

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • December 8, 2023

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



'GraceUnitedTavistock'

'Grace United Tavistock'

www.graceunitedtavistock.com

'graceunitedchurchtavistock'

To the Congregation at Grace United Church:

Thank you very much for your support of Northern Love! Your Congregation collected so many wonderful items that I will be shipping to people in northern communities in Canada! I picked up all of the donations yesterday and my car was full to the brim!! I would like to extend a special thank you to the "Sit and Stich" group who made some beautiful blankets, prayer shawls, pneumonia vests, and dolls – this is clearly a very talented group of women who deeply care about community outreach! I was very humbled to come speak with their group this spring and have felt blessed to be a recipient of your many wonderful donations!

I would like to provide some information and background on Northern Love. My husband and I have been blessed with three children, and about 3 years ago I started looking for somewhere to donate our baby clothes. I connected with a lady who ships clothing and household items to people in need in northern communities, and I dropped off 12 Rubbermaid totes of baby clothing and items to her. I became very interested in her work, and purged my house, and encouraged my friends and family to do so. I started to volunteer helping Steph sort donations, and then eventually she encouraged me to start shipping myself.

Since having started Northern Love two years ago, I have shipped 500 boxes to people in northern communities! Many of the items you have donated, and that others donate, are sent to people living in Nunavut. I have also shipped items to people living in Northern Ontario, Northern Quebec, Northern Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Yukon. The cost of living for people in these communities is extremely expensive. The sad reality is that shipping costs are outrageous, and this drives up the cost of groceries for people in northern communities, and ultimately it makes it very hard for these people to get things that they need. The work that Northern Love does, and other individuals who also ship items to northern communities, helps these people get clothing and household items for a very affordable price.

Many people have asked how the shipping of items works. I connect with Northerners through a Facebook group. I ship everything using Canada Post "flat rate" shipping boxes, which are very affordable. When I sort donations, I sort clothing into sizes, and group household items together. If I had a lot of ladies clothing, for example in size medium, I would take photos of the items, and fill up a shipping box. Most times I use a "large" size box, which costs \$38 for shipping and holds 11 lbs of items. I would post the photos of the clothing or items on the group, state that shipping is \$38, and connect with a northerner who is interested in the items. The northerner who is interested would send me an e-transfer for the \$38 for shipping. I would then provide them with the tracking information for the box and take the box to Canada Post. It is important to note that all items are free – there is no charge for the clothing or household items that are sent. The only cost to the northerners is the shipping fee.

I truly appreciate all of the support and encouragement I have received from your congregation at Grace United! Your congregation is very supportive and community-driven, and I am very grateful for all of your donations to my Northern Love group. If you have Facebook, please consider following "Northern Love" to see where items are sent, and learn more about the communities that items are sent to!

Thank you so much,
Callie Haverkamp

Upcoming Services and Dates

Nov 19 - Dec 10: Project Good Tidings

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 Knox Parlour following the service.

11:35 am Christmas Musical Rehearsal

11:45 am Private Rental - Kitchen, Zion Hall

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 Service. Bring a friend or neighbour to enjoy the musical. All are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments, and social time in Zion Hall.

Dec. 20th: 10:00 - 1:00 pm Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet

1:30 - 3:00 pm Salvation Army Mobile Food Bank - Front parking lot

7:00 pm Board Meeting

Dec. 21st: 8:30 am Fire Safety Inspection

7:00 pm Choir Practice



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](#)

Project Good Tidings ends December 11

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

This is the last Sunday for you to bring in your items for organizations supported locally and by the United Church of Canada. Bushel baskets are throughout the church and marked for each group—there is one marked congregation for all.



Paper copies for more details are available at the church. Or go to our website for more details about what to collect: <https://www.graceunitedtavistock.com/photos-and-events.html>

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

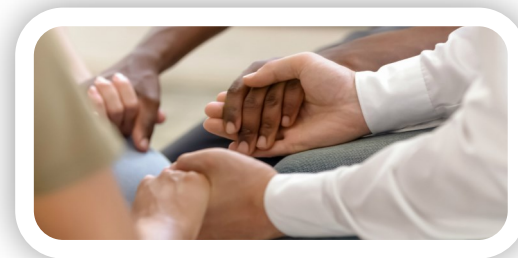
Katherine Brenneman, Thursdays 9:30 - 2:00 pm

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.
- ✝ pray for Ed Pellow as he deals with health issues.



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.

