

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • June 23, 2023

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Common Ground: Young Adults and the Church

By A. S. Compton

"Why do you go to church, Aunt Sue?" I'd tell my five-year old niece I want to lean about God.

But is that why? On days when I'm too tired to retain the sermon, do I go out of habit? Obligation? Guilt? What about days when I disagree with what has been said? To be part of community? Do I go thinking I will find something worth staying for, and leave disappointed because it wasn't there this week either?

I don't think any of those are my real answer. Perhaps a combination of the above.

I go to church because I believe and follow Christ. Faith is not a solo mission. True, my faith is my own, and no one can decide for me. But faith is also about community. Jesus surrounded himself with 12 believers. They kept one another accountable, asked questions, discussed ideas, and tried to work out what Jesus' words meant. Twelve really different people, finding common ground at Jesus' side. They failed together, and they grew strong together. Church is about having a place to be encouraged, and a safe place to ask questions.

We're at a chaotic stage as young adults; one friend works a lot of Saturday night and Sunday shifts, another friend has no car. Exams, papers, busy children or new living arrangements amount to legitimate excuses. But they all beg the question: Where are your priorities? This question is not only for those who find it a challenge to attend church, but also for churches. Some churches are stagnant, thinking that change will cause disruptions, or they just don't know where to start. Some are obsessed with finding new members, willing to do whatever it takes to keep people around. But the reasons for how people react to church, and why they do or do not attend are as many as there are people, and churches.

What does the modern church look like? It's an impossible question. But maybe the answer can take into account some the issues young adults are facing.

Many adults have irregular work hours. Much of the business world no longer keeps Sunday set apart and working hours reflect that, especially for those entering the workforce without seniority. Maybe the modern church is less committed to Sunday mornings, giving opportunity for people with less typical schedules to attend. But it goes deeper than an appointed day. Some people argue that young adults (myself included), are too focused on themselves, and won't bother with church. Though unfair, I do think it is true that many of us struggle with the balance between learning who we are by focusing on ourselves, and finding places to reach out to others. Friends have burned themselves out focusing on outreach, forgetting themselves. Faith is personal, but faith requires interactions in order to grow. Churches reflect this struggle for balance; some are very focused inward, others are stretching past their limits in outreach. Sharing these struggles, maybe young adults and the church can find some common ground.

Back to my question of priorities; this is where we find common ground. We find a common place by stripping away everything else. *'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.'* (John 13:34)

Love is our greatest commandment.

Interested in loving people? Looking for love? Curious about what love is? And what it can do? Me too.

Submitted by Shirley Wilhelm

Upcoming Services and Dates

SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

'Grace United Tavistock'

June 25th: 10:30 am Worship service led by the worship committee. Meditation Chip Bender. All are welcome for a light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following.

July 2nd: 10:30 am Worship Service in Zion Hall led by Rev Marg Smith. **Wear red and white to church.** All are welcome for a light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following.

July 9th: 10:30 am Worship Service in Zion Hall led by Rev Marg Smith. All are welcome for a light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following.

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

Did you find Jesus on Sunday?



Jesus on June 18! Sitting on the organ.

Summer newsletters

During the summer months there will be a reduced number of newsletters sent out.

Schedule is:

July 7th: NO newsletter

July 14th newsletter

July 21st NO newsletter

July 28th newsletter

Aug 4th NO newsletter

Aug 11th newsletter

Aug 18th NO newsletter

Please take this into consideration for any announcements you may have. We are also welcoming any front page ideas and submissions you have to share.

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 and family as they mourn the passing of her sister Jackie and for Brenda as she copes with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Keith Weitzel as he deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Brian Gerber as he struggles with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Marg Pletsch as she deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Laverne Mcburney as he deals with health issues.

MINI MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Year to Date

JAN 1 - JUN 15

	2022	2023
Anniversary	0	0
Core Receipts	38,216	45,097
Other Donations	0	662
UCW Donation	1,000	1,500
Fundraising	3,295	5,018
Manse Rental	5,250	5,700
Funeral Donations	200	4,870
Misc. Receipts	1,299	3,828
Total Receipts	49,260	66,675
Expenses	74,255	72,703
Surplus/Deficit	-24,995	-6,028

Thank you for your
generosity and all
the ways you support
Grace United
Church.

