

Message from
Grace United Church
December 31, 2021



Once again, we find ourselves facing an unprecedented new year, so different than anything we were expecting. After 22 months of shutdowns, lockdowns, restrictions and closures, it seems inconceivable that we are facing infection rates at a higher percentage than ever before. It is difficult even to turn on the news and hear the stories.

And once again, we need to curtail our worship services and the use of our building and move to livestream worship and virtual meetings.

As I think about the new year, I wonder what good news there might be that awaits us. A year ago, we celebrated the creativity of those who faced pandemic living with new ways of sharing hope and support. The many people who reached out to friend and neighbour. The number of people who became Zoom-savvy.

And that continues and needs to be celebrated. But this year, what gives me hope is persistence—those people who have continued through the pandemic to remain steady and responsive.

Fighting a war is different than fighting a battle. Battles require adrenalin and passion. A war is a long, drawn-out and tiring experience. COVID-19 has turned into a world war not just a local battle.

As this year ends, let us give thanks for those who are still on the frontlines of this pandemic war. Let us give thanks for those who continue to provide support, good cheer and the persistent energy that keeps us moving forward without losing hope.

And let us find ways to join that effort without losing our vision or hope. We shall come together again for worship gatherings, for family reunions and for neighbourhood festivities. We shall rebuild community.

The pandemic has changed us. May it not make us more cynical or more isolated, but stronger in our determination to persevere.

In this new year, as we walk a fresh road of living, may our signposts still be the light of God's love and the invitation to live as God's people caring for each other and for this fragile world we call home. Happy New Year!

Rev Susan
705.817.3402

WORSHIP UPDATES FOR GRACE

We invite you to join us online via livestream. To attend, please [click here](#).

This Sunday, January 2	10:30 am	Epiphany Sunday
Sunday, January 9	10:30 am	The Baptism of Jesus
Sunday, January 16	10:30 am	2nd After Epiphany
Sunday, January 23	10:30 am	3rd After Epiphany

UPCOMING TEAM MEETINGS – VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, January 4	10 am	Outreach
Wednesday, January 5	1 pm	Administration
Wednesday, January 5	7 pm	Property
Friday, January 7	10 am	Stewardship & Finance
Wednesday, January 12	7 pm	Official Board

FROM THE PASTORAL TEAM



We are always pleased to welcome new members to Grace United Church. If you are considering making an official commitment to Grace, you may do so by transfer from another church, adult baptism, profession of faith, renewal of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. **Please contact Rev. Susan Eagle at 705.734.0760 (Cell 705.817.3402) or Barb Mercer at 705.728.6734 for further information.**

CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

The Congregational Directory is now available for pick up at the office.
Call ahead to arrange a time.

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS

Food Donations

Please continue to help the **Georgian College FoodLocker** program. They welcome tinned goods, cereals, pastas, snacking foods. **Our Little Pantry** in our parking lot needs food that can survive freezing temperatures by avoiding foods that contain water. Suggested items include oatmeal packages, hot chocolate, crackers, granola bars, Kraft Dinner, dried soups.

Donations to Grace

It is still not too late to make a year-end donation to Grace.

- e-Transfer (see attached "Donations" instructions)
- Cheques mailed or dropped into the church mailbox

Reminder...

The Busby Centre needs donations of sleeping bags, tents and tarps. If folks cannot personally drop off a donation to the Busby Centre, please contact **Judi Shields at 705.790.1268** for pickup and delivery.

FUNDRAISERS

Strawberry Shortcake Sale 2022

Spring is around the corner and with it comes our Strawberry Shortcake Sale.

The Ask: Will you be part of an organizing team for this 2022 fundraiser (mid-March)? Please email **Mary Greiner at chickadee27@bell.net** or **Barb Moore at barbaramoore2015@gmail.com**. We look forward to hearing from you. Your help is very much appreciated and necessary for this event to move forward – Mary & Barb.

Weekly Zoom Activities – To join the following, please contact:

After New Year's:

Tuesday Progressive Theology Group	7:15 pm via Zoom	Dave Collacutt	705.436.1093
Wednesday Bible Study	9:30 am via Zoom	Nancy Drury	705.721.0578
Monday & Thursday Functional Fitness	10:00 am via Zoom	Doreen Fernandes	705.770.9900

PRAYER LIST *(attached)*

For updates or additions, [email the Grace Office](#) or call **Barb Mercer at 705.728.6734**.

Rev. Susan Eagle • 705.817.3402 • 705.792.9267 • susaneagle@graceucc.ca

For more information about meetings and activities, or sharing news, email the [Grace Office](#) or call 705.734.0760.

Please send submissions to the weekly newsletter by Wednesday morning. Thank you.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10 AM – 1 PM

705.734.0760

Attached: Prayer List

Donations to Grace United Church (instructions)