

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • February 24, 2023

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

The season of Lent spans 40 days leading up to Easter. It begins **Ash Wednesday on February 22nd and ends on Holy Saturday on April 8th**. As followers of Jesus walk with him to his death and burial, so that we can participate fully with him in his resurrection. Lent often has a “waiting” tone. We wait for Resurrection Sunday, wait for Christ’s return, wait for God to set things right. And we do so with hope and patience.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” -Romans 12:12

In Lent we practice disciplines such as prayer, fasting and generosity (alms giving), not as a means of earning God’s favor, but as a way of drawing nearer to God, where we can rekindle our relationship with Him and find much-needed restoration and renewal. Throughout this season we have opportunities for prayer and contemplation, as we reflect on the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

We encourage you to use the Newsletter provided, to mark events and dates coming up and to pray about how you might be able to join us this Lenten season.



We will use the Lent devotional book **“Good Courage”**: Daily Reflections on Hope is available in print or as an e-book from the United Church Bookstore. https://ucrdstore.ca/products/good-courage-daily-reflections-on-hope-softcover?_pos=1&_sid=1ba959ede&_ss=r



Author is Alydia Smith aims to inspire with honest testimonies from people who have had the courage to follow their hearts, to hope against hope, and to faithfully work towards a better world. This Lent, reflect, engage, and deepen your connection to God. In these pages, find comfort with examples of practical and courageous hope in the midst of despair, and accept the challenge to deepen your theological understanding of hope, resurrection, and new life.

Every Friday we will share one chapter of Good Courage, please Join us in keeping a holy and meaningful Lent!

God bless you,
Rev. Young Seo

First Sunday in Lent

Trust in God

“Good Courage” pp.12-13 by Alydia Smith

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”
-Psalm 91:1-2

Prepare

Faith is pretty important to us Christians, right? We in the Protestant church hold to the idea that it is by faith that we are justified., correct? If it’s all that important, and I think it is, shouldn’t we have a better idea of what we mean when we walk of faith? This pandemic has led me to reflect quite a bit on what we mean by faith. I’ve heard so many well-meaning Christians say that they don’t need to get vaccinated or wear a mask because they have faith in God. God will provide! Really? How does that work?

So often, I think we get God and Santa Claus mixed up. We’ve been very good little children and so we can expect God to not only provide what we want but also in the manner we expect. “Dear God, free us from this pandemic and do so in a way that doesn’t inconvenience me at all!” I don’t think this is how faith works. One of the phrases I keep coming back to is “trust in God and wear your seatbelt.” What if God also wants us to be free of tis pandemic? What if God has given us all the tools we

need to make this happen: hearts capable of caring for one another, and amazing brains that can invent life-saving technologies? Put your hope and faith in what God is doing rather than in what we wish God would do.

Ponder

What does faith in God mean to you? What does that faith look like in you daily life?

How do you respond to people who have a different understanding of what faith look like in action?

Pray

God of quite whispers and loud roars, we respond to your voice. (A minute of silence)

We respond to your voice as spoken through creation. (A minute of silence)

We respond to your voice hear through the cries of your children. (A minute of silence)

We respond to your voice spoken through the beauty all around us. (A minute of silence)

Amen.

Practice

My parents always commented that we should listen twice as much as we speak. Should it not also be the same with prayer? Remember to take time to simply listen to the God that is still speaking.

Upcoming Services and Dates:

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

Feb. 26th: 10:30 am First Sunday of Lent and Confirmation and Communion Service led by Rev. Young Seo. Sunday School. All we welcome for light snack and refreshments following in Zion Hall

Fundscrip orders due.

Feb. 28th: 7:00 pm Bible Study (Zoom and in person)

7:00 pm Worship Committee

Mar. 1st: 1:00 pm Zoom Staff Meeting

Mar. 2nd: 12:10 pm Lenten Service and Lunch 'Giving Up Expectations'

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Mar. 3rd: 1:00 pm South Easthope Insurance Annual Meeting - Zion Hall

Mar. 5th: 10:30 am Second Sunday of Lent Worship service led by the Worship Committee Sunday School. Light Snack and refreshments following in Zion Hall

Mar. 7th: 1:30 pm UCW. Roll Call: What place is on your bucket list to visit?

7:00 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm Session

Mar. 8th: 10:00 am Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet

Mar. 9th: 12:10 pm Lenten Service and Lunch 'Giving Up Superiority'

7:00 pm Choir Practice



Last chance to support Coldest Night of the Year. On February 25, our team *The Graceful Walkers* (Paul Bartlett, Mary Ann Krantz, Carol Shewfelt, Linda Stock, Tory Zehr, Wayne Shewfelt) are walking to support **Stratford—Connection Centre, Stratford/Perth Shelter Link**. Together with thousands of Canadians across the country, we're walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger in our community. Please, give generously by clicking ["Donate Now"](#). Thank you to our generous supporters we have raised \$3331 to date.

