

# GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

**Grace United Church • September 15, 2023**

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

## **Cherishing Creation**

Imagine a world where our actions today echo far into the future, where the choices we make now, matter tomorrow. This is the essence of Creation Time. It reminds us that our Earth isn't just a home; it's a divine gift. How we cherish this gift reveals our true relationship with the Creator.

Take a walk through downtown Capreol, just north of Sudbury, Ontario, and you'll see Trinity United Church, situated on an intersection of street and railway, right in the heart of a bustling community. I met with Pastor Pam Brown (student minister), and leaders Faye Moffatt and Judy Sumner, who were excited to share Trinity's green journey with me.

Judy shared about their solar panel installation. This was a decade-long labour of love, made real through the generous support of Trinity members and the United Church Faithful Footprints([opens in a new tab](#)) program. Trinity's move to solar power goes beyond energy savings and cost reductions. Significant savings have allowed funds to be reallocated to support ministry. It is a step towards a future where sustainability is a way of life, a witness to Trinity's hope for a healthy community today and tomorrow.

However, Trinity's commitment to creation doesn't stop there, Faye was quick to add. By partnering with the community garden and phasing out single-use plastics, they have established a foundation of environmentally conscious practices that span all areas of congregational life, from the food bank to facility use. This dedication speaks of a deeper theological commitment. It's about viewing the Earth and its resources, not as commodities to be exploited but as a sacred trust.

Liturgically, Creation Time is a time of heightened awareness and action. At Trinity, it's a season marked by special worship services integrating prayers, hymns, and photographs that reflect the beauty and sanctity of creation. Moreover, the community of faith finds unique ways to allow members to share their own sustainability practices, whether it's about conserving water, saving energy, or preserving food. These shared stories both inspire action and create a sense of communal responsibility.

It's inspiring how Trinity sees their eco-initiatives. For them, these steps are a simple and profound expression of their faith in a God who nourishes, sustains, and renews all. Supporting projects that champion climate action isn't a side activity—it's central to how Trinity lives their hope.

Stewardship reminds us that we are empowered to make choices with resources, whether of time or talent or wealth. Everything Trinity has done, large and small, are so much more than just a checklist of green initiatives. They are each a choice to use what they are given to make the most impact for their community and beyond. These acts of faithful stewardship are tangible expressions of the belief that when we care for the Earth, we are, in essence, fulfilling our God-given role as stewards of sacred gifts.

As we enter this liturgical time, may you, too, find your own unique way to witness to hope and engage in faithful action, ever mindful of our divine calling as stewards of God's precious gift—our planet.

—Rev. Melody Duncanson Hales, Community of Faith Stewardship Support staff for Canadian Shield and Shining Waters regions and Canadian Shield regional staff for congregational support.

## Upcoming Services and Dates

**Sept 17th:** 10:30 am Worship Service held at Camp Bimini led by Rev Marg Smith. Sunday School resumes. Please bring a lawn chair. All are welcome to stay for the Sunday School welcome back BBQ.

**Sept 20th:** 9:00 am Ministerial Meeting at Quehl's Restaurant

**Sept 21st:** 7:00 pm Choir Practice

**Sept 24th:** 10:30 am Worship Service led by Rev Kathy Douglas (first Sunday back upstairs in the sanctuary). Sunday School. Wear an orange shirt to support National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Service will be recorded for online worship. Following the service all are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments and social time.

**Sept 26th:** 7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting - Knox Parlour

**Sept 27th:** 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet

7:00 pm Board Meeting

**Sept 28th:** 7:00 pm Choir Practice

**Sept 28-29:** Western Ontario Waterways Fall Online Gathering

**Sept 30th:** 12:00 pm Bus leaves for Blue Jays Game.

**Oct. 1st:** 10:30 am Worldwide Communion Sunday, service led by Rev. Marg Smith



**All dates and events can be found on our website calendar as well.**



**Link to the calendar: [GraceUC Calendar](#)**

**Sunday, September 17th 10:30 am**

**Worship at Camp Bimini**

**3180 Perth Road 113**

**Please bring a lawn chair. Weather permitting we will worship outdoors, please dress appropriately. In case the mosquitoes are out bug spray might be a good idea.**

**Following worship there will be a welcome back BBQ. The Sunday School will set up, clean up and provide the food for the BBQ. Cost will be by donation for the Sunday School.**

### 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 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.
- ✝ pray for Ron Rudy as he deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Ken Brenneman as he deals with health issues.



Grace is once again having a Thanksgiving collection for the Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP). Your Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee has been in touch with TAP and they would be grateful for any of the following items - toilet paper, paper towels, tea, coffee, gift cards for local businesses. Collection boxes can be found at both entrances to our church leading up to Thanksgiving Sunday. THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to everyone who continues to collect clean, dry milk bags and brings them to Grace. This project has been ongoing for a number of years now and we have collected thousands of bags which are made into sleeping mats for people in developing countries. Keep up the great work!!!!



Choir Practice begins again on Thursday, September 21st at 7pm.

New Members are welcome. Please speak with Marilyne if you are interested in sharing your musical talents in worship.



**Nursery will be available starting September 24th. It will not be supervised, parents and caregivers are welcome to use this space if needed.**



SOLD OUT. Bus trip on Sat. Sept 30th Blue Jays vs. Tampa Bay. Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket!

