

Grace's Chatter

June 2020 Edition

Message from Official Board Chair, Brian Brooks

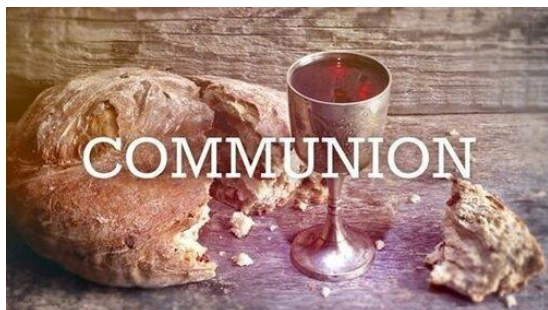
"As many of you are aware, an announcement by Premier Doug Ford gives permission for church congregations in our area of the province to resume services, albeit with a limit of 30% of church capacity."

Board chair Brian Brooks notes, "Additionally, the United Church of Canada has strongly recommended that only members under the age of 70 should attend the services. Those with vulnerable immune systems should not attend and there is to be no congregational singing or choir and all must wear masks. There is to be no socializing. We are far from pre-pandemic days of worship. The restrictions on worship at Grace, or any church, for that matter, make online worship a safer and more viable option at this time."

As a result and considering the need to keep all parishioners safe, "we have made tentative arrangements with our friends at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to hold joint services, with each church preparing a service on alternate Sundays, starting with Grace United Church on Sunday, June 28," chair Brooks notes.

Brian Brooks further advises; if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be passed along to the Official Board.

First ever Virtual Communion with Rev. Ken Norman - By Paul Scott



We at Grace like to try different ways of observing the important aspects of our faith. On June 14 with our worship being conducted online by Rev. Ken Norman from his home in Belleville, our church family experienced its first ever virtual communion. We were asked to bring your own bread and wine and then we celebrated the very meaningful Sacrament of Holy Communion with Rev. Ken.

On June 14th we were also blessed when he shared his Christian message with us. Rev. Ken Norman was our pastor at Grace United Church for 10 years starting in 1967. May God continue to bless Rev. Ken and wife Shirley as they share their Christian faith and values each day.

In Sympathy

Our sincere condolences are extended to Eleanor Buttrey, Mary Card, Yvonne Scott, Maria Buttrey and their families on the recent passing of Bill Buttrey. Bill, who was in his 99th year passed away peacefully at Carveth Care Centre with Eleanor by his side. Eleanor and Bill would have celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary later this month.

The service is entrusted to Tompkins Funeral Home. A family graveside service at the Gananoque Cemetery will be held at a later time

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going." John 14:1-4

Grace and St. Andrews will share online services - By Paul Scott

With summer fast approaching and the uncertainties surrounding the COVID 19 pandemic, the question about how best to handle our online worship experience was discussed at our May 26th Session meeting.

The fact that both St. Andrew's Presbyterian and Grace United used to share summer services for close to 40 years beginning in the 1970s, was not lost in the collective memories of both congregations.

Working closely together, we will be sharing our online services. Each congregation will create an online worship service on alternate weeks. Grace will begin with the service on June 28th and that link will be shared with our friends at St. Andrews. And then it will be St. Andrew's turn to share their service with us on July 5.

Considering the recent announcements from the Ontario Government and the United Church of Canada regarding the reopening of in-person worship and the safety measures that came with those announcements, sharing online services seems to be a more viable option at this time.

Both congregations recognize that the number one priority is the safety of those most vulnerable which our government agencies list as those over 70 years of age and those with health concerns. Other measures like personal distancing, wearing masks, no congregational singing, no socializing etc. make our current online method of worship all the more meaningful. Further, sharing alternate Sundays will give those volunteers in both congregations who spend 100s of hours producing these services, a well-deserved break.

We wish to thank Paul Harding from Grace and Robin Ableson from St. Andrew's who initiated and followed through on sharing services.

Licensed Lay Worship Leader – a closer walk with God –

By Tammy Fergusson

Psalm 100 says, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." That's exactly how I feel about my calling to take the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Course (LLWL) with the United Church of Canada.

I started the two year program last January and will complete the second module of the four required, by the end of June. When completed, I will be able to lead and preach the occasional worship service when a church minister is absent. It has been rewarding to participate in the Grace church online worship services.

It was always a dream of mine to become a church minister. I grew up rooted in the United Church. Both of my parents sang in the choir. Although my brother and I sat in the front pew, so that my parents could watch us, I was often stirred by the Holy Spirit in the words and music of the service. It set me up for life as I learned piano, sang in many choirs and participated in numerous workshops and study groups.

As Angus and I raised our own children, we participated in many churches and matured as Christians. I was the church secretary at Holland Landing United Church when my children were small. The minister and I would create new and inventive services exploring different ways to engage the congregation. Eventually, I decided to become a school teacher and although rewarding, God's gentle nudge did not go away.

Now Angus and I are retired with an empty family nest. There is space for us to explore a new chapter here in Gananoque. There is time for me to read, study and write creatively within the



many online Licensed Lay Worship Leader modules. The first module focused on crafting a wide variety of prayers and the second empathized creating innovative worship services. I am meeting new and interesting people from all over Canada and enjoy collaborating with them in our assignments.

