

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • May 27, 2022

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Blessings!

As I write this, I am still in shock over the tragic shooting in Texas this week. The random killing of young innocent children has to be one of the most horrific crimes there is. None of us can imagine sending our children to school not knowing it will be their last day. Please stop today and say a prayer: for the families of the victims, for the injured, for the witnesses, for the first responders, and for the family of the shooter.

It has also been almost two weeks since the tragic hate crime in Buffalo New York which resulted in the deaths of 10 people. I invite you take a moment with me to think about the disturbing details of this crime.

The 'TOPS' grocery store was a gathering place for many – folks would often stop to chat with those they knew. It was the only grocery store around, and it serviced the whole community. Doesn't this sound a bit like shopping in Valu-mart in Tavistock; don't you often run into folks you know there, and enjoy taking some time to chat? Perhaps the only difference is that TOPS serviced a predominantly black community, while Valu-Mart serves a white rural farming community.

Media reports say that the shooter drove 200 miles to deliberately target TOPS. It was an intentional and calculated hate crime that has been condemned as an act of terrorism and White supremacy. Imagine for a moment if someone had a hatred for white rural farmers. What if Valu-Mart became an intentional target of a hate crime?

Of course, we know that will never happen. But it is only when we stop to realize how privileged we are, that we begin to understand systemic racism. While it may be tempting to distance this attack as an extreme event taking place solely in the United States, the realities of racism are also ever-present in Canada, and the impact of this attack is acutely felt here as well.

While we pray for healing for those that grieve this tragic event, let us also remember, every day that we wake up, to have the courage to live the work of anti-racism every day!

I invite you to stop and pray with me this prayer from Moderator Richard Bott:

Holy One, in your image You have created humankind in great diversity.

We give thanks for the differences— of cultures and ethnicities, of histories and life-stories, of skin colour and language and hearts that love the world.

We watch in horror as Power desecrates Black and Brown bodies;

walks on their sacredness, kills and subjugates, in thousands of ways, hidden and overt.

We must not stop at watching—held back from right action by our horror or seeming powerlessness.

Grant us hearts that listen and learn; egos that are willing to accept when our own racism is called out.

Grant us courage, to disassemble the systems, the stories, the myths, that privilege whiteness over all others.

Give us your Holy Spirit's wind to call out racism in all its forms—

inside our hearts, inside the church, and in your world.

Give us the strength, the wisdom, and the will, to root out White Fragility, and White Supremacy,

so that they would never again do harm, never again take away, never again kill.

Help us to be anti-racist, in all that we say, in all that we do, in all that we are.

It is time. It is well past time. God of all creation, bless us all with what we need, to march on.

To live this work of anti-racism. Today. Every day. Always. In Jesus' name. May it be. Amen.

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**

May 29th: 10:30 am Worship Service 'Passing the Torch'
Sunday School - Zion Hall
Fundscrip orders due
11:30 am AV Team Meeting
3:00 - 4:30 pm Kiley Joe Mason Concert of Hymns and
Gospels (refreshments included)



May 31st: 2:00 pm Care and Communication Team Meeting

June 1st: 2:00 pm Worship at People Care
7:00 - 8:00 pm Yard Sale Item Donation Drop off

June 2nd: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm Yard Sale Item Donation Drop off
7:00 pm Choir Practice

June 3rd: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm Yard Sale Item Donation Drop off

June 4th: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Yard Sale

June 5th: 10:30 am Worship Service

June 7th: 2:00 pm UCW - Roll Call: A Bible verse about nature or Jesus meeting outside
with a group or individual. Bring a lawn chair.

June 8th: 7:00 pm Board Meeting

June 9th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Rev Gail on Study Leave

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. As we move forward with COVID safety protocols the board is RECOMMENDING THAT MASK BE WORN when inside the building BUT ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED.

Contact us

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Carol Young: cell number 519-301-1356 tavigraceyouth@gmail.com
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 Brenneman Tues. and Thurs. 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Care and Communication Team

Rev. Gail 519 703 1954 Jean Lowe 519 655 3205 Joanne Bean 519 276 1733
Elizabeth Halliday 519 655 2246 Mary Ann Krantz 519 272 4072

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 Sherman Kropf as he struggles with health issues
- ◇ Pray for the family of Jim Patterson as they mourn his passing last Saturday—all are welcome at the funeral at Grace at 11am on Saturday 28th.



Sunday School on May 29th will be our last Sunday this spring. We will play some games, make and eat ice cream and celebrate the year we had together! Please wear clothes to play games outside.

We will start up again in the fall with lots of things for you all ... We hope you will come to learn and play with us.

Looking forward to seeing you all - - if you know you're coming to Sunday School, please let us know ahead so we are best prepared!

