

Grace's Chatter – Fall 2026

Accessibility to Grace United building is a challenge

By Chuck Galway,
Official Board Chair

As we enter this busy fall season, we have so much to be proud of here at Grace United. Our church is deeply valued in the Gananoque area, thanks to the incredible hard work of our members and volunteers who make our building a true asset to the wider town.

Our vibrant community shines through in everything we do. From our inspiring weekly worship services to the dedicated hands of our pie makers, knitting group, and quilters, we continue to touch lives. We are also proud to serve our community by hosting events like our Teen Dances, creating a welcoming space for everyone who walks through our doors.

We are especially blessed this season by the wonderful work of Cliff Edwards and Paul Harding. Thanks to their dedication, we have an outstanding lineup of musical talent coming to our church this fall and throughout the winter months. These concerts bring beautiful music to Gananoque and provide a tremendous boost to our church's financial stability.

However, as we look to the future, there is an important issue we must address: the physical accessibility of our beloved building. Because of our current layout and many stairs, a number of our members, guests, and concert-goers find it a significant challenge to attend events in the Sanctuary or gather in the lower level.

How can we fix this situation? It is a big task, but I know that through God's guidance, hard work, and the loving cooperation of our entire congregation, we will find a solution together.

Donate your unused Christmas Cards

By Joan Shaw

Do you have any unused Christmas cards that you don't need? Our church would be grateful to receive them and put them to good use.

If you have cards you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the church or contact

Joan Shaw at 613-484-0186 for pickup. Thank you for your support.



Session outlines plans for a busy fall

By Colleen Harding

On September 15th, the Session had its first meeting of the fall season. Here are some of the highlights of our meeting.

Here is the schedule for Sunday services for the remainder of 2026:

September

- 6. Lillian McNamee
- 13. Elaine Farley
- 20. Paul Whiteley
- 27. Tammy Fergusson – Truth and Reconciliation (with smudging ceremony)
Wednesday, September 30. Truth and Reconciliation Day
We will gather on the front steps to welcome the Little Shoes
Lantern Walk. Please join us at 6 pm.

October

- 4 Rev. Erin Burns. – World Communion Sunday (Sacrament of Holy Communion)
- 11 Rev. Erin Burns. – Thanksgiving
- 18 Paul Whiteley
- 25. Tammy Fergusson – 190th Anniversary Sunday (Soup and bun luncheon)

November

- 1. Charlotte Hoy – All Saints
- 8. Charlotte Hoy – Remembrance Sunday
- 15. Elaine Farley
- 22. Tammy Fergusson
- 29. Paul Whiteley – Advent 1

December

- 6 Rev. Erin Burns -Advent 2
- 13. Lillian McNamee – Advent 3
- 20. Tammy Fergusson – Advent 4
- 24. Rev. Erin Burns (Christmas Eve)
- 27 Tammy Fergusson. – We Celebrate Jesus Birth

On Sunday, October 25, we will be celebrating our 190th Anniversary. Plans are being made for a congregation Soup and Bun Luncheon following the morning service. Everyone is invited to join us for this special event! Please stay tuned for details when plans are finalized.

In the past few months we have shared services several times with St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, sometimes at St. Andrews and sometimes at Grace United. These events have been well received, and we will continue to work collaboratively with our friends down the street.

We are planning to continue the services/hymn sings at Carveth /Fox Run. Paul Harding will lead the first hymn sing at Fox Run on September 24th at 2:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us to sing our favourite hymns. Tammy Fergusson and Joan Shaw will begin the monthly services at Carveth in the next few weeks. Services will be the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am.

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council is offering a Zoom workshop on September 28 at 7:00 pm to discuss Engaging Youth and Young Adults in our Communities of Faith. Some members of our congregation have signed up to participate. If this is something you are interested in learning more about, please let Colleen Harding know and she will share the link to register.

It was moved and carried to investigate the purchase of a third camera for our audiovisual setup to improve our livestream and recording of services for broadcast on Cogeco. We will investigate funding through a grant from EOORC or other sources, including our Memorial fund or private donations. This is an important part of our Outreach program here at Grace United Church.

