

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • March 25, 2022

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.com

## Hopeful Economics

It is heart-breaking to see the millions of people forced to leave their homes in the Ukraine but at the same time we are warmed to see the non-judgmental response and acceptance by their European neighbours. As Christians we too would like to help.

A refugee crisis is a "Social Justice Issue". Homelessness, which we tried to combat with our "Coldest Night of the Year" project, is another social justice issue.

The Nine Biggest Social Justice Issues (according to Google) are:

- (1) Climate Justice;
- (2) Hunger and Food Insecurity
- (3) Racial Injustice (black, indigenous, people of colour)
- (4) Refugee Crisis (including Palestinians)
- (5) Income Gap
- (6) Gun Violence
- (7) Healthcare
- (8) Equality and Discrimination (by gender, race, sexual orientation)
- (9) Voting Rights.

Social justice is the belief that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. This is what Jesus worked towards and died promoting.

At our last Session meeting, it was decided the Grace Church would form a "Social Justice" group. It would be a group of people who would like to look at some of these issues in more detail and try to figure out what the heck we could and should be doing about them.

For instance, earlier this month I participated by Zoom in an "(Un)hopeful Economics" Conference. I was interested in this topic because lately I've been thinking about money! Like all retired folks, I always worry that I'll have enough to get by for the uncertain future. And like most I have money invested in RIFFs and GICs and Pension Funds.

Did you know that the biggest thing you could do in your life to change the world for the better is to know where your money is invested? Most of us don't give it a thought, we just want the biggest return on our investment. But suppose you could still get a good return on your money while at the same time it is doing good. There is a new buzzword out there in the financial and investment world called "Impact Investing," making an impact for good in the world. That's the new name for "Ethical Investing". There has been a groundswell of interest in this recently and most financial companies now are developing ESG Funds which stands for Environment, Social and Governance. These funds include: companies that are working to combat climate change, to find alternative fuel sources and limit; companies that invest locally in Canada encouraging small local businesses, aiding in community housing projects and supporting disadvantaged people; and companies that pay their workers a fair wage and limit excessive executive bonuses.

With my career, I have not had time to get too involved in finances. Nor have I had time to look at the

indigenous issues or poverty in Canada or the other social justice issues. Let's form a group to get educated on these issues, perhaps join with other like-minded people in the community, to try to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and make this world a better place.

Please contact me or Connor Shantz or Rev. Gail or the church if you would be interested in being part of a Social Justice Group.

Submitted by Paul Bartlett

## **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)**

**Mar. 25-27:** Rev Gail Study Leave

**Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>:** 10:30 am Worship Service: Lent 4 – Moving Forward:  
Following the Spirit (Guest speakers from Crosswalk)

**Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00 pm Lent Bible Study - Zoom

**Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>:** 2:00 pm Lent Bible Study - Knox Parlour  
7:00 pm M & P Workshop - Zoom

**Mar 30<sup>th</sup> - Apr 1<sup>st</sup>:** Rev. Gail on Study Leave

**Mar 31<sup>st</sup>:** Ag Society Crochet Squares Project due <http://tavistockfallfair.com/exhibits/>  
7:00 - 8:30pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary

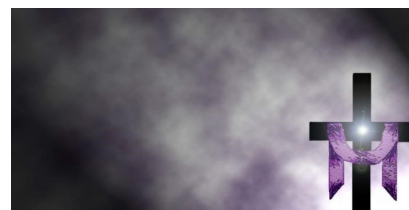
**Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 10:30 am Worship Service, Lent 5 – Moving Forward: Making a Choice

**Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>:** 2:00 pm UCW - Knox Parlour  
7:00 pm Lent Bible Study - Zoom

**Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>:** 2:00 pm Lent Bible Study - Knox Parlour

**Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>:** 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet - Knox Parlour

**Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary



## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

April 10<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship Service - Moving Forward: Joining the Parade

April 15<sup>th</sup>: 10.30am Good Friday Service – Where you there?

April 17<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 am Easter Sunrise - led by Youth

10:30 am Easter Communion Service – Alive for Evermore!



### Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker:

cell number 519-703-1954

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

Carol Young:

cell number 519-301-1356

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

Office Email: [graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

E-transfer donation email: [gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com](mailto:gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com)

### Office Hours

Rev. Gail Tues to Thurs 10:00–3:00 pm

Katherine Brenneman 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

Mary Ann Krantz 519 272 4072

## United Church of Canada - Acting Together for Ukraine

We are stronger together, and what affects one of us affects all of us. These two truths have become even more apparent as the invasion of Ukraine continues to cost precious lives and rapidly create a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations reports that millions of people living in the Ukraine, displaced from their homes, are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends, loved ones, and property; struggle to meet their basic needs; and face an uncertain future.

In the face of this growing crisis, communities of faith around the world are taking action to offer support.

Spanning 127 countries, the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance is the world's largest network of Protestant and Orthodox churches and agencies, including the United Church. Your generosity through Mission & Service has long supported ACT's humanitarian relief and advocacy efforts.

Right now, your ongoing support through Mission & Service as well as special emergency gifts are helping to provide shelter, clean water, food, and medical attention. What's more, the impacts of war in Ukraine are affecting food security for regions that depend on its agricultural production, including in some areas where global partners are responding.

The *New Humanitarian* news site reports that Yemen imports half of its wheat from Ukraine and Russia, 22 percent of corn imported to Spain comes from Ukraine, and Lebanon relies on Ukraine for up to 60 percent of its wheat and has only about a month's worth of reserves.

"Conflict is one of the main reasons that hunger is rising in the world, and Ukraine represents a stark example of how that happens," states Musu Taylor-Lewis, Canadian Foodgrains Bank director of resources and public engagement, in an interview.

United Church Moderator Richard Bott condemned the invasion in a statement released in early March stating that the act of aggression contravenes the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and represents a serious violation of international law. "We call on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and to undertake action to restore peace," he writes, urging the church to hold the people of Ukraine in prayer and "explore whether there is a Ukrainian Catholic church, Ukrainian Orthodox church, or Ukrainian community centre close to you to whom you might write a letter of concern and solidarity or extend solidarity to people of Ukrainian descent in your community."

Thank you for all the ways you express compassion and care and for faithfully supporting Mission & Service. By acting together, we can be there as a worldwide church community when and where it matters most.

United Church Mission & Service partners are responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis.

You can help. Right now, **people urgently need shelter, clean water, food, and medical attention.**

Please show your support by making a gift today. **Donate Now**

**Online** via our secure donation page.

**Phone** 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

**Send a cheque or money order to:**

The United Church of Canada

Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response

3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

*Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Ukraine" on the face of your cheque.*



PRAY  
FOR  
UKRAINE

**If you wish to make a donation to help Ukraine you can also do so by:**

1. On line through the Red Cross -

[Donate to the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal](#)

***Tavistock Mennonite Church hosts Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: Please join us outside in the prayer garden behind Tavistock Mennonite Church for a time of prayer and singing for peace in Ukraine at 8:45 am, Sunday, March 25. May God have mercy.***

## 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 as she continues to recuperate at St. Marys Memorial Hospital
- ◇ Pray for Ivy Francis who is in transitional care at Crescent Care Woodstock
- ◇ Pray for Sherman Kropf as he struggles with health issues
- ◇ Pray for Burns and Mary Holden as Burns has been admitted to ICU at Stratford General

## Join me to Journey in Lent - Study Group has started

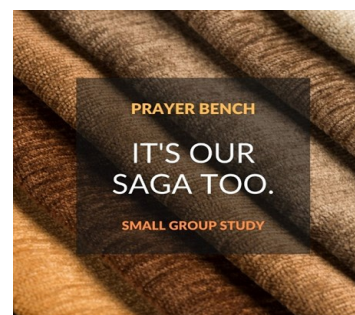
This five-week Lent Small Group Study weaves the saga of Joseph with the journey of Jesus to the cross. Using readings from Genesis and Luke, it invites us to reflect on the related life themes of violence, grief, challenges, and forgiveness.

Each session will have a short audio recording, a scripture to reflect on, a time of discussion, and a group spiritual practice.

The 5 week study will be offered both on in person on Tuesday afternoons 2-.3.30 (March 8—April 5), and on zoom on Monday evenings 7-.8.30 (March 7—April 4).

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 867 8400 0470 Passcode: 289202



Rev. Gail will be off on study leave from March 22<sup>nd</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> (inclusive). She will be taking 2 online courses: Effective Leadership and Resilience (from Conrad Grebel) and Ministry of Supervision (Vancouver School of Theology). The Lent Bible study will still continue during this time.



