

Grace's Chatter

April 2020 Edition

Grace's Chatter provides another connection

Our ongoing mission during this "stay home" new reality is to stay connected with all our community of faith members here at Grace United. Although our doors are locked and our building is closed, we are very much alive; working hard behind the scenes and from our homes.

At our internet Session meeting on April 7, we decided to keep folks in the loop with a monthly newsletter. We have also launched a Phone Tree as another way to stay in touch. Hopefully you are joining us at our weekly internet worship services. We trust you find this first issue of Grace's Chatter informative and helpful.



Join us for Online Worship

Being able to connect our community of faith and others into a Sunday service used to be a dream. How things have changed! Enter COVID 19. Churches closed. No gathering for Sunday worship. That was just four weeks ago.

Our first online Sunday worship service lit up the internet on March 29th and we hope you have been able to join us.

If not, here's how to view our services

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNVYi-R3mmIG7LnX1jKJnEg>

At Grace United, we were richly blessed by several people who stepped up and figured out how to move forward and create an online internet worship service – Paul Harding, Donna Norman, Tammy Fergusson and Laurie Cadue. They jumped into uncharted waters, kept their heads above the surface and reached the cyber shore! We now have a Sunday service that keeps getting better each week.

So, click the link or copy and paste in your browser and discover new Food for the Soul.

Tapping into our talent is another key resource

We want to add some variety to our services as we move forward. We are looking for scripture readers and folks who are willing to welcome you to our service each week. We have some names and will make contact!! Our organist and now video editor advises that he has dipped into the archives and found some recordings of our choir which he hopes to include in future services. David Charles, our Mission and Service Enthusiast will continue to provide a Minute for Mission and of course we have our list of worship leaders along with resources from The United Church of Canada.

We're set up for Virtual Offerings too

Although our church building is closed, our church treasurer Vicki Leakey continues to monitor our financial situation. Again, we are thankful for our church leaders that have provided some wonderful virtual worship services that allow us to continue to worship as a community of faith.

Vicki notes that like all other churches, these are challenging times when we cannot easily bring our tithes and offerings to our regular Sunday service at Grace. At this time, we understand for some of our church family, financial contributions may not be possible, however, for anyone that would like to continue with an offering, we have now

set up electronic transfer so your gifts can be automatically transferred from your account to the Grace account. Log into your on-line bank and look for "send an e-transfer" send to grace.gan@outlook.com follow the instructions given. This will have to be done each time you want to give.

Or it may be convenient for you to drop an envelope in the mail box at the Pine St. choir door on Thursdays before 1:00 pm that day. Laurie will be at the church office on Thursdays and can make sure all contributions are safely received.

Payment can also be mailed to the church office as mail is being picked up and can be safely deposited in a deposit bag. Our address is 120 Pine St., Gananoque ON K7G 1C7. You can also donate through the Canada Helps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118944701RR0001-grace-united-church/>

Thank you to Laurie who continues to ensure our bills are paid and cheques are deposited to keep our financial accounts accurate. We are maintaining the essentials and working to obtain supports from the government programs offering financial assistance at this time.

Phone Tree bears fruit

In order to reach out to our seniors or those who live on their own and would like to chat, Session agreed to develop a Phone Tree strategy. Most members of Session agreed to take a list of names and make regular calls. Others can also be involved. The more we have the greater our reach. Donna Norman agreed to launch this project. If you would like to help, call Donna at **613-970-0128** or Laurie at **613-382-2161**

Connecting the Kids

Another initiative will explore ways to connect with the children who have been coming to our Sunday services. This has exciting potential. There are museums that have online activities for young folks. Connecting the Kids is important during this period. Colleen Harding has agreed to explore this new venture, but she will need some help.



It Isn't Fair!

"It isn't fair!" How many times have you said those words in the past few weeks because you wanted to go somewhere and your parents said no? I expect your parents have explained to you why everyone has been asked to stay home, and I expect you have heard all about the Covid-19 virus. Isn't it amazing that something so small that we can't even see it can cause so much trouble! We are all trying to stop the virus by staying home. We are doing this to protect our friends, families and neighbours. Jesus said we should all love our neighbours as much as we love ourselves. Right now there are lots of ways to show we love our neighbours. One way is by staying home. Then we won't catch the virus ourselves and pass it on to someone else, like your grandparents, who might get very sick. You can say thank you to all the nurses and doctors who take care of the people who do get sick and to the people who work in the grocery stores so you still have lots of food. You can do your best to make life pleasant for everyone at home. Talk to your mom and dad about some of the ways you can show love for others

around you at this difficult time. Draw a picture or take a photo of one way and send it to me at colleen.g.harding@gmail.com . Be kind and stay safe until we can get together again.

The Stewards also approved a one-time payment of \$1000 to go to our local Food Bank to assist them with their increasing demands and to provide a resource for them in lieu of the many actual foods that this church family had been able to provide in the past at Sunday services.

