

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • June 2, 2023

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



'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Spring Conference 2023

As Grace's representative to the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, I had the pleasure of attending the Spring Conference held in Port Elgin this past weekend. I attended by Zoom on this occasion but in future will try to attend in person in order to get to know better my fellow representatives. They are an enthusiastic bunch.

The theme for the Conference was "Dreaming Dreams" and in our initial breakout sessions we were encouraged to express our hopes and dreams for our own community of faith in particular and also for our United Church in general. Subsequently we were presented with some innovative examples of how other churches get young people involved in social justice issues, how they share resources with neighbouring churches, and how some incorporate a love of nature into the worship services.

At one very moving moment in the program, Jason Richards (husband of Rev. Young Seo) was honoured. And Rev. Marion Jackson Tyler was recognized for her 50 years of service.

It just so happened that last weekend corresponded with Pentecost and that seemed to be a background theme throughout the conference. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit revealed itself in whole new ways. It made our world look different. Everyone understood the Gospel message in their own language and in their own place. Native tongues were affirmed. Diversity in culture and ethnicity and sexuality were affirmed and celebrated. Pentecost is a rebuke of any system that would erase diversity. Pentecost initiated a radical reshaping and restructuring of the world and offers us encouragement and wisdom and courage. We need new wineskins. As one speaker said, "Help us to keep radical!"

Respectfully submitted by Paul Bartlett

† † † † † † †

Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Spring Meeting 2023 - Port Elgin ON - May 26 and 27

Paul has described the conference theme so well. It was truly a dream come true to attend in person this year and see colleagues and old friends after the years of just meeting electronically. 'Ninety and nine' people attended in person and we were divided up into 12 table groups for discussion purposes and to get to know our fellow regional council members. The Zoom attendance varied between 60 and 75 - so all in all, a well attended gathering.

Throughout the meeting we were guided by these 'BRAVE' principles to ensure community safety:

B - be accountable for the impact of both our words and silence.

R - reflect on and name our own biases.

A - actively listen

V - vocalize questions that arise from our learning.

E - encounter new ideas with curiosity and wonder.



When it came to the closing 'Celebration of Ministries' service, one person was ordained and two were admitted (meaning they were already ordained in another church and perhaps in another country) to ministry in the United Church of Canada. One statistic that has stuck with me is that 40% of the communities of faith in our region are without a permanent minister. So you are not alone in your search.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented Grace United Church - Tavistock at this annual gathering.

Blessings, Rev.Marg

Upcoming Services and Dates

SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

'Grace United Tavistock'

June 3rd: Yard Sale and BBQ

June 4th: Worship service with Communion led by Rev. Marg Smith. Sunday School. All are welcome for light snack and refreshments following the service.

June 6th: 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

June 8th: 12:00 pm Zoom Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Choir Practice

June 11th: 10:30 am Intergenerational Service in Zion Hall celebrating the year end of Sunday School before summer break.

June 14th: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet

June 15th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

June 18th: 10:30 am Father's Day and Indigenous Sunday Worship service led by Rev Marg Smith.



All dates and events can be found on our website calendar as well. Link to the calendar:
[Grace UC Calendar](#)

"Jesus on May 28"



Did you find Jesus on Sunday? Since Easter Sunday, Jesus has been in hiding in the sanctuary, moving each Sunday to a new location. Have you seen him? Have you found Jesus? Watch the newsletter each week to find out where Jesus was hidden the previous Sunday!

Contact us

Rev Marg Smith cell 289 926 0707 margsmith@rogers.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 (please call ahead for an appointment)

Rev. Marg Smith, Thursdays 9:30 - 3:30 pm

Katherine Brenneman, Thursdays 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 Marg Smith 289 926 0707 and we will begin praying for you.

- † pray for Brenda Mohr as she struggles with health issues, and her sister Jaqueline who is now in hospice in London.
- † pray for Keith Weitzel as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Ken Brenneman as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Brian Gerber as he struggles with health issues.
- † pray for John Markle as he recovers from his hip surgery.
- † pray for Marg Pletsch as she deals with health issues.



