

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • September 29, 2023

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'GraceUnitedTavistock'



'Grace United Tavistock'



www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Wall of Welcome: Rev. Anne Hines writes how their church's Truth and Reconciliation project transformed not just their walls, but also their lives.

Truth and Reconciliation is teaching us that harm occurs when we tell others who or how to be in the world. So, when Roncesvalles United Church asked renowned Indigenous artist, Philip Cote, to paint on the inside walls of our church sanctuary we decided on a commission with a difference. Instead of us dictating what we wanted him to do, Philip was invited to paint *anywhere* he chose and *anything* he chose. We committed to giving him full agency to create in our sacred space, having no idea what the outcome would be.

Across three 30-foot walls, Philip painted vibrant symbols of an Ojibway creation story. He called it "Eighth Fire;" a term his peoples use to describe a phase of existence when all of us will recognize and honour our shared humanity. We will finally become One. Now, sacred Indigenous stories live alongside the sacred Christian stories in our stained glass windows, sharing the same authority, the same "pride of place."

Through the generosity of The United Church of Canada, we were able to commission a companion film that shares Philip's cosmology and vision beyond our walls. From 100 applicants, Philip chose Canadian/Latino filmmaker PJ Marcellino and Indigenous filmmaker Jo Proulx to create "Eighth Fire." And, on



Credit: Rev Anne Hines

PJ's recent trip to Cape Verde, West Africa, filmmakers there asked to translate it into Portuguese to show at their national film festival. They believe that the story of a church letting go of control and honouring Indigenous spirituality in our space can play a part in helping them confront their own tragic history as the original site of the sale of enslaved peoples.

Philip Cote says, "This mural is a visual story of our beginning. It's the first of its kind in a church in North America. This is how the narrative is going to change. Our story needs to be inside all institutions and across the country. Sharing our voice and our philosophy is the only way to break down the barriers of systemic racism in our country."

This is not just paint on a sanctuary wall. This is the "Eighth Fire."

The Rev. Anne Hines, Roncesvalles United Church, Toronto

Link to the "[Eighth Fire](#)" on YouTube. Video shared with The United Church of Canada with full permission. Communities of faith have permission to show the video only using the link provided.

Upcoming Services and Dates

Sept 28-29: Western Ontario Waterways Fall Online Gathering

Sept 29th: 11:00 am Funeral Service for Brian Gerber at Francis Funeral Home. Burial and Lunch follows at Grace.

Sept 30th: 12:00 pm Bus leaves from Grace Parking Lot for Blue Jays Game. Game time 3:07 pm

Oct. 1st: 10:30 am Worldwide Communion Sunday, service led by Rev. Marg Smith. Sunday School. Service will be recorded for online worship. All are invited for light snack, refreshments and social time in Knox Parlour following worship.

Oct. 3rd: 1:30 pm UCW. Roll Call: Collection for TAP. Guest speaker detailing the Rotary Aquabox Program.

Oct. 5th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Oct. 8th: 10:30 am Thanksgiving Service led by Rev Marg Smith. Sunday School. Service will be recorded for online worship. All are invited for light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following worship.

Oct. 11th: 9:00 am Ministerial Meeting at Quehl's Restaurant

10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n Knit, Stay n Crochet

12:00 pm Zoom Staff Meeting

Oct. 12th: 12:00 pm High Noon Lunch

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Oct. 15th: 10:30 am Blessing of the Animals Worship Service led by Rev Marg Smith.

Oct. 22nd: 10:30 am Anniversary Worship Service

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



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

Services will be recorded and can be found on our You Tube Channel usually later Sunday.



Link to [Grace United Tavistock You Tube](#)



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. Thanks in advance for your submissions!

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 - 2:00 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 the family of Brian Gerber as they mourn his passing.
- ✝ pray for Brenda Mohr as she copes with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Keith Weitzel as he deals 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.
- ✝ pray for Shelley Walker as she deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Larry Odette, father of Ken Odette, who is dealing 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!

If you wish to contribute gift cards, be assured the baskets will be checked on a regular basis and cards safely tucked away until Thanksgiving Sunday.

