

## **CHRISTMAS VACATION**

Laurie will be away on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and away from December 22 to Jan 5<sup>th</sup> for a Christmas Break. Please contact one of the people listed below for Church related items.

Barb Jenkins is the Rental Coordinator, contact Barb for Rental Inquiries 613-583-2077

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### **Contact information:**

#### **Office**

(Laurie Cadue) 613-382-2161 [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com)

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### **Church Office Hours:**

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

**(Closed on Wednesdays)**

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### **Boards of Grace United**

**Session : Chair :** Colleen Harding

613-382-2405      [colleen.g.harding@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.g.harding@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: TBD      Clerk: Julie Price

**Board of Stewards: Chair:** Vicki Leakey

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards,      Secretary: Mary Haussler

**Official Board: Chair:** Chuck Galway

613 532 1217      [lyndwayhills@gmail.com](mailto:lyndwayhills@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Dave Charles,      Secretary: Diane Nuttall

**Treasurer: Vicki Leakey**

613-484-6197      [vickileakey@gmail.com](mailto:vickileakey@gmail.com)

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If you are not able to join us in person or want to watch the service again, watch on YouTube.

Service from the previous week will be shown on COGECO channel 13 or 700HD at 10:30 am Sunday mornings.

## **WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH**



**Where Everyone is Part of the Family  
and Worship is a Lifestyle NOT an Event**

**(Remember to pass this bulletin to someone else  
You never know how you will Bless them)**



**Grace United Church**  
120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 1C7

**Director of Music**  
Mr. Paul Harding, B.Mus., B.Ed.

**Office Administrator**  
Laurie Cadue

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
***Advent 3 Joy – Baptism – White Gift***  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Erin Burns**

**We Gather as A Grateful People**

**Prelude:** *Meditation on a Theme by James Murray*

**Welcome:** Shirley Clark

**Land Acknowledgement**

One: Grace United Church takes seriously the commitments made to First Nations communities through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, especially through the Calls to Action to churches like us.

**All: Therefore, we acknowledge this day, that we gather for worship on the traditional territories of the original nations of this land, and we acknowledge with respect, their history, their spirituality and their culture.**

**Community in Action - Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Centring Music: We Centre Our Hearts for Worship**

**ADVENT Wreath: Christina Charney**



**Advent Hymn: Voices United #6**  
***A Candle is Burning – Verses 1,2 & 3***

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

One: On this third Sunday of Advent,  
we come with Joy.

**All: We watch, we wait, we wonder.**

One: May we bask in the joyful moments that are ours when we take time to notice Joy – in the beauty of nature, in the beauty of a single snowflake with its intricate, always-unique pattern, or in the many snowflakes that comprise the softly falling snow, or in the play and laughter of children.

**All: We embrace Joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, Mary's infant child.**

One: As we light the third candle in our wreath,  
we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of Joy.

**ADVENT PRAYER (Unison)**

**God of Joy,**

**On this third Sunday of Advent, may we bask in the joy of the season, the joy we find in relationships, the joy of gathering in our community of faith and being with those we love, and the joy that awaits us in the coming of Jesus.**

### **Spiritual Focus**

"Come Inside" Kind Ox said  
"There's always room for a little one here"  
(from Room for a Little One)

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

#### **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

One: Advent summons us  
with the exuberant hopefulness of a child.

**All: Advent holds us spellbound  
with child-like wonder.**

One: Advent challenges us to care for the littlest child.

**All: Advent amazes us,  
for God was made known in a tiny child.**

### **Gathering Hymn: Voices United #29** ***On Jordan's Bank***

### **Prayer of the Day (Unison)**

**God of the unexpected and undreamt:**

**In this holy season,  
instill your joy in our hearts.**

**Prepare us;**

**prepare us so we can hear again the song of the  
angels**

**and see again the beckoning star. Amen.**

### **We Reflect on the Sacred Stories**

### **A Time for the Youth and Young At Heart:**

**Story Time: *Room for a Little One***

### **Baptismal Hymn: Voices United #450**

***Here At This Font***

**Baptism: Iva Pearl Hunter**

### **Statement of Purpose**

### **Presentation of Those to be Baptized**

### **Family Promises**

### **Godparent Commitment:**

### **Congregational Commitment and Blessing**

One: As a people of faith,  
Will you pray that God's blessing of support and  
nurture,  
Be with Iva and her family  
In all the places where they live, play and grow.  
Do you promise to create a community which  
worships God, follows Jesus,  
remains ready and open  
to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit?  
Do you promise to provide a community which,  
in living love and in resisting evil,  
is committed to Jesus' teaching.



and ministry of healing and wholeness?  
Will you promise to share your own special gifts  
and abilities with this community and encourage  
the same from others?

