

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • January 26, 2024

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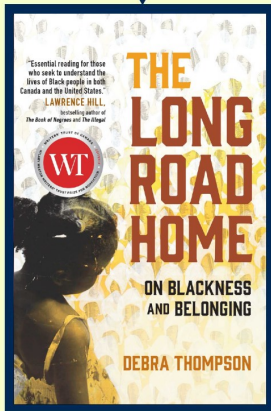
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Book Club Recommendation:

"The Long Road Home: On Blackness and Belonging" Debra Thompson

This book is featured as a part of the Mod's Book Squad.

This Month's Mod Squad Book



When Debra Thompson moved to the United States in 2010, she felt like she was returning to the land of her ancestors, those who had escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. But her decade-long journey across Canada and the US transformed her relationship to both countries, and to the very idea of home.

In *The Long Road Home*, Thompson follows the roots of Black identities in North America and the routes taken by those who have crisscrossed the world's longest undefended border in search of freedom and belonging. She begins in Shrewsbury, Ontario, one of the termini of the Underground Railroad and the place where members of her own family found freedom. More than a century later, Thompson still feels the echoes and intergenerational trauma of North American slavery.

She was often the Only One—the only Black person in so many white spaces—in a country that perpetuates the national mythology of multiculturalism.

Then she revisits her four American homes, each of which reveals something peculiar about the relationship between American racism and democracy: Boston, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the American Revolution; Athens, Ohio, where the white working class and the white liberal meet; Chicago, Illinois, the great Black metropolis; and Eugene, Oregon, the western frontier. She then moves across the border and settles in Montreal, a unique city with a long history of transnational Black activism, but one that does not easily accept the unfamiliar and the foreign into the fold.

The Long Road Home is a moving personal story and a vital examination of the nuances of racism in the United States and Canada. Above all, it is about the power of freedom and the dreams that link and inspire Black people across borders from the perspective of one who has deep ties to, critiques of, and hope for both countries.

More info on the Mod's Book Squad is available on the **United in Learning Website:**

<https://churchx.ca/>. The author Debra Thompson met the group on Jan. 25th but there is information on upcoming books.

Or if you want to read on your own it is available from the **UCRD Website:**

<https://ucrdstore.ca/>

Upcoming Services and Dates

Jan. 28th: 10:30 am Service led by Rev Mary Fletcher.
Sunday School. All are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments and social time in Zion Hall following worship.

1:00 pm Movie Afternoon

Feb. 1st: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Feb. 4th: 10:30 am Worship Service led by Rev. Marg.
A Celebration of Black History Month, with lots of Singing. Sunday School. There will be no social time and refreshments after church due to the new floor installation in Zion Hall.

Feb. 5th: 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting

Feb. 6th: 1:30 pm UCW

7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting

Feb. 7th: 9:00 am Tavistock and Area Ministerial meeting at Quehl's Restaurant

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

Feb. 8th: 12:00 pm High noon Lunch: Barbershop Octet "One More Time"

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Feb. 11th: 10:30 am Worship Service led by Rev. Marg.

Annual Meeting immediately follows worship.

Potluck lunch in Zion hall after the meeting.

2:15 pm Nursing Home Service at People Care

3:15 pm Nursing Home Service at The Maples



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](#)

Rev Marg won't be with us for the month of Jan but will continue to act as our Pastoral Charge supervisor. Kathleen Welch from Hebron United Church will cover emergency pastoral care for Jan until Rev Marg is back in Feb. Please contact Kathleen at (519) 535 9220.

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 Mary Mitchell, a friend of Rev Marg's, as she deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Dave and Shirley Wilhelm as Dave recuperates at home from heart surgery.



Nursing Home Worship Services. The ministerial is once again offering Nursing Home Worship Services. Service times are **People Care 2:15 pm** and **The Maples Nursing Home 3:15 pm**. Grace is responsible for providing services on:

- **Feb 11th**
- **April 21st** ➔ Pastoral Care and Outreach
- **June 23rd**

We are asking that committees or groups sign up to provide these worship services. Please let Katherine know if your committee/group can help.



The United Church Bookstore: Lenten Study 2024



The new Lenten devotional [Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis](#), invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis. It also includes a study guide to help you dive deeper as individuals or within a group.

Act/Fast is also the featured book for the [2024 Lenten Study](#). Join United-in-Learning on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm from February 20 to March 26, 2024, to expand your love for God, deepen your connection to Creation, and strengthen your hope for God's dream realized.

Bonus: Study groups can save big! Purchase five or more softcover copies of *Act/Fast* and **save 20% off** at checkout. Plus, orders of \$100 or more also qualify for free shipping; just add promo code: **FREESHIPPING** at checkout.

The Tavistock and Area Ministerial will draw on this theme for this year's community Lenten services.

