

Grace's Chatter

October 2020 – Edition

A warm welcome awaits Rev. Takouhi

By Paul Scott



The Grace United Church family is excited to welcome Rev. Takouhi to our community of faith on Sunday, November 15. With Covid 19 protocols in place, seating that Sunday may be limited, so if you are planning to attend, please ensure your name is on the attending list at the church. Contact the church office at 613-382-2161 or by email at grace.gan@outlook.com.

As many are aware from the August newsletter, Rev. Takouhi has an interesting life story which took her through the mountains of Lebanon to Syria. From Damascus she made her way to Los Angeles where she graduated from high school in 1986. That same year, Takouhi entered Canada via Vermont U.S.A. and is proud to call Canada her home.

She and Gary Petro were married in 2000 and in 2005 Takouhi enrolled into university where her six year educational journey began. After completing her Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity degrees in 2011, Rev. Takouhi became the first Armenian woman minister to be ordained in the United Church of Canada.

Her first pastoral charge was in the Eastern Townships of Quebec and then in 2013 she was called to the Elgin-Portland Charge where she has served faithfully for the past 7 years.

In introducing her as successful candidate to the Grace Church congregational meeting in August it was noted that "Rev. Takouhi loves bringing people together from all backgrounds. She serves God by serving all of God's people. Rev. Takouhi is a firm believer in lifelong learning and brings strong interpersonal, organizational and language skills with her."

A warm welcome awaits Rev. Takouhi and Gary as our community of faith shares its time, talents and Christian journey together.

Grace United now open and live streaming

By Paul Scott

Yes. The Grace United Sanctuary is now open on Sundays so please come and join us if you feel comfortable doing so. The Re-opening committee has worked diligently to ensure everyone's health and safety is protected. Sunday, October 4 marked the re-opening of our sanctuary for worship services and we welcomed back worship leader Barb DeJeet for three Sundays. On October 25th Rev. Kathy Walton will lead in worship for the next three Sundays and on November 15 we will welcome our new minister, Rev. Takouhi.

Please be aware that with social distancing measures in place, our sanctuary can accommodate a maximum of 60 people. The auditorium is maxed out at 30. So if you plan to attend, kindly call the church office at 613-382-2161 or email at grace.gan@outlook.com to be added to the list.

Attending in Person

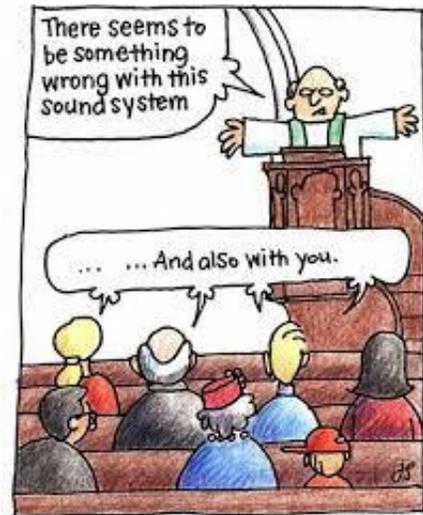
Here are the precautions in place when you attend services in person.

1. Please enter via the Pine St. door.
2. Face masks are mandatory or face shields are acceptable for those with health issues.
3. Physical distancing is required. Unavailable pews are roped off and other pews are marked. Our 14 ft pews can only accommodate three people! So, waving and air hugs are encouraged.
4. There is no congregational singing permitted and there is no choir, but the music from our pipe organ is inspiring. You may enjoy the music while humming the hymn lyrics which are printed in the bulletin. Responsive readings and unison prayers are OK. Again, words are in the bulletin.
5. Offerings can be placed in the offering plates when you enter the sanctuary or can be made by PAR (Pre-Arranged Remittance), by e-transfer or through on-line banking. See details in the Treasurer's Report in this month's newsletter.

Just a few stats

Approximately twice the number of people who attend church in person are taking advantage of being able to watch the service on Facebook or YouTube. Here are the "Visits" stats.

Date	Facebook	YouTube
Oct. 4	193	81
Oct. 11	85	46



Live Streaming Facebook Real Time

If you plan to "attend" Sunday worship from home, we've got you covered! Once again, our Tech Committee: David Charles, Angus Fergusson, Paul Harding and others continue to embrace the technology challenges and from Oct. 4 onward, our services are live streamed in real time on Facebook at 10:25 a.m.

