

Message from
Grace United Church
October 7, 2022

Greetings Grace Family Members,

Each summer while we are on holidays at the cottage, we get that first sign of autumn with a tree whose leaves turn red in the middle of August. I am sure there is a good scientific reason why some trees colour earlier than others, but I always like to imagine that this tree is the herald for the forest.

By the time we return at Thanksgiving, there is a whole symphony of colours to welcome us as we come across the lake. And the tree that first showed signs of colour is swallowed up in the panorama of wooded beauty.

But I always look for that tree. Somehow, it's ability to stand alone and beckon the fall reminds me of all the people in my life who have led me forward to the next phase, the next event, the next chapter. The ones who remind us to look forward.

There are people in our lives who do that for us. Thanksgiving doesn't really begin with Pilgrims arriving in North America, but with God's people being invited and led by the prophets and leaders of long ago to be grateful and to give thank offerings to Yahweh. Harvest bounty to be offered to God and shared with neighbours.

Israel arrived in a new land, the settlers arrived to start a new life, and we – emerging from the pandemic – are finding that we are in a new place of adjusting and reconfiguring our lives after so long a time living with restrictions and isolation.

What better way to respond than with gratitude and a thank offering for arrival and a generosity of sharing. We can't know what is next, but we do know that we are called to build community and care for neighbour wherever we find ourselves.

This Sunday, we invite you to bring thank offerings to worship, that we may share with neighbours in need. A cold winter is just around the corner and the signs of that are already making themselves known.

May your Thanksgiving this year be a time with family and friends or just getting out to enjoy nature. And may you feel the blessings of God's earth.

Rev. Susan 705.792.9267 home / 705.817.3402 cell



SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday October 23 at 10:30 am

Anniversary Sunday

Join us for: **Grace's Anniversary Service and Lunch**

**Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Blair BA, BTh, MRel,
General Secretary for the United Church of Canada**

WORSHIP UPDATES FOR GRACE

OUR SANCTUARY IS OPEN! We welcome you!



Sunday October 9

10:30 am

Thanksgiving Sunday



We invite you to bring Thanksoffering gifts for our outdoor pantry and also for the Barrie Food Bank.

Sunday October 16

10:30 am

Worship Service – World Food Sunday



Sunday October 23

10:30 am

Anniversary Service



Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Blair BA, BTh, MRel,
General Secretary for the United Church of Canada

Anniversary Lunch to follow the Service

We invite you to join us Sunday in person or online via Livestream. To attend, via the Grace website, please [click here](#) or on YouTube Search line, type in the specific date of the service (e.g., October 9, 2022): press Enter.

Support for victims of Hurricane Fiona

We are trying to connect with churches in local communities in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia that have been so severely impacted by Hurricane Fiona, to identify areas of greatest need. Once we know which resources could benefit from our support, we will send out a separate email to the Grace congregation so you can direct your financial gifts and prayers.

Sunday School

Are you able to donate some time to support our Sunday School as we restart after a long Covid shut-down?

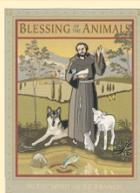
To know more, please call **Kathy Harrison at 705-727-0448.**

Our children and youth are important.



UPCOMING TEAM MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 11	11 am	Administration Team (Oak Room)
Wednesday, October 12	7 pm	Board (Zoom/Oak Room)
Wednesday, October 19	7 pm	Property Team (Oak Room)



Blessing the Animals

Riley says: "Thank you for blessing me".



Harvest Supper

Mark your calendar for our first 'post Covid' sit down dinner. **Thursday, October 20.**

There will be 2 seatings (**5 and 6:15 pm**) of 75 people. **\$25/ticket for Sit-down.**

There will also be a limited number of **take out tickets** available for those who can't make it in person. **\$30/ticket for Take-out.**

Supper Menu will include roast beef and pies for dessert.

Sign up sheets for donations and help shifts are now posted on the door to the janitor's cupboard. Financial donations towards the cost of the dinner are also welcome.

We are so looking forward to getting back to the way it used to be.

Mary-Ann and friends (your dinner committee)



CALLING POTENTIAL LAY SCRIPTURE READERS



Like to read aloud? Like to read scriptures? The lay readers group at Grace is always looking for new volunteers. You only need to read 3-4 times a year usually. Occasionally, you get roped into a skit with Susan, which is often fun. If you think this might be a ministry opportunity for you, speak to Bette McCracken on Sunday, call her at 705 721 5156 or email compostangel@gmail.com. We can work around winters down south, summer cottage plans, etc."

