

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • March 24, 2023

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Fifth Sunday in Lent in the deep midwinter

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. John 12:24



Prepare

A few years ago, a significant relationship in my life ended. I found myself on my own for the first time. My children were grown and flown. I had no partner for the first time since I was a teenager. With the death of this relationship, my entire world sunk into shadow. For a few months after its ending, I had little to no hope and I fell into a profound sadness.

Early one morning I had a vivid dream, where I was asked a question: "Of what are you made?" I woke with a start, speaking aloud my reply: "I am made of joy." I realized at that moment that I was being called out of the death of my past life into something more authentically me. I started researching ways to rewire my thinking so that I could function again. Many articles talked about walking and being in a physical space that was different from my usual. So, in the deep midwinter, January to be exact, I began walking every day. I chose a specific wooded area close to my home, and took my camera to document my excursions. For weeks I walked and grieved, taking time to stop and be comforted by nature, capturing beauty in the ice, snow, and barren trees.

As the seasons started to change, and as I reviewed photos, I realized that I was photographing some of the same spots, and each time they were different: various birds and animals, vegetation in various states of dying and growing, changes as ice melted and the ground began to thaw. It occurred to me that our lives are a continuous cycle of beginnings and endings. Both can be painful. We sometimes lose perspective being in the middle of it. But God knows these beginnings and endings. Knows that in order for new parts of us to grow and blossom, we need endings. We need to let some things die: habits, beliefs, assumptions, patterns, relationships. In reflecting on one path over a year, I noticed how some things died but others thrived. Noticed that in the death of some things existed the life of others. Hope can be found in the endings of things . . . In the curiosity of what comes next.

Ponder

What has your experience of death taught you about God's faithfulness in your own life?

Where have you seen new birth arise out of the ending/death of a situation?

Prayer

Creator, when all I notice is death around me, remind me that you are the one who has put the seed of life in all things. When I lose hope, remind me of the very nature in which I exist, that all things work in concert for the good of all, and that I am part of the "all". In my times of loss, grieve with me, and then walk with me towards healing and hope. In gratitude, Amen.

Practice

Undertake a year-long photo documentation project. Choose a forest or garden area where you can photograph the changes that happen. Reflect on the tenacity of life and our perception of life/death vs. God's vision.

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

Mar 26th: 10:30 am Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship service led by Teresa Coulthard. Sunday School. Light snack and refreshments in Zion Hall.

Mar. 28th: 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Mar. 30th: 12:10 pm Lenten Service and Lunch 'Giving Up Popularity'
7:00 pm Choir Practice

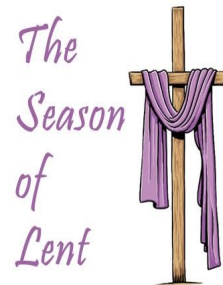
April 2nd: 10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship Service led by Rev Mary Boland, Sunday School.

April 4th: 1:30 pm UCW. Roll Call: Bring your favourite cup and saucer

April 5th: 12:00 pm Zoom Staff Meeting

April 6th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

April 7th: 10:30 am Good Friday worship service led by Susan Humphrey



Easter Worship Services:

April 2nd: 10:30 am Palm Sunday Service led by Rev Mary Boland

April 7th 10:30 am Good Friday, Service led by Susan Humphrey

April 9th, 8:00 am Sunrise Service and Breakfast led by the Youth

10:30 am Easter Communion Service led by Rev. Mary Boland

Emergency pastoral care: Please contact Rev Mary Boland at 519 655 2992 if you are in need of emergency pastoral care.

Contact us

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 (please call ahead for an appointment)

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 Mary Boland 519 655 2992 and we will begin praying for you.

- ✝ pray for Claudette Wettlaufer who has moved into her room at People Care.
- ✝ pray for Brenda Mohr as she struggles with health issues, her sister Jackie (cancer diagnosis).
- ✝ 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.
- ✝ pray for the family of Audrey Weston as they mourn her passing.
- ✝ pray for Ken Rieck as he struggles with some health issues.



Congratulations to Mallory (Mohr) and Carl Horst on the birth for their daughter Aubrey Elizabeth! She is very loved by grandparents Brenda and Gary Mohr.

Lenten Service and Lunch Thurs. Mar. 23th "Giving Up Popularity"
at 12:10 pm.

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



Pulled Pork and Games Night

March 17th

Oh what a night! The night was filled with great food, great community, great laughs and more! 110 people enjoyed the food and games that so many volunteers came together to prepare. **Thanks** to all those who helped in the many ways that you did and to all those who attended. A special thank you to Clarence Herlick and Jody Lupton for your gentle guidance and for sharing Donna's secrets for feeding a crowd! Even though the main goal of the night was to have fun and bring our community back stronger after three challenging years, we realized approximately \$1350!! This money will go towards special purchases needed for the church.



Yard SALE

And BBQ Sat. June 2nd
start saving your donations

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.

The Sunday School is making a craft for G.A.P. (Grace Assistance Program) this Sunday. We would appreciate help delivering them. They will be downstairs after the service, please stop by and pick one (or more) to deliver. Thank you!



Looking for volunteers to assist with worship at the People Care and Maples Nursing homes on Sunday, April 16th for approx. 2 hours (2:30 pm People Care, 3:15 pm Maples). Please speak with Rev. Mary Boland if you are able to help out.



