

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Blessings,

As we move into Black History month, I'd like to highlight the lives and contributions of some influential black people.

One person that comes to mind for me is the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu who died last year on Dec 26th. As leader of the South African Council of Churches and later as Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Archbishop Tutu led the church to the forefront of Black South Africans' decades-long struggle for freedom. His voice was a powerful force for nonviolence in the anti-apartheid movement, earning him a Nobel Peace prize in 1984.

When that movement triumphed in the early 1990s, he prodded the country toward a new relationship between its white and Black citizens, and, as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he gathered testimony documenting the viciousness of apartheid. He preached that the policy of apartheid was as dehumanizing to the oppressors as it was to the oppressed. At home, he stood against looming violence and sought to bridge the chasm between Black and white; abroad, he urged economic sanctions against the South African government to force a change of policy.

He once said of apartheid:

"You are overwhelmed by the extent of evil, but it was necessary to open the wound to cleanse it." In return for an honest accounting of past crimes, the committee offered amnesty, establishing what Archbishop Tutu called the principle of restorative, rather than retributive, justice.

As well as standing up against apartheid, Archbishop Tutu preached against dehumanizing poverty. In 2010, he told NY Times Magazine: "We have the most unequal society in the world."

He was not only the prophetic voice in the wilderness, but Archbishop Tutu will be remembered as a spellbinding preacher. When delivering sermons, he often descended from the pulpit to embrace his parishioners. Occasionally he would break into a dance in the aisles, punctuating his message with the wit and the chuckling that became his hallmark, inviting his audience into a jubilant bond of fellowship. While assuring his parishioners of God's love, he exhorted them to follow the path of nonviolence in their struggle.

As we remember the contributions made to society by the black community, and as we wrestle with systemic racism, let us always try to live by the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Justice, goodness, love, and compassion must prevail."

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

Feb. 6th: 10:30 am Online Worship Service 'Who is Jesus? Part Four: The Way'

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

Feb. 8th: 7:00 pm Worship Team meeting - Zoom

Feb. 9th: 6:30 pm Care and Communication Team meeting - Zoom

Feb. 13th: 10:30 am 'Let's be the Church' AGM and Zoom Worship

Feb. 15th: 7:00 pm Board meeting - Zoom

Feb. 16th: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet - Zoom

Feb. 20th: 10:30 am Online Service 'Jesus the Shepherd' Guest Leader Susan Humphrey

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

Feb. 26th: 4:30 - 7:00 pm 'Coldest Night of the Year' Walk

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

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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 Norma Kaufman in St. Marys Memorial Hospital (St. Marys)

AN UPDATE FROM 2021 GRACE UC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

As 2022 begins for all of us I hope we all can stay healthy, let's all continue to hope this is the year that we can all return back to our normal routines of seeing family, friends and doing all those things we have waited so long to do.



I am currently studying at the University of Windsor and am enrolled in the Nursing program. I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship from Grace United to help me achieve my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. I am sincerely grateful and wanted to share how this step in my education has gone. I was incredibly nervous about moving away from my family, especially because the longest time I've been away from them was when I would go to Camp Bimini for the week. I have learned so much so far, and not just the different body systems but rather, time management, good study methods, and many more valuable lessons. I have just begun my second semester and am enjoying it even more than the first. This semester I begin clinical placements at the hospital, it is nice to see what my theory courses have led to. Working in the hospital is giving me a better insight of what to expect as a career as well as giving me more motivation to study! I am so thankful that I have been given the opportunity to extend my knowledge into post-secondary, and am excited to see what the future has in store.

Thank you and sincerely, Jordan Bartlett

Worship and Annual General Meeting: Sunday February 13th, at 10.30am via Zoom

Come and join us as we celebrate the life and work of Grace over the past year, and as we look towards our future together in faith, and approve our 2022 budget. The AGM will be held on zoom on Sunday February 13th, at 10.30am. There will be no service that day, but worship will be included as part of the meeting. We hope to see as many of you out as possible. Bring your own coffee - join in the celebration!