**Congregation:**

**We will, with God's blessing.**

**We will continue to pray for you,  
support you and walk with you.**

**With God's help, we will live faithfully  
our baptism as a loving community in Christ:**

**Nurturing one another in faith**

**Upholding one another in prayer**

**Encouraging one another in God's work**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water**

**Act of Baptism**



**Voices United #958 – Halle, Halle, Halle**

Halle, halle, halle- lu – jah!

Halle, halle, halle- lu – jah!

Halle, halle, halle- lu – jah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah! (Repeat)

Words: trad. Liturgical text

Music: anon., arr. The Iona Community 1990

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**Scripture Reader: Denise Wood**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-56**

**Reader:** Listen for the Sacred Story,

**All: our ears and hearts are open.**

**Scripture Reading:**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a  
Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered  
the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When  
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her  
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>  
and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among  
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And  
why has this happened to me, that the mother of my  
Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound  
of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.  
<sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would  
be[e] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the  
Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary[f] said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his  
servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me  
blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;

<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of  
their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months  
and then returned to her home.

**Reader:** Here ends today’s reading.  
For the Sacred Story is God’s story,

**All: for the Sacred Story is our story,**

**Reader:** for the Sacred Story is our source  
and inspiration.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** *Sing With the Angels - Price, Besig*

**Morning Message:** Always Room for a Little One

## We Respond to God’s Grace

**Solo: *Candlelight Carol - John Rutter***

**Soloist: David Grant**

### **Prayers of Hope and Healing**

#### **Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. **Amen.**



### **Your Generosity Matters:**

#### **White Gift**



### **Invitation to Offering**

We give as able to spread God’s Love with JOY!  
(*The Offering is Received*)



### **Offertory Hymn: Voices United #55 (Vs. 4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872

Music: Gustave Theodor Holst 1906

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

**As we prepare, O God,  
for the festival of Christ's birth,  
help us to give in expectation of his return.  
May our gifts be used to prepare the world for  
Christ's coming,  
when all creation shall sing your praise. Amen.**

**God Sends Us into the World To Be The Church**

### **Hymn of Going Forth: Voices United #28**

***Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness***

(Tune: Regent Square VU #36)

### **Commissioning**

### **Benediction**

**Choral Amen: All**

**Postlude:** *Postlude on "Regent Square" - Alec Rowley*

### **Welcome**

***as we gather for worship this Sunday morning. If you are a visitor or a newcomer to this Community of Faith, either in person or virtually, we extend a warm welcome. May you come in as a stranger but depart, knowing you are part of the family. Thank you for joining us.***

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**Advent Bible Study –Wednesdays at 10:00am  
Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 17th**

**Join Tammy Fergusson as she leads our Bible Study. All are Welcome**

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### **Celebration Candle**



**Today we send Blessings of Joy to all who are celebrating Birthdays, Anniversaries and Special Events in the coming week.**

**May Joy abound and Love Multiply.**

**Happy Anniversary to Dave & Joan.**

*Would you like your Birthday or Anniversary added to our announcements contact Laurie at the church Office and give her the details.*

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**Thank you to our Worship Leader this morning, Rev. Erin Burns. Next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, Donna Norman will lead our service with special musical guests, the Brass Quartet**

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## December Speakers

Dec 14 Rev. Erin Burns (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent)

Dec. 21 Donna Norman (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent)

Dec. 24 Rev. Erin Burns (Christmas Eve)

Dec. 28 Tammy Fergusson (Baby Shower)

## **Offerings – December 2025**

| Date    | Attend | General   | M&S       | Benev.<br>(SGM) | White<br>Gift |
|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| Dec. 7  | 27     | \$1474.50 | \$ 137.50 | \$ 37.50        | \$ 100.00     |
| Dec. 14 |        |           |           |                 |               |
| Dec. 21 |        |           |           |                 |               |
| Dec. 24 |        |           |           |                 |               |
| Dec. 28 |        |           |           |                 |               |
| BMO     |        |           |           |                 |               |
| PAR     |        |           |           |                 |               |

**Thank you for your generosity.**



**All money received for White Gift will be used to purchase Grocery Store Gift Cards. These cards will be given to our local police to distribute to those in need.**



**GRACE UNITED CHURCH invites you  
CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE  
Wed., Dec. 24th – 7:00pm**



**Baby Shower for Jesus  
Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am**

You are invited to a baby shower for Jesus. This informal celebration will be held downstairs in the auditorium with carols, readings, prayers, coffee and treats.

Please bring a wrapped gift suitable for a young child, or a monetary gift. These gifts will be passed on to a local family.

Come and bring a friend!  
Let's fill the manger!

**Grace United Church**  
120 Pine St., Gananoque  
(613) 382-2161