



Grace's Chatter – Fall 2024



*"There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens."
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)*



Dear Grace United Church,

This year, September 22 marks the first day of autumn.

Fall is my favourite season. If I had a choice to rearrange the seasons, I would put Autumn, Spring, Winter and Summer. Yes, a little messed up, but thank God, the Creator has arranged everything in its perfect way and time.

If you ask me, where did the summer of 2024 go, I will say: "I do not know." Moreover, I will add and say: "I do not know where the nine months of this year have gone." Life seems to be one fleeting moment after another. However, these fleeting moments help us grow if we pay attention. I have learned, similar to our life journey, every **Season** has its own **Lessons**, every **Lesson** is an **Experience**, and every **Experience** brings forth **Growth** — growing deeper in our relationship with the Creator and each other — but it is up to us to participate and partake.

I truly love the fact that each season teaches us different lessons. **Winter** reminds us to stay **Calm, Quiet**, and **Still** even in the storms of life. **Spring** teaches us that in those calm, quiet and still moments of life, **life percolates underground** and **new life** is about to break through. **Summer** reminds us to enjoy every aspect of life. Fun with family and friends with Mother Nature calling us to get outdoors — on water and on land to help us feel **free and grounded** at the same time. Lastly, the season of **Autumn** that we have already started to embrace since mid-August slowly invites us to embrace the humble act of letting go. The foliage is changing colours and reminding us to embrace the gift of letting go, because we have been gifted with everything in our lives.



Fall is my favourite season, as it reminds me repeatedly that we cannot hold on to the same life forever, **everything must change**. You have heard me say frequently from the pulpit that if a newborn infant does not grow, the parents and the doctors realize that there is something wrong.



Change is inevitable in life — **the only constant is change.**

So, today, I want to invite you to embrace change, to embrace newness and to trust the ONE who is the only constant in life besides change, the Creator, is always with you.

I want to leave you with the words of Barbra Streisand's song: **"Everything Must Change"** — from one of my favourite albums, **"Higher Ground" (1997):**

Everything Must Change

Everything must change
Nothing stays the same
Everyone must change
No one stays the same

The young become the old
And mysteries do unfold
Cause that's the way of time
Nothing and no one goes unchanged

There are not many things in life
You can be sure of

Except rain comes from the clouds
Sun lights up the sky
And hummingbirds do fly

Winter turns to spring
A wounded heart will heal
But never much too soon
Yes, everything must change

The young become the old
And mysteries do unfold
Cause that's the way of time
Nothing and no one goes unchanged

There are not many things in life
You can be sure of

Except rain comes from the clouds
Sun lights up the sky
And butterflies do fly
Rain comes from the clouds

Sun lights up the sky
And music
And music
Makes me cry ¹

1 Songwriters: Benard Ighner - Everything Must Change lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

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

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro

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

Pies for God's Sake available year-round

By Elaine Davidson

The Pie makers at Grace have been making pies all summer for our church community and the community of Gananoque. Pies are available for order year round now. Our freezers are filling up for the pie orders requested before Thanksgiving! Our wonderful group of Happy volunteers decided unanimously that it would be fun to have matching T-shirts to wear to our Pie Bee's and also, be walking advertisements for our pies when out in the community! There is no charge to the church as we are buying our own shirts 😊 Catherine Mills son-in-law is helping us with this fun project by procuring the red t-shirts for us

PIES!!



\$15 Each - Strawberry,
Strawberry/Rhubarb,
Rhubarb, Cherry,
Blueberry, Bumbleberry,
Peach, Apple.
\$20 - Raspberry
(cash only).

Please call the church office
between 9 a.m. and 12
p.m., at 613-382-2161
to Arrange pick up.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
& Friday
(sorry - closed on Wednesday)

Celebrating 100 years for United Church of Canada

By David Charles

For the 2025, 100th year celebration of the formation of the United Church of Canada I would like to feature stories from the history of Grace United Church during our Generosity Matters segment of Sunday worship.

In particular I would like to focus on Grace Community of Faith supporting Mission and Service in the local community and around the world. Please contact me with your stories.