**CAMP BIMINI
ON-LINE AUCTION
COMING THIS FALL**



**NOW COLLECTING
DONATIONS**

- WOODWORKING, GIFT CERTIFICATES, GIFTWARE, ETC.
- ITEMS FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH
- EMAIL TREASURER@CAMPBIMINI.CA

High Noon Lunch

Zion Hall Grace United Church

Have Lunch with a neighbour!

Socialize over a nutritious home-style lunch
from 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm.

Stay for entertainment, speakers,
music or activities

**Oct 12, 2023: Music with Dwight
Steinman and Jim Bender**



Thank you to Randy Harris, Jane McKay, and Jen Reibling. Randy did a great job mowing the lawn at the church this year—a very busy year for lawn mowing! Jane took great care of the flower beds. Jen helped with planting new perennials and the annuals. Thanks to them and to anyone who may have been missed for taking the time to help maintain the lawn and flower beds.

Northern Love: A new project supported by Sit-n-Knit, Stay-n-Crochet



This past June, Callie Haverkamp was a guest speaker at Grace's Sit-n-Knit, Stay-n-Crochet group. She shared with us information about a very worthwhile project which she operates from the basement in her home near Woodstock. She calls the project Northern Love. She ships donated second-hand items to people in need in northern communities, often Nunavut and 10 other locations as well. Callie told us that "All items are free (to the recipient), so I do not profit from this. It's a goodwill outreach that I love doing."

What I really like about this project is that Callie photographs each item and posts it on a website which can be accessed by folks in those communities. Folks can choose what they would like to receive. Callie then boxes the selected items and ships them by Canada Post. The cost to the recipients is the cost of shipping (\$28 - \$38), although some packages are sent free of charge to those who cannot afford to pay. Within her first year Callie had shipped out almost 300 boxes! In many cases these items are just not available to purchase near their homes.

How can the Grace community can help:

1. by donating second-hand items. I will coordinate this project (Carol Young when I am away from Oct. 19 until Nov. 2) and we welcome donations, which we will accumulate and then invite Callie to pick them up. We have chosen a deadline of November 15th to accept items. Callie has sent a list of items which are needed: clothing from infant sizes to adult (no rips or stains please), Bras are very popular, scrubs, Kitchen items, blankets, kid's toys (please nothing huge – they have to fit into a shipping box), kid's books, footwear (no sandals), yarn, fabric, sewing items, craft supplies, fur (coats, hats, mitts, etc. – even if these items have rips or are not in good condition, individuals in the north will repurpose them), baby items (bottles, diapers, etc.), hygiene products, make-up, tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, etc.
2. Canada Post account holders can print off free shipping labels on Tuesdays during the month of October – labels that can be passed on to Callie to be used as needed in the months ahead. Email Mary or Carol if you need more information about how to do this. (Each label has a value of \$28-\$38).

When cleaning out your closets and cupboards this fall, please keep this project in mind. Together we can make a difference to folks in need within our own country. Thank you!

Submitted by Mary Boland – mcboland53@gmail.com

Hello everyone, I can't express how grateful I am for your thoughts and prayers. You've been a true family in Christ and I feel so blessed to have you in my life.

Over the three years Jason was diagnosed with cancer, you were there to offer your help and support in any way possible. All people pray for us and showed your love in Christ. Whether it was bringing us meals, selling bakings, sending many cards and donations, you always knew exactly what we needed.

Many people wondered how I was doing. I've done my surgery and radiation treatments in London cancer centre with Jason's parents Bruce and Marg's support. I'm looking forward to a meeting with my oncologist next week and waiting for a test after my treatment.

Thank you for always being there when I needed you the most. When I was feeling down or overwhelmed, your thoughtfulness message never failed to brighten my day. Your words of encouragement and positivity gave me the hope and strength I needed to keep going. Your selflessness and compassion made such a difference in my life, and I will never forget the kindness you showed Jason, Lincoln and me.

God bless you all! Rev. Young Seo



A Go Fund Me has been set up by Bruce Richards for Young and Lincoln.