Simply click onto your Facebook icon (account), in the Search box type Grace United Church Gananoque, click on the Grace United Church Gananoque link and watch on your favorite device.

Please be patient with our Facebook streaming. This is a brand new endeavour for us and we have a lot to learn. You may have to turn up the volume and we are aware that the sound was initially not ideal. However, the sound quality at the Oct. 11 service was far superior to actually being there according to "soundman" Paul Harding. He also advises that viewers need to be patient about the coming and going signal. When it drops out (which is minimal) it could be a result of the church's wi-fi, the church's internet, the internet provider, the viewer's internet or the viewer's device. But our IT volunteers are working diligently to make it better each week.

"It's mostly great, and it's free!," concludes our organist/video editor/live streamer Paul Harding.

We're Still on You Tube

Later on Sunday afternoon a link to the service will be posted on You Tube which was the way we brought you Sunday worship services for the past six months. To find the service

on You Tube, go to your browser, search You Tube (or go to youtube.com) and then search (type in) Grace United Church Gananoque. Make sure you type in Gananoque as there are many Grace United's in Canada!

If you click on SUBSCRIBE for the Grace United Church channel, you will be automatically notified whenever a new service is posted. You can turn on the closed captioning of You Tube, if you would find that helpful.

There is also an icon at the bottom of the Home Page on the Grace Church website that will take you directly to our You Tube site.

We realize this techy stuff is intuitive for the younger generations, but once you catch on, the routine is the same each week. Hopefully, and soon, we will once again be able to meet together in our church home, while still reaching out to those who wish to join us virtually.

Be not afraid! Technology in ministry is a blessing

By Gary Petro



I have worked in IT for over 30 years and have seen how technology has improved our lives. One big improvement is how methods of communication have evolved. At one time, you needed an operator to connect your call to someone. Today, you can dictate a letter to your computer rather than writing or typing it up. We carry mobile phones with the power to talk and write at a moment's notice. We live in a connected world. Why then does it seem that so many churches are dis-connected in certain ways?

I have been involved with web sites and how technology is used in ministry in several different ways since 2011. My first major foray in building web sites was when I became the Webmaster for the Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery (QSP).

A site needs to serve two basic tasks. First, it needs to be able to disseminate information to those who are connected with the Pastoral Charge or Regional Council so that interested parties are kept up to date with goings on. Secondly, and this is possibly the more important part, it needs to be able to serve as a resource for "outsiders" so that they have access to information about the organization and what it offers.

For many, a site is not high on the priority list of things to do. Churches are looking for ways to maintain and increase attendance when at the same time they are concerned about their operating funds. What they do not realize is that a web site does not need to be expensive and it can help attendance. In fact, it can also help to solicit donations. Posting the bulletin and sermon online is a great way to connect with people - congregants and otherwise.

The landscape of church has been undergoing change more and more rapidly. Much of the generation of today is not looking to a building but more to a virtual world. They want information fast and, on their schedule; - they do not have time for something which does not speak to them on their terms.

Weekly bulletins and inserts are great tools to disseminate information but costly in many ways - especially to the environment. An electronic version capable of being displayed on a screen would save the time of printing as well as a few trees along the way.

Technology need not be feared. It needs to be embraced and used to further communication and facilitate access to information so that the ministries of the United Church can be

sustained both now and for future generations. The investments made now can multiply many times over in the future. Churches need to think of those individuals who are not interested in entering a building but are still part of the community.

Gary Petro is an IT Professional with 30-years of experience in Information Technology. He is the spouse of Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro

Pine St. update – road level and parking

By Paul Scott

Official Board chair Brian Brooks keeps in touch with the ongoing construction on Pine St. The contractor hopes that the street will be finished in early November – weather permitting.