The EOORC Fall Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Trinity-St. Andrew Church in Renfrew. Contact David Charles or Tammy Fergusson if you are interested in attending.



Fundraising Concerts

September 26th, 2024 - THE PLOWBOYS - THIS IS COUNTRY MUSIC



THE PLOWBOYS, where traditional country music meets the sparkle of rhinestone suits! Hailing from the picturesque landscapes of eastern Ontario, this five-piece ensemble has been strumming and singing their hearts out since 2016, creating a musical experience that's as authentic as it is dazzling.

Formed in the heart of eastern Ontario, The Plowboys are a tight-knit group of musicians brought together by their love for traditional country tunes. With roots deeply embedded in the rich soil of classic country sounds, they've cultivated a signature style that pays homage to the legends that paved the way while adding their own unique flair.

In Rhinestone We Trust: Step into The Plowboys' world, and you'll find a stage adorned with glimmering rhinestone suits that reflect the bright spirit of their music. These outfits aren't just for show; they're a symbol of the band's commitment to bringing a touch of glamour to the rustic charm of country music.

Musical Harvest: The Plowboys' repertoire is a musical harvest of classic country hits and original compositions, all delivered with a passion that can only come from the heart. From toe-tapping honky-tonk numbers by Buck Owens and Ray Price to soulful ballads from Merle Haggard and Jim Reeves, their performances are a journey through the timeless landscapes of country storytelling.

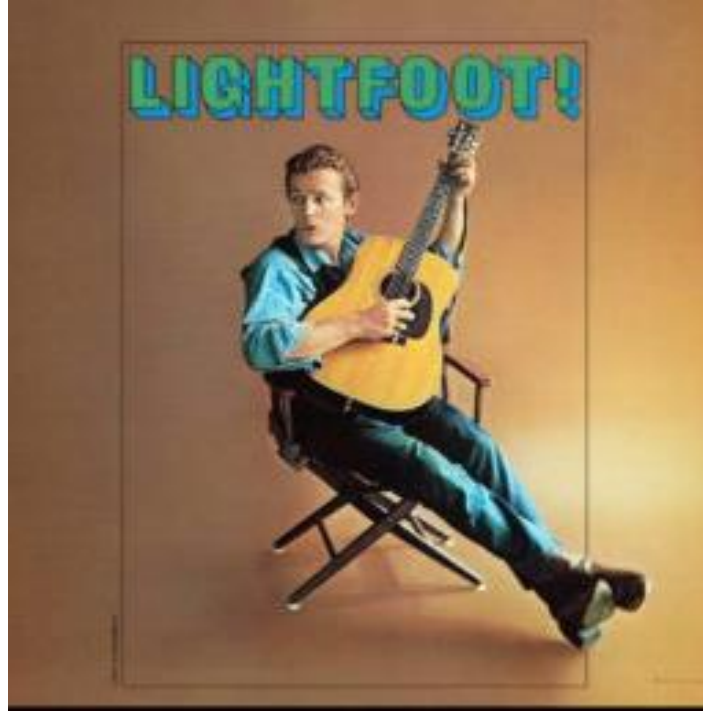
Saddle up and get ready for a toe-tappin', rhinestone-shinin' good time with The Plowboys – where the roots run deep, and the music shines even brighter!

November 21st, 2024 - MINSTREL OF THE DAWN

A GORDON LIGHTFOOT BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE



Cliff Edwards



Rob Bradizza



Paul Harding



Lisa Draper



Jennifer Tindale



Bob Arlidge

With Cliff Edwards, Paul Harding, Rob Bradizza and the string sounds of Kingston's Lisa Draper, Jennifer Tindale and Bob Arlidge, Grace United Church will be celebrating the November 21ST birthday of Canada's troubadour, Gordon Lightfoot (1938-2023). You may recall the lush sounds of "Tower of Song", a tribute to Leonard Cohen. With the same artists as the popular Leonard Cohen concert last September, you will be treated to such classic Lightfoot hits as "If You Could Read My Mind", "In the Early Morning Rain", "Carefree Highway", "Minstrel of the Dawn", and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and many, many more. Look for special guests to join our sextet as we enjoy the best of Gordon Lightfoot.