Throughout it all, I am experiencing a deeper relationship with God as I read the Bible and follow the ways of Jesus. The deep discussions have broadened my understanding in rich and exciting ways. God lives within our modern times and it is up to us to enter into God's Kingdom. We can experience the Holy Spirit as it stirs us and draws us in. This new attitude refreshes and renews us to care for our community and for God's creation. I would be happy to make a joyful noise and to share with you what I have learned.

Online Worship - a Good News Story, By Paul Scott

When you reach out, you just do not know how far your message travels. So, in this time of pandemic, uncertainty and the internet, here is a good news story.

Each week, like clockwork, our little team of dedicated volunteers puts together a thoughtful worship experience which is shared over the internet. One Grace United member has been sharing our services with her sister in Toronto, who in turn has been sharing them with 10 of her friends.

In appreciation Grace United Church recently received donations of \$1,525.00 from this group of friends.

Kind of makes one reflect on the story of Pentecost and how it can still apply in 2020.

Connecting with Kids Club – By Paul Scott

In order to establish new ways of connecting with our younger Grace Church family, Session, with the resourcefulness of Laurie Cadue, is forwarding Kids Club Lessons each week by email and Facebook.

The Kids Club program provides Bible stories in an easy to understand language complete with characters that are quite delightful. The videos are about 4 minutes in length.

Laurie sends an email post every Saturday and also posts on Facebook.



To view Click on the link at the bottom of the email or in the box on Facebook and once the slide opens click on the arrow to watch the video first. Then click on the Sun with the word Lesson to download a printable lesson plan with crafts.

We realize that these are challenging times for families and that children are already spending a lot of time on the computer with homeschooling. The Kids Club lessons are available for you to do anytime, so do what you can, whenever you can.

Through Facebook, Kids Club is reaching 61 people and 14 are engaged. Each week we also send the email link to five families. Just another way to try to stay connected.

Pastoral Care and Education Report – By Donna Norman

Thursday Morning Study Group

The Study Group has decided to take a break from its Thursday morning Zoom meetings over the summer. We will reconnect again in late August and decide when and how we'll meet again, once the social distancing rules are a little clearer. Fellowship is a very important aspect of this

group, and we enjoy the opportunity to grow in our knowledge and faith as we walk this journey together. Please contact Donna Norman if you are interested in being part of the Study Group. 613-970-0128 or normanstone357@gmail.com .

Telephone Tree

Several members of our congregation connect with others on a regular basis during this time of social isolation. If you would like to receive a call or you know someone who would benefit from a weekly check-in, please contact Donna Norman.

Ernest Rae Bids Farewell to Grace, By Paul Scott

Our good friend and dependable volunteer, Ernest Rae will be leaving our church family for his new home in Greater Napanee. Ernest will be joining the Grace United Church family in Napanee with Rev. Elaine Kellogg pastor.

Ernest writes, "As the season passes, I reflect on the outreach in which all of us participated, in ways beyond knowing. Such things as the outpouring into Pies for God's Sake and the community hand being extended through Messy Church, shows the strength of the Grace Church family. My appreciation and heartfelt thanks is extended to all for being there in worship, prayer, and fellowship. Through the Grace of Jesus, be open to receive the call to serve as part of the extended Grace Church family of Gananoque."



In addition to the things mentioned, Ernest could be found assisting with elevator duties, decorating the sanctuary for Advent and lending a hand for setting up/take down for many church events. (Ernest was a quiet kind of guy and you never heard him coming in his warm, soft, fuzzy slippers. All the best to you Ernest. Ed.)

Pine Street Reconstruction Underway – By Brian Brooks



The temporary water pipes are now being put in place and the Pine St. reconstruction project will get underway by the last week of June. This is a complete re-build of the street from William St. to the west end of Pine. The expected completion date is the end of November of this year.

The new street will be one way from east to west and will include a bike and walking surface. Parking will be allowed on the south side of the roadway. Church officials have received assurances that the trees in front of Grace Church on Pine St. will NOT be removed.

The contractor has offered to work with the church if access to the switch-back assessable ramp is needed during construction. This information came from the Town employee who is overseeing this project and he will keep the church informed via Laurie Cadue or myself, on anything develops that will affect the church.

A message from your Treasurer - By Vicki Leakey

Keeping all our church family in our prayers, as we stay on our journey of continued change in our spiritual lives.

At the end of May, I am very happy to report our operating financials are still in the black. Our expenses to date are down 25% and our offerings to date, are actually up 6% from 2019.

Thanks to all of you, friends and family of Grace United, who financially support us, and send wonderful messages of appreciation for the virtual services being prepared each week.

As we anticipate that this time of physical distancing will likely remain until fall, services back in the sanctuary will still be delayed.

Typically, July and August are slower revenue months in our church year, so we do sincerely appreciate your prayers and continued support as we work through these interesting times.

Just a reminder that offerings can be made 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 generosity, it is reassuring as we actively monitor financial activity to ensure that it meets our current needs as well as allowing us to prepare for better times in the future.

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.** Laurie is at the church on Tuesday & Thursday each week. **(Vacation Time: August 2 to August 16)**

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 acknowledge those who contributed articles, time, talent and information for this June issue of Grace's Chatter – Tammy Fergusson, Ernest Rae, Brian Brooks, Vicki Leakey, Paul Harding, Donna Norman, Paul Scott and Laurie Cadue.

Next Grace's Chatter

Deadline – Monday, July 13, 2020, 12 noon.



comic strip by [Brian Crane](#)