

# Grace's Chatter – Fall 2023

## **Rev. Takouhi's Reflection... Fall 2023**

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

**Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)**

Dear Grace United Church,

When was the last time you did something "NEW"?

"New," meaning never done before.

This year my husband, Gary, and I took some time off, without having any regular plans. We usually take time off in November and join my sister and brother-in-law and vacation together at their timeshare properties in the U.S.A. However, this year we took time off in August and decided to do a road trip somewhere, as we could not afford to fly anywhere for a full vacation. But our decision to have such a new adventure ended up becoming the most blessed vacation we have ever taken together.

We were off from August 14-September 6; however, I can confidently tell you that I truly had six days off out of 21. This is not a complaint in any form, it is a reality for a vocation to serve God by serving others – Yes, I do have the choice to ignore those who reach out to me, but my motto has always been to treat others as you would like to be treated.

Friends, doing something new might be scary, but I promise you that it will change your life for the better. On our time away, Gary and I had the privilege to drive for more than ten hours, each way, to make our way to visit a scholar and a spiritual father of our time, The Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann<sup>1</sup> and his lovely wife, Tia.

This was beyond our imagination that such a day would be in store for us. When Gary and I talked about a road trip, Gary asked: "Where would you like to go?" And my answer, without any hesitation was: "I would love to visit Walter and have lunch or dinner with him." My amazing husband's response was: "Let's do it." After all, we have never driven more than ten hours to get to a destination. After getting all technicalities in place, we



started our journey towards the Brueggemann residence on August 23, 2023. We decided to drive the ten hours in two days.

The roads were pretty good, and thanks to Hwy. 407 we skipped most of Toronto's traffic and made it to London, Ont., around supper time. We decided to stop at Canada's favourite place, Tim Hortons, and had a bite to eat. However, as we stopped, the rainfall became more intense, and we made sure to fill the car with gasoline as well as our bodies with energy and continued our road trip.

Once we arrived at Middlesex County, between London and Sarnia, we started seeing rain in biblical proportions. The OPP had blocked Hwy. 402 and redirected everyone to the back country roads. I could not take a picture of the fields that were filled with water, but I found a picture online from that evening news that I share with you here.



My first reaction was: "Where do I go?" Gary said: "Just follow the big trucks, I am sure they are headed to the border as well." And he was right.

This unexpected rainfall created a bit of worry in me, traffic, and a bottleneck at the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron's U.S. border, but that was our destination for the first night. Comfortable sleeping quarters for about a twelve-hour period, and the journey continued the next day.



Yes, we ended up spending a wonderful day with the Brueggemanns, not just a lunch or a dinner; and August 25, 2023, is etched in our hearts with Joy, beautiful conversations, Love and Respect beyond our imagination – a moment in time I will always remember as ***Sweet Grace***.



Beloved, we drove over two-thousand kilometers and had the privilege to stop by and visit family in Woodstock and Cambridge, as well, on our way back home, and that was an additional blessing. If you ask, would we do it again? Our reply, with no hesitation will be – **"YES!"** We would do it again in a heartbeat. Did our bodies get tired? Yes! But the **Blessings outweigh the physical efforts**. A great reminder that **God's Blessings require our participation and perspiration, but it is worth it!** Our Work is NEVER in vain.



Grace United, this short reflection has nothing to do with what your minister and her husband did on their summer vacation, but it has everything to do with the fact that God is up to **Something New** for each one of us, in our individual and

communal lives. **Are you ready to embrace this blessing of newness with God wholeheartedly?**



A year ago, or so, when the M & P Committee was encouraging me to take some of my vacation in summer, as per some Congregants' requests, I was opposed to it, as **I wanted to keep he status quo**. I wanted my family to **keep on doing what we have always done**, and reluctantly decided to take time off. Now, look at the amazing experience that Gary and I had, that is worth writing about and sharing with you.

Beloved, as we enter the Season of Change, Letting Go, Autumn (Fall), I invite you to ask yourself, **what things are you holding on to that you need to let go?** Adhere to the voice of God who says: *"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 43:19 ESV).

**Grace United Church, are you ready to behold the newness of God?**

Advent is around the corner, **December 3, 2023**, is the First Sunday of Advent. Are you able to see the Light from afar and follow this Guiding Light to experience **Immanuel – God with us** – once again?

**Thanks be to God who never gives up on us and offers the Gift of Newness to ALL!**

I remain humbly God's Servant-Daughter – Because of Grace,

**Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro**

B.A., B.Th., M.Div.

