

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. (John 13:34)*

Blessings to you All!

I am sure, like me, you are deeply saddened by the new restrictions for Ontario that came out this week. This is not where we had hoped to be starting a new year. But, nonetheless, this is where we are!

I know that many of you have probably heard mixed messages and a variety of numbers, some of which are very alarming. Two pieces of information that really hit home to me are:

1. At a recent visit to Stratford General Hospital I witnessed firsthand how some patients are in beds in the corridors of the Emergency Dept for up to 3 days, simply because there are no beds left – and this is just the beginning of January! The rising number of cases are very real, and it places an extreme stress on our healthcare system and medical staff.

2. By the end of January you will probably personally know someone who has had Covid – perhaps you already do. When we have that kind of close connection, we realize that we are not invincible – we truly are in this together.

So, what can we do? Here are some suggestions:

- *For your personal safety, please get vaccinated if you aren't already or get the booster as soon as possible.* It isn't too late.
- Please reach out if you know someone who needs help booking a shot, or a ride to a vaccination clinic. Or call Rev. Gail for help if you personally need help. (519 703 1954)
- If you know someone who is in isolation due to the virus, please reach out and ask them if they need anything – offer to pick up groceries for them; send them a short text each day to let them know that you are thinking of them.
- Being shut in, with or without the virus is taking its toll on all of us, so take time this week to call at least 3 people, especially those that live alone. Reach out in love to see how they are doing!
- Always wear a good mask in all indoor settings and try cutting back on in-person events. Use Zoom or the telephone to connect (I know, I know!). We had a lovely chat on zoom with 11 ladies at Sit N Knit, Stay N Crochet this week.
- Understand that many people are sick, which means that services will be slow; some businesses will have limited hours or be closed, and customer service employees will be stressed. Be gentle with others.; expect nothing to be "normal." Say "please" and "thank you" more often. Tip generously. Be quick with a kind word.
- If you like to bake – make a plate of cookies for our medical staff in grateful appreciation for all they do. Rev. Gail will take them into SGH for you.
- As children are back to online school, offer to help any parents with young children. Perhaps take them out for a walk to give parents a break.
- And, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!

We are in this together, vaccinated or not, so let's support and care for each other in love.

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](http://www.graceunitedtavistock.com)

**Jan. 9th:** 10:30 am Online Worship Service: Daily Baptism

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

**Committee financial books for Annual Report due.**

**Jan. 11th:** 7:00 pm Session Meeting - Zoom

**Jan. 12th:** 5:30-6:30pm Care and Communication Team Meeting - Zoom

7:30 pm Worship team meeting - Zoom

**Jan. 16th:** 10:30 am Online Worship Service 'Who is Jesus? Part One: Friend'

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

1:30 pm Reopening Committee meeting - Zoom

**Committee and staff reports for the Annual Report due.**

**Jan. 18th:** 7:00 pm Board Meeting - Zoom

**Jan. 19th:** 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet - Zoom

**Jan. 23rd:** 10:30 am online Worship Service 'Who is Jesus? Part Two: Teacher'

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

**Jan. 25th:** 8:00 am Food for Friends Cooking in the kitchen

**Jan. 30th:** 10:30 am Online Worship Service 'Who is Jesus? Part Three: Saviour'

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

**Feb. 13th:** Annual General Meeting

## Coffee and Conversation

We will host Zoom coffee and conversations on Sundays at 11.30-12.15.

Pour your drink of choice and join us on line. To connect, click on the zoom link below.

If you have trouble connecting, contact Rev. Gail 519 703 1954

Link: [Sunday's Coffee and Conversation](#) Meeting ID: 819 1026 7279. Passcode: 126440



### Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker:

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[gfricker@rogers.com](mailto:gfricker@rogers.com)

Carol Young:

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[tavigraceyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tavigraceyouth@gmail.com)

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E-transfer donation email: [gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com](mailto: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 Norma Kaufman in Stratford General Hospital
- ◇ Pray for Burns Holden in Stratford General Hospital.