Support For Lincoln

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My name is Bruce Richards. My grandson is Lincoln, my daughter-in-law is Young, and my son was Jason. Lincoln is a vibrant 6-year-old who, in the span of a few months, faced challenges that few could fathom at his age.

Lincoln's parents, Jason and Young, both dedicated pastors, served their community and church with love and compassion. They were united in their marriage and shared a mission to bring hope, faith, and God to others. Sadly, in April 2023, Lincoln's father, at 41 years old, succumbed to a fierce three-year battle with colorectal cancer. The tragedy was intensified because just a month before Jason's passing, in March 2023, his mother, Young, was diagnosed with breast cancer and began her own challenging treatment journey.

Young and Jason's story started when Jason studied as a Canadian exchange student at the South Korean Presbyterian church seminary and met his future wife, Young. They married in July of 2015. They had a dream that they would serve rural area churches, so they were both ordained as ministers in the United Church of Canada. Living and working in Saskatchewan, Canada, at the time, they welcomed their son, Lincoln, to the family in 2017. In the summer of 2019, they moved from Saskatchewan to St. Mary's, Ontario. They made a beautiful life of love and service in St. Mary's.

Imagine being Lincoln, at just six years old, trying to comprehend the loss of his father while watching his mother bravely face her own health battle. Their shared dreams, hopes, and the simple joy of being a family have been overshadowed by grief, medical appointments, and the looming financial burdens associated with cancer treatments.

We're coming together to raise \$36,000 for Lincoln and his mother. These funds aim to ease some immediate financial pressures, ensuring that, during this traumatic time, Lincoln can have some semblance of a normal childhood - focusing on school, play, and healing rather than the weight of adult worries.

Every donation, monetary, prayer, or act of kindness will be a beacon of hope for Lincoln during this tough time.

We thank you for your compassion and generosity from the depths of our hearts.

To donate: Link to Go Fund Me: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/cczzgk-support-for-lincoln>

Mail Cheque Directly to Young at:

119 Peel St S., PO Box 2992, St Marys ON N4X 1C1

A Prayer for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Powerful Christ,
we are grateful that you came to us as a child,
who grew out of a community that nurtured, supported, and taught
you the way of your ancestors.

You have asked us to do the same:

to treat every child as we would treat you,
to love every person as you have loved us.

We are grateful that

your power is rooted in love, not force;
your strength is displayed through community, not might.

You have taught us to work toward a better world where all of creation thrives,
and where every child matters.

On this Orange Shirt Day, we remember Phyllis Webstad as a child,
and the stolen childhood of all the children forcibly raised by church-run institutions,
known as residential schools.

We lament how these institutions

stole from children the opportunity to grow in a safe and loving environment,
stole from Elders the opportunity to share their teachings and wisdom with younger
generations; and

stole from communities the opportunity to live intergenerationally.

We mourn the children who never made it home,

the communities that were destroyed,
the broken hearts,
the stories never shared, and
the shattered relationships.

We ask that you provide

comfort to all who are seeking healing and who daily wrestle with the ongoing harmful
legacy of these colonial institutions,
strength to all who name how colonial powers have harmed us as peoples and as a nation;
often at great personal cost, and
courage to all who are working toward reconciliation.

Christ Child,

As you grew, you reminded us to always welcome and care for children.

We remember your children today.

We lament and acknowledge the sinful ways that colonial powers tried to eradicate Indigenous
cultures within Canada,

breaking Indigenous families,
removing children from their homes while destroying communities.

And we pray for healing,

so that we who live together in this country

can also work together to build a better future
where all children are cherished, beloved, and given what they need to thrive.

So that we may treat all children as we would treat you, our Beloved.

May it be so.

Amen.




National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Saturday, September 30

Wear an orange shirt on September 30th. Whether you're at work, at school, or at home, get out that orange shirt! Make sure you take a picture to share on Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter). Include hashtags #OrangeShirtDay, #EveryChildMatters, and #UCCan and challenge your Community of Faith and friends and family to do the same.

