

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • December 1, 2023

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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

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Advent Unwrapped: Why Did Scrooge Hate Christmas?

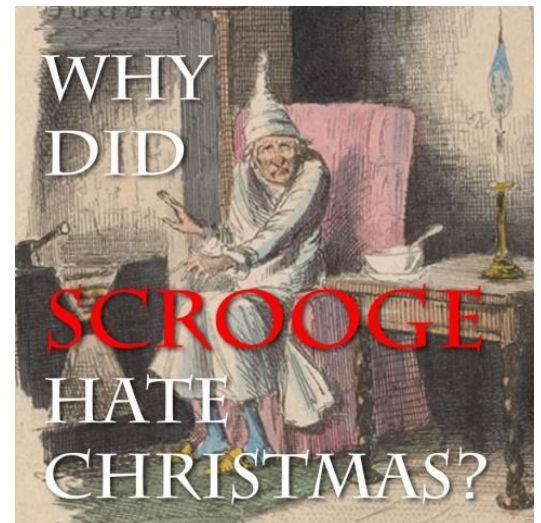
In Charles Dickens' famous novella *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge is a greedy, cheap, miserly businessman who hates Christmas. He resents his clerk's request to get a day off on the 25th, and he refuses to give money to a charity for the poor. Scrooge declares that Christmas is "a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket." But why didn't Scrooge at least see a business case for Christmas? In our time, retail stores rely on Christmas to keep them afloat financially. Pandemic lockdowns were even delayed to keep shops open until December 25th. Scrooge loves money, so why doesn't he love Christmas?

In Scrooge's time, the 1830s, presents weren't a big part of Christmas. Instead, at Christmas, tradespeople came knocking, expecting some sort of bonus for working for so little all year. Servants expected money, usually given on Boxing Day (the bonus was in the box). The wealthy were supposed to show Christian charity at Christmas to those who lived on less, particularly the poorest of society. It was a time to "pick" the pockets of the rich. This is what bothers greedy old Scrooge.

In our time, there is also a huge redistribution of wealth at Christmas, but it is expected to be among people of the same family. Our children are treated as the needy ones now. A parent who refuses to give presents to their own kids would be seen as a Scrooge; but we don't have to give to charity or to the Amazon delivery people (if we even know who they are). One of the great shifts in Christmas was this turn from a Christian call to help the poor, towards the needs of our own children and family. Perhaps this is why the words of Jacob Marley's ghost continue to haunt us: "Business? Mankind was my business!" If Scrooge were alive now, he might approve of our Christmas as a business venture—but is that a good thing?

—Rev. Stephen Milton came to Lawrence Park Community Church in Toronto in 2019, after decades of work as a documentary filmmaker. His passion is creating new ways to explore spirituality, appealing to people who aren't interested in regular Sunday morning church services.

From *The United Church of Canada, Advent Unwrapped*. <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped>



Upcoming Services and Dates

Nov 19 - Dec 10: Project Good Tidings

Dec. 3rd: 10:30 am Advent 1 Worship Service with Communion led by Rev Marg Smith. Sunday School. All are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following the service.

Group Paper Fundscrip Due

11:35 am Christmas Musical Rehearsal

Dec. 5th: 12:00 pm UCW Christmas Luncheon

Dec 6th: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet

Dec. 7th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting

Dec. 10th: 10:30 am Advent 2 Worship Service led by Rev Marg Smith. Sunday School. All are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following the service.

11:35 am Christmas Musical Rehearsal

Dec. 11th: 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Dec. 13th: 9:00 am Ministerial Meeting - Quehl's Restaurant

12:00 pm Zoom Staff Meeting

Dec. 14th: 12:00 pm High Noon Lunch

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Dec. 16th: 12:00 pm Private Rental - Kitchen, Zion Hall

Dec. 17th: 10:30 am Advent 3 Christmas Musical



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](#)

Grace has started to work on purchasing an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). We are happy to report that we have inquired about the Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund (DMMF). A fund dedicated to the donation of life-saving defibrillators to public buildings in the name of fallen Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and Military members who have died in the line of duty. We would like to make this donation in memory of fallen officer Sam Ankenmann. The cost for an AED is around \$1600-\$1800 and DMMF would cover a portion of this. We are asking for donations to cover Grace's portion. If you would like to donate please mark AED on your envelope or etransfer.