A Prayer for Palestine and Israel

O God of life and love and peace, we witness the violence and injustice in your Holy Land and our hearts break.
Our hearts break for the people of Israel for the victims of violent attacks by Hamas
For those who live with fear and insecurity,
For those who suffer from the inter-generational trauma of violence.
Our hearts break for Palestinians—For the victims of violent attacks by the Israel military
For those being denied water, electricity and medical care
For those whose who are refugees, long displaced from their homes.
We especially pray—that weapons of war be laid down
That walls of separation be dismantled, That prisoners be released
That demonizing of “the other” cease, That political leaders seek the good of all people in Palestine and Israel.
O God whose heart breaks for the world, may your justice dwell in the land
May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields
May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever
May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace.
Amen.





Advent and Christmas at Grace:

Dec. 10th 10:30 am Advent 2 Service

Dec 17th 10:30 am Advent 3 - Christmas Musical: Bring a friend or neighbour along to enjoy the musical

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

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service

Dec. 31st: 10:30 am First Sunday after Christmas Worship 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.

Volunteers Needed for

Dec 24th Worship Services:

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following spots:

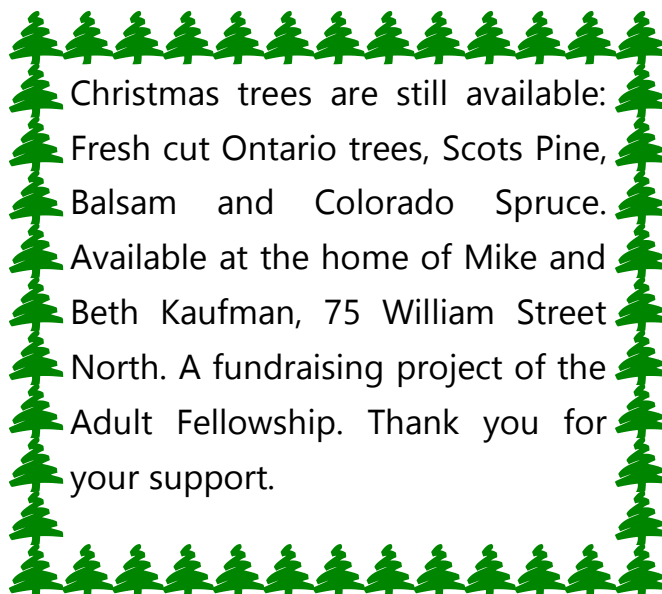
10:30 am Ushering/Offering

7:00 pm Lift

7:00 pm Ushering/Offering

7:00 pm Powerpoint Operator

Please sign up on the schedule by the office.
Thank you !



Christmas trees are still available:

Fresh cut Ontario trees, Scots Pine,
Balsam and Colorado Spruce.

Available at the home of Mike and
Beth Kaufman, 75 William Street
North. A fundraising project of the
Adult Fellowship. Thank you for
your support.



Christmas Office hours: **The office will be closed Dec. 25th to Jan. 3rd.** For this reason we encourage those who wish to make any year end donations outside of Sunday morning worship, to do so before these dates in order to receive a donation receipt for 2023. Please contact Katherine if you have any questions about your donations.

There will be no newsletter Dec 29th. Please keep this in mind for your news and announcements.



It's time to renew your subscription! For just \$30 (including tax), you'll receive 8 more issues of *Broadview* delivered straight to your mailbox. You won't want to miss out on a single issue of the magazine's award-winning coverage of spirituality, social justice and ethical living, as well as United Church news and perspectives.

Not a subscriber? It's never too late to join our *Broadview* subscription group!

Please put your payment on the plate in a separate envelope marked Broadview subscription with your name (and address if you are starting a new subscription). Cash or cheque payable to Grace United Church. Subscriptions will auto renew by Jan. 10th. Please contact Deb Stevely if you don't wish to renew.

UCW Christmas Luncheon





Pictures from the Northern Love Project



From Broadview Dec 2023 issue:

In Memory: Rev Jason Richards And the Omelette of Compassion

Rev Jason Richards died in April. A great light has gone out. He was a friend to all who knew him. Everyone would have been proud to call him their brother or son.

Jason, wife Rev. Young Seo and son Lincoln followed God's call to St Marys UC four years ago. Sime later he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. He suffered through excruciating therapy expecting to return to health, but the cancer returned and Jason was treated again. His pain was exhausting, but he continued to faithfully minister and to make a difference. He could have retired. Instead, he persevered, honouring God's invitation.

Throughout his ordeal, the congregation rallied to support his family. Jason called us his "Omelette of Compassion". However, it was his steadfast ministry that provided the bond that motivated us to serve the community and each other.

In every aspect of his life and even at his death, Jason was clear that God loved and sustained him. His faithful response to God, in spite of his health challenges, has had a galvanized impact on his congregation and our ministry. We loved him dearly and miss him every day.

Jason was certain that God loved and supported him to the end. He glorified God with his life. That will be his victory, his legacy and his reward. He boldly closed every church service (and even now we repeat), "God is good, All the time. All the time, God is good, Amen."