**WANTED AND NEEDED** for the annual slide show at the church's annual meeting: ***Photos to remember Grace UC's story for 2021. It indeed was a different year with a different way of ministry.***

Photos of UCW events, youth events, baptisms, weddings, SS events, worship and any events that will help us to remember who we are and where we are going. We'll include baptisms and weddings and a time to remember those who passed away in 2021 too. Please submit photos to Carol Young before January 23rd, 2022 digitally or by handing in actual photos (which will be returned). [tavigraceyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tavigraceyouth@gmail.com)

## Calling all crafters, bakers, artists, knitters, woodworkers .....

In our 2022 budget, we are proposing to raise \$5000 in fundraising activities this year at Grace. We hope that these will be fun, and community building events, as well as raising some funds.

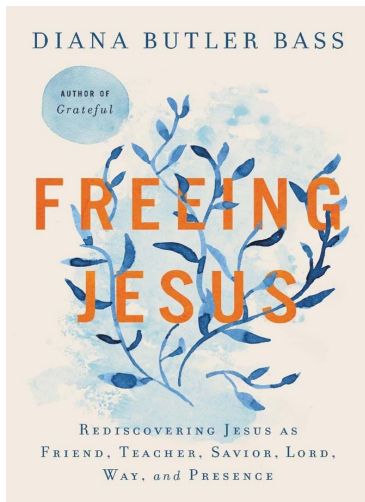
In late February we are hoping to have an online auction that highlights some of the gifts and talents of our community. So, while we are all staying home due to the pandemic, we are suggesting that you could maybe start a project now.

If you would be willing to offer your baking, cooking, pickling, art work, craft work, jewelry making, sewing, knitting, wood work etc – then let Rev. Gail or Grace office know so we can begin to create an item list.



**TAX RECEIPTS:** Please let me know if you would like your donation tax receipt emailed to you. I will only send emailed receipts to those who request it—all others will be printed paper copies for pick up or mailed. In case of any technical difficulties with the emails, the back up plan is paper copies. Katherine

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## Who is Jesus to you?

How would you answer that question if someone asked you? We may think it is a simple question to answer – but really – how would explain to someone who Jesus is?

Starting on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a 5-week sermon series using the book from Diana Butler Bass, and rooted in scripture, to explore Jesus as Friend, as Teacher, as Saviour, as Way and as Presence. There will be reflective questions in the newsletter each week to expand the thinking in the sermon, and to invite you into discussion.

Let's explore Who Is Jesus together!

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 \* 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 Carol Young [tavigraceyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tavigraceyouth@gmail.com) \*  
 \* 519 301 1356 or Camp Bimini [campbimini@cyg.net](mailto:campbimini@cyg.net) or 519-271-4129. \*  
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### A prayer for the New Year from United Church



*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"-Isaiah 43:19a*

We pray that all may have a peaceful, joyous, and healthy new year in the midst of the tremendous ongoing challenges and stress we face because of the pandemic.

May the light of God, which shone in Jesus on Christmas morning and will be revealed on Epiphany, bring the unexpected blessings of healing, restoration, and new life to the world in 2022.

**What is your prayer for this New Year?**

## A word from United Church, Embrace the Spirit

Our Food for Friends program at Grace United is funded by Embrace The Spirit. Read about all the exciting things they have supported during 2021. The church is very much alive - even during a pandemic!

### 2021 in Reflection

- **Courageous conversations:** We have heard conversations around racial justice, equity, spiritual growth, climate crisis, and the future happening across the country, as we listen and discern together in new ways.
- **Being community in new ways:** We have seen that even though community gathering might look different during these times, they're still very, very possible. We have seen new communities of faith sprout that have no intention of being face-to-face. We have seen that being in deep, supportive relationship can happen in new ways.
- **Getting outside the building:** From outdoor living rooms to community gardens, to Wild Church, to walking church, we have seen that the church is not a building and that the church is its people.
- **Finding a new way:** Many community ministries have found a way forward, from creating new revenue streams to developing new partnerships, to starting new experiments. In many cases, these experiments have enabled community ministries across the country to connect with even more people than before the pandemic and have resulted in new offerings that will help them remain resilient in the years ahead.

**Becoming a partner of choice:** New and unexpected partners have continued to lean in this year. Communities of faith have formed new relationships with organizations that have common goals or had new conversations with existing partners that have deepened their reciprocity and mutuality or found that non-church funders are seeing the tremendous value and importance of communities of faith in their neighbourhoods. We have seen communities of faith receive Federal and provincial grants from [Canada SummerJobs](#), [NewHorizons](#) and [MyMainstreet](#) grants.