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 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 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.
- ✝ pray for Mary Mitchell, a friend of Rev Marg's, as she deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Doug Shirray as he recovers from surgery.



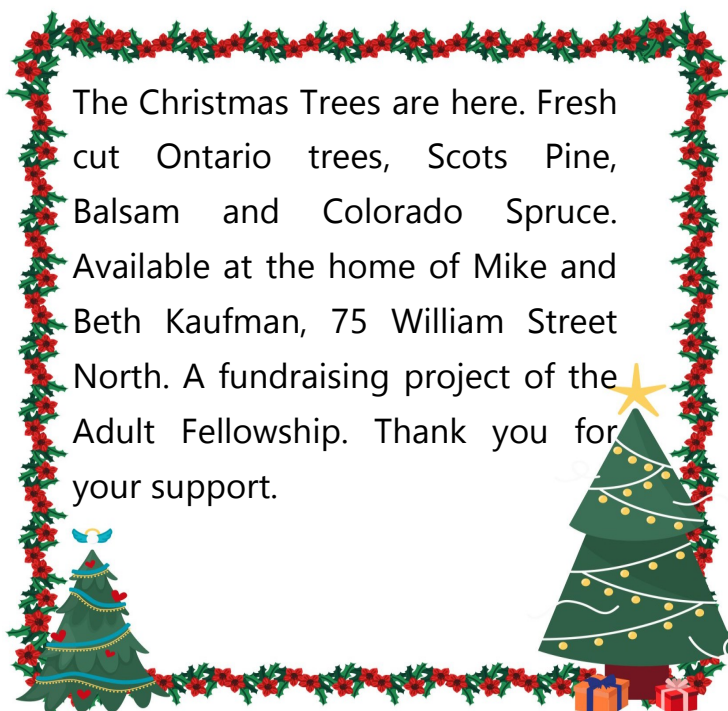
Prayer Shawls



Ron and I are humbled and appreciate the kindness shown to us at this difficult time. The prayer shawls are beautiful and we will feel the love wrapped around us. We are very blessed to live in such a caring community. Like the song says: "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world."

We feel very lucky. God Bless

Ron and Donna Brenneman



SIT N KNIT, STAY N CROCHET



Searching for donations of yarn or money for purchasing yarn so we can continue to provide crocheted and knitted prayer shawls and other items for our community. If you would like to donate yarn or funds, please talk with Carol Young or Mary Boland.

A reminder if you know someone who could use the warmth of a prayer shawl, please contact us too!

Advent and Christmas at Grace:

Dec. 3rd 10:30 am Advent 1 Communion Service

Dec. 10th 10:30 am Advent 2 Service

Dec 17th 10:30 am Advent 3 - Christmas Musical

Dec. 24th 10:30 am Advent 4 Lessons and Carols Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service



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

Dec: 14th Music with Dr Alicia Cundall. We are pleased and honoured to have as our guest Dr. Alicia Cundall, local physician and professional harpist. In addition to sharing her musical talents with us Dr. Cundall will also inform us about EM Global Connections, an organization for which she advocates. EM Global Connections provides emergency physicians in low resource environments greater access to hands-on skill based training.



Camp Bimini

Annual Member's Meeting

Monday
December 4, 2023

7:00pm

Avondale United Church
194 Avondale Ave,
Stratford, ON

For the purpose of receiving annual report, financial statements, budget, and for election of board of directors and officers. For the annual report, please contact us at campbimini@cyg.net or 519-271-4129.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM TEAM FOR THE 2024 SEASON

VISIT [HTTP://CAMPBIMINI.CA/STAFF/JOIN-OUR-TEAM/](http://CAMPBIMINI.CA/STAFF/JOIN-OUR-TEAM/)

Application deadline is
**DECEMBER 10, 2023 at
5pm Eastern.**

Two persons to be hired

WWW.CAMPBIMINI.CA





If you're a regular fan of the show Jeopardy (and even if you're not) you might like to tune in on Thursday December 7th at 7:30pm. (Rogers channel 17 or 23) and cheer on Tavistock's Scott Shewfelt as he competes in the Champions Wildcard Tournament.