Tickets for this concert are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Tickets for all concerts are available at Grace United Church (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. mornings), Beggars Banquet Books, the Gananoque Visitors Centre.

OCTOBER FOLK MUSIC CONCERT

Watch for news on a tentative concert being planned for October. We're working to share a fundraising concert with the Gananoque Legion, featuring the talents of Paul Harding, Rob Bradizza, Robyn Ableson and Cliff Edwards. This popular concert, held in July at the St. Alban's Centre in Adolphustown, is "The Best of Folk Music", a program of class folk music by Pete Seeger, The Kingston Trio, Peter Paul & Mary and many, many more. Watch for details of this concert.

Session Outlines Opportunities for Involvement

By Barb Jenkins, Chair of Session

After a wonderful summer break, your Session is busy again. We miss Wes Rideout who has moved to Ottawa, and we would love to welcome someone new to sit on the Session committee.

Remember that all Grace members can have a name badge. See Laurie to order yours. It helps when you are racking your brain to recall a name.

Our committee looks after finding ushers to participate in the service by welcoming others or by reading the scripture and Your Generosity Matters. Please let us know if you want to give it a try. We have a handy guide available for reference at the time. We will start to serve refreshments before the service. The social time at the back of the church is always fun and a good chance to see other folks to catch up. You do not need to be a committee member.

We have been working on a flyer which outlines the sponsorship opportunities which are available. See attached. Let Julie Price know if you have questions.

The next EOORC meeting is on October 5th in person in Renfrew from 9 to 5 or on zoom. This is our regional council. Contact Tammy Ferguson if you need info about attending.

On Monday September 30th there will be a lantern lit walk and event in Gananoque about the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. It will be in the evening starting from Town Hall. On Sunday the 29th, we, at Grace, will recognize the Day by wearing orange. There will be more information coming.

Fall into Pride weekend in Gananoque will start September 26th and continue through till Sunday the 29th. There is a full slate of activities, and the parade will be in the park on the Sunday.

Our Sharing and Caring committee continues to send cards and arrange visits for anyone in need. Let us know of anyone we may have missed.

We are continuing to sell books for the United Church of Canada 100th anniversary next June.

In the meantime, Grace United has our 188th anniversary coming up soon. We will be celebrating on November 3rd. Stay tuned for details. We hope to have a catered lunch after church and a presentation focused on our history around the fire of 1979. This is a story that many may not be so familiar with, and it highlights the strength in adversity that this community of faith has shown. This will be a ticketed event open to the public and we will be inviting all churches to join us. We will also have a scavenger hunt for the young at heart to explore the beautiful stained-glass windows in the building. Hope to see you there.

Ever thought of sponsoring an event or church supplies?

It has come to the attention of Session that some members are looking for Sponsorship Opportunities at Grace United Church, Gananoque. These might be a spontaneous gesture; in memory of; or to mark a special occasion, like a birthday or an anniversary.

We have begun to compile a list:

Sunday Morning Worship

- Sunday Morning Bulletins
(Harding Family, Scott Family, Merna Price, Rev. Takouhi)
- Musical Accompaniments for Service
(Thank you, Michele & Rev. Takuhi)
- Organ Servicing
- Worship Supplies (Candles, replacing glass on Communion Table)
- Celebration Cakes
- Coffee Cart Supplies
- First Aid Kit (Thank you Colleen)

Outreach

- Grace's Café (U.C.W. sponsored, are there other ways we can contribute or facilitate?)
- Community Kitchen
- Caring & Sharing cards (Get well, Thinking of You & Sympathy, Stamps)

Publicity

- myFM Broadcasts (Easter/Christmas)

We are also exploring ways of acknowledging such support and welcome input. Some will, of course, wish to remain anonymous, but recognition in the bulletin and from the lectern during announcements, a label on specific item or box item is stored in, and other signage are options being considered. In addition to recognizing supporters, this also makes others aware of opportunities to extend their support.

