

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • December 16, 2022

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Starry, Starry Night

At Christmas time, the stars figure prominently in songs and images about the Holy Birth. Shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. Wise men following the star in the east. Angels in the realms of glory.

This past September, Joan and I spent two days and nights in Grasslands National Park in Saskatchewan which has been designated as a "Dark Sky Site". That park is far enough away from the light-polluted skies of towns and cities that the glories of the night sky are easily seen there in all their majesty and wonder.

But these awesome encounters with the natural world are getting harder and harder to experience with every passing year. Light from the cities blocks out our skies. The hundreds of satellites sent aloft each year make it difficult to tell which stars are real and which are not. You have to travel hundreds of miles to see the wonders that the shepherds saw.

Grasslands National Park was created to save from extinction many plant and animal species that are at risk—the short-grass prairie, the bison, black-tailed prairie dogs, pronghorn antelopes, sage grouse. A study released last week showed that 20% of Canadian plant and animal species are now endangered and at risk for extinction.

Climate change has been very much in the news this past month. There have been international conferences in Cairo and in Montreal. United Church members have been delegates at these meetings. "Faithful Footprints" is a forum that helps churches become environmentally progressive. Our church has been invited to be part of the Waterloo Region Faith and Climate Justice initiative.

People are struggling these days. Inflation has caused food prices to rise dramatically. Food banks have seen a 50% increase in use over other years. Personal credit card debt is at an all-time high. And because of climate change, Christmas trees are hard to find (except here).

Maybe it's time to think about a change in priorities. What are the things that bring real joy and happiness? Studies show that just 2 hours spent outdoors each week will cause an improvement in health and well-being. We need our precious natural spaces.

For the last two Sundays in church, we have heard the message of John the Baptist that is often overlooked at Christmas—"Repent! Turn around! Change! For a new beginning, God's kingdom, is at hand!"



Upcoming Services and Dates:

SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Dec 18th: 10:30 am Advent 4 Lessons and Carols Worship Service. Sunday School. Light snack and refreshments follows in Zion Hall. Nativity Sets on display during Advent.

Dec. 21st: 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Dec 22nd: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Dec. 24th: 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - led by Rev. Young Seo

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - led by Rev Mary Boland

Dec. 25th: No Service



Come enjoy our Nativity Sets on display in Zion Hall during Advent. Following worship we will have a variety of nativity sets on display bought in from our Community of Faith. Please join us for light snack and refreshments.



The office will be closed Dec 26th - Jan. 5th. The final newsletter of the year will be Dec 23rd. Please have any newsletter items submitted to Katherine by Tues. Dec. 20th. There will be no newsletter Dec. 30th and a reduced newsletter Jan. 6th.

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 there fore we recommend masks but they not required, distancing can still happen if you wish, and hand sanitizer is at each entrance.

Contact us

Rev. Young Seo	cell 519 671 6910	revyoungucc@gmail.com
Carol Young	cell 519-301-1356	tavigraceyouth@gmail.com
Office	519 655 2151	graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com
E-transfer donation email		gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com

Office Hours *it is recommended to call ahead

Rev Young Tues. and Thurs. 9:30-2:30 pm (it may change the office hour and day, please contact before visit)

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

Do you have a prayer request?

"In all things let your requests be known to God in prayer." (Philippians 4:6)

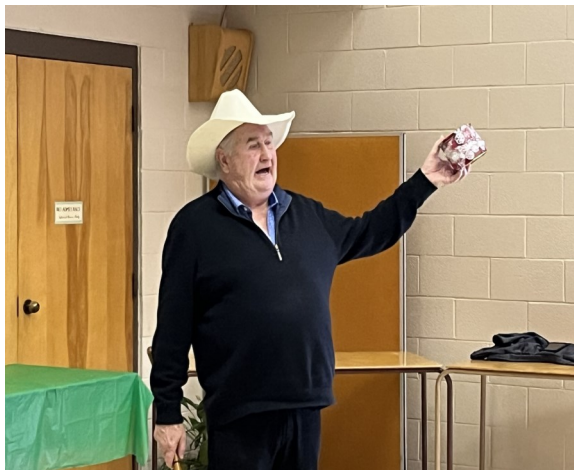
Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb 519 655-2695, or Rev Young at 519 671 6910 and we will begin praying for you.