1 <https://www.walterbrueggemann.com/about/>



Dear Grace United Church,

You are invited to join in the conversation and help us pave the **Way Forward**.

On **October 1, 2023**, after worship, we will gather for a potluck luncheon (bring Your favourite dish or dessert) and converse together with the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett from our Regional Council.

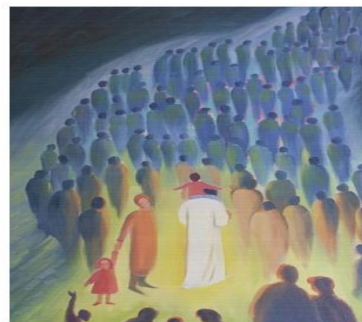
Think of these questions and prepare your hearts: **Who are we as a Community of Faith?** and **What do we do together to make this world a better place?**

Beloved, the Church without **"U"** is NOT church!

If You have any questions, please contact:

**Barb Jenkins**, Chair of Session – 613-583-2077, [barbjenkins1@gmail.com](mailto:barbjenkins1@gmail.com)

**Tammy Fergusson**, Clerk of Session – (613) 328-7766, [thefergussons@primus.ca](mailto:thefergussons@primus.ca)



*Christ Walks Amongst His People, With The Pilgrims And The Sick Ones, A Child On His Shoulders* Painting by Elizabeth Wang



## Grace United Church – Gananoque

Invites you to Join, Journey, Read,  
and Explore

### ***"Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship"***

*By: Gregory Boyle*

**Wednesdays: 7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**via ZOOM**

September 13, 2023 – Session #1:  
**Introduction & Chapter 1**  
(Up to page 33)

September 20, 2023 – Session #2:  
**Chapters 2 & 3**  
(Up to page 72)

September 27, 2023 – Session #3:  
**Chapters 4 & 5**  
(Up to page 107)

October 4, 2023 – Session #4:  
**Chapters 6 & 7**  
(Up to page 151)

### **NO VIBE – October 11 & 18**

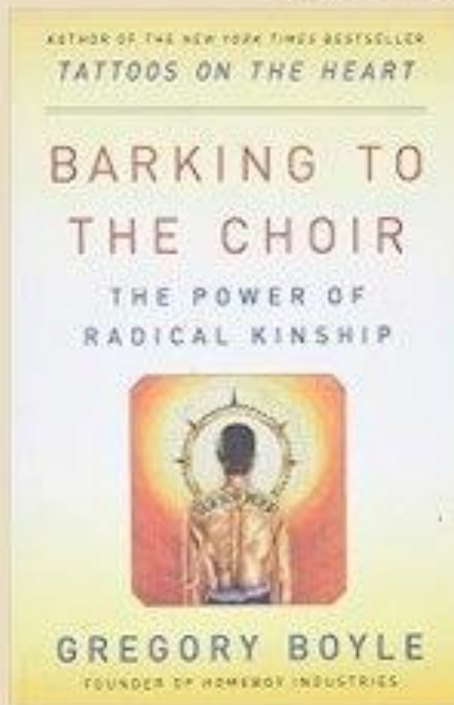
October 25, 2023 – Session #5  
**Chapters 8 & 9 (Up to Page 188)**

November 1, 2023 – Session #6:  
**Chapter 10 & Epilogue**  
(Up to page 209)

***ALL ARE WELCOME...***

**This is a safe space where we wrestle with our  
faith and find blessings!**

To receive the Zoom Link *contact* Rev. Takouhi  
by September 7, 2023, [revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca](mailto:revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca)



# Can you help keep Messy Church alive?

By Barbara Jenkins and Colleen Harding

Prior to Covid, Grace Church offered a monthly Messy Church to interested families and individuals in our community. Messy Church is an alternative form of worship for all ages

that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It is part of an international organization that began in England in 2004. Although it is aimed primarily at families, Messy Church is non-denominational, and open to anyone in the community who wishes to attend. Our only stipulation is that children must be accompanied by an adult. However, adults do not need a child to attend. It is Bible-based and Christ-centred and typically includes a welcome activity, a creative time to explore the biblical theme with activities, games and crafts; a celebration time involving a Bible story, prayer, and songs; and a sit-down meal together.

Our Messy Church was shut down unexpectedly by Covid but there has been interest expressed in reviving it. However, presenting Messy Church needs a committee of about 10 individuals who are interested in planning the program, preparing and supervising crafts and preparing the meal. At the present time we do not have enough individuals to run a full Messy Church program.