PHOTO DIRECTORY

It is time for us to get to know each other again. Are you interested in helping to coordinate a photo directory?

We need a small planning team to organize the project.

**We also need volunteers to:
make some phone calls, help to schedule appointments
or greet people when they arrive for picture-taking**

Much of the organizing can be "work from home," using telephone and/or email.

Contact the office: 705-734-0760

Holy Roller Update

Every Wednesday until the middle of November has been booked for Holy Roller activities in preparation for the Fabulous Food Fair on November 19th.

Our next Holy Roller work bee will be held to make beef pies on **Wednesday, October 12th**, beginning at 9:00 am.

For more information, please contact Mary Hirons at 705-429-6180.

In the meantime, there are meat pies available for sale after church on Sunday or during Office Hours (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Large: \$14:00 Small: \$6:00



Fabulous Food Fair and Craft Market

Sat. Nov. 19, 2022 from 9 am to 12 noon.



Crafter Tables: Good News! All 8 Craft Table spots have been booked. More info to follow on the crafty items for sale.

Calling all Bakers!: Time to think about your baking specialty to donate: homemade bread, cakes, cookies, squares, jams and jellies, candy, pies. Please email Edith Elliot at eelliot1023@hotmail.com.

Volunteers: for Fair Day Nov. 19 are needed to help sell and take money. Sign up sheets coming soon or phone **Mary Greiner 705-739-7111** to volunteer.

OUTREACH TEAM: Homeless Crisis

With fall weather now a reality, we are reminding folks about the continuing needs of our neighbours.

Our partnership with the Barrie Food Bank has meant that we are able to provide food through our Little Pantry in our parking lot. Members of Grace have been generous over the spring and summer to supplement the foods we receive as the contents of our Little Pantry often disappear quickly. As the days get colder, we will provide a list of appropriate items for the Little Pantry that will still be safe to include in spite of freezing temperatures. Each week we will highlight a particular need for our Little Pantry so when you are shopping you can include a contribution to our pantry.

Our need this week is *Instant Oatmeal Cereal Packets*

We continue to receive donations of food for the Georgian Foodlocker, a food bank operated at Georgian College for its students there.

In co-operation with St. Margaret's Anglican Church and the Christian Reform Church, several members of Grace serve breakfast each Tuesday morning through the daily breakfast program.

Knitters take note, our **mitten tree** will once again be raised near the front door to receive scarves, mittens and socks as the Christmas season approaches. Donated items are appreciated by clients of the Busby Centre, the Women's Shelter and the Barrie Native Friendship Centre during the winter months.

BRADFORD GREENHOUSE GARDEN GALLERY 2022 FUNDRAISER

Once again, Grace is part of this fundraiser. Here's what happens:

The fundraiser runs from April 15 to October 15/22, and excludes taxes on all purchases as well as the purchase of gift certificates. A percentage of the value of our overall sales will be issued as a gift card for the purchase of Bradford Greenhouse's products. Please advise the cashier prior to inputting the sale that you support Grace United Church.

You're able to support Grace at the Barrie and Bradford locations, but cannot use this fundraiser in conjunction with any other offers, for example "Grow the Green".

Green thumbs at the ready...

HAPPENINGS!

Mondays:	Functional Fitness – Zoom (12-1 pm)
Tuesdays:	Progressive Theology – Zoom - 7:15 pm
Wednesdays:	Bible Study – 9:30 am, Oak Room (Possibly Zoom in Winter) Rhythm & Pitch – 3:30 pm
Thursdays:	Functional Fitness – Zoom (12-1 pm) Choir Practice – 7:30 pm
Fridays:	Adult Social (Last Fri each Month) - 1 pm

Oct 9	Thanksgiving Worship Service – 10:30 am
Oct 10	THANKSGIVING DAY – Office Closed
Oct 11	Administration Team Meeting – 11:00 am Third Age Barrie – 1:00 pm
Oct 12	Holy Rollers Working Bee – 9:00 am Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

NB: Please note permanent time change in Choir Practice to 7:30 pm

JOYS & SORROWS

Please feel free to submit items that you wish to celebrate, in grief or in happiness, or just mention to those of the Congregation

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday • 10 am to 1 pm
705.734.0760 • office@graceucc.ca

PRAYER LIST (attached)

For updates or additions, [email the Grace Office](mailto:office@graceucc.ca) or call Barb Mercer at 705.728.6734.

Attached: Prayer List, GUC Harvest Supper Flyer, Revised October Calendar