Logistics, filtering through the Church for tax receipts for example, are also to be considered. We know that members of committees are already quietly purchasing and not submitting expenses. Our deepest appreciation for their contributions.

We encourage other committees to consider if there are opportunities to add to this list so we can share it with the congregation. We think a joint effort will best serve the congregation. Some suggestions are included below:

Fundraising (Stewards)

- Band fees for Concerts
- Pie Making Expenses
- Dinner expenses

Trustees

- Insurance (approx. \$1000/month)

Maintenance

- New Equipment
- Supplies (sponsor a roll of toilet paper)
- Service Contracts

Office

- Supplies (paper, Ink)



Fund Raising and Rentals Continue to Have Positive Impact

By Vicki Leakey, Chair of Stewards

Our fundraising report as of August 31, provides great news from the busy bees. The past few months have brought in funds from the pancake breakfast, concerts, a magic show, fund scrip and our pies, total revenue was \$12,900, expenses \$4818 leaving a net profit of \$8,082. There has been encouragement for stewards to look for every possibility to reduce expenses where possible. The lineup for fall concerts, rentals in our hall and start up to get ready for the Christmas Market have already started.

Our first concert is on Thursday, September 26th being the Plowboys, bringing traditional country music. On October 19th, Melodia Monday has asked us for space for a fundraiser for Half Moon Bay and this concert will be paying tribute to the "Bells" with some of Cliff Edwards songs of yesterday. In November we will have a concert as a tribute to Gordon Lightfoot with the date to be announced.

The Christmas market is set for celebration on Saturday, November 30th.

We are making our kitchen available for members of the First People's Event to prepare a meal that they serve at another venue on Saturday September 21.

The Community Pride group has an activity for youth at the church on Friday, September 27th from 4 to 5:30.

Our church rentals are on the calendar and space is being utilized most days during the week. We are very willing to work with any group looking to bring a new activity into the community so please make sure to keep us in mind when talking with groups looking for a space to rent. Stewards are very interested to know if there were a group that would like to see a drop in coffee house formed or perhaps euchre in an afternoon for us to open up the hall if available. Please contact any member of Stewards if you have thoughts about this.

Trustees Continue to Throw Out the Life Ring

Vicki Leakey, Treasurer

On this beautiful fall day with the sun shining brightly it speaks to the positivity of a new day. Many church members are working diligently to find solutions for this congregation to meet the costs of church life for today and tomorrow. We encourage everyone to stay involved and support each other during periods of uncertainty, the Grace United Church family has proven to be resilient many times and continuing to work hard together will bring us to a better tomorrow.

Our total year to date revenue as of August 31 was \$179,795 compared to \$151,753 of the prior year, our total year to date expenses was \$171,788 compared to \$154,077 of the prior year. The large increase in revenue is due to higher offerings, facility rentals, fundraising and the tax rebate not received in the prior year, however, without the \$80,000 transferred from Trustee funds we would not have been able to pay all of our costs.

Our church family continues to find ways of supporting their church financially with increases within their means or offering time to assist with a fundraiser or helping an organization making use of our facilities. 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 online banking website and send to grace.gan@outlook.com. Just follow the instructions given. Offerings by mail is another option – send postdated cheques by mail to Grace Church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7.

Preauthorized Remittances (PAR) is also an option. A PAR form can be found at the end of the newsletter.

May we all find peace in the upcoming months as we work to create a better tomorrow.



Annual Christmas Market

Plans are underway for our annual Christmas Market. This year our market will take place on Saturday, November 30th from 10 am to 2pm.

Our first planning meeting was held on Thursday, September 12th. At the meeting we discussed the menu for our luncheon, what would take place at the market, Bake Table, Pies, Vendor spots, silent auction and raffle.

We would love to have some new volunteers join us for the day. We promise that you will have a great time.

Several vendors have already signed up. We try to have only one of each type of product at the Market, which allows vendors to make as much as they can. So far, we have Hand Knit Items, Honey & Candles, Coffee, Soaps, Jams & Jellies, Wreaths, Avon, and Pike Island Outfitters, Bird baths & Feeders from recycled items. At this time, there is only space for a couple more vendors.