We are planning to start with a Saturday afternoon Birthday Party for Jesus on December 9<sup>th</sup>. This will include crafts, snacks, a birthday cake, sharing the Bible story of the first Christmas, and other activities. Any families or individuals who are interested will be invited to join us to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.

Are you interested in becoming involved in this form of outreach to our community? If you are interested or have more questions, please speak to Colleen Harding or Barb Jenkins. You are welcome to attend a planning meeting at the church on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Just let us know you would like to be involved.



# Mark your calendars for Board of Stewards Concert Series

*By Paul Harding*

Your Board of Stewards has undertaken a new project for fellowship and fund-raising: a Concert Series. The first concert was in early June and featured the immensely popular **WHOOZHEAR?**, a group of young musicians from Kingston. The enthusiastic response of a large audience, we hope, foreshadows similar success in the concerts to come.



On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the late Leonard Cohen's birthday, we present "**TOWER OF SONG**", a tribute to Cohen's poetry and songs. With vocals by Chantal Thompson, Cliff Edwards (guitar), Paul Harding (piano), and an instrumental ensemble of Rob Bradizza (guitar), Lisa Draper (violin), Jennifer Tindale (cello) and Bob Arlidge (string bass), you are bound to hear *your* favourite Leonard Cohen selection.

## Tower Of Song..

Grace United Church celebrates the Birthday of the Canadian Icon **LEONARD COHEN..**

**Thursday, Sept. 21st, 7:30pm**

Join Paul Harding, Cliff Edwards, Chantal Thompson and their very talented group of musicians, as they perform "Suzanne", "Bird On A Wire", "I'm Your Man", "Dance Me" and many other great Leonard songs.

Join us at **Grace United Church**  
**120 Pine St., Gananoque ON**

**Tickets \$20.00 per person**

Tickets are available in advance at the church office. Call 613-382-2161







On Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, we present **TURPIN'S TRAIL**. No strangers to Gananoque audiences, Turpin's Trail is a Kingston, Ontario based trio consisting of Jon McLurg, Chris Murphy and Noah St. Amand. With a closet-full of over a dozen instruments and a wealth of great original and traditional songs and tunes, Turpin's Trail brings together three veterans of Kingston's music scene to present a down-home evening of foot-stompin' entertainment.

Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, we are excited to present the **BOB BURTCH BLUEGRASS BAND**. This is the first time in many years that Bob and his musicians have performed in Gananoque, and we expect to pack the hall, just as they do whenever and wherever they appear. Bob (mandolin, guitar, vocals), Wayne Abrams (guitar, vocals), Mary Abrams (vocals), Shawn Kellett (fiddle), Ted Pelow (banjo) and Bill Lansdell (bass) will 'keep the joint jumpin'', with the finest bluegrass music you will hear in a very long time. **Tickets for this concert at \$25.**



All concerts are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available from the church office, the Gananoque Visitor Centre (cash only), members of the Board of Stewards, as well as Cliff and Paul.

# Annual Christmas Market – December 2, 2023

Mark your calendars, the annual Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 10am to 2pm. There will be crafts and vendors, silent auction, raffle table, bake table, pies and a delicious hot lunch.

We already have several Craft Makers and Vendors signed up. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining us, the cost is \$30/table/space. We are only allowing one type of product/item at the sale. Please contact Laurie at the church office for more details. 613-382-2161 and to reserve your spot.



A flyer for a Turkey Dinner at Grace United Church. It features a cartoon turkey at the top left and a pumpkin pie at the bottom left. The text is centered and includes the date, time, location, price, and contact information. A small logo for the Gananoque Curling Club is in the top right corner.

**Grace United Church**  
**Turkey Dinner**  
with all the trimmings and Pumpkin Pie  
**Tuesday, October 3, 2023**  
**5:30pm**  
**Gananoque Curling Club**  
300 William St. S.  
**\$20.00**  
Dine-in and take-out available  
advance sales only - no tickets at the door  
cut-off date: September 26th  
Contact: Denise Wood  
613-876-7739  
**Silent Auction**  
for more information,  
or to donate contact  
Linda Brooks  
613-382-2385

*For all I am  
and all I have  
I am grateful every day  
and I know that  
All my hopes and dreams  
are right now,  
on their way.  
Happy Thanksgiving*

**Did you know, pies are  
available anytime?  
Just give Carol a call to place  
your order and arrange pickup.**



A flyer for pie sales at Grace United Church. It features a cartoon turkey wearing a pilgrim hat and holding a pie. The text lists various pie flavors and prices. A speech bubble from the turkey says 'Save a Turkey Order a Pie!!'. The bottom of the flyer includes information about where and when to pick up the pies.

