

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • September 9, 2022

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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Creation Stories

How do you make the Bible relevant in today's world? Theologian Karl Barth's famous advice to pastors was to "preach with the Gospel in one hand and the newspaper in the other!"

But how can you do that when so many newspapers are cutting back on their number of investigative reporters, when papers are cutting back on local news coverage? Where do you go to get informed about meaningful issues?

One source that I would suggest is Broadview magazine, the United Church publication that received the "Gold Winner" award recently as Best Magazine in the Special Interest category.

The most recent issue of the magazine was a special one in which all of the articles were related to the church's relationship with our indigenous neighbours. In one article, the history of the United Church's involvement with residential schools was documented. Another article noted how the church through the centuries has tried to separate Jesus from his Jewish roots and how indigenous peoples too have been separated from their roots which, like Judaism, was thought by colonial masters to be inferior and in need of correction.

The article that I found most interesting was one entitled "How We Got Here" which looks at Creation stories. Did you know there are two creation stories in the Bible? The account in the first verses of Genesis is one, the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is another. "The modern church and modern American state imagine a straight line connecting them" from the Garden of Eden through the Reformation to today. That justified their belief that every other view was wrong including the views of the indigenous peoples they "discovered."

Scientists tell another creation story. By using mitochondrial DNA and Y-chromosome analysis, scientists trace *homo sapien* origins back to Africa and beyond. Apparently we also share genes with our Neanderthal cousins.

The Anishinaabe and Cree creation stories locate their origins in a wooded area north of Lake Superior after the retreat of the glaciers. The Hopi of the American Southwest who live in a land of deep canyons tell stories of their emergence from a hole in the ground. And the island-dwelling Haida of British Columbia tell of emerging from a clam shell off the tip of Haida Gwaii.



"Creation stories, whether Christian or Hebrew, Anishnaabe or Hopi, aren't meant to be histories as an unbiased set of facts. They are meant to explain who we are and to create a communal sense of self...The many creation stories are like multiple eddies, circular currents that draw up nutrients from deeper waters."

January is now the new month when we who subscribe to Broadview magazine renew our annual subscriptions. It has been suggested that there might be members of the church who would like to read the magazine but do not want to get a complete subscription for themselves. To that end, therefore, and starting in January, the church will be getting a separate copy of Broadview each month that we will keep in the library and that can be signed out and shared among interested readers. More information will follow.

Paul Bartlett

Upcoming Services and Dates:

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

Sept 11th: Come early to go over hymns with Marilyne.

10:30 am Worship service in Zion Hall led by Linda Humphrey.

With the informal format of worship in Zion Hall and scheduling around summer holidays, ushers and offering counters have not been assigned. Your assistance with the service as needed would be appreciated.

Sept 18th: 10:30 am Worship Service upstairs in the Sanctuary - led by Carol Young
Sunday School resumes, BBQ Lunch follows

Sept 20th: 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Sept 21st: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n, Knit, Stay n' Crochet

1:30 - 3:00 pm Salvation Army Mobile Food Bank Truck - Back Parking Lot

7:00 pm Board Meeting

Sept 22nd: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Emergency Pastoral Care. Rev. Marg Smith is covering emergency pastoral care she can be reached at 289 929 0707.

Members of the Care & Communication team are also always available for support.



Choir Resumes again on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm. New members are welcome to join us. Please talk to Marilyne on Sunday if you are interested.

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

Update to Grace Community of Faith, August 2022

Good day to each of you,

The last two years have been complex, stressful and frustrating as you know. The work of running Grace United Church has carried on throughout that time with a small group working very hard to stay abreast of all the changes. It has been wonderful to finally be able to worship together again in Zion Hall this summer and share light refreshments afterwards as friendships are made, renewed and strengthened.

We are in the midst of change and require your help as we move forward. As you were informed previously a group of three is searching for a half time supply minister while we transition to another change. That work is frustrating as many ministers and lay people have either just accepted other positions or don't want half-time work, but they must be contacted to find out that information. Hours have been spent on the phone making calls.

The church profile and the full-time minister job description that were created a few years ago need to be updated and will be presented to the entire community of faith. It is very important that when you are informed of meetings to discuss these documents, you attend and take part in the discussion as this will determine the choice of our next minister. These documents need to reflect your wishes and desires and the only way to do that is with your participation in the process.