Mini Monthly Financial report

Month of

APRIL

	2021	2022
Anniversary	0	0
Core Receipts	9,012	9,190
Other Donations	145	75
Misc. Receipts		
Fundraising	0	0
HST Rebate	0	771
Manse Rental	875	875
Misc.	79	249
	954	1,895
Total Receipts	10,111	11,160
Expenses	10,531	13,779
Surplus/Deficit	-420	-2,619

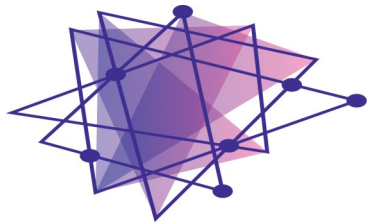
Etransfer donations can be sent to gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com security question is 'When was the new addition built' the answer should be Grace1980. Please give any special donation instruction in the message. Thank you for your support.

Online Spiritual Gathering & Sacred Fire

Date: Tuesday, May 31 Time: 7:30 pm

Join us for an online spiritual gathering and screening of the NFB film: ***Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair***. This newly released film includes the then Senator Sinclair speaking and clips of Residential School Survivors speaking to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission. The film is brief but moving and includes some painful, but important, sharing. Watch the trailer on the [NFB site](#) with a description. [Register for this event](#)

Your confirmation email will contain all information needed to join the meeting.



SKYLIGHT FESTIVAL

Skylight Festival Date: Friday, July 15 - Sunday, July 17

Registration for the **Skylight Festival** is now open. Join us at Skylight the weekend of **July 15 to 17**, where you can connect with diverse communities, collectively explore faith through the lens of the arts, nature, peace and justice. Find out more on our [website](#).

What is the Skylight Festival? Founded in 2015 by people passionate about the **arts, faith and justice**, Skylight is a celebratory and creative space where diverse communities connect to explore arts, faith, peace and justice.

How did it come about? In 2013 a group of United Church leaders and Mennonite Church Canada leaders attended the Greenbelt Festival of faith, justice and arts in the U.K. In 2014 a group of UC folk attended the Wild Goose Festival and were inspired to brainstorm ideas for a Canadian version.

They were excited! By early 2015 there was a movement to create a similar festival in Canada. And there was **so much passion** that that festival materialized in that summer! And every summer since. At the Paris Fairgrounds. And now at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre (since 2018).

Fundscrip

Paper Fundscrip Orders are due Sunday, May 29th. The short form paper order forms are available in the pews or the long form can be downloaded here:

[Long Form Paper order form.](#)

[Click here for May Promotions.](#) **Walmart Gift cards are on promotion for 10%.** (that means 10% of the value of the card is donated back to Grace UC when you support our campaign)

To support Grace please make sure you use our campaign number QM53WE. Orders can be left in the drop box in the office. Please make cheques payable to Grace United Church.

Thank you for your support.

Walking is a great Spiritual Practice. Starting this Tuesday, we are beginning a new series of Inspirational Messages. Three days a week (Tues- Thurs), you will receive a short reflection on the theme of weather, adapted from the online resource from prayerbench.ca by Janice MacLean (and used with permission.) Janice writes: *"We can't avoid weather. It dictates our behaviours and what we can and can't do. It influences our moods. It disrupts our lives. It is part of every day."* As we note an aspect of weather each Stroll day, we will use it as a lens or a metaphor to reflect on our journey with the Divine. We hope our attention to the weather deepens our awareness of the Divine atmosphere all around and in all things. Please join us as we stroll, or sit and look out the window. This series will last until Rev Gail's last day with us. (June 24th)



June 4th: Grace will be taking part in the **annual yard sale Sat. June 4th, 8 am - 12:00 pm.** We will be accepting yard sale donations at the church:

⇒ **Wed. June 1, 7:00 - 8:00 pm,**

⇒ **Thurs. June 2, 10 am - 8 pm.**

⇒ **Fri. June 3, 10 am - 8 pm.**

Please no upholstered items or clothing items. All other items accepted. It's a good time to start spring cleaning and save your donations for the yard sale!



Are you getting excited? Do You have your ticket yet? Have you heard Kiley Joe Masson is coming to town! Yes, that's right. We will be hosting an entertaining concert at Grace on May 29th from 3-4 pm - including light refreshments afterwards. Check out the link to see how much fun this will be. Be sure to buy two tickets - one for yourself, and one to give to a friend. This is a great outreach and community building event! You won't want to miss it!

Tickets will be available at the door in case you forgot to get one.

Kiley Joe Masson brings down the house! Wendell Ferguson*

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT

Kiley Joe Mason!

A CONCERT OF GOSPEL AND HYMNS

at Grace United Church
SUNDAY MAY 29TH
3.00-4.30PM

TICKETS \$20

(INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS)

Order by phone: 519 655 2151

Order by email:

graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com



With Special Guest
GRAYSON