SUCCESSFUL CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES

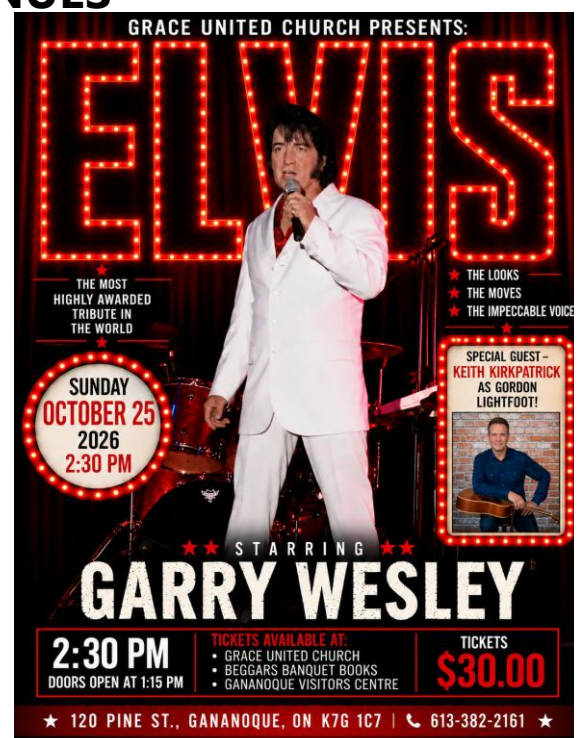
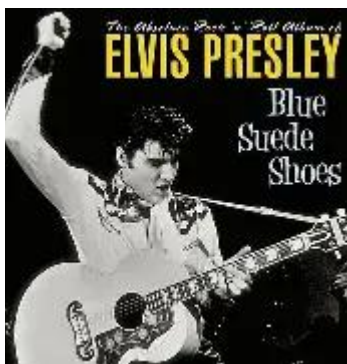
By Paul Harding

Our next concert is Sunday, October 25th at 2:30 pm an **ELVIS TRIBUTE SHOW**.

Ticket prices are different for this concert

All tickets are \$30

and the church earns a percentage of the door.



Wednesday, November 18, at 7:30 pm, **THE ABRAMS FAMILY** will be performing the show which was postponed from last Spring. We look forward to this rare appearance of this multi-generational group. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.



Our December concert, on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 pm, is **MY CHRISTMAS LIST**, with Maryanne Wainman, Dave Reed, Cliff Edwards and Paul Harding. Come hear



your Christmas favourites as presented by these four remarkable local musicians. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

We recently purchased and installed a "piano truck", a device that provides larger wheels for our grand piano, making it easier and safer to move. Please feel free before or after a concert to demonstrate your ability to move our piano.



ORGAN REPAIRS APPROVED BY OFFICIAL BOARD



At the last Official Board meeting a quote from Tate Pumfrey Pipe Organs was accepted, in the amount of \$16,229.99, the funds to be taken from a bequest from the Estate of Merna Price. The repairs are extensive, and will refurbish some parts which were decades old when the organ was installed in 1980.

A quick search “grace united church pipe organ” on the internet finds the following accurate information:

The pipe organ at Grace United Church in Gananoque, Ontario, features a three-manual and pedal console built new in 1980 by the Frederick Knapton and Sons of Glenburnie.

Instrument Details

- **Action:** Electro-pneumatic (keys activate switches and magnets to open air pouches for the pipes).
 - **History:** Built by repurposing pipework from Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, with some foundational parts dating back to English craftsmanship from 1859.
 - **Value:** Estimated at approximately \$1.25 million if purchased new as of recent valuations.
 - **Music & Leadership:** Played regularly during Sunday services by long-serving organist and director of music Paul Harding, who has served the church in that role since 1968.
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GRACE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR RESUMES ACTIVITIES

On September 13, Grace United Church Choir began regular service in worship for the 2026-27 season, with the anthem “Be Not Afraid”, composed by Catholic priest Bob Dufford. Choir practices will resume on September 24th. That same day the choir, supplemented by others of our congregation, will conduct a hymn sing at Fox Run by the River. These monthly events are well attended and the residents look forward to them.



Sanctuary Display Window.

Each season our display window in the Sanctuary magically changes over. Dianna Grier and Julie Price have been the magic behind this change over. We are grateful for your talents and dedication for these beautiful, thoughtful displays.



Easter 2026

Lent 2026



Pride 2026



Fall 2026



Pies for Thanksgiving are on sale – place your order now

By Elaine Davidson

The Pies for God's Sake committee of wonderful volunteers enjoyed a Potluck luncheon following the last pie bee in June. We invited the Quilters to join us as we always share the same space this them on Tuesday morning.

With lots of pies in the freezers, the pie bees were suspended over the summer so the group could take a well-deserved rest and enjoy the warm weather. The regular pie making on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month has now resumed. If you would like to join this merry band of volunteers, just contact Elaine Davidson at 613-382-3772.

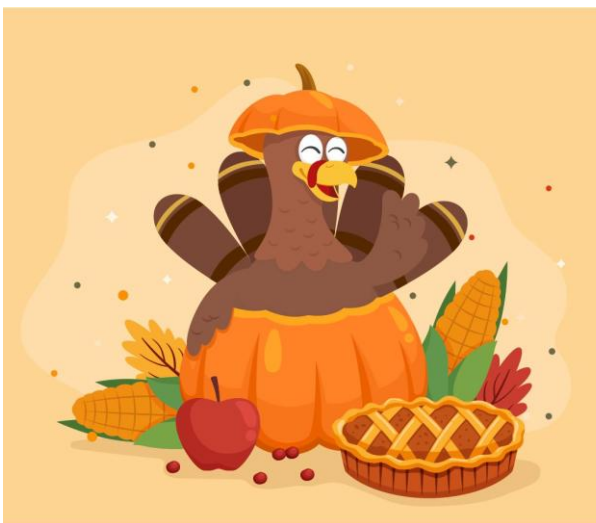
Oh yes, the group made a special Blueberry/Peach pie this past spring which was well received!