Meanwhile, with your prayers and continued support, we will try to do our best to maintain a strong faith that God will see us through this, and we will be able to worship together very soon.

We look forward to the future and reuniting for coffeetime on Sunday morning and a church lunch where we will find the fellowship from our church family that so many miss during these days of social distancing.

Stay strong and God bless you and keep you safe and healthy.

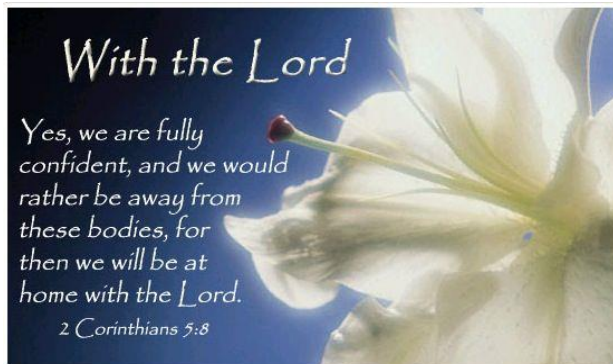
New minister search in full swing

At our online Easter Service, Official Board chair Brian Brooks gave an update. "The Search Committee continues in its efforts for bring a new minster to Grace," he said. An online advertisement has been placed on the United Church's Broadview magazine website. It will continue to run through the balance of April and on into June and July.

"The committee has also established a Gmail address so that anyone who sees this ad can contact us directly, as well as respond through the United Church information Hub," he said. To take a look at the ad, just Google broadview.org/classifieds and scroll down to Gananoque.

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the passing of two of our members. Wayne Laviolette, who passed away on March 28, 2020 and Marilyn Humphrey who passed on Sunday April 5th. Our sincere sympathies are extended to the Laviolette, Goff and the Humphrey, Shea & Page families. Know that Wayne & Marilyn are both at peace and resting in the arms of the Lord. Memorial services for both will be held sometime later this year.



Do you need Assistance?

Through our telephone chats, we have found that many have found the assistance you need through neighbours and friends. If you need some help, do not hesitate to call on your church family at 613-382-2161. We are here to help.

The Town of Gananoque has also set up a Volunteer Assistance Program for citizens needing help. Contact Dave Anderson at 613-381-2149 Ext. 1128 or by email at ganstayathome@gmail.com

Tickling the Funny Bone

A home-schooling mom posted that her kid called her on the phone from his room and told her he missed the bus and wouldn't be in today!

Gas under a dollar, I'm grounded at home and none of my friends have jobs. It feels like I'm in high school again!

I told my wife how thankful I was to have someone I enjoyed being quarantined with. She said, "It must be nice!"

Having gas prices this low during lockdown is like offering a bald guy a comb!

People keep asking me, "Is COVID 19 REALLY that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When Heaven and Hell AGREE on the same thing, it's probably pretty serious.

Contacts

Church Contact: Laurie Cadue 613-382-2161

Emergent Pastoral Care and Funerals: Rev. Jolyn 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/Vicki Leakey 613-382-4015

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Next Grace's Chatter

Deadline - Monday, May 11, 2020 - 12 noon

Caption this photo:

Can you come up with a caption for this photo? Email your ideas

grace.gan@outlook.com.

In our next newsletter we will share some of our favourite ones?

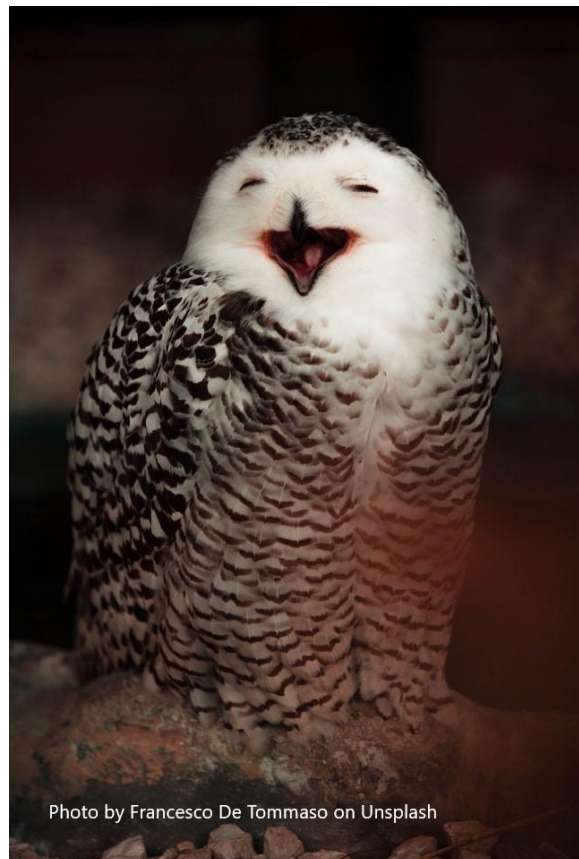


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