## LENT 2022

Throughout Lent, we invite you to support Camp Bimini. Camp Bimini will be celebrating 75 years of ministry with youth and children this year. As a cabin sponsor, Grace UC has some responsibilities for the cabin—the cabin needs a fresh coat of paint outside and inside with a cost of approximately \$750. It's time to raise that money!

**SO WHAT TO DO??** Each Friday, there is a task for you. Write the amount for each Friday in the space provided and then add everything up. At the end of Lent (Easter), please forward your Lenten collection to Camp Bimini! You can mail a cheque (Payable to CAMP BIMINI with LENT COLLECTION—GRACE UC in the memo) OR Etransfer to [campbimini@cyg.net](mailto:campbimini@cyg.net) (with LENT COLLECTION—GRACE UC and your address in the messages section) or you can simply give your money to Carol Young. Receipts will be issued from Camp Bimini. You can choose to do this as a family or as individuals. Use your own judgment to determine amounts. You may choose to give a donation of your choice to the camp at this time as well.

**MARCH**

**25**

Camp Bimini's pool is THE place on a hot summer day. Over 275,000 litres of water keep us cool and creates a place and space for play. *Give \$2 for every pool or hot tub you have.*

# Fundscrip

## The Basic Concept

We encourage supporters of Grace United Church to pay for everyday expenses & gifts with gift cards bought from FundScrip. Each purchase automatically includes a donation to our campaign. Supporters aren't out of pocket, and shop where they would normally shop.

①	②	③	④
<b>Buy \$100, Get \$100</b>	<b>Shop As Usual</b>	<b>Pay With Gift Cards</b>	<b>Raise Funds</b>
Buy cards at face value, get face value at the retailers - you lose nothing	With cards from over 230 leading retailers, there's no need to change your shopping habits	Pay with gift cards instead of credit/debit/cash for your everyday items & gifts	Each purchase automatically includes a donation for your group that can quickly add up over time

Grace will continue to place monthly Fundscrip Orders. Our next group order is due Sunday, March 27th. Orders can be placed using Grace's short form paper order - see next page or they are available in the pews. Please leave your order in the drop box in the office. Cheques are payable to Grace United Church.

**To support Grace please make sure you use our campaign number QM53WE.**

*If you would like to see a complete list of available gift cards click this link*

[Complete Paper order form](#)

Since Grace started the Fundscrip Campaign we have received a total of \$5247.89 in donations, thank you to our long time supporters!

FündScrip™



Given Name

Surname

Telephone

[illegible]

\* for complete list of retailers please see the master copy in the office or log onto [www.fundscrip.com](http://www.fundscrip.com)

The Grace United Church Scholarship, established in 2014, strives to create, encourage and nurture teen and young adult growth. This is open to students enrolled or about to be enrolled at a post-secondary institution in Canada. The scholarship will encourage teen and young adult participation, involvement, and perhaps leadership at Grace United Church, providing an opportunity for them to share their gifts with the Grace United Church family. This scholarship will also provide the opportunity for the Grace United Church family to be a support to teens and young adults in their participation and involvement with the Grace

United Church family and a support as they grow and learn. It will be a reminder that Grace United Church is a caring church family where they are welcomed and where they can feel they belong.

The Grace United Church Scholarship will be funded by the Grace United Church community of faith.

For full information and/or an application to apply, please contact the Youth Coordinator, Carol Young [tavigraceyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tavigraceyouth@gmail.com) or the church office. **Application deadline is April 30, 2022.**

To give to the Scholarships, you can include in offering envelope or in another envelope marked "scholarship". Cheques made payable to Grace United Church.

**In Wellness and Love:** As a community of faith, we are a family. Our concern for each other includes a desire to keep us all well and safe. For this reason, the Grace United Board have decided that we will continue to require all people to wear masks during worship and meetings at Grace. The only exception is for the worship leaders, or those singing into the microphones. We will assess this again in mid April. Thank you for your participation in keeping us all safe.



**Looking for a way to properly dispose of your used blue or white disposable face masks?** They look like cloth but they're mostly made up of plastic! So if you throw them in the garbage, they will biodegrade at a landfill site, but it will take over 400 years to do so. Or your masks may become part of the 1.6 billion estimated to already be floating in our oceans.



So bring your used masks to church and we will see that they get to a drop-off point in Stratford where the Rotary Club of Stratford will get them to the recycling depot in Kitchener.

Let's do our part to help our badly-abused environment.