Yard Sale and BBQ Sat. June 3rd

Yard Sale from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Rain or Shine

Refreshments Available

BBQ from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The 96th Anniversary of the Inauguration of The United Church of Canada

This service will be streamed live on June 10, 2021, at 7 p.m. EDT,
on [The United Church of Canada YouTube channel](#).



The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable.

Be honest and transparent anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you may get hurt.

Give the world your best anyway.

- Mother Teresa

2023 GRACE UNITED CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

EMILY LUPTON

Emily will be beginning her first year at the University of Guelph pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

From her application, "Being involved in my community is something that means a lot to me. I am a faithful member of Grace United Church and have been since I was baptized as a baby. In 2021, I took a major step in my faith into getting confirmed. My church family made me feel welcome with my decision which made me feel excited to get involved...Watching the kids around church reminds me so much of my childhood throughout Grace, and the friends you make. Grace United Church is a place I am able to worship and do what you love like teaching young kids about God and Jesus Christ, as well as a place full of people I am able to call family."

Emily is involved at Grace by teaching Sunday School, reading in worship, Journey to the Stable and many other special events.



ELLIE SHANTZ

Ellie will be beginning her first year at McMaster University, Hamilton in Kinesiology.

From her application, "As a member of Grace United Church, I have had the opportunity to participate and involve myself in the church's various activities and events. My involvement has allowed me to grow spiritually and socially and has given me a sense of belonging to a community that shares my values and beliefs. My involvement in Grace United Church has had a profound impact on my life. Through attending Sunday services, volunteering for various ministries and contributing to outreach programs, I have grown spiritually and socially and have gained a sense of belonging to a community that shares my faith. I am grateful for the opportunities that the church has provided me and I look forward to continuing my involvement in the years to come.

Ellie is involved at Grace by teaching Sunday School, reading in worship, Journey to the Stable and many other special events.



We continue to hold Emily, Ellie and all students in our prayers as they grow and be the hands and feet of Christ.

CONGRATULATIONS EMILY AND ELLIE!--BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

Camp Bimini

5K Walk, Ride or Run

The Camp Bimini 5km Walk, Ride, Run is coming up on the weekend of June 24/25, 2023 and Carol Young is participating:

From Carol: I am walking 5 km for Camp Bimini on June 24 because

this place and space is so important to so many, including myself. It's a place and space that helps people to realize their gifts and talents and to help each of us see it in each other. There are many projects that are happening at the camp to build it for our present and future generations. My family has been involved for three generations and building upon what has already been built is so important to me. Please give to keep this great place and space thriving for years to come! I am asking for and wanting your support! Please consider sponsoring me by clicking this link <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/74850/camp-bimini-5k-walk-ride-or-run/pledge/participant/19861514>

Fundraised to Date: \$682. Thank you to all the very generous supporters.

CAMP BIMINI OPEN HOUSE! Sunday, June 4, 2023, 2-4 pm

This is a great time to take a tour of the camp, meet some of the staff and ask all of your questions. It is a great opportunity for new campers to check out the camping site and for former campers to visit their favourite summer spot and see what's new!

Spread the word!

Celebrate Indigenous History Month



June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to commemorate and honour the history, contributions, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples in Canada. The summer solstice, celebrated by many Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island for millennia, is recognized as National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada (June 21, 2023). First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and urban Indigenous organizations organize many events where the general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

We encourage you to make connections with Indigenous neighbours, dive deeper into Indigenous history, and

experience the beauty of Indigenous cultures and traditions.

For more on Indigenous justice, culture, and reconciliation news, consider subscribing to the [Living into Right Relations e-newsletter](#) or follow [Indigenous Ministries on Facebook](#).