**Gobble, Gobble,  
Thanksgiving is almost here.**  
**Grace United Church has their delicious pies for sale.**  
**Call Carol to place your order, 613-382-4376**

- Apple
- Blueberry
- Bumbleberry
- Cherry
- Peach
- Strawberry
- Strawberry/Rhubarb
- Rhubarb \$15 each
- Raspberry \$20

**Save a Turkey Order a Pie!!**

Orders can be placed anytime. Pick up is Friday October 6th between 3 & 6pm at Grace United, 120 Pine St., Gananoque.



# Oldest member of Grace United celebrates his 99<sup>th</sup>

By Paul Scott

Two years before The United Church of Canada was established, Charlie Donevan was born. That was July 31, 1923. This past summer Charlie gathered with well-wishers outside Donevan's Hardware to celebrate his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Asked about longevity, with a twinkle in his eye, he replied, "and I don't feel a day over 98!" Decked out in a black tail coat and matching top hat and proudly seated in the old McLaughlin carriage outside his store, Charlie welcomed local dignitaries, residents and friends and shared a piece of birthday cake.

One could say that Charlie and Donevan's Hardware are fixtures in this town, but Charlie is also a life-long member of Grace United Church and that family affiliation goes back generations. His grandfather, James Donevan was church treasurer for 30 years and his father Charles Sr. was involved with all aspects of church work – right down to pumping the organ!

Charlie tells the story of his dad, as a young boy, being given the job each Sunday of keeping the bellows inflated on the old pump organ. Located back behind a wooden screen was a stool and two foot pedals. Perhaps an early rendition of the modern Cubii foot pedal exerciser. It was tough work for a young boy and the long sermons lacked excitement. One Sunday, young Charles dosed off, only to be disturbed by a pounding on the wooden screen.



"He immediately awakened and started pumping furiously." The service continued!

As for Charles Jr, the 99 year old one, he has dedicated his life to the work and programming at Grace United whether serving on church boards, teaching Sunday school, helping with church suppers or fixing furnaces. Charlie was there.

He was very involved with the Sea Scout troop and yours truly will always remember the annual camping weekends on Burnt Island. Charlie was the cook. So bright and early, we'd hear the wood fire crackling in the huge stone cook stove. The coffee would be on for the leaders and Charlie had the huge iron frying pans heated and ready for the bacon and eggs. It was quite the spread!

Then there were the Easter Sunday sunrise services on the big rock at Landon Bay. Wasn't everybody wide awake and ready to go at 5 a.m.?



Charlie with his "Dear Terry" shirt of the Terry Fox Run.

Charlie has been extremely interested and involved in his community. He was a town councilor and between community and church, he also found the time to establish and develop Landon Bay Vacation Centre. Not wanting to see the large tract of land with its beautiful lookout fall into the hands of developers, he subscribed local folks to kick in some money and purchased the old Cross farm. When it was time to change chapters, The Landon Bay board of directors approached Parks Canada and the property became part of 1000 Islands National Park.



Mural at TD Bank Gananoque, inspired by Charlie Donevan and the Tin Boat Races.

To conclude, in the 1990's during Festival of the Islands, Charlie reached back into his childhood river past and re-created the tin boat races. The Donevan family owned a small island on the back side of Tremont Is. It was a yearly tradition of build tin boats. This involved "finding" a sheet of tin roofing somewhere in town, some wood, nails and tar. During the Festival, Charlie held workshops for young folks interested in building a tin boat. It became very popular and each year races were held at Confederation Park in the centre of town. The 1000 Islands Boat Museum just recently created a display featuring the tin boat. It is worth a visit.

And that's a bit of what I remember as a guy growing up at Grace Church with Charlie.

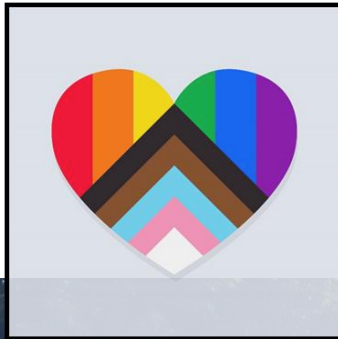




## Pride service on July 16 kicks off Pride Week in Gananoque

*"GOD chose a rainbow as a sign of hope for the future of humanity and life on Earth. Today we are invited to do our part and work together to co-create something as beautiful and bright as a rainbow for ALL People who are created in God's Image."*

Below are Rev. Takouhi and various members of Grace United Church and the community who were at the Gananoque PRIDE parade held July 22, 2023.



