virtually trace the path of ancient footsteps and travel to Bethlehem and Nazareth. Our first steps into the past begin in Nazareth, a bustling city nestled in the rolling hills of the Galilee. We'll visit the Church of Annunciation, built on the holy site where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would give birth to Jesus. From there, we continue along the path Mary took, first stopping to visit her elderly relative Elizabeth in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem before continuing on her way to Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, we visit the Church of the Nativity, a World Heritage Site where tradition holds that Jesus was born. We take in the splendor of Manger Square and stop by the angelic meeting spot, Shepherd's Field. Finally, we return north to the Galilee, exploring the ancient cities and sites that were key to the era of the Herodian Kingdom during which Jesus lived. Join Amy, our tour guide, for a virtual tour of the land! Attendance is free but tips are appreciated. Registration is required.



[Virtual Tour Bethlehem and Nazareth Registration](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Offering Counters and Ushers, the schedule for 2022 is currently being put together. Thank you to those who continue to volunteer their time for this important role in Sunday morning ministry. You are much appreciated. We are in need of more volunteers for ushering and counting the Sunday morning offering. Please contact Katherine in the office if you feel like you would like to volunteer. 519-655-2151 or email graceuntedtavistock@gmail.com

November Financial update

Month of

Nov

	2020	2021	
Anniversary	2,720	240	
Core Receipts	8,431	6,657	
Other Donations	0	0	
Misc. Receipts			
Fundraising	0	966	Bake Sale + float
Manse Rental	875	875	
Misc.	107	60	1,901
Total Receipts	12,133	8,798	
Expenses	9,065	11,930	
Surplus/Deficit	3,068	-3,132	

Year to Nov. 30/21 Actual compared to Year End Budget

	2021 Jan - Nov	2021 Jan-Dec
	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts without pass-through	146,277	159,614
Total Expenses without pass-through	135,377	159,614

2022 offering envelopes have arrived. Please pick yours up on Sunday at worship. The order was reduced this year so some donors may have a different number for 2022, for this reason please only use your current year envelopes.

A reminder that we are also 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!



Christmas Good News at Grace Newsletters: There will be no newsletter Fridays, December 24th or 31st. 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.

Christ in a stable and in a tent city!



Did you even know that this collection of homes, known as “A Better Tent City” (ABTC) is right on your doorstep in Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener? ABTC is a community of tiny homes set up amid the pandemic as a community based quick-fix solution to homelessness. People live in their own small cabins, but laundry, kitchen space and washrooms are communal. Residents can also access health care and other social services on-site.

Since June, the project has been located at city's snow storage facility on Battler Road, but it recently moved to free up space for the city's winter maintenance operations. Now, however, they are unable to meet the expensive challenges related to the connection of water and electrical utilities. They are requesting that the Region of Waterloo Council use some of their declared 10 million dollar surplus to help.

The churches in the Waterloo Region are writing letters of support – including Grace United. As people of faith, we believe that taking care of each other is central to living out the message of Jesus. We believe that supporting initiatives like ABTC is one way that we take care of the increasing number of those among us who lack safe, affordable shelter.

As you reflect on the Christ Child in the stable, please think about how you could help those who are homeless. If you would like to add your support, please drop me a line and I will include your comments in the letter.

And, please let me know if you would like to help with future justice issues moving forward.

Peace, Rev. Gail

See what the kids have been doing in Sunday School



Merry  *Christmas*