

September 2020

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

"A church with heart in the heart of the community."

310 – 12th Street, Hanover, ON N4N 1V6

519-364-3550

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

graceuc@wightman.ca

www.graceunitedhanover.weebly.com

LEADERSHIP AT GRACE

Minister

Rev. Micol Cottrell

Senior Support

Sally Kormann

Youth & Family Support

Heather Saumer

Board Chair

Pat Blackmore

Board Secretary

Larry Howes

Treasurer

George Blanchard

Music Director

Wilda Wilson

Accompanist

Yuki Stocovaz

Alternate Music

Beth Cruickshank

Church Administrator

Laurel Douma

Custodian

Randy Pegelo

Affirming/M&P

Adam Olivero

Property

Paul Cruickshank

Spiritual Care & Membership

Susan Krueger

Stewardship

Lynne McDougall, Kathryn Dankel

Sunday School & Christian Dev.

Laura Lee Hicks, Sylvia Stewart

Worship & Music

Bob Blackmore

Youth Trust/Social Action

Jerry Asling

*The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way,
and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.*

Exodus 13.21

Dear Members, adherents, and friends of Grace United,

It is hard to believe that it is September. Usually when this time of year arrives, I find myself saying this but this year the pandemic has certainly made the movement of time feel very different for me. It is hard to believe that it has been six months since our lives were profoundly changed by COVID-19. As I reflect on these strange days, we have been living one of the things I am certain is that God has been with us guiding us and enlivening us as a community of faith.

During the last six months we have learned how to worship in a new way. Worship went from being held in our sanctuary to being recorded and shared at home. We had the opportunity to share worship with Harriston United Church. For the first time in our thirteen-year marriage my wife, the Rev. Jessica Cottrell, and I led Sunday morning worship together. By sharing in worship both Jessica and I were given the space to reach out to members of our church by phone and to work through the changed reality in our lives and ministry. Each Sunday Jessica and I joined you in worship as we sat in front of our own TV. It was very meaningful to see how many people took part each week from reading, candle lighting, to offering their gifts of music. I am also very grateful for the work of Adam Olivero who each week edited the service and uploaded it so that we could worship from home.

During this time, I experimented with another new way of sharing in worship with a mid-week chapel. The service has been offered live on Facebook every Thursday at 10 AM with the videos posted on our Facebook page following the service. Each week the service has had around 40 views. I plan to continue offering the chapel services into the fall. Please know that you do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the recorded services. The link for the service can be found on our Church Website: www.graceunitedhanover.weebly.com.

We have adapted the way in which we share community together. I have been phoning people regularly and sharing pastoral visits this way. If you did not receive a call or would like to talk again, please call me at the church. As I phoned people, I was heartened to hear how many people from our congregation were taking the time to reach out to each other. The community of care that is Grace United is bigger than our building and our ability to be together in person. God's Spirit makes us a community even when we are apart.

Our board made a commitment early in this pandemic that our staff would be supported during this time. Our Ministry & Personnel Committee have been in touch with us regularly. We are very lucky to have the staff we do and the ways in which they have adapted their work to meet this time has been inspiring. I feel blessed to work with each one of them. Thank you as well for all of your support, care, prayers, and offerings that have helped us to continue sharing in this important ministry with you.

As we reach the end of September, we find ourselves learning, once again, to adapt to how we live as Grace United Church. I am thankful for the work and wisdom of Adam Olivero, Dawn Blanchard, Pat Blackmore, Laurel Douma, and Bob Blackmore who have spent many hours reviewing health guidelines and creating a plan for us so that we can resume in-person worship on Sunday September 27th. The policies and procedures can be found in this newsletter and will be in place for the foreseeable future.

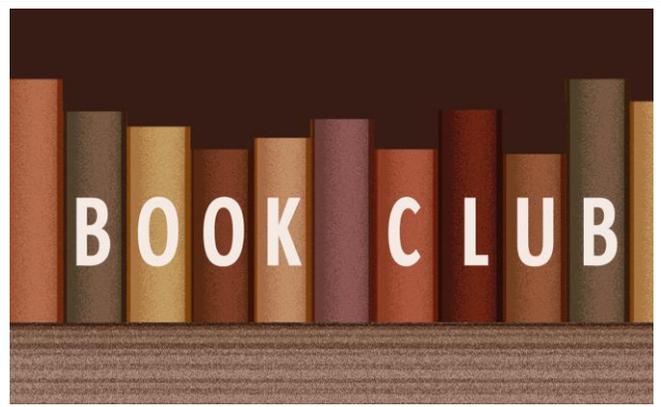
We know that not everyone will return to in-person worship at this time. Please know that we completely understand. Everyone is making the best decision for their own personal comfort level, health, and context. We will continue offering worship at-home with our services being offered on our local cable stations and on YouTube. Whether we are worshipping from home or in person God joins us together.