Wilmot Family Resource Centre (WFRC) and Woolwich Community Services (WCS) are teaming up to lead a grassroots community initiative to create a youth-driven engagement strategy that better serves *rural youth* and improves youth mental health. Youth Ambassadors are essential for this initiative and are needed to engage their fellow youth in their

township to understand what rural [youth](#) want and need through connections with youth, led by youth, for youth. WFRC is currently recruiting **1 Youth Ambassador** for this initiative and they will work out of their agency location in New Hamburg. This is a part-time position (approx. 10 hrs/week) designed for a local student in their last 1-2 years of high school. Job posting with details can be found at www.wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca or call our office at 519-662-2731 to request a copy. Deadline to apply is June 9, 2023 at 4:30pm.

My name is Kelsey Lauersen and I am the new resource coordinator at Stratford House of Blessing. As we enter the summer months, the demand for our services remains high – as of May 25, we have served 638 families (comprised of 1098 individuals) including 29 new families this month alone – and our supply is dwindling. I am emailing to ask that you consider highlighting SHOB's most needed items:

- **Peanut Butter**
- **Side Dishes (e.g. Sidekicks)**
- **Canned Vegetables**
- **Brown Beans**
- **Crackers**
- **Healthy School Snacks**



FOOD DONATIONS DELIVERY: We are located at: 423 Erie Street Stratford, Ontario beside the train tracks. Park your car at the top of the ramp by the red door between 9:00 am and Noon or 1:00 to 4:00 pm. A staff or volunteer will help you. You may need to let us know you are here at 519-273-3433 or come to the front door.



June is Pride Month



PRIDE Prayer

Constant Friend, because

People of every sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity have the right to live with dignity and without persecution or discrimination, we

Remember in our prayers:

LGBTQ+ people of Chechnya, Uganda, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and elsewhere who have been murdered and tortured because of who they are. We remember them and the people who love them.

LGBTQ+ refugees from around the world seeking safety and sanctuary. We remember them and the people who welcome them.

Trans and gender-diverse people in Canada, the United States, Brazil, and elsewhere, who are targeted victims of hate crimes and assaults. We remember them and the people who love them.

LGBTQ+ people whose dignity and self-esteem have been eroded by hateful systems and structures. We remember them and seek to be people who love more fully.

Individually, we each uniquely reflect your glory and express your love, but anti-gay violence, homophobia, and transphobia have blocked many from recognizing your beauty in all people. All of creation suffers from the effects of such hate, fear, and violence.

Daily, may we dedicate ourselves to building bridges of love and hope where harmful divisions have been made, making equity and equality for all people our goal, while working continually for justice, so that Everyone can live fully in your love. Amen.

—a prayer by Alydia Smith for Pride month
United Church of Canada

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Hunter Bayer - June 1

Randy Harris - June 2

Andrea Jutzi - June 3

Ruby Jackman - June 4

Casey Rae Weitzel - June 5

Marg Smith - June 7

Marjorie Wisby - June 8

Hayley Harris Ayotte - June 12

Logan Wilson - June 17

Jolene Herlick - June 23

Kayla Shantz - June 24

Susan Pellow - June 27

Brackley Ann McBride - June 28

Kristene Stein Ankenmann - June 30



Happy anniversary to:

Tim and Amanda Metski—June 2

Wayne and Carol Shewfelt - June 4

Bill and Elaine Green - June 4

Gerald and Judy Zehr - June 5

Paul and Joan Bartlett - June 5

Brian and Elysia Cook - June 7

Ken and Karen Brenneman - June 10

Wayne and Linda Stock - June 13

Bill and Wanda Brown - June 18

Shaun and Amanda Miller - June 26

John and Shelia Roppel - June 29



Spring 1997 was a big one for Rev Marg!! She became a grandma for the first time that April, graduated from U of T with her MDiv in May and was ordained on June 1st! Rev. Marg was recognized for 26 years of ordination at the WOW spring conference, congratulations! Here is a younger version of her with granddaughter Kiria on ordination day!

