

Message from
Grace United Church
April 16, 2021

Greetings, Grace Family Members,

In the aftermath of Easter and Holy Humour Sunday, we come to Earth Day which seems such a suitable place to be this weekend. The brief warm, sunny days we had have temporarily disappeared reminding us how much we depend on the world around us for sustainability and nurture, as well as mental health.

And the news this weekend that we are in for more stay-at-home time amidst a growing pandemic caseload, is a further nod to the truth that we are not as much in control of the world around us as we sometimes like to think.

Earth Day in a post-Easter world offers us the gift and good news that a Creator God is alive in our world. Deep-rooted plants and trees are beginning to blossom and we are the fortunate beneficiaries of the sights and sounds of this good earth.

Take a moment this weekend, as the world around us pauses, to give thanks for springtime and for the cycle of earth's renewal that brings health and restoration to all creation. May we, too, feel that enlivening energy and connection with all growing things. Happy Earth Day!

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, April 18 10:30 am **Earth Sunday** (*Livestream*)

Sunday, April 25 10:30 am **Camping Sunday** (*Livestream*)

To join us by Livestream on Sunday morning at 10:30 am, please [click here](#). If you miss the Livestream, you can always see it later through the [Grace website](#) and [YouTube](#).

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, April 21 7 pm Property Team Meeting via Zoom

Following are some Grace activities, some of which have been adjusted to accommodate the new health regulations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17 – Earth Day Cleanup – POSTPONED

With the Provincial Stay-at-Home Order in effect, it has been decided to postpone the April 17 Earth Day Neighbourhood Cleanup to a later date. Stay tuned for future announcements.

Supervised Consumption Site Consultation – ONLINE

The Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit is hosting a virtual neighbourhood consultation to collect feedback on how the four proposed Supervised Consumption Sites can best meet the needs of clients using the services and the surrounding residential and business community. The feedback will be used by the Advisory Committee and the Applicants to inform decision making on a final site option to move forward in the application process.

The final session (limited to 160 participants) will be held Monday, **April 19 from 6–8 pm.**

To register: www.smdhu.org/SCSfeedback

Lenten Loot Project – UNTIL THE END OF APRIL

Although Easter has now passed, your donations to the Lenten Loot Project will be accepted until the end of April. Please make sure your donation, which will go towards supporting the Gilbert Centre's Harm Reduction program, is specifically identified as such. Again, if you are delivering your donation to the Grace mailbox, please drop by when you are out on an essential trip for food or pharmacy items. See: <https://gilbertcentre.ca/harm-reduction>.

Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery Fundraiser (*Barrie and Bradford locations*)

Get your green thumbs ready again! Grace has been accepted into the Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery fundraising program for 2021 that runs from **April 15 to October 15**. Please make sure you advise the cashier prior to the sale being inputted so Grace gets credit. At the end of the season, 5% of our total sales will be issued to Grace as a gift card. (*Please note:* Taxes on all purchases as well as gift certificate purchases are excluded from the program.) Enjoy! – *Barb Moore*

May 8 – Mother's Day Pies & Cakes – ON TARGET (*note following dates*)

Make donations known to Edith Elliot between **April 12 and April 20**, eelliot1023@hotmail.com, 705.792.2343. The list of items to sell will go with the Congregational Letter on April 23. (Some will be mailed.)

Baked goods to be delivered to the church the afternoon of May 7 and morning of May 8.

Pickup at the church on May 8 between 1 pm and 3 pm. **Pies and Cakes: \$12 each.**

May 9 – Mother's Day Project – ON TARGET

Once again the Outreach Committee has decided to honour mothers in our community who have had a difficult year. We will provide women who are sheltering in our local shelters with \$35 in gift cards from Shoppers Drug Mart and Tim Hortons. There are currently 10 residents. These gift cards will be provided to the shelter staff well ahead of Mother's Day to allow for the quarantine of the cards to alleviate anxiety. If you would like to contribute to this special way to celebrate mothers, please specifically identify this gift when using your envelopes to donate to Grace.

Tuesday Outdoor Breakfast

We continue to be grateful for the support Grace provides each Tuesday morning via breakfast for people on the street in Barrie. The program will continue for a few more weeks until the weather gets warmer. Also, thanks to Bohemia and Lazy Tulip restaurants for helping us out with the donation of baked items.

BNFC Community Garden

The Barrie Native Friendship Centre (BNFC) created a community garden last spring to help their members with food security during the pandemic. Seedlings were contributed by the community. If you would like to help this season, please contact Elizabeth McLean at 705.252.4272.

M&P Team

UCC – Preparing for Retirement: *a practical spirituality*

April 15, April 22, April 29. 1:30–3:15 p.m.

Retiring is one of the major transitions in our lives, and like all transitions it raises many spiritual questions. Join us for a three-part series: Part 1: Endings/The Exodus; Part 2: Life in the Wilderness; and Part 3: The Promised Land. Led by Sheila Macdonald Macgregor, who's been an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada for more than 30 years. [Find out more and register.](#)

Outreach Team

Georgian College FoodLocker. In support of the Georgian College FoodLocker, which helps to feed Georgian College students, Grace is collecting non-perishable food items such as canned goods (soups and beans), snack items (granola bars, chips and cookies) and cereals. A bin will be available in front of the Grace doors (covered roof) each **Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm** for the receipt of donations. (Remember to drop by when you are out on an essential trip for food or pharmacy items.) Please consider this opportunity to support those in need in our neighbourhood.

KAIROS. Become more knowledgeable about water in our local area by viewing the two-hour Simcoe County KAIROS video, "Your Watershed is Your Lifeboat," available on KAIROS CANADA – YouTube; here is the direct video [link](#).

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

Sunday Morning / Afternoon Online Sunday School	Kathy Harrison	705.717.0748
Tuesday Night Progressive Theology Group	Bette McCracken	705.721.5156
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Nancy Drury	705.721.0578
Functional Fitness with Doreen		
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Mornings (includes circuit and cardio exercises)	Doreen Fernandes dtef1@yahoo.com	705.728.5815

PRAYER LIST *(attached)*

For updates or additions, email the Grace Office or call **Barb Mercer at 705.728.6734.**

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

705.734.0760 (via telecommute)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday • 10 am – 1 pm

Attached:
Prayer List