

Grace's Chatter

May 2020 Edition

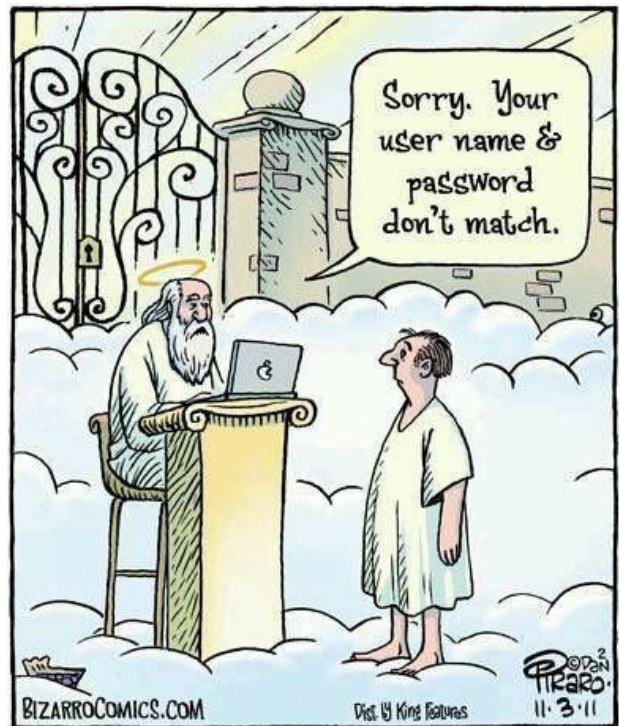
Is Binge Worship the next big thing? - By Paul Scott

Grace United Church has come of age.

Just like watching Season 1 or 2 of The Crown or Suits, now worshipers are flocking to the Grace Church YouTube Channel to catch up on all the online worship services in Season 1.

Seriously, we really do hope that our online worship services are providing some comfort, inspiration and peace of mind during this Covid 19 epidemic.

Our guiding lights in the new way of coming together are Paul Harding and Donna Norman along with other familiar faces and special musical guests. Recently we kept track of all the time spent. Our 40-minute presentation took 90 hours to produce. But the results speak volumes of the love and care that goes into every aspect of the music, message and prayers.



At our last Session meeting on April 28th a decision was made to continue to have our online services headed up by Paul and Donna during our time away from each other. When we are able to meet again in our church building, Session agreed that that was the proper time to once again engage with our Lay Worship Leaders as we did before the March shut down.

Through the magic of the internet, our services share the talents of special musical guests. Our Easter soloist was Nayeli Abrego, singing "Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)" as recorded at Grace in the summer of 2018. We also supplemented the organ with Kate Harding Smith and Gillian MacDonald's trumpeting, recorded from their homes.

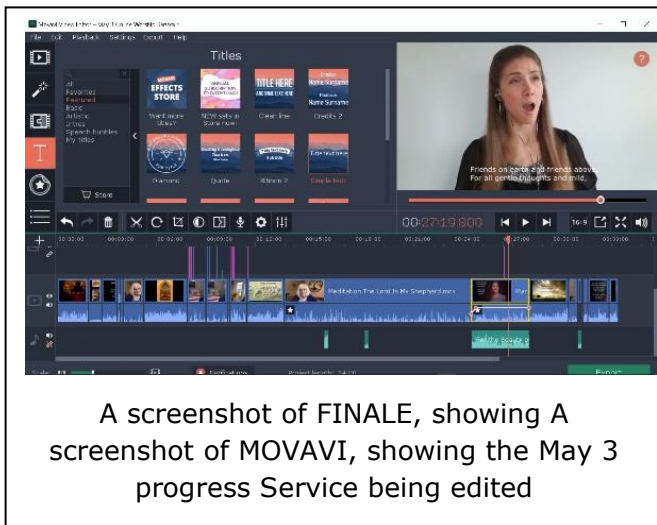
The following Sunday, our own Grace Church Choir presented "A Never Ending Alleluia" which was recorded at a fund-raiser in 2003 for the Guatemala Stove Project. April 26, our friend Cliff Edwards shared the gospel favourite, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee".

May 3, our dear friend Maryanne Wainman from Kingston recorded "For the Beauty of the Earth", her in her home and Paul Harding at home at his computer, and Kristen Dubenion-Smith, our soloist on May 10, was heard on YouTube and approached for permission to share her distanSING in our service.