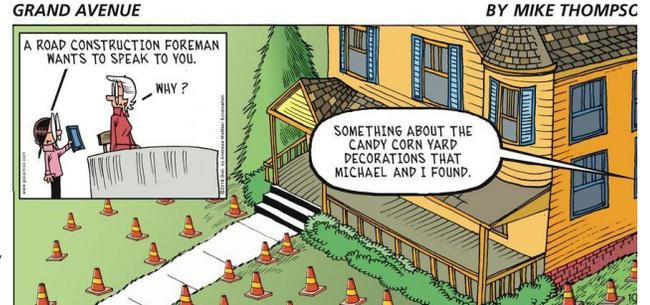
The Town has agreed to allow a parking space on the East lawn next to the stairs and will put in a driveway curb to allow easy access. There will be one spot.

Brian reports that we cannot accommodate a larger parking area because there are Big-O pipes under the lawn that are supposed to take the water from the church roof gutters to the storm drain. The key word here is “supposed to”. They appear to be plugged and water is going down the side of the church to the footing which is not a good scenario.

“We will need to do some work to find out the extent of the blockage and go from there,” Brian advised.

Regarding the current level of road bed of Pine St., Mr. Brooks has been talking to the Town employee who is supervising the project and he assured that the plans call for the road bed to be raised and that it will not be as bad as it currently looks.

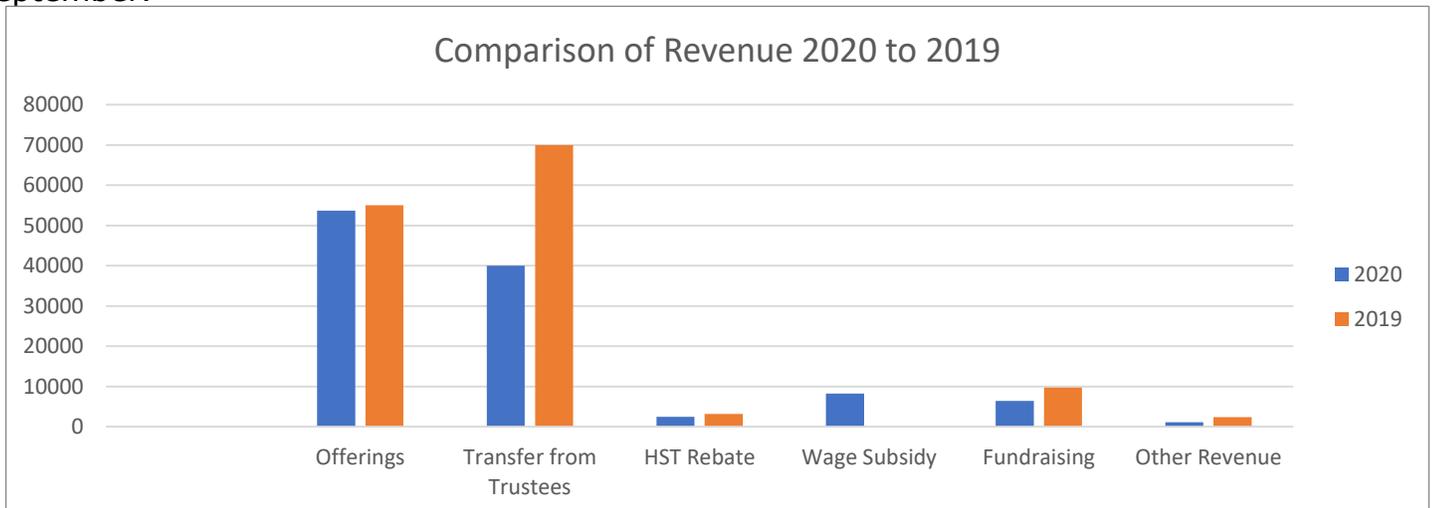
Stay tuned.



Treasurer’s message – Happy treasurer = happy life!

OK. So I know it is supposed to be wife rhyming with life, but I couldn’t think of anything that rhymed with treasurer that painted a positive picture. The rest is in Treasurer Vicki Leakey’s own words –a sincere message of thanks to the Grace United Church family.

Our financial picture remains strong! We have maintained a surplus of \$5,255 at the end of September.



Total revenue for year to date September 2020 was \$112,082 compared to \$140,462 in 2019.

Total expense for year to date September 2020 was \$218,908 compared to \$268,543 in 2019.