A reminder that donations to Grace United Church can be received by:

- Plate placed at the entrance on Sunday morning, using your offering envelopes or a pew envelope. Please note we are not passing the plate during worship.
- Etransfer to gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com (Security answer is Grace1980). Also include any special notes in the message.
- By mail to Grace United Church, PO Box 189 Tavistock ON NoB 2Ro
- We also offer Pre-Authorized Remittance. [PAR forms are available here.](#)

Grace UC Booth at the Tavistock Fall Fair Sept 8 - 10



There have been ongoing discussions about a booth at the fair this year and the decision has been made to have one but on a smaller scale than previous years. In order to make it work though, we need a firm commitment from some of you to help with specific duties. Setup will be as usual on Thursday evening which requires some items be moved from the church to the arena back door. Take down will be Sunday afternoon at three thirty and will require that the items be moved back to the church. We have decided to have coffee, cold pop, water, cookies, muffins and ice cream bars, which

will eliminate the difficult work of scooping cold, hard ice cream into cones. If you are interested in baking muffins or cookies, we need to know that and if you were someone who provided coffee other years and wish to do so again, kindly let us know. The length of working in the booth has been three hours and we will stay with that. This will require volunteers for Friday 4-7, 7-10; Saturday 10-1, 1-4, 4-7, 7-10; and Sunday 10-3:30, likely in two shifts. Students who wish to count helping out as volunteer hours for high school are encouraged to let us know. This note is a general information one and updates and further requests will be shared as the fair time gets closer. Please contact one of the following with your intent to help make this another successful fair booth for Grace.

Anne Gregory 519-274-5100. Please call after June 26, as we are away,

Marianne Ruby 519-274-1422 Please call after 5 pm

Mary Boland 519-655-2992



Certificate of Thanksgiving ♦ Témoignage de reconnaissance à

Tavistock Pastoral Charge

is recognized for giving/pour son don de

\$12,356

*in 2022 for the Mission & Service of
The United Church of Canada*

*Through Mission & Service we help transform lives, inspire
meaning and purpose, and build a better world.*



*en 2022 à Mission & Service
de l'Église Unie du Canada*

*Grâce à Mission & Service, nous aidons à transformer des vies, à
insuffler un sens et une raison d'être, à bâtir un monde meilleur.*

Carmen Lansdowne

*The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator ♦ Le pasteur Carmen Lansdowne, modératrice
June/Juin 2023*

God's Mission, Our Gifts ♦ La mission de Dieu, pour nous, par nous

Choir BBQ June 15



The choir enjoyed a BBQ at the home of Paul and Joan Bartlett before the summer break. This marked the last choir practice until they start up again in the fall. Anyone interested in joining choir in the fall should speak with Marilyne.

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: \$2518 or 42% of my goal. Thank you to all the very generous supporters.



Nations coming together, standing in solidarity, creating a better tomorrow.

SUNRISE OPENING CEREMONY & BREAKFAST IN THE PARK

BREAKFAST
UNTIL 11AM





Please bring your hand drums

6:00 AM - JULY 1ST
NORM S HILL PARK, 251 JACOB STREET, NEW HAMBURG
ALONG THE RIVERSIDE

Crow Shield Lodge will be leading the sunrise ceremony on July 1st starting at 6am at Norm S Hill Park, 251 Jacob Street New Hamburg. Forward together looks like walking side by side, celebrating our shared responsibility to community, family, and friendship. Following the opening sunrise ceremony, join us for breakfast in the park to continue celebrating friendship and community building. Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group volunteers will also be onsite selling calendars throughout the day. All proceeds from the sales of these 2024 calendars support Crow Sheild and their land-based healing services for all nations.

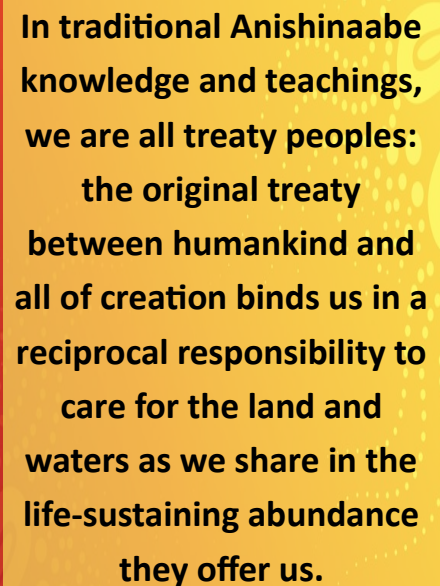
Happy Pride Month

Our agenda is simple. Equality, the ability to love loudly, live authentically, be respected and embraced and to not live in fear of persecution or hatred!



**DON'T GIVE UP ON THIS YEAR.
KEEP FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD.
KEEP SHOWING UP.
KEEP LOVING.
KEEP GIVING BACK.
KEEP BEING KIND.
KEEP BEING BRAVE.
KEEP CARING.
KEEP TRYING NEW THINGS.
KEEP SHOWING GRACE.
KEEP ON.
THIS WORLD NEEDS YOU
TO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD.**

National Indigenous History Month



In traditional Anishinaabe knowledge and teachings, we are all treaty peoples: the original treaty between humankind and all of creation binds us in a reciprocal responsibility to care for the land and waters as we share in the life-sustaining abundance they offer us.