The Tavistock and District Historical Society

Annual Meeting will be held

Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 1:30 pm

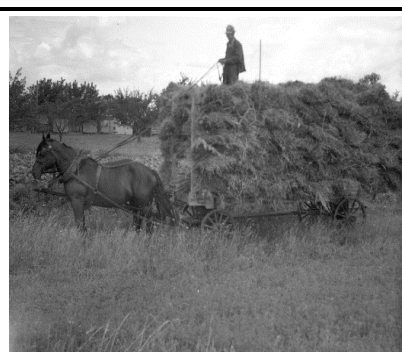
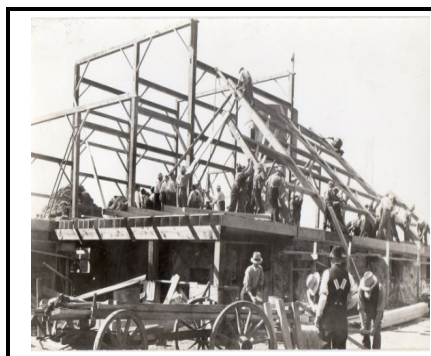
At the Tavistock Mennonite Church, 131 Wettlaufer St, Tavistock

**Special Presentation: Wie Geht's? In the Deitsch Language,
Local Residents Tell of their Life Experiences**

With Rev. Fred Lichti, Moderator

The Wie Geht's Tavistock video recordings feature Wilmot-Tavistock residents who speak Deitsch, a German dialect which was brought from Europe by the settlers and spoken locally here for generations. **30 people** from East Zorra-Tavistock, New Hamburg, Wilmot and Wellesley will be featured on March 25 in "Wie Geht's Clips", a story telling event in Deitsch (also called Pennsylvania German/Dutch) WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES. You'll hear stories about barn raising, butchering, school days, weddings, life-changing accidents, making maple syrup, changes in farming, why Deitsch is being lost and much more.

All are welcome. Donations gratefully accepted.



United Church Canada Türkiye and Syria Update

Our partners are continuing to provide lifesaving support.



Thanks to the generosity of United Church of Canada donors, we have been able to raise over \$182,000 to provide support to our partners who are supporting the people of northern Syria and Türkiye.

The Middle East Council of Churches, a Mission & Service partner of the United Church, along with other members of ACT Alliance and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, continue to respond by supplying first aid, water, temporary shelters, food, and other lifesaving support to people impacted by the earthquakes.

The earthquakes have been devastating, with a death toll of over 55,700 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.

Thank you to the many generous United Church supporters. You can still [donate to send help](#). You can also help by [writing to your Member of Parliament](#) to ask the Canadian government to support lifting sanctions against Syria to facilitate full humanitarian access.

Donate Directly to the United Church of Canada Emergency Appeal

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 payable the United Church of Canada 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.

From the Office of Vocation Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Bulletin Announcement for Tavistock Pastoral Charge March 26 & April 2, 2023

An opportunity for you to participate

Within The United Church of Canada, the Office of Vocation has the responsibility of oversight of ministry personnel. Where a question has been raised regarding ministry personnel, the Response Committee may choose to order a review of that ministry personnel's conduct and effectiveness.

On March 16, 2023 as a result of concerns raised by the Executive of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, the Response Committee ordered a review of the totality of Rev. Gail Fricker's ministry under section J.6.3 of *The Manual* 2023.

The Rev. Carol Hancock has been appointed to conduct the review. An ordained minister, Carol served pastoral charges and communities in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario and then served at the General Council. Now "mostly retired", Carol continues to enjoy work in service of our United Church.

There will be an opportunity for all members and adherents who had direct experience of the Rev. Fricker's ministry to contribute. Carol will conduct interviews by Zoom and telephone, and, if necessary, in person. Dates for the interviews will be available in the next few days. Margaret Bakker has offered to schedule appointments to meet with Carol via Zoom. Please contact Margaret if you would like to make an interview appointment. She can be reached at 519.529.7428 and margbakker@hotmail.com. While most appointments are scheduled for twenty minutes, longer appointments can be arranged if a couple, group or committee wishes to be interviewed together.

Members and adherents can also provide written submissions, either in addition to an interview, or instead of an interview. These need to be signed, dated, and contain the person's contact information should the reviewer need to follow up. Please note: *everyone who meets with Carol and/or contributes written material will be named as a contributor to the Review and may be quoted within the Report that Carol will write.*

This requirement is essential to ensure both accountability and fair process.

Emailed materials can be sent to Carol at chancock@bell.net or posted to 537 Newmarket St., Holland Landing, ON L9N 1K7. The deadline for these contributions will be communicated as soon as possible.

The Review Report will not be made available to the congregation. The Office of Vocation and the Rev. Gail Fricker will receive a copy of the Report and decisions will be made by the Office of Vocation.

The Regional Council understands that the Review process may be a time of uncertainty for all concerned. Please feel free to reach out to Rev. Heather Leffler for pastoral care concerning the review process by email at hleffler@rogers.com or by phone at 519.275.7385 to set up a telephone or Zoom meeting.

Pastoral Care has also been offered to Rev. Fricker.