If you would like to be a Vendor please contact Laurie at the church office, 613-382-2161 or grace.gan@outlook.com.

To volunteer please contact Denise Wood at 613-876-7739

Volunteers are needed in the Kitchen, to prepare and serve food, clear tables, to sell raffle tickets, man the bake table, set up and clean up for the sale.



Meeting Future Challenges as a Community of Faith

By Elaine Davidson

Members of the Ministry & Personnel committee have been busy meeting with the staff to listen to their concerns and issues they would like considered if we start the process of speaking with other churches regarding the possible sharing of services. We will be meeting with Rev. Takouhi on her return from her well-deserved holiday. Elaine Davidson will be the representative for M&P on the Sub committee, of the Visioning Team, when meetings are scheduled with Lansdowne United church. The M&P committee would also like to acknowledge and thank Paul and Colleen for their generous offer to reduce Paul's salary for the remaining 4 months of 2024 in view of the churches challenging financial situation.

Maintenance Committee Report

By Brian Brooks

- We continue our monthly inspection of the fire extinguishers, alarm system and emergency lighting etc.
 - COCECO is not online yet. They are waiting for the installation of the antennas, currently only brackets on the steeple. They are however making their monthly lease payments.
 - Large holes have been noticed on the east lawn. We believe they are a result of erosion caused by the runoff from the down spouts and the collapse of the old dry well system. We are working to correct.
-



Celebrations – Happy Birthday or Anniversary to all those who celebrating in October and November.

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

Happy Anniversary to Brad & Anne (45yrs) and John & Helen (51yrs)

Congratulations Everyone!!

Contributors this month are:

Rev. Takouhi, Brian Brooks, Vicki Leakey, Barb Jenkins, Elaine Davidson, Dave Charles, Denise Wood, Laurie Cadue, Paul Harding, Paul Scott.

Deadline for the Fall Edition of Grace's Chatter

November 16, 2024

Contact information:

Call Rev. Takouhi to book a visit or chat anytime.

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

Email: RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca

(Her rest days are Monday and Tuesday, and normal workdays are Wednesday to Sunday)

Office (Laurie Cadue) 613-382-2161 grace.gan@outlook.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 1:00 p.m.

(Closed on Wednesdays)

Contacts for Grace United

Session: Chair: Barb Jenkins: 613-583-2077 barbjenkins1@gmail.com

Board of Stewards: Chair: & Treasurer:

Vicki Leakey 613-382-4015 vickileakey@gmail.com

Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks 613-382-2385 brooksb525@gmail.com

Trustee Chair: Angus Fergusson 613-328-7766 thefergussons@primus.ca





PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

- For registration of new PAR donors
- or
- For banking changes for existing donors

FOR USE BY PAR ADMINISTRATOR	
PAR congregational number:	_____
Church PAR administrator:	_____
Phone number:	_____
E-mail:	_____

Donor name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal code: _____

E-mail _____ Envelope# _____ Monthly gift amount \$ _____

Name of local church: _____

Address: _____

This gift to the above church is to benefit

Local church: \$ _____ Mission and Service: \$ _____ Other: \$ _____

Option 1: Pre-authorized debit

Please attach a **VOID** cheque.

I/We request/authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month, starting the 20th of _____, 20____. I/we also recognize and agree to the following:

- I/we may change the amount of my contribution at any time by contacting our church PAR contact.
- I/we have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
- I/we waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of pre-authorized remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAR before the debit is processed.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Option 2: Visa/MasterCard/American Express

Please note that a 2.5% service charge reduces the total of your donation to your congregation.

Card number: _____ Expiry: _____
MM YY

Name on card: _____

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Thank you for your generosity.

The use, retention, and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation and adheres to the principles of the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (S.C. 2000, c.5)*.

The United Church of Canada Attn: PAR • 3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4
1-800-268-3781, ext. 3152 • fax: 416-231-3103 or 416-232-6003 • par@united-church.ca

10090