Bus leaves Grace parking lot at 12:00 pm. Game time 3:07 pm.



On Sunday, September 24th wear orange to worship to support National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th.

Why Orange ? Phyllis Jack Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation went to St. Joseph Mission Residential School. On her first day of school, Phyllis wore an orange shirt that her grandmother had given her. It was immediately taken away, and that marked the beginning of Phyllis's long separation from her family and community, a separation caused by actions of the church and federal government.



High Noon is around the corner. This program, sponsored by our local churches, is returning on Thursday, Oct. 12 here at Grace. A hot lunch and entertainment is planned. (See brochure in Zion Hall). Hope you will be there.



Please be in contact with Rev Marg if you are interested in baptism. Depending on interest a fall baptism service may be planned.  
289-929-0707



We invite you to share your ideas for the front page. We would love to hear from you, please submit articles to Katherine at [graceunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedchurch@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for your submissions!

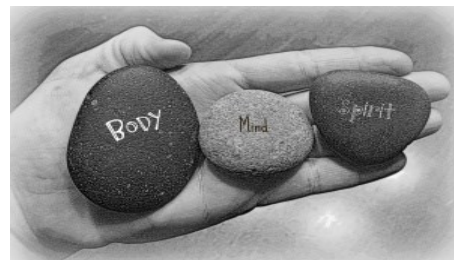
## A Women's Retreat Day

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9 am to 4 pm

Camp Bimini 3180 Perth Road 113, RR 1 St. Pauls, ON NOK 1V0

For women of all stages and ages, this day is a day to celebrate and build Body, Mind and Spirit in women. It is a day that invites and gathers women to share, to grow, and to be all in the comfort and peacefulness that is Camp Bimini. We'll have times of laughter, community, sharing, playing, learning and more. This is a good day for friends to come together or come on your own and meet new friends.



Cost: \$55 (Do not let cost be a deterrent. Please connect with us if it is.).

Meals, snacks, workshops and supplies are included.

[Registration online here.](#)

Or fill out the form on the bulletin board at church.

Register by Sept 23rd.

Payment by Etransfer or cheque or cash

## Report from Fair Booth Committee

It was good to be back at the fair this year after being away for four years. We wanted to begin with baby steps and knew from the beginning of our planning that we would not make nearly as much profit as in other years. Many folk from the community commented positively about our presence and were happy to see us again. Outreach doesn't just happen in a church building but by being out and about in the community where people are being active. Many members of our church were most helpful in many ways and we thank those who donated coffee, creamers and milkettes, paid for insurance coverage, baked cookies and muffins, worked in the booth or helped move things to and from the arena. It was a great example of taking a village.

The left-over ice cream pieces are being donated to the Back to Sunday School event this Sunday at Camp Bimini. There is also some left-over pop which may be purchased on September 24 after church. We think approximately \$700 will be realized and again thank you for your continued support of Grace United Church at the Tavistock Fall Fair. Your committee is very pleased with the way everything went and we look forward to being present at the fair again next year.

Anne Gregory, Mary Boland and Marianne Ruby



From our Community of Faith—Thank you to the organizing committee of the Fall Fair Food Booth--Anne Gregory, Marianne Ruby and Mary Boland, for arranging our Fall Fair Booth. It was a great success!



Congratulations to Ava Cook  
the Junior Fall Fair Ambassador.

# Wider Community Events

**Larry Mercey Trio Concert  
@ Parkview United Church,  
470 Ontario Street, Stratford**



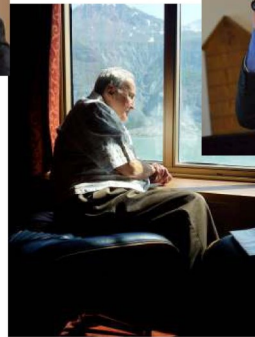
Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – 2-4pm  
with a light lunch to follow.  
Doors open at 1pm.  
Tickets - \$30 each

Tickets:  
Janice Wick – 519-508-1736  
Church Office – 519-271-1609

## **The Songs My Father Sang To Me....**

### **A Musical Sermon with The Rev. Mark Curtis**

Sunday, October 22nd, 2023 @ 3:00 pm  
Knox United Church  
92 Northumberland Street, Ayr, Ontario



More info at  
[Knox UC Ayr website](https://www.knoxucayr.com)

FREE WILL OFFERING

***"We Own This Now" October 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm,  
Steinmann Mennonite Church, 1316 Snyder Rd W, Baden.***

This play, presented by Ted & Company TheatreWorks, is sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee; the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships; local churches and church groups; businesses and individuals. It explores the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justified European acquisition of the Americas and the oppression of Indigenous peoples and is a follow up to the play, "Discovery - A Comic Lament" which was performed in the Region in 2018. Tickets are \$15 each (\$10 for students). Get yours at [mcc.org/we-own-this-now](https://mcc.org/we-own-this-now).

**TED & CO** Presents

# **WE OWN THIS NOW**

by Alison Casella Brookins

**Thursday Oct. 12 @ 7:00pm**  
Steinmann Mennonite Church

**Sunday Oct. 15 @ 7:00pm**  
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

**MCC** General Admission / \$15 adult, \$10 student  
Tickets at [mcc.org/we-own-this-now](https://mcc.org/we-own-this-now)