Annual reports will be sent out by email. If you would like a paper copy please let Katherine know. 519 655 2151 or graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

Below is the link for the Zoom on Sunday, February 13th, link opens at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting [Worship and Annual meeting](#)

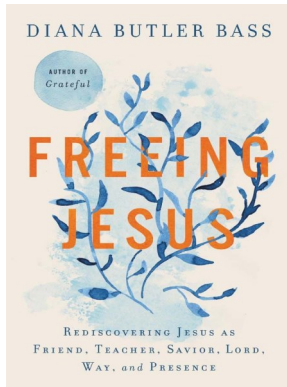
Meeting ID: 833 7148 7494 Passcode: 790769

If you have poor internet, limited data or no internet, there is an option to join by phone. The phone numbers are listed below. Please use the Meeting ID and Passcode listed.

Dial by your location +1 587 328 1099 Canada +1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada +1 778 907 2071 Canada +1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada



Who is Jesus to you?

This week we are continuing our 5- week sermon series using the book from Diana Butler Bass as we think about Jesus as The Way. Some question for you to ponder as you reflect this week are:

1. Jesus said he was 'the way, the truth, and the life' – but do you think there are other ways to know and experience the Divine?
2. In our multi cultural and multi faith world, how can we see John 14: 6 through an inclusive lens?

Oh the talents you have!

As I visited some folks this week to pick up some auction items, it was wonderful to learn so many new things about you.

I was treated to a special performance by Elizabeth Gillespie - what a talent!

Rev. Gail



Step Into Story!

Have you ever wanted to learn to tell a good story? If so, join Rev. Gail as she teaches a 4-part online course through Five Oaks on Thursday evenings, starting March 10th. It will be a fun and interactive course, and no previous experience of storytelling is necessary. It will be great for anyone who just wants to try their hand at storytelling.

To find out more, or to register before March 8th, just click on this link:

[Five Oaks Step into Story: Using Folktales](#)



Camp Bimini is now accepting online staff applications for our 2022 summer program for the following positions: Counselor-in-training (age 15), Counselor (age 16+), Program Staff (age 16+).

Applications will be accepted until Monday, February 21, 2022. Visit <http://campbimini.ca/staff/join-our-team/> for more details and to apply.

"Coldest Night of the Year" Initiative.

As you no doubt are aware, on Saturday February 26 a team from Grace is participating in a walk in Stratford in support of ShelterLink, a charity that provides care and services to homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 24.

Just last week there was an opinion piece in *The Globe and Mail* entitled "Everyone deserves relief from the cold." It was a report about a study done on the people who live in tents out in the cold. Some of the findings were:

- (1) most have one experience in common: **trauma to the head**. 90% of the men and 91% of the women had reported a history of head trauma, often from abuse.
- (2) 93% had received **multiple mental-health diagnoses**.
- (3) A similar number had been incarcerated, most of the charges drug-related and many of them stemming from petty theft to support a drug habit. Typically their individual **use of substances had started at 13 or 14 years of age**.

There may be no easy or quick solutions to the problem of homelessness but the least we can do is make sure they have relief from the cold. Those who work in these centres say that donations from the community and the affection and gratitude of those helped are the fuel that keeps them going.

The article closed with three things that can be done to help these vulnerable people:

1. Donate items that are desperately needed (especially used winter clothing). Work with a local shelter to find their needs.
2. Pressure politicians to make sure no one is left out in the cold.
3. Think twice before complaining about a tent in the park.

'The Graceful Walkers' now have 8 members on our team – Paul Bartlett, Mary Ann Krantz, Blair Yeomans, Carol and Wayne Shewfelt, Elizabeth Halliday, Tory Zehr, and Rev. Gail. Folks have been very generous in sponsoring us and we now have raised \$2380 – so we have raised our goal to \$3000. Thank you!

Check out how the "Graceful Walkers" are doing by going on the internet to:

[Support Graceful Walkers](#)

We would encourage you to check there anyway to see what an unbelievable job Mary Ann Krantz is doing! Way to go, Mary Ann!

If you would like to make a donation by cash or cheque, please make it payable to 'The Coldest Night Of The Year', and on the memo line write 'Gail Fricker(Capt.)' – then drop it off at church, or call Paul or Rev. Gail to pick it up.