If you would like a pie for Thanksgiving, you can now place an order with Elaine Davidson at the above phone number.

On a sad note, the group was saddened by the death of Tom Currie this past summer. Tom and Carol Currie have been actively involved with Pies for God's Sake for years and Tom will certainly be missed by all.

Again, many thanks for all the volunteers who are so dedicated to this Fund Raiser for Grace United. It helps raise money for our church AND we have this fabulous social community which we all enjoy!

Grace United Church Thanksgiving Pie Sale



**To place your Pie Order
Call**

**Elaine at 613-382-3772 or 1-905-519-3772
or the church office at 613-382-2161.**

**Pick up date is Thursday, Oct. 8th, 3 to 5 pm.
Apple, Blueberry, Bumbleberry, Cherry, Peach,
Peach/Blueberry, Rhubarb, Strawberry,
Strawberry/Rhubarb
are \$18 each**

Raspberry or Mincemeat are \$20 each.

Annual Christmas Market

Plans are underway for our Annual Christmas Market, Saturday November 28th Our first meeting is planned for Monday, October 5th at 10:00am in the small boardroom. Please join us if you can. New volunteers and ideas are always appreciated.



Saturday, November 28, 2026
10am to 2pm

Time to dig in and continue to support Grace United

By Vicki Leakey, treasurer

Summer has past and many of us were able to enjoy those beautiful summer days on or around the islands. When fall approaches all the standby committees kick into gear, get busy and prepare for an eventful fall and winter. We have sadly lost some members of our congregation, making our time together even more precious.

To date both our revenues and expenses are less than this time in 2025, leaving us with an available bank balance of \$15,804 to start the fall, however; we have only needed to transfer \$13,200 from trustee's vs the \$11,037 in the prior year. Markets have been good so far and our available funds from the trustees is about \$195,971 to help sustain church operations when and if needed.

We have an amazing line up of concerts this fall, our pie making group is very active and working hard to fill in after the passing of Tom Currie. Tom and Carol created a

wonderful platform that enables this group to carry on with great support from the community to buy our pies. Our Christmas Market Team is preparing for another successful event on Saturday, November 28th.

We also need to give a shout out to our community members that not only come to support the events we have worked to put on, but they make every effort to come out to concerts, markets, exercise programs that are made available throughout the Town. Many are having a range of struggles at this time and allowing organized social events to help with feelings of isolation, including programs that allow for no cost meals funded from those dollars raised to assist with outreach programs is a wonderful gift we can give. Again, a huge thanks to the gifts of time and dollars from our church family that allow this church to continue to be a hub in the community.

To remind you, we have several Offerings' options available for those that may wish to provide continued support during the coming 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 post dated cheques by mail to Grace Church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7.

We at Grace United Church are holding our own, please do not hesitate to reach out if you or someone you know would like to feel part of a community family, we are here for you. We are blessed with so many wonderful individuals that dedicate their time to welcome people to join us.

Community Use of Grace United Church.

There are several groups who currently use Grace United Church for meetings, exercise or other activities.

- **CPHC** is offering a 12 week Fall Prevention classes here on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons.
- **Sparks & Embers** meet on Tuesday evenings
- **Quilters** are here every Tuesday morning from 8 to 12. Did you know that they donate several of their quilts to New Moms, Fire victims, and shelters?
- **Knifty Knitters** meet on various Wednesdays to create hats, scarves and mitts for those in need. Many of their items are sent to Northern Ontario.
- **The Parkinson Group** meet in the small board room on the 4th Monday each month, offering support and guidance.
- **Riverbank Productions** is using the church hall for rehearsals for their upcoming production of Brigadoon.

- **Youth Dances**, Todd Bickerton and friends offer monthly Dances to Youth, Spring to Fall. (April, May, June, July, August & September)
- **Community Kitchen**, meet the 4th Wednesday each month , except for Summer months and December. They provide a healthy meal and guidance on preparation of meals. (poster below)



Our Sincere Condolences to all who have lost loved ones, including the families and friends of Ron Cavanaugh, Tom Currie, Bud Wooding

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." – John 14:27

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

Happy Birthday to Susan, Brian, Susan, Susan, Helen, Neil, Betty, Bill, Joan, Brian, Carolyn, Denise, Steve, Paul, Bonnie, Carol and Catherine.

Happy Anniversary to Brad & Anne, John & Helen, Brian & Linda and Dave & Joan.

Congratulations Everyone!!

Contributors for this newsletter: Vicki Leakey, Colleen Harding, Paul Harding, Chuck Galway, Joan Shaw, Elaine Davidson, Laurie Cadue and Paul Scott.

Winter deadline Friday, Nov. 20, 2026.

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