

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • July 1, 2022

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

The Ministry of Milk Bags

Perhaps you have seen the containers of milk bags at each entrance of Grace UC and wondered why they were there. Sometimes the containers are full to over-flowing and then they are empty, waiting more bags to take the place of the missing ones. This collecting of clean milk bags has been happening for many years, not just here but over a wide area. The eventual result is sleeping mats for folk who do not have a bed on which to sleep at night, particularly in third world countries. The advantage of this type of mat is that it keeps the sleeper warm as it radiates the heat back to the person and when it gets dirty can be washed in the local river and hung on a fence to dry so that it can be reused. Just recently London ON has agreed to accept these mats to distribute to their homeless population.

It is a long process to go from bag to bed with many steps involved and many committed folk who preform this dramatic change while keeping bags from landfill sites. After the bags are collected, they must be flattened so that they can be cut into about two and a half inch wide strips, then folded in half, then tied together as tightly as possible so that the knots are not discernable and don't leave bumps in the final product. Apparently it is amazing how tight the knots can be pulled and takes strong hands and arms to do that. In the beginning of this ministry, the strips were crocheted and the ladies and men doing this found it very hard on their wrists. A loom which would do this was invented and could make an even tighter weave. A gentleman from Woodstock built the looms and sold them for \$30.00. Some of the crocheters got very creative with the use of the colours on the bags and made interesting designs. Small beds require about 250 bags and large mats need 400 to 500. Some moms



prefer these as small children could be placed sideways on the larger mat. Some put two small mats together.

Many hands make light work as we all know and ways were used to involve a variety of ages to help with the process. One lady paid her grandchildren to flatten the bags while another kept youngsters busy as they waited for organized activities to get underway in their church. Local groups were taught how to crochet the strips and ladies could be seen crocheting, even while riding in the backseat of a car going to a meeting! A device was invented that could cut 20 to 25 bags at a time which must have been a real time saver!

Completed mats are sent to the Streef potato farm on Highway 2 to be transported to their destination. The Rotary Club in Exeter is now collecting mats and Oxford County even uses them as packing when sending other

items oversees. Bev Neeb collects the bags brought to Grace and then Shona Ward picks them up before sending them to her sister in Barrie. Thanks to Sandra Stock for giving me this information which I thought you would find interesting and informative. Would you please add your clean and dry milk bags to the collection here and help with this vital outreach ministry while being mindful of helping the environment at the same time.

Anne Gregory on behalf of the Official Board

Upcoming Services and Dates:

SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: www.graceunitedtavistock.com (Summer Services will not be recorded)

July 3rd: Come early to go over hymns with Marilyne

10:30 am Worship Service led by Rev. Marg Smith in Zion Hall. *With the informal format of worship in Zion Hall and scheduling around summer holidays, ushers and offering counters have not been assigned. Your assistance as needed would be appreciated.*

July 10th: Come early to go over hymns with Marilyne

10:30 am Worship Service led by Rev. Marg Smith in Zion Hall

Emergency Pastoral Care. Rev. Maggie Dieter, Minister at Zion United in New Hamburg, will be covering emergency pastoral care. **If you need her, she can be reached at: 416.520.3280.** Members of the Care & Communication are also always available for support.

We are looking for folks to volunteer to provide a very light after-church snack throughout the summer. If you would like to help out, sign up on the sheet in Zion Hall, or call Bev at 519 655-2695. Thank you!!!



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 MASKS BE WORN** when inside the building **BUT ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED.**

Contact us

Carol Young: cell number 519-301-1356 tavigraceyouth@gmail.com
Office: 519 655 2151 graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com
E-transfer donation email: gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com

Office Hours

Katherine Brenneman Thurs. 9:30 – 2:30 pm

Care and Communication Team

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 the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb, or the office (graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com - emails checked regularly or 519 655 2151 - phone messages checked on Thursdays) and we will begin praying for you.

✝ pray for Ron Rudy currently in hospital in Woodstock as he recovers from a broken hip.

✝ pray for Brian Boland as he is recovering from successful knee replacement surgery.

Prayer Shawls are available throughout the summer months for anyone. If you require one for someone who is going through challenges of any size, please connect with Joan Bartlett at 519-655-3334 or 1948paul.bartlett@gmail.com.

From the Office:

We will continue to publish summer Good News at Grace newsletters and have made arrangements for volunteers to write our front pages. Thank you to everyone who is filling in for the summer.

Please continue to send me your photos and announcements throughout the summer—I would love to share them in the Good News at Grace. graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

July 8	Session
July 15	Pastoral Care and Outreach
July 22	Social Justice Team (Paul Bartlett)
July 29	No Newsletter (Katherine Vacation)
Aug 5	Christian Education
Aug 12	Worship Team
Aug 19	No newsletter (Katherine Vacation)
Aug 26	UCW
Sept 2	Care and Communication Team

National Online Reading Club Hosts Lois Wilson

Join *Broadview Magazine* and the United Church Bookstore on July 4 for a conversation with former Moderator Lois Wilson as part of the National Online Reading Club, discussing the new book, *For the Sake of the Common Good: Essays in Honour of Lois Wilson*. This book brings together internationally recognized figures, national leaders, and local heroes who have been influenced by Lois Wilson's practical Christianity, progressive values, and commitment to ending oppression in all forms. *For the Sake of the Common Good* acknowledges Lois Wilson's inspiring legacy while taking on the important task of continuing her work.

You can register for the event by signing up for *Broadview Magazine's* [free newsletter](#).

When: Monday, July 4, 7:00 p.m. ET (4:00 p.m. PT)

July birthdays and anniversaries

Happy birthday to:

Dorothy Lowe - July 1
Megan Friesen - July 3
Hayley Lupton - July 3
Michelle McKay - July 3
Mary Boland - July 5
Tracy Hyder - July 7
Chase Brown - July 7
Adam Stock - July 10
Ashlie Weicker - July 11
Ryan Weitzel - July 12
Neely Lange - July 13
Victoria Herlick - July 15
Brenda Mohr - July 16
Tyler Bartlett - July 16
Dorothy Kennedy - July 17
Marleen Wiffen - July 21
Dylan McCann - July 21
Ella McCann - July 22
Hayden McCann - July 27
Dianne Herold - July 28
Carol Young - July 29
Grayson Fuhr - July 31



Happy anniversary to:

Len and Suanne Wettlaufer - July 2
Ryan and Marcia DeGouw - July 4
Shane and Amanda Francois - July 18
Ron and Donna Rudy - July 20
Mike and Beth Kaufman - July 26
Mallory Mohr and Carl Horst - July 31



***Creating God,
As we mark the anniversary of the Confederation of Canada,
we remember and give thanks
for the people who have been the stewards of this land
since time immemorial,
and commit ourselves to the work of justice, healing, and reconciliation.
Together we dream about the country that we hope to become,
a country where all are free to be their best selves.
Amen.
- a prayer for Canada Day***