Next Sunday (May 17) sees the return of Alison MacDonald, who sang in Grace Church when she was at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in 2016. This duet is recorded in Gananoque and in Edmonton.

Future services will include "You'll Never Walk Alone", recorded by the late David Tompkins in 1968, and "The Prayer", sung by Nayeli and Tonatiuh Abrego and recorded in Petrolia Ontario.

Production of Online Worship Services is Rewarding - By Paul Harding



The online worship service for Grace United Church is produced by receiving components submitted by various congregation members – a greeting, candle lighting, scripture reading, prayers and meditation. These videos are recorded on people’s phones or tablets, in the safe isolation of their own home and sent to our music director for processing. The music is prepared using software called “FINALE”, each note entered one at a time by playing on a musical keyboard connected to a computer. The finished music is recorded and ready to use in the service.

Using editing software called “MOVAVI”, the components are stitched together into one file and pictures found on the internet are added to complement the speech. Lyrics for the hymns are added, to encourage viewers to sing along, and the lyrics are layed over graphics which reflect the words.

Announcements and other information are added during the Prelude and Postlude and the finished service is sent to YouTube for publishing, and the link is shared via social media, email and word of mouth. You merely have to click on the link to enjoy a 40-minute Online Worship Service.

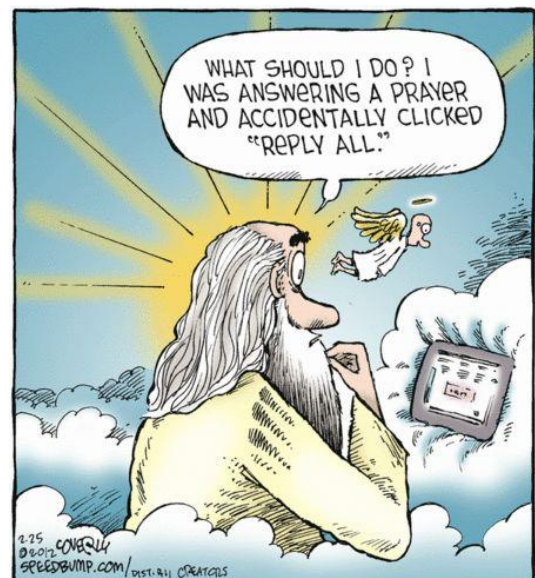
Phone Tree continues to reach out

By Donna Norman - Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Education

It is easy to feel quite isolated in this time of physical distancing. We want to make sure that people in our congregation feel connected, and we have set up a “phone tree” to check in with each other. There are 9 members of our congregation who call a few people each week, and we touch base with more than 40 people, just to let them know that we care about them and to make sure they’re doing well. If you are interested in becoming a caller, or you know of someone who might need to be called who may not be on our list, please let Donna Norman know. (613-970-0128)

Zoom connects Study Group

The Study Group has resumed on Thursday mornings using Zoom, with 8 to 12 participants each Thursday morning for a couple hours. We are studying Brian McLaren’s book “We Make the Road By Walking,” which takes readers through the Church Year and challenges us to think about what we believe and why, as a community of faith. In the future, we are also looking at ways that we can engage more people, perhaps through using a phone conference line



Mission and Service is closer than you think. - By M&S Enthusiast Dave Charles

While we are restricted in our activities during the Covid 19 pandemic the needs of our community carry on. As my wife Joan and I walked our sheltie Rosie this past week we came upon an entire family sleeping in their car along King St at 6:30 am.

The food bank is heavily used, and Dave Harvey from the Salvation Army continues to provide meals out of Moroni's takeout while their building is being renovated. Grace Church and the Gananoque Service Clubs are providing financial support to these charities and others.

The United Church Mission and Service fund and workers are providing financial aid and hands on support across the country and around the world. Isolation itself can cause depression and anxiety so counselors, clergy, and community of faith members are reaching out to provide one-on-one support to those struggling.

You can do your part by supporting those in need through M&S giving's to the Grace Missions or the United Church Mission and Service fund and by reaching out to call neighbors, friends, and members of Grace United Church. I personally have been touched by how calming it is to talk to members of Grace UC and the Lions Club who called me just to see how I am coping.

