

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • March 3, 2023

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Second Sunday in Lent Out of the Depths

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
For you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

Psalm 23:4



Prepare

Psalm 23 is interesting. Even before I considered myself 'churchy' I knew about the 23rd psalm. It's beautiful, it's hopeful, and it's famous. I've heard it read in church services, it's made appearances in TV shows and movies, it's often sung, and of course, it's read at funerals. I guess what I always missed in the psalm was the sub-text. Yes, this is a song of faith and gratitude to God, who provides the author with love and comfort, but it's more. The author is also having some difficulty—there are enemies at his table. There is the valley of the shadow of death.

I think this is how hope is born. Hope is of course a virtue that we admire in others and kindle within our own souls, but hope is born with hardships and trial. After all, why would a person who has everything in control, who has the ideal life, need hope at all? In an ideal life, there is nothing left to hope for (which I suppose is, ironically, a terrible curse.) Hope isn't buttercups and birdsong; instead, hope is the voice screaming from injustice. Hope is struggling to face a challenge not because we're going to succeed but because it's the right thing to do.

Maybe we could be forgiven if we paraphrase Psalm 23 just a little bit:

Even though I walk through the valley where hope is needed, I fear no evil; for you are with me.

Ponder

What has birthed hope in your life?

Prayer

God of hope, we thank you for your presence in all the seasons of our lives. You laugh with us, cry with us, you don't turn away when we rage at you for the injustices of the world, and always offer us a graceful portion of love. We thank you for building into our souls the capacity to hope, to seek new life, pursue wisdom, and participate in the building of the realm Jesus promised. In hope we pray. Amen.

Practice

There is a psalm for just about every emotion; there are psalms of joy, celebration, and triumph, but also rage, pain, and of course, hope. Try writing a psalm of your own! Maybe sit a while, pray meditate, and focus on your own feelings. Then, without worrying about rhyme, rhythm, or finding the perfect word, write a psalm for your day.

Written by Jim Tenford

Upcoming Services and Dates:

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

Mar. 5th: 10:30 am Second Sunday in Lent Worship service led by the Angie Lannin. 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

Mar. 12th: Daylight Savings Time Begins: Turns clocks ahead one hour

10:30 am Third Sunday in Lent Worship service with Baptism and new membership, led by Rev. Young Seo. Sunday School. Light snack and refreshments following in Zion Hall.

Mar. 15th: 1:30 - 3:00 pm Salvation Army Food Truck - Grace UC parking lot

7:00 pm Board Meeting

Mar. 16th: 12:10 pm Lenten Service and Luncheon, 'Giving Up Enemies'

7:00 pm Choir Practice



Confirmation was Sun.

Feb. 26th.

**Congratulations to our
Confirmands**

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.

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

AS PER THE LENTEN FOCUS EMAILED MARCH 1...

GIVE a non-perishable food item for House of Blessing, Stratford. They are in need of: healthy kids snacks, juice boxes, root vegetables, cookies and crackers, meals in a can (chilli and stew), gluten-free products, toiletries, toilet paper, hygiene products. A box will gather items at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at worship and will be delivered in the week following. Please help as you are able!



An Update from the 2022 Grace UC Scholarship Recipients

OWEN SHANTZ

I am studying psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford and I'm having a great time. I've met lots of great people that make me feel at home here. When I first got to school, I didn't know how everything was going to turn out, but everything is going well. I'm learning a lot and making new memories. My main class is an introduction to psychology class which I find very interesting. I want to thank the whole church family for supporting me on my university journey and I look forward to giving all of you an update at the end of the school year.

Thank you, Owen Shantz



MATTHEW BRENNEMAN

Hi, I'm doing well. I'm studying at Niagara College Canada. My program is Game Development, which in this semester includes math, object oriented programming, 3D animation, digital graphics techniques, and game engine fundamentals. My biggest complaint so far is my bed not being particularly comfortable! I joined the curling team here, and am playing mixed doubles curling with Amy Danen (also from Tavistock). I am enjoying school and look forward to seeing you soon!

Thanks

Matthew

**Lenten Service and Lunch Thurs. Mar. 9th "Giving Up Superiority"
at 12:10 pm.**

**Meditation and music in the sanctuary, Soup and Sandwiches in Zion Hall
Suggested contribution for lunch \$5-\$10**

March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Mason McKay—March 2

Mary Ann Krantz—March 3

Joan Bartlett—March 3

Marianne Ruby—March 3

Brian Gerber—March 4

Elysia Cook—March 4

Brandon Schmidt—March 4

Fionn McBride—March 8

Rebecca Walker—March 8

Katrina Stevely—March 10

Mike McKay—March 12

Clayton McKay—March 13

Harlyn Lang—March 16

Ron Rudy—March 16

Lauryn Reilbing—March 17

Jason Shantz—March 17

Simon Ruby—March 18

Rick Walker—March 19

Alexis Shantz—March 20

Ken Brenneman—March 20

Carol Mordue—March 20

Sharon Walker—March 21

Heather Harris—March 22

Jenine Stock—March 23

Leanne Bayer—March 23

Hazel Jackman—March 24

Zachary Clarke—March 24

Nathaniel Brown—March 27

Jayden Ruby—March 28



Together for the Love of Creation Online Session on March 7



Earth Week 2023
Together for the Love of Creation

During Earth Week 2023 (April 16–23), The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous sibling denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, [Together for the Love of Creation](#). During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice. Ready to take action? On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. EST, come learn more, brainstorm possibilities, and hear from Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne at the [Together for the Love of Creation Zoom session](#).

UCC Response to the Phase One Findings at the Alberni Residential Institution

Upon hearing the preliminary research findings on deaths and unmarked graves at the Alberni residential institution, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, said: “The church will not look away from the truth that continues to be uncovered. The United Church of Canada continues our commitment to live into our Apologies, to be accountable, and to further the work of truth and reconciliation in concrete acts of justice and reparation.”

With deep remorse and grief, [The United Church of Canada acknowledges the truth at the Alberni residential institution](#), which was run by the United Church. This is not new information for Indigenous communities; Indigenous people have been telling the world about deaths and unmarked gravesites for a very long time. We have not always listened to or heard you.

The United Church of Canada offers our deepest sympathies for the children who died at the institution, including those who did not make it home; survivors; the families; communities; and all those impacted by Canada’s residential institution system that tore Indigenous children from their families and communities.

The United Church of Canada was an active and willing participant in the operation of residential institutions. We were wrong to participate in this colonial, racist, and oppressive system.

In an effort to better live into our faith, we are taking steps to reconcile our legacy as perpetrators in this system. We know that our actions have directly contributed to trauma and death, loss of language and culture, breakdowns of the family unit, and intergenerational trauma.

The United Church of Canada, both regionally and nationally, hears the Tseshah First Nation’s specific Calls for Truth and Justice directed to us, and commits to continued conversation with them about specific actions in response.

Every Child Matters.

Camp Bimini’s summer camp registration for 2023 is open on [Tuesday, February 28 at 6 pm](#). Registration is online only. Please see our website www.campbimini.ca for more details and to register for a great time at camp this summer. If you have any questions regarding registration, please direct them to the camp.