Group Fundscrip Orders Sunday, October 1st

Fundscrip is a great way for our church to fundraise while shopping for every day expenses such as groceries and gas. We thank all our fundscrip supporters.

One of the challenges we face is that because of the valuable nature of the gift cards, they have to be shipped via courier with a signature required for pick-up. The shipping charges we owe for this are pretty high. In order to come out ahead we need to have a larger number of gift cards ordered each time. Therefore we have reduced the number of group orders placed.



October 2023 Promotions
Valid from September 30 to October 31 - 9:30 AM ET

Bath & Body Works <small>Bath & Body Works®</small> 6% <small>Regular 5%</small>	Oliver & Bonacini Restaurants <small>OLIVER & BONACINI RESTAURANTS</small> 7% <small>Regular 5%</small>
Pizza 73 <small>PIZZA 73</small> 12% <small>Regular 10%</small>	Pizza Pizza <small>PIZZA PIZZA</small> 12% <small>Regular 10%</small>
Running Room <small>Running Room</small> 7% <small>Regular 6%</small>	The Bay <small>THE BAY</small> 7% <small>Regular 5%</small>

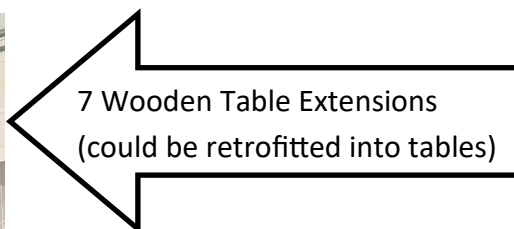
Physical Gift Cards
 Electronic Gift Cards

Order Deadline	Order Placed By	Expected Receipt
October 1, 2023	October 5, 2023	7 – 10 days
November 5, 2023	November 9, 2023	7 – 10 days
November 19, 2023	November 23, 2023	7 – 10 days
December 3, 2023 **LAST ORDER BEFORE CHRISTMAS**	December 7, 2023	7 – 10 days
January 7, 2024	January 11, 2024	7 – 10 days

Paper order forms are available in the pews at church or can be downloaded from our website— [Group paper orders forms](#).

We have too much ...

Grace is looking to get rid of the following items:



7 Wooden Table Extensions
(could be retrofitted into tables)



11 children's chairs



The Orange Chairs that were in the parlour.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to

Tyson Reibling - Oct 4

Ron Wiffen - Oct 4

Holly McKay - Oct 4

Brooklynn Sebben - Oct 5

Holden Harris—Ayotte - Oct 6

Brian Cook - Oct 9

Micheal Stock - Oct 6

Linda Stock - Oct 10

Ashton Wettlaufer - Oct 11

Dorothy Martin - Oct 11

Verna Weitzel - Oct 15

McKenna Weitzel - Oct 21

Dianne Harris - Oct 21

Matthew Bartlett - Oct 22

Karen Klein Locke - Oct 24

Teagan Glaab - Oct 25

Dorothy Weicker - Oct 26

Glady Stock - Oct 29

Sharon Oliphant - Oct 30

Jordan Bartlett - Oct 31



Happy Anniversary to

Doug and Dianne Wiffen - Oct 4

Ryan and Nicole Weitzel - Oct 5

Dale and Marianne Ruby - Oct 26



As people of faith, we are called to challenge injustice and oppression, in order that all peoples may live life abundantly. In particular, The United Church of Canada draws from two key themes within scripture: to live out justice and love in the world. Therefore, we believe that God calls the church to



align with people who experience oppression and also to overturn systems of injustice. The United Church believes that diversity, fully embodied and lived out, is God's intention for the world; sexuality and gender diversity are a reflection of the rainbow promise of God's love for the world. The United Church of Canada is calling for the protection and affirmation of the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, particularly transgender and non-binary youth. Gender and sexuality are gifts of God and all persons are made in the image of God. Policies and guidelines related to gender identity and expression in educational and healthcare settings should uplift care and service providers, support transgender and non-binary students and youth, and create 2SLGBTQIA+ and gender affirming schools. Learn more and [read the full news story](#).