The walk begins at Stratford Queen's park at 5 pm on Sat. the 25th.

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 at home recuperating.
- † pray for Brenda Mohr as she struggles with health issues, her sister Jackie (cancer diagnosis) and her brother Pat (recovering from surgery)
- † pray for Keith Weitzel as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Ken Brenneman as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Rev Young and family as her husband Jason Richards struggles with health issues.
- † pray for Brian Gerber as he struggles with health issues.

**Lenten Service and Lunch Thurs. Mar. 2nd "Giving Up Expectations" at 12:10 pm.
Meditation and music in the sanctuary, Soup and Sandwiches in Zion Hall
Suggested contribution for lunch \$5-\$10**

HURON PARK PRESENTS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

March 1st - March 4th 7:00 pm
Preview - February 28th 7:00 pm
Matinee - March 4th, 5th 2:00 pm

21st Robert Jammer Theatre
MIDAS
Horizon SOLUTIONS
Long & McQuade MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
PALACE

Advance tickets \$15 @ <https://huronpark.tvdsb.ca/>
or call (519) 537-2347 for ticket info
\$20 at the door

Watch Hailey
Lupton in her
role in this
play!

Paper February Fundscrip orders are due this Sunday, February 26th. Short form paper order forms are in the pews or [long form paper order forms](https://www.fundscrip.com) can be downloaded.

**New Retailer
Wayfair**

Visit the Fundscrip website for
news updates

<https://www.fundscrip.com>

FündScrip TM&C

ST. PATRICK'S DAY **PULLED PORK DINNER & GAMES NIGHT**

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023
• 6:00 PM •

GRACE UNITED CHURCH, TAVISTOCK, ON



A fun night for all ages!

*Enjoy a delicious meal of pork on a bun, coleslaw, beans,
potato salad and dessert. Followed by games galore!*

***Crokinole, Euchre, Checkers, Scrabble,
Skip-Bo, whatever you like!***

*Bring a partner, bring a group or join in with others –
guaranteed to be lots of smiles and laughter!*

Tickets available after Church

OR call the Church Office at 519-655-2151 and leave a message

OR email graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

ADULT \$15

CHILD 5-10 \$8

CHILD 4 & UNDER FREE

FAMILY OF 4 \$40

Earthquake in Türkiye

The United Church of Canada has launched a [fundraising appeal](#)(opens in a new tab) to support the people of northern Syria and Türkiye in recovering from two powerful earthquakes that destroyed homes and led to enormous loss of lives.

The Middle East Council of Churches, a Mission & Service partner of The United Church of Canada, along with other members of ACT Alliance and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, are responding by supplying first aid, water, temporary shelters, food and other lifesaving support to people impacted by the earthquakes. Thanks to previous donations to the Global Emergency Response fund, The United Church of Canada made an immediate grant of \$20,000. The earthquakes have been devastating, with a death toll of over 41,000 people to date. The United Nations estimates that over 8 million people in Syria are affected, 5 million of whom need emergency humanitarian assistance. Before the earthquakes, the situation in Syria was already catastrophic for many people who have been displaced by over a decade of war. Humanitarian access to parts of northwestern Syria have been difficult given international sanctions as well as restrictions on access to areas held by non-government groups. The Middle East Council of Churches is [calling for governments to lift sanctions](#)(opens in a new tab) to quickly aid those impacted. ACT Alliance, along with Syrian and international NGOs, is [calling for a scaling up of response](#)(opens in a new tab) in northwest Syria and unhindered access to areas affected by the earthquakes.

The United Church, as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, has joined the Humanitarian Coalition in asking Canadians to [give to help those impacted by the crisis](#) (opens in a new tab).

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Donate Now

Online via our [secure donation page](#)(opens in a new tab).

Phone 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

Send a cheque or money order to:

The United Church of Canada
Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Türkiye" on the face of your cheque.

Note: As part of the United Church's Emergency Response Fund, 100% of your donation goes directly to emergency relief, with 85% of your donation responding to this designated emergency and 15% responding to future emergencies that do not receive intense media coverage. Donations to Mission & Service enable the United Church to cover all of the costs of emergency response work without deducting any fees from your donation.

YouTube video:

[Moments of Terror Following the Earthquake that Struck Syria](#)

MECC, Middle East Council of Churches