The finances of Grace are of concern to our finance committee and board. We have not received the same support as before the pandemic and ask that you consider that aspect of your membership at Grace. Expenses continue, even if the facility is not being used. Do you want to provide the support to employ a full-time minister or do you wish only half-time? If you read Broadview you will know that church will look different moving forward and that creative ways of being will evolve, so your participation is necessary as each situation is different and the members are the ones to make those decisions. Your participation is critical. Right now I'm thinking of the lack of folk stepping up to provide a presence at the Tavistock Fall Fair with our annual food booth.

Later this autumn we will be looking for new members for the Session and Board. Please think about this carefully and be prepared to answer that you are willing to work at helping Grace move forward by becoming a member of either committee. It is not hard work and the learning and experience you gain is amazing. There are other committees and activities too, which will require additional members, so consider your strengths and interests and volunteer; don't wait to be asked. You will be amazed by the positive experience, enjoyment and friendships that you gain. Let's all work to keep Grace an amazing place to worship, work, make friends, have fun and grow in our faith.

Sincerely,

Anne Gregory, Board Chair

Chris Wiffen, Ministry and Personnel Committee Chair

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 519 655-2695, 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 Susan Humphrey who is dealing with health challenges. She is thankful for the emails and cards that have been a huge source of comfort over the last 4 months.
- ✦ pray for Sherman Kropf as he continues to deal with health challenges.
- ✦ pray for Jack and Claudette Wettlaufer who are experiencing health challenges.



Sit n Knit, Stay n Crochet is beginning WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 10–11:30 am in Knox Parlour and will be meeting every other Wednesday. Knitters and crocheters of all ages, stage and abilities welcomed! We can even teach or help! For more information, ask Carol Young tavigraceyouth@gmail.com or 519–301–1356.



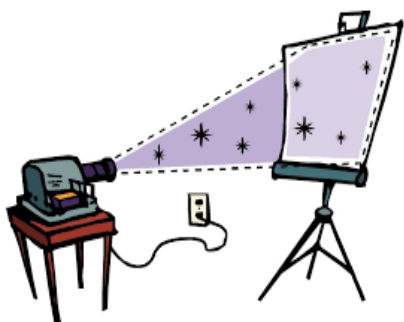
Fundscrip volunteer co-ordinator needed: Thank you to Connor Shantz who has been looking after the Fundscrip fundraising campaign. He won't be able to co-ordinate orders starting this month. Is there a volunteer who would be willing to take this on? It is an easy fundraiser to run and Connor can help you with

instruction on what to do. Please either talk to Connor or contact Katherine in the office. This is a valuable fundraiser for Grace and we wish to continue to offer it.

AV Team Members Needed!

Starting September 18th we will start to worship in the sanctuary again—this means we will be recording the services and making them available online. We have a very dedicated AV crew who does an excellent job of making our services available online.

However they could always use more help. If this is something you think you could help with please reach out to Katherine in the office or talk to any AV member on Sunday morning. Our AV team is willing to offer training on how to run the power point or record the service on the camera. This is an exciting opportunity to enhance our worship services with technology and provide ministry for those unable to attend in person.



GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

**BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18,
10:30 AM**

- Caring Teachers
- Fun Lessons

Join us for our BBQ lunch
September 18 at 11:30 am! All are
welcomed! Freewill donation
lunch--proceeds to Grace SS

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The people of The United Church of Canada express our profound grief at the tragic events in James Smith Cree Nation and the nearby village of Weldon, Saskatchewan.

In this most difficult time, we extend deep condolences to those who have lost loved ones, healing prayers to those who were injured, and comfort for all who are afraid.

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, speaking from Germany where she is with the United Church delegation at the World Council of Churches General Assembly, expressed her pain on hearing of these attacks and committed her ongoing prayers for "the families of the victims, and survivors as they deal with the resulting trauma."

As this tragedy continues to unfold, we seek strength for community leaders and for an end without further violence.

In the words of Moderator Carmen: "May God have mercy. In our grief, may we be blessed with God's peace that surpasses our human understanding. Amen."