Please feel free to yell out answers to help him along.



Scott with Jeopardy host Ken Jennings



Tickets to attend the Dec 5th **Sing for the Joy Of It** concert in person are sold out, however if you would like to be added to a cancellation list or purchase a link to live stream the show, please contact Leslie Belland at singforthejoyofit@gmail.com or call 226 -921 - 0275.

Dear Supporters,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits. As we enter December, which is traditionally our busiest time of year at House of Blessing, we are on track to serve 14,000 by the end of 2023. Please consider donations of our most needed items:

- Boxed Mac & Cheese (KD)
- Canned Tuna
- Side Dishes (Sidekicks)
- Dry Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Financial Donations

In addition, this Saturday Dec 2nd we are running our annual Holiday Food Drive (from 10:00AM – 3:00PM) in Stratford at Food Basics, Craig & Jess' No Frills, and Zehrs. We will have staff and volunteers on site collecting food and monetary donations. Just a gentle reminder that all cheques should be made out to 'Stratford House of Blessing' and should have the donor's phone number on it. People can also donate online anytime at www.shob.org/donation-form.

On behalf of everyone at Stratford House of Blessing, I hope that you and your loved ones have a very merry Christmas. Thank you all for your ongoing support of our food bank and community.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Lauersen

Resource Co-Ordinator 519-273-3433 x 202



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to

Joanne Bean - Dec 2

Ken Reibling - Dec 4

Rosemary Stein - Dec 8

Bentley Sebben - Dec 8

Barb Matties - Dec 11

Pat Shantz - Dec 11

Ben Reilbing - Dec 12

Brandon Mogk - Dec 14

Bev Neeb - Dec 15

Logan Herlick - Dec 16

Courtney McKay - Dec 17

Dale Smythe - Dec 18

Brianna Harris—Ayotte - Dec 19

Larissa Mogk - Dec 21

Mary Otto - Dec 22

Carol Weitzel - Dec 23

Lisa McKay - Dec 23

Mary Holden - Dec 24

Rory McBride - Dec 25

Mark McKay - Dec 28

Gary Zehr - Dec 30



Happy Anniversary to

Greg and Kristene Ankenmann - Dec 6

Bruce and Joanne Bean - Dec 10



FündScrip

Christmas order is due this Sunday, December 3rd. Paper order forms can be [downloaded here](#). Invitation Code: QM53WE. Please note we need to place orders that are big enough to cover the cost of shipping.



Hebron UCW's 12th Annual
"Christmas Cookie Walk"

Saturday, December 2, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Hebron United Church

676241 16th Line – at the

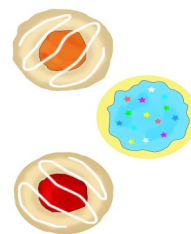
Corner of County Rd. 8 and 16th Line

Come early! Select from dozens of delightful and delicious cookies,
ready to make your Christmas entertaining a little easier!

Please bring your own containers!

(We will have some boxes available)

Cost: \$10.00 per dozen



COPING WITH SPECIAL DAYS

GRIEF EDUCATION SESSION

When you're grieving, special occasions can be a time of overwhelming emotions, new challenges and unrealistic expectations no matter what you celebrate or observe.

This education session from Bereaved Families of Ontario – Midwestern Region acknowledges the difficulties special days can bring and discusses coping strategies to help you through.



