

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • March 9, 2023

116 Woodstock St. S. PO Box 189 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0 • [graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com) • 519-655-2151



'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



[www.graceunitedtavistock.com](http://www.graceunitedtavistock.com)

## Third Sunday in Lent Searching for Answers

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.*

*John 20:19, 24*



### Prepare

Thomas gets a bad rap in this text. Jesus seems to use Thomas as an object lesson, and admonishment for wanting proof of God's promise of resurrection. But what if Jesus is actually acknowledging and rewarding Thomas for what he has been up to for the past week (remember, he wasn't in the room the first time Jesus appeared)? Have you ever thought about why Thomas wasn't there? Maybe it's the poignant profundity of the story itself that makes us forget the deep faith of Thomas. This is the man who just a few weeks before in Bethany wouldn't let Jesus go alone to his death but declared he would die alongside him. After the death of Christ, this man had not abandoned his faith . . . but was out following it . . . chasing down rumours, and following up on first hand accounts of Jesus sightings. The reason he wasn't in the room the first time Jesus appeared to the cowering and fearful disciples was because he was searching for the risen Christ. His faith had driven him out into the streets searching for what he knew in his heart was true... that his Lord and Saviour had indeed followed through on the promise that he would be with them again. When Jesus did appear and called him by name, he didn't need to touch the wounds. He already knew his friend and his God. When we are faced with upheavals, trials, and heart-rending experiences, we always have a choice. We can cower like the eleven in fear and doubt, or we can be like Thomas-following leads, searching old haunts, and exploring new ones-intentionally exercising the muscles of our faith. Sometimes we need to move our bodies, get out of our heads, and remind ourselves that Spirit is always working. Sometimes we need to leave the comfort of our despair and go looking for the hope our heart knows-Christ is all around us, blessings abound, life never ends, and God is with us always. It is in these times, when we go searching, that we will hear our name called, a reminder that we are beloved and our God is a faithful God.

### Ponder

What would you have done in Thomas's place? What would it have been like to be searching for the risen Christ and then to have him appear before you? How has God responded to your searching in the past ?

### Prayer

My Lord and my God! How often have I suffered alone, too afraid and despairing to remember your promise that you will never leave me? In these times you have always been faithful, and I am grateful. Before I knew who you were, you searched for me. Give me the courage to search for you in my routines and in new pathways not yet taken. Remind me that you are the way, the truth, and the life . . . and you will never leave me. Give me a seeking heart that recognizes you in the faces and places around me. Amen.

## Practice

As often as you are able, take a walk through your neighbourhood/town, stopping to contemplate how God is working right now in resurrecting ways. Imagine you are Thomas looking for evidence of Jesus, listening to the rumours, watching how people interact with each other, searching for leads on how Jesus has been spotted in your neighbourhood. Journal, paint, draw, or write a poem of our reflections. (This idea is based on the Ignatian practice of Biblical contemplation.)

Written by Jen Boyes-Garbin

## Upcoming Services and Dates:

SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: [www.graceunitedtavistock.com](http://www.graceunitedtavistock.com)

**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.

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



**Mar. 14th:** 7:00 pm Bible Study

**Mar. 15th:** 1:30 - 3:00 pm **CANCELLED:** 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

**Mar. 17th:** 6:00 pm Games Night and Pulled Pork dinner

**Mar. 19th:** 10:30 am Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship Service led by Josh Penfold, blessing of knitted and crocheted items. Sunday School. Light snack and refreshments in Zion Hall

12:00 - 2:30 pm Grade 3 to 8 Creative Day

**Mar. 21st:** 7:00 pm WOW Regional Rep meeting by Zoom

**Mar. 22nd:** 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet

**Mar. 23rd:** 12:10 pm Lenten Service and Lunch: "Giving Up Our Lives"

7:00 pm Choir Practice

**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. 16th "Giving Up Enemies"**  
**at 12:10 pm.**

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

## 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](mailto:graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com)

**ADULT \$15**

**CHILD 5-10 \$8**

**CHILD 4 & UNDER FREE**

**FAMILY OF 4 \$40**



## Time to Start Spring Cleaning

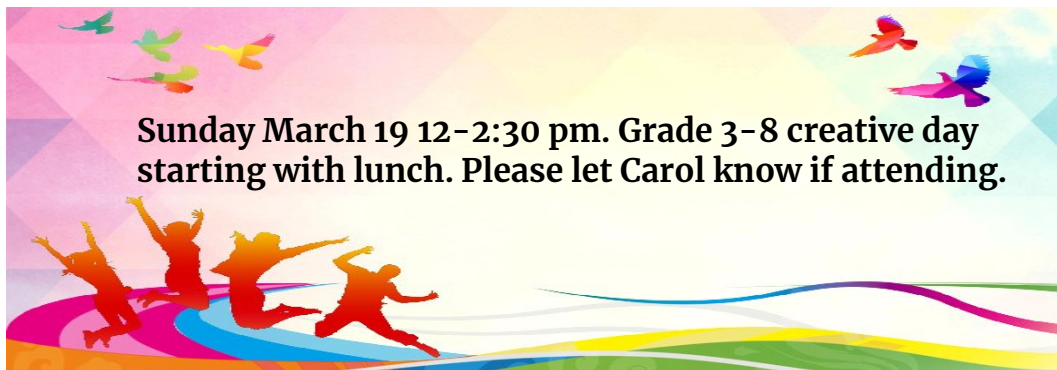
Why not save any items you no longer need and donate them to our church yard sale. We are looking for donations of: dishes, books, jewelry, games, toys, knick-knacks, silverware, craft supplies, lamps, materials, china, decorations, almost everything – except clothing and upholstered furniture.

**We plan to host the yard sale and BBQ Sat. June 3rd.**  
Items will be received the week before.

Look for sign up for volunteers some time in April.



There is a Pyrex 9x13 inch pan in the church kitchen that nobody has claimed. If it is yours, please pick it up. If it isn't claimed it will become part of the church garage sale. Thanks!



## Grace hosted the Lenten service and lunch on Mar 9