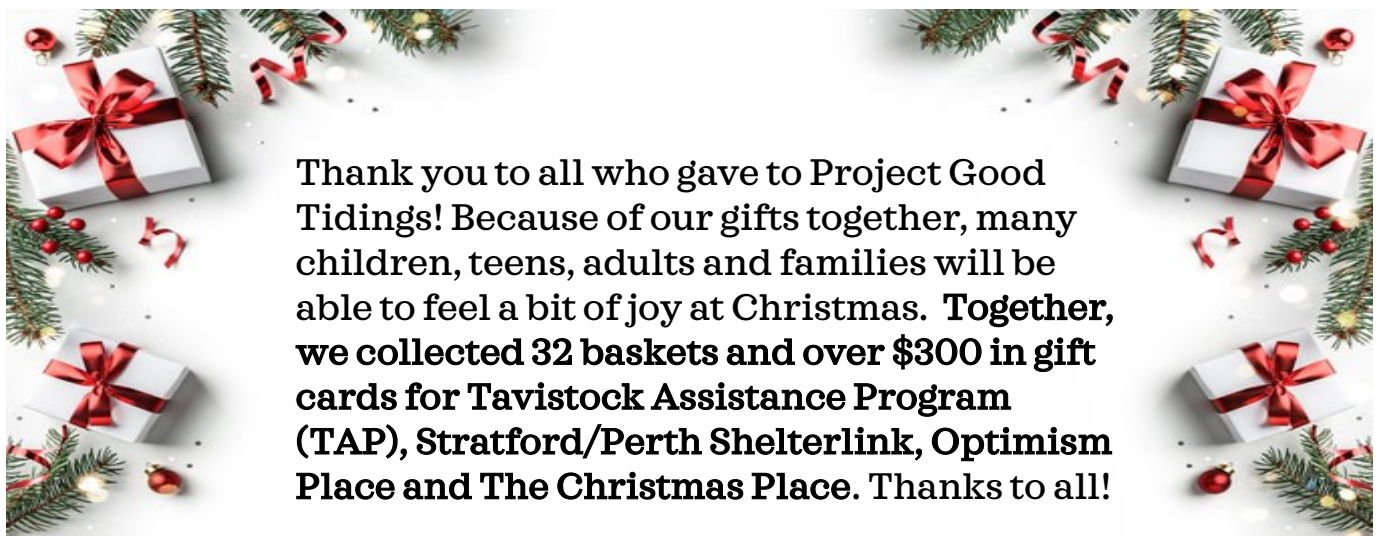
† pray for Claudette Wettlaufer in Stratford Hospital.

† pray for Brenda Mohr as she struggles with health issues, and Brenda's sister Jackie, as she continues to deal with her cancer diagnosis

Bake Sale Fundraiser last Sunday



WOW! The after-church bake sale was a great success. Thanks to the very generous bakers and bidders, we raised over \$1290 for our church. And we had great fun and fellowship while we were at it! Many thanks to Gary West who did a super job as an auctioneer and kept us laughing.



Thank you to all who gave to Project Good Tidings! Because of our gifts together, many children, teens, adults and families will be able to feel a bit of joy at Christmas. **Together, we collected 32 baskets and over \$300 in gift cards for Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP), Stratford/Perth Shelterlink, Optimism Place and The Christmas Place. Thanks to all!**



First high noon since February 2020. Eighty attended and enjoyed a meal and wonderful entertainment by the "Ropp Brothers and friends."

Ushers/Offering Counters/Lift Operators: Thank you to our amazing volunteers who continue to support by helping with these important Sunday morning duties. The 2023 schedule has been drafted much the same as this year. We are looking for new volunteers to fill a few open spots. During refreshments in Zion Hall a board member will be available with the schedule to sign up new volunteers.