*The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.*

- Mark 12:31





## Cogeco antennas are still a go!

By Brian Brooks

Monthly inspection of the fire alarm, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers continues by the maintenance team. At the last power failure it was noted that a number of emergency lights were not working. New batteries were ordered and have now been received. They will be installed shortly.

The COCEGO tower lease has been signed by authorized Church members and subsequently confirmed by COGECO. An engineering team will be visiting Grace by end of the month to start the process of installing the antennas on the Church tower.

We will be contacting GLAD plumbing in early October, to start up the boiler and furnace to get ready for the cold winter ahead.

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## Continuous support is key to meeting the budget

By Vicki Leakey

I have to start by saying thank you to all of our worship community, we try to spread the message where more funds are needed and many have made that possible in their offerings. The church leaders do notice and want to give you our appreciation for all who have reached to dig deeper as shown on the collection plates.

We continue to so appreciate of the time and service of the pie making group as they have faithfully allowed for fundraising dollars to continue to flow in throughout the summer. They have raised over \$5,500 for the church this year and with Thanksgiving and Christmas sales still ahead, they are definitely recognized as our top fundraisers.

However, during this time of rising costs we need to ask that continued financial support is needed and the stewards and the music team for our congregation have planned for concerts and a dinner this fall that is another means of financial support for the church family. Try and extend an invitation out to friends to come and enjoy a concert being provided or there is also an opportunity for a turkey dinner to be held at the Curling Club where you just need to buy a ticket and come and enjoy a meal.

To remind you, we have several Offerings' options available for those that may wish to provide continued support during the winter months when some may have the opportunity for extended travel to a warmer climate. **E-transfer** from your on-line bank account is popular, you can look for "send an e-transfer" on your on line banking

website and send to [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com). Just follow the instructions given.

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

Great to see coffee time back after a service, wonderful to have a social minute with our church family.

We plan to have a session of instruction for planned giving as it has always been a wonderful gift when the church family is remembered in an estate and those surprises are sometimes at the most needed times. We have a building that will always need maintenance to ensure we have great space for many of our programs. Those costs are normally one off but generally expensive. We will have our board members consider the operational and capital needs for the 2024 budget in October and we look forward to your continued generosity in helping through these challenging times.

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Our sincere condolences to all who have lost loved ones over the past few months. Know that we are holding you in our hearts and pray that you find comfort and peace in your memories.

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**Celebrations for October, November** – Happy Birthday or Anniversary to all those who celebrating over the next few months.

**Happy Birthday** Susan T., Brian T., Bert P., Susan B., Susan T., Helen Johnston., Neil M., Betty W., Bill L., Joan M., Rev. Takouhi, Brian B., Carolyn S., Murray R., Doug W.

**Happy Anniversary** To Brad & Anne, 44years and to John & Helen 50 years.

***Congratulations Everyone!!***

**We would love to hear your feed back. Do you read the newsletter?**

**Should we continue with the newsletter? Let us know.**

**Email Paul Scott [scottsonhill@hotmail.com](mailto:scottsonhill@hotmail.com)**

Contributors this month are:

Rev. Takouhi, Paul Harding, Brian Brooks, Vicki Leakey, Barb Jenkins, Colleen Harding, Denise Wood, Elaine Davidson, Diane Kirkby, Mary Donevan, Laurie Cadue, Paul Scott.

**Deadline for the Fall Edition of Grace's Chatter**

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

# Fall Word Search



R C S E A S O N E D P G H A T L B H T O K H  
S H N X V V X F L Q W M O L P V C R O S D E  
R E O G O Y L W D C O B B W E P A W R Q A B  
K S V U R K R F Q Y C E K W Q A L C A U W N  
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NOVEMBER  
HAYSTACK  
SQUIRREL  
SEPTEMBER  
PEARS  
SQUASH

PUMPKIN  
ACORN  
CORN  
PINE CONE  
AUTUMN  
RAINCOT

HALLOWEEN  
LEAVES  
YELLOW  
ORANGE  
CHANGE  
APPLE

THANKSGIVING  
OCTOBER  
SEASON  
FESTIVAL  
MIGRATION  
CHESTNUTS

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## **Contact information:**

**Call Rev. Takouhi to book a visit. (Wednesday to Sunday)**

**Rev. Takouhi (direct Line) 613-777-0880**

**Email: [RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca](mailto:RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca)**

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**Board of Stewards: Chair: Denise Wood: 613-876-7739 [seelion89@gmail.com](mailto:seelion89@gmail.com)**

**Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks 613-382-2385 [brooksb525@gmail.com](mailto:brooksb525@gmail.com)**