Movie Afternoon Recognizing February's Black History Month

January 28, 1 pm, Knox Parlour

Hidden Figures 2016 Drama/History 2h 7m

As the United States raced against Russia to put a man in space, NASA found untapped talent in a group of African-American female mathematicians that served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in U.S. history. Based on the unbelievably true life stories of three of these women, known as "human computers", we follow these women as they quickly rose the ranks of NASA alongside many of history's greatest minds specifically tasked with calculating the momentous launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, and guaranteeing his safe return. Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Goble Johnson crossed all gender, race, and professional lines while their brilliance and desire to dream big, beyond anything ever accomplished before by the human race, firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes.



A Pizza lunch will be offered at 12:15 for those who wish to stay after worship. Cost \$5. Please let Carol know by Sunday 10:30 am so she can place the order.



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



February 8th: Barbershop Octet "One More Time"

We need your help! Thank you to all the volunteers who make our worship service run smoothly on Sunday mornings. There are many volunteer jobs that so many help out with!

Our list of ushers and offering counters is in need of more volunteers. The schedule is posted on the table by the office. If you are able to help out please sign your name to the open spots.





Take a Walk on the Wild Side on the "Coldest Night of the Year"!

Once again we have decided to put a team together from Grace to support the "Coldest Night of the Year" initiative to combat homelessness in our area. We are the "Graceful Walkers" and we invite you to join or support us on February 24. Funds raised are in support of Shelterlink Youth Services and Stratford Connection Centre, two charities who serve people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

For more information log onto our team page: [Coldest Night of the Year - Graceful Walkers](#)

Or see the Stratford CNOY page at <https://cnov.org/location/stratford>.

Thanks to those who have already donated, we raised \$1950. What a great start!!

I have attached a picture of our team from last year. One is already returning he says because of the "wonderful free soup"! Submitted by Paul Bartlett

Partners Report Public Health Catastrophe Unfolding In Gaza

January 17, 2024 marked the 100th day of Israeli bombardment and ground operations in Gaza. Most of the population—2.2 million people—is at imminent risk of famine. The United Church of Canada [continues to call](#) for:

- an immediate permanent ceasefire
- the immediate and safe release of all hostages, political prisoners, and administrative detainees
- sustained and protected humanitarian access
- independent investigations of war crimes and violations of international law, with all parties responsible being held accountable

Please continue to [pray, act, and donate](#). Read the [full news story](#) on the United Church of Canada website.



Memorial Flowers

We wanted to remind folks of our memorial flower rack for the front of the church. If you would like to place memorial flowers they can be placed on the rack on Sunday morning. Please inform the minister or worship committee designate for that Sunday so they can announce the memorial.



Are You Interested in CPR?



Since we are obtaining an automatic external defibrillator (AED) at Grace, we need to know how to use it which includes knowing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Training is important for having an AED. Grace is looking into hosting a training session for Basic First Aid Training with CPR and AED. It would be an 8 hour course offered on a Saturday, possibly early March.

Cost would be:

- Level A is CPR on Adults, \$130
- Level C is Adult + Children (takes an extra hour.) \$140.

** Training is current for 3 years.

We would need a minimum of 10 people to attend the training. Please let us know if you are interested. It would also be helpful to know who already has this training and is current.

Please talk to Carol or leave a note in the office or email graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com.

CAMP BIMINI
REGISTRATION OPENS
MONDAY JANUARY 29
AT 6:00PM
(Go online now and set up your account)

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www.campbimini.ca

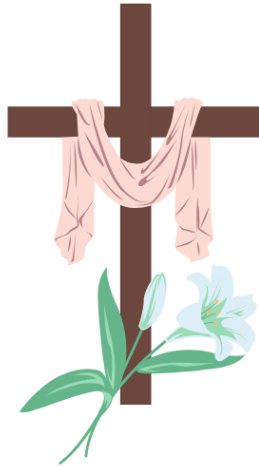
SUMMER STAFF APPLICATIONS
Now Accepted For Camp Bimini

First Round ends SATURDAY FEB 10, 2024
<https://campbimini.ca/staff/join-our-team/>

- Paid positions (\$490 - \$630 per week)
(Counsellor and Program Staff - Age 16+)
- Volunteer Positions (Counsellor-In-Training- Age 15)

Make a difference Create lifelong friends Learn valuable skills Fun in the Sun!

Electronic copies of the 2023 annual report will be emailed out to those members who receive the group church emails. Please let Katherine know if you wish to receive a paper copy.



TAVISTOCK AND AREA MINISTERIAL
COMMUNITY LUNCH

LENTEN SERVICES

Thursdays

at

Grace United Church

116 Woodstock St N, Tavistock, ON

Spiritual Practices for a Climate Crisis

Each week we will focus on an emotion
that describes our relationship with creation

Date	Host Church	Theme
Feb 15	Trinity Lutheran	Grief
Feb 22	Grace United	Anxiety
Feb 29	Tavistock Missionary	Hope
Mar 7	Tavistock Mennonite	Love
Mar 14	East Zorra Mennonite	Despair
Mar 21	Hebron United	Awe

Worship at Noon

Soup and Sandwich Lunch at 12:30 PM

Lunch by Donation (suggested \$5 to \$10)