DATE: Thursday December 7, 2023

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Interfaith Counselling Centre
23B Church St. New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J1

Register at www.bfomidwest.org

This session is offered in partnership with:



For more information email admin@bfomidwest.org or call 519-603-0196

PROJECT GOOD TIDINGS

“...For behold, I bring
you good tidings of
great joy which shall be
to all people...” Luke
2:10

Sunday,
November 19, 2023

To

Sunday,
December 10, 2023

What is Project Good Tidings?

It's a time for us to gather up gifts to help spread good tidings to all. We collect items in bushel baskets for three weeks and see what our gifts together can do. It's really quite amazing what we accomplish together. It's all organized by RECESS (Grade 5-8s). Project Good Tidings challenges the groups, committees and organizations and everyone at Grace UC to give something that will spread the joy and love we know at Christmas. Come be a part of something incredible!

The people we help are associated with the places that the United Church of Canada supports and/or places that we at Grace UC support in our community.

Here's who each group is collecting for and suggested items:

- * Adult Fellowship—The Christmas Place
- * Board—TAP
- * Choir—The Christmas Place
- * Middle Aged Pews—Shelterlink (for a special stocking project there-- please talk with Carol Shewfelt)
- * RECESS— Shelterlink (items for a special Christmas dinner—please talk with Carol Young)
- * Committees of Pastoral Care & Outreach, Worship, and Christian Education—TAP
- * Sunday School— Shelterlink (items for a special Christmas dinner— please talk with Carol Young)
- * UCW—Optimism Place
- * Youth Group—Shelterlink (items for a special Christmas dinner— please talk with Carol Young)

Don't worry if you are not in a group, committee or organization. You may add to any of these baskets at any time or there will be a basket available (marked "CONGREGATION") for additional gifts for any of these aid agencies, located in Zion Hall. And please know there is no pressure to give to all the groups to which you belong. Give what you can. Since 2004, over 540 baskets have been collected through Project Good Tidings for local agencies! What a great way to share and care for one another! If the baskets get full, we'll find another one to get filled. Watch the baskets fill and come on December 10 when we bring together and dedicate all our gifts. In advance, we thank you for what you give.

ABOUT THE PLACES WE ARE SUPPORTING AND WHAT TO DONATE:

TAVISTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

This year, these items would be most helpful: gas and grocery cards as well as paper products like toilet paper or diapers size 4, 5, 6, coffee, tea, hot chocolate . New items only (no opened packages) They cannot accept items that are expired. www.tapisforyou.com

STRATFORD/PERTH SHELTERLINK

Located in Stratford, Shelterlink exists to provide Perth County youth ages 16-24, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, with shelter, advocacy services and basic needs. By providing homeless and at-risk youth with the basic needs of food and shelter, they will have more opportunities to make good life style choices, stay in school, find employment or attend counseling. New items only. The Middle Aged Pews, RECESS, SS and Youth Group will be providing filled stocking bags and items for a Christmas dinner, respectively. Please talk with Carol Shewfelt (MAP) or Carol Young (Youth Group & RECESS, SS) for needs. www.shelterlink.org

THE CHRISTMAS PLACE

The Christmas Place is part of Operation Sharing in Woodstock. It is a store that gives families the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts at a lower price. Parents shop for their children at reduced prices, enabling parents to shop on their own, purchase something their children would wear, play with or use. Some suggestions: gifts for teens, gifts for moms, gifts for dads, new toys for children and gift cards for local stores. Any gift you would choose to give YOUR family would be appreciated. New items only. www.operationsharing.com

OPTIMISM PLACE

Optimism Place is an emergency shelter for women and children in Perth County. Their needs list include: children's slippers (any size), children's pajamas (any size), children's jackets (any size), toys (any age) , personal hygiene products such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, q-tips etc. (except pads & tampons - we have lots of these!), toilet paper, paper towels, bath towels and t-towels, pillows, slippers, dish soap and hand soap. New items only. www.optimismplace.com

PROJECT GOOD TIDINGS

“good tidings we
bring to you and
your kin, good
tidings for
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year!”



God, you bless us each day with good things. We live with respect in creation and we are most like you when we share and care for one another.
Bless these empty baskets and our joy in filling them. Amen!