

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • December 23, 2022

116 Woodstock St. S. PO Box 189 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0 • graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com • 519-655-2151



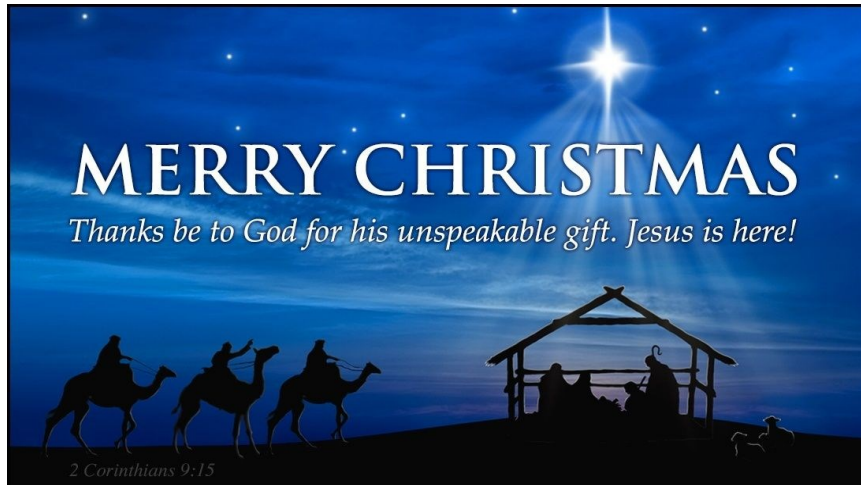
'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.com



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Joy and Love: I pray that all four of these would fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond.

I am grateful to God. This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate “Emmanuel” (God with us). Without Christ’s presence among us we would be lost. Through God’s presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you: to you have served so sacrificially this past year. Whether it’s leading groups; shepherding children; serving coffee; setting up for worship; playing and singing music; serving on events, or any one of the countless other tasks that keep our community running, I am so grateful.

We want you to know that Grace United Church prays for you, your loved ones and your intentions. I pray for a wonderful Christmas to all and a prosperous New Year. May we always be mindful of the many who may find it difficult to celebrate this holiday season. I hope that God’s presence will be made known to you not only today but every day.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year 2023!

Have a very Merry Christmas,

Rev. Young Seo

Upcoming Services and Dates:

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

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
(the 7:00 pm service will be recorded for online worship and not the 10 pm)

Dec. 25th: No Service

Jan. 1st: 10:20 am Carol Sing

10:30 am First Sunday after Christmas Worship Service, led by Carol Young in Zion Hall
(this service will not be recorded for online worship, we will be posting to YouTube a pre-recorded video in it's place)

Jan. 3rd: 1:30 pm UCW. Roll Call: What is your hope for 2023?

Jan. 4th: 7:30 pm High Noon Planning Committee Meeting

Jan. 7th: 1:30 pm Confirmation Class, Youth Room



Emergency Pastoral Care: Rev. Young Seo is on vacation Dec 26th - Jan3rd.
Please contact Rev. Mary Boland for emergency pastoral care at 519 655 2992.



The office will be closed Dec 26th - Jan. 5th. There will be no newsletter Dec. 30th and a reduced newsletter Jan. 6th. I will not be checking email or office phone messages while away. Katherine

Looking for help: Please contact Carol Young if you are able to help set up Zion Hall for the service on January 1st. Set up will be December 28th.

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. Please include the whole Wettlaufer family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of Bill Wettlaufer.

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

✝ pray for Keith Weitzel as he recovers from illness.

We are hoping to have a short (four to six-week) Bible study in the new year. During past studies we have always learned so much from Scripture and each other. If you are interested in joining, please speak with Bev 519 655-2695.

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

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

Broadview subscriptions are due Jan 8, 2023. The Annual Group subscription rate remains the same at \$25. Please email



Committee Books for review: Please have your financial books to Deb by Sunday, Jan 8th. They can be left in the office. Thank you.

We would like to share with you a few pictures from our Advent Nativity Set displays in Zion Hall and our Lessons and Carols Service on December 18th.



What to do in case of inclement weather

If the weather is bad and there is a need to cancel a worship service we advise you to please check your emails, our website or facebook. We would also appreciate if phone calls can be made to those who do not use email or have access to the internet.

If the weather predictions for Christmas Eve are correct we anticipate making a decision no later than 3 pm.



Thank you to everyone who has supported Grace United Church throughout the year, be it financially and/or with your gifts of time and talent. All gifts received are a blessing and we are very grateful.

At this time we are looking at finishing the year with a deficit. Please consider how you can help us meet our budget commitments. We would like to remind you of ways we can receive donations:

- Plate placed at the entrance at the Christmas Eve Services
- 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.

2023 Offering Envelopes: Our order did not arrive in time for the envelopes to be distributed before the end of the year. I am hoping they will be here to hand out at the January 8th service.



Moderator's Christmas Message 2022

Transcript of Videotaped Message

My church family,

Christmas greetings to you in the name of the one who came to us as the Word made flesh—in the form of a baby born into lowly and humble beginnings.

We recite through the Gospel of John, “In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....” It’s cryptic at best, but there is a reason we read the gospels alongside the Hebrew scriptures. Listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah [52:7–10]:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they shout for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth, shout together together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

We often associate the prophetic texts with dire warnings against our human fallibility and worst individual and corporate character defects.

But in this case, Isaiah is preaching a good news story. One of beauty, peace, good news, salvation, joy, comfort, redemption, vulnerability, and salvation.

What could be a better news story in the arrival of the Christ child than remembering all that good news promised to us through our faith? Not that we get to those things because of our faith, just that our faith reminds us—every year in the remembering of the coming of the Christ child—that all things are made new or possible again. That God wishes us to have life and to have it in abundance.

Sometimes it’s hard to remember with the constant assault of bad news stories meant to keep us in a state of perpetual stress and believing the worst in each other. In fact, all empirical evidence points to the opposite: Humans are generally decent, and committed to the fabric of our societies and our social contracts with each other. That we are capable of great feats of innovation, kindness, overcoming obstacles, and achieving the impossible. We were born to achieve the impossible. And not only in the absence of crisis, but even more strongly in times of crisis.

So this year, when so much seems uncertain and the news amplifies all the hard news stories, remember that when the Word is made flesh, there is One who came to show us that all the ends of the earth should see the salvation of God—and that through that One, we are capable of coming together to achieve the impossible.

From the Office of the Moderator and on behalf of The United Church of Canada, I wish you the very merriest and most inspirational of Christmases. May you be the good news and see the good news and share the good news this Christmas season.



You Tube link to video:

[Moderators Christmas Message 2022](#)