Thanks to all of you for being the hands and feet of Christ in service to our community and each other.

Children's Corner - Helping each other is important - By Colleen Harding

Last month we talked about how Jesus wants us to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves. We thought about some of the different ways we could show our love for our neighbours during the Covid crisis.

But who is our neighbour? Did he mean just the people who live near us? Let's look at a story Jesus told to help people understand, the story of the Good Samaritan.

<https://youtu.be/MLzdQtetedc> When Jesus talked about our neighbour he meant people we know and people we don't know, even people we don't like and people who are different. He included our friends, but also the new kid who doesn't have any friends yet or the kid who doesn't have anybody to play with today. Jesus expects us to help them, too. Jesus says everyone who needs our help is our neighbour, and we should help them. This is a good lesson for all of us to remember!

The Great Grace Pie Sell-off nets \$1,715

By Carolyn Scott, Stewards

With Ribfest cancelled this year, one big question remained. "What do we do with all the Pies for God's Sake?" During January and February, the pie makers were busy and the freezers filling up - 150 frozen pies all ready to go. Then came March and Covid 19. At the April Stewards Zoom meeting and with a bit of creative thinking, an idea was hatched. "Maybe we can sell some online. Take orders and using social distancing some folks could fill the orders while others could deliver and collect the money. Eileen Thomson agreed to use her cell phone and take orders, so an accurate pie count could be kept. The idea was to take orders one week and deliver the following Friday. **Pies For God's Sake** hit Facebook on Thursday morning April 30 and Eileen's phone never stopped ringing! A quick decision was made to meet at the church on Friday, May 1 at 10 a.m. to fill whatever orders had been received. By noon Friday, all pies were gone. SOLD OUT! Thank you pie, makers and Stewards. And thank you to all who purchased them. Eileen Thomson said it best, "**Grace Rocks!!**"



Condolences

Our sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of Jennifer Lussier, who passed away at her home in Oshawa on April 27, 2020. We pray that Jennifer's parents Bill & Brenda Lussier, her daughters Paige & Ella Daniels, their father Brett and her brother Chris along with his family find comfort in their memories and the love, prayers and support of friends.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...." Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

Your generosity speaks volumes - By Vicki Leakey, Treasurer

We pray that you, your family and friends are continuing to be safe through the challenges of Covid 19.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to contribute to our faith community. Many members of our church family give their time, talents and resources to continue with the vibrant, spiritual place for which Grace United Church is known.

Our inability to use our building has impacted the annual budget for revenue for fundraising events and facility rental income. On the plus side, you have been very generous sending in your offerings via e-transfer, cheque or through PAR. Although, we have noticed a drop in Mission and Service and Special Grace of close to 48%, our general offerings are currently 74% of prior year totals. Thank you for your continued support.

Just a reminder that offerings can be continued via use of the e-transfer from you on-line bank account and look for "send an e-transfer" and send to grace.gan@outlook.com and follow the instructions given. Also, if convenient you may drop an envelope in the mail box at the Pine St. choir door on Thursdays before 1:00 pm that day as Laurie will be at the church office and will make sure contributions are safely received. Payment can also be mailed to the church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7.

Again, thanks to all of you for your faithful support and continued generosity.

Office Hours: Laurie is working both from home & at the office. Please remember the regular office hours are: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Contacts

Church Administrator: Laurie Cadue 613-382-2161 Email: grace.gan@outlook.com

Emergent Pastoral Care and Funerals: Rev. Joyln Campbell 613-929-7195

Education and Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator: Donna Norman 613-970-0128

Church Boards Official Board: Brian Brooks 613-382-2385

Session: Paul Scott 613-382-4386

Stewards: Carolyn Scott 613-382-4386 / Vicky Leakey 613-382-4015

Grace's Chatter is published once a month by Grace United Church Gananoque during the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic. Paul Scott - Editor / Laurie Cadue - Managing Editor

Thanks to our Contributors - We wish to acknowledge those who contributed time and articles for our second Grace's Chatter - Laurie Cadue, David Charles, Colleen Harding, Paul Harding, Vicki Leakey, Donna Norman and Paul & Carolyn Scott.

Next Grace's Chatter - Deadline - Monday, June 15, 2020, 12 noon.