Message from M&P: Keith Weitzel who has served for many years has announced his wish to retire the end of January 2023. The custodial team work in co-operation with the Property Committee to ensure the day to day cleanliness and maintenance of the Church property. As well as this the duties include setting up and taking down of chairs and tables for special events and rentals during the week and on weekends. Snow removal and salting is contracted out. For a complete job description contact Chris Wiffen, chair of M&P. The committee hope that someone from our Grace family will step forward but if no one does then we will have to advertise the position.

Chris Wiffen, M & P Chair

Happy Retirement

Broadview Magazine

SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING

Broadview subscriptions are due Jan 8, 2023. The Annual Group subscription rate remains the same at \$25. Please email graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com or call the office 519-655-2151 to let us know if you wish to start or continue your subscription. Cheque/cash (payable to Grace United Church) in an envelope, clearly marked with your name and for 'Broadview', can be put on the offering plate or left in the office. Etransfers to gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com (include "Broadview" in the message). **If you are starting a new subscription we need your mailing address.

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34 Suggestions to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint (from Earthday.org)

Food

1. Eat foods that are low on the food chain to reduce methane production (fruits, veggies, beans, grains). Consider “Meatless Mondays.”
2. Practice the 100 mile diet (cuts down on shipping and cooling)
3. Buy food in bulk
4. Reduce your food waste (have leftovers)
5. Compost

Clothing

6. Don't buy clothes for fashion (we dump 80 lbs of clothes per year in dumps). Use Canada-made.
7. Buy vintage or recycled clothes
8. Wash clothes in cold water

Shopping

9. Buy less stuff (and buy used or recycled when possible)
10. Use Reusable shopping bags
11. Try to avoid excessive packaging
12. Opt for a laptop over a desktop computer (uses less energy)
13. Look for Energy Star products
14. Buy from environmentally responsible and sustainable companies: check their Environmental Social Governance (ESG) ratings

House

15. Do an energy audit of your home
16. Use LED light bulbs
17. Switch off lights and unplug electronic devices when not in use
18. Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees
19. Use a low-flow showerhead, take shorter showers
20. Lower your thermostat in winter, use less air conditioning
21. Sign up for clean energy from your utility provider

Transportation

22. Drive less
23. Use less braking and accelerating. Drive calmly
24. Maintain your car
25. Combine tasks and chores when going out (avoid single-use trips)
26. Use traffic apps to avoid getting stuck in traffic
27. Use cruise control on long trips
28. Use less air conditioning in the car
29. Consider buying an electric or hybrid vehicle

Travel

30. Avoid flying when travelling
31. Try flying non-stop
32. Fly economy class
33. If you fly, buy carbon offsets (if you fly Toronto to Vancouver give \$40 to a global energy project to offset the CO2 emissions you have caused)
34. Get politically active

Mini Financial Report to Nov 30th

Months of

Jan - Nov

	2021		2022
Anniversary	3,470		5,184
Core Receipts	92,689		82,891
Other Donations	1,634		3,467
Bequest	10,000		0
Misc. Receipts			
Fundraising	1,956		4,469
Funeral Donations	4,805		350
HST Rebate	1,628		1,682
Manse Rental	9,625		9,625
CEBA	20,000		0
Misc.	1,809		799
	39,823		16,925
Total Receipts	147,616		108,467
Expenses	155,405	repay \$40,000 CEBA loan	167,935
Surplus/Deficit	-7,789		-59,468

Please consider how you can help us meet our budget requirements.

Donations can be received by:

- Plate placed at the entrance on Sunday morning
- Etransfer to gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com (Security answer is Grace1980). Also include any special notes in the message.
- By mail to Grace United Church, PO Box 189 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0
- We also offer Pre-Authorized Remittance. [PAR forms are available here.](#)

Year end donations: the last deposit of the year will be Dec 26th. Note there is no service December 25th and the office is closed Dec 26-30, we encourage you to take this into consideration when making your year end donations.