Mission and Service receipts are \$6,425 in 2020 down from the \$9,378 received in 2019. We have all enjoyed two wonderful services in the sanctuary to date, safe distancing accomplished, masks on and everyone following protocol to keep those attending safe; however, we have also received wonderful support from those that watch the on line feed in the safety of their homes. Members are working hard each week to make the transmission clearer and thank you so much for your patience.

Heartfelt thanks to those who continue to financially support our church family. Here is a reminder of several Offerings' options available which you may consider. **E-transfer** from your on-line bank account is popular. Look for "send an e-transfer" and send to grace.gan@outlook.com. Just follow the instructions given.

If more 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.

Offerings by mail is another option – send by mail to Grace Church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7.

Offerings by **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** is another method to ensure your financial support continues year round. Give Laurie a call at the church office for more details – 613-382-2161.

October is a month of seasonal beauty in our surrounding landscapes, this year bright moonlight and wonderful sunrise and sunsets give us more reasons to be thankful of where we live. Those amazing friends and family in the community that reach out and ask how we are doing give us a reason every day to give thanks!

Stay safe, never hesitate for a minute to reach out to anyone in our church family if you're feeling you need a reminder that we are here and that we do care!

No public gathering at Remembrance Day 2020

By Paul Scott



Photo by [Chris Sansbury](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Second World War ended 75 years ago with Allied victories over Germany and Japan. For nearly six years the fighting raged on claiming the lives of over 45,000 Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen, including 25 young men from the Gananoque area. When the armistice was declared, citizens in Gananoque poured from their homes and erupted in celebration – church bells pealed, car horns honked and anything that made noise was part of the instant parade along the main street.

On this November 11, 2020, we will again pause to remember, but it will be different. For the first time since 1927, in Gananoque there will be no crowds at the Cenotaph. We will miss the young cadets standing in silence at the Cenotaph, the Queen's University Band and the Gananoque Choral Society.

This November 11 at 11 a.m., *We Will Remember Them* from a distance as the Covid 19 pandemic has made close contact impossible.

"The 2020 ceremony will be officially attended by only four Legion members and Rev. Daniel Massey," advises Bill Beswetherick of the Gananoque Legion Brach 92.

The email states further, "That in keeping with the restrictions by the Ontario Government, area health authorities, and Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion the ceremonies in Gananoque and Lansdowne will not be a public event (gatherings). The ceremonies will be live streamed to be viewed from retirement homes and the home of individuals". The above limitations on attendance apply to all Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ontario. **As is the tradition at Grace United, those who made the supreme sacrifice in two World Wars will be honoured and remembered at Sunday worship on November 8th. Hope that you can join us in person or online.**

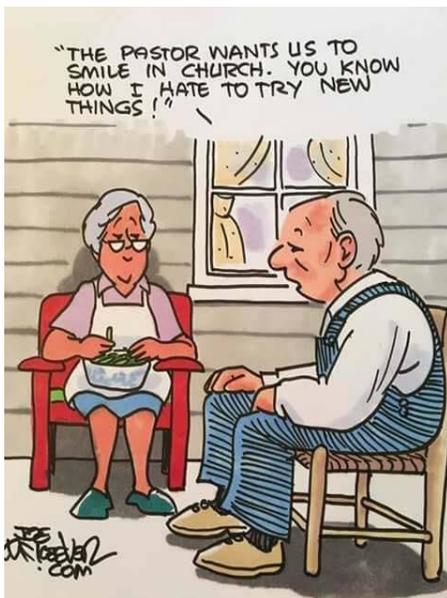
Celebrations for October

Celebrating birthdays this month are Susan Tindal, Brian Tunnicliffe, Susan Tunnicliffe, Helen Johnston and Neil McCarney.

Celebrating their Wedding Anniversary this month are Brad & Anne Curtis.

Congratulations to all those celebrating a special occasion this month.

*****Grace United will celebrate our 184th Anniversary on Sunday, October 25th. Please join us at Worship, on-line or in person.**



Contacts

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grace.gan@outlook.com

Emergent Pastoral Care & Funerals:

Rev. Jolyn Campbell 613-929-7195

Church Boards:

Official Board – Brian Brooks 613-382-2385

Session – Paul Scott 613-382-4386

Board of Stewards – Carolyn Scott 613-382-4386

Vicki Leakey 613-382-4015

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Contributors this month are; Gary Petro,

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Next deadline is Friday, November 13th.