For the health and safety of all involved I will be continuing to offer pastoral care over the phone or online through Zoom, Facetime, or Skype at this time. If you would like to talk please let me know. You can reach me by calling 519 364-3550 or e-mailing me at revmicol_grace@wightman.ca

These last six months have been strange, intense, frightening, and disruptive in so many ways. We have had to adapt the ways in which we are the church together because it has been clear that in times like this, we need one another. The promise of our faith is that God is with us, going ahead of us as in a pillar of smoke and light, leading us through this time and inspiring us to be the church in this time and in this place. The promise of our faith is that we are never alone, God is with us and we are with one another. Thank you for all of the care and support that you have shown me and each other. Thank you for continuing to offer to God and to your church gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer. Thank you for your commitment to be Grace United Church as we journey through this time. God bless and keep you.

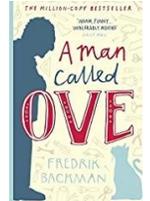
*Neither the pillar of cloud by day
nor the pillar of fire by night
left its place in front of the people.
Exodus 13.22*

Blessings,
Rev. Micol Cottrell

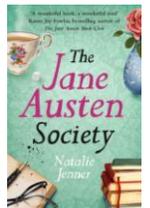


Please confirm with Sally if you plan on attending. Format will be online again.

A Man Called Ove
By Frederick Backman
September 28, 1:30 p.m.



The Jane Austen Society
By Natalie Jenner
October 28, 1:30



We will meet at the church at 9:30 and do some socially distanced walking- single file - or wide widths - weather permitting - social time after will depend on weather - A warm day will allow us to sit outside at Sally's.

September 17
October 1
October 15



I'm working on some programming ideas along with Public Health- Stay Tuned!!

GRACE GIVINGS

to August 2020

Local Givings	\$79, 100	48% of budget
M&S Givings	\$11, 683	45% of budget
Local Missions	\$ 4, 132	45% of budget
Capital	\$ 3, 870	48% of budget



For those who would like to donate but you are not sure how, there are several options available:

1. For those who prefer to pay by cheque, please mail you cheques to the church or drop your cheque in the mail slot at the church.
2. You may choose to transfer funds to the church through your banking website and selecting the e-transfer link. The payee will be Grace United Church and you can use the following email address: treasurer@graceunitedhanover.ca. Your transfer will be processed immediately and you will receive a confirmation email from the treasurer. You can also use the regular church email account at graceuc@wightman.ca. If you need assistance, please contact the church.
3. Or you may choose to sign-up for Pre-Authorized remittance (PAR). You can establish the amount you wish to pay each month and designate where you want the funds to go. By using PAR, you do not need to worry about writing weekly cheques or doing weekly transfers. If you are already using PAR, please consider increasing your monthly donation at this time. You can request to have it decreased in future. Please forward your requests to the church office.
4. On the church website at www.graceunitedhanover.weebly.com there is a donate link for Canada Helps. When you click on the link, you will be directed to a donation page for Grace United Church. You can fill in your information and they will transfer the funds to our account. Donations will need to be made by way of a credit card. Once your donation is processed, you will be provided with a receipt for tax purposes.

Nifty Nineties Swag Bags

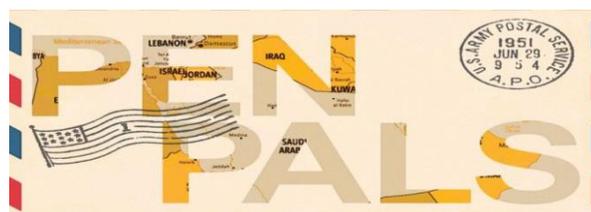
If you are in your nineties, watch for deliveries the week of September 28th. If you have not been part of the Nifty Nineties group but would like to be, please notify Sally or the church office.



Outdoors and distanced... such fun!
Thank you, Heather!

Call Buddies

How can we help with those who are especially isolated during this COVID time? Be a Call Buddy! You don't know many people? Even better - you'll get to know someone new and likely brighten your day too. We need to work together to get through COVID with our mental health intact.



It's always exciting to go to the mailbox and receive a letter or card... something other than a bill. I'm looking for people who enjoy writing letters (they don't have to be long) and could make some time to write to a senior, giving them the joy of finding a letter in their mailbox! Some seniors are hearing impaired and have difficulty on the phone - a letter can keep them feeling connected. I'm looking at different ways to bring sunshine to others- is this a way that you might contribute? I'll give you name suggestions if you like. Please call to register.

RECOVID-19 Policies and Updates

Updated, September 7, 2020

The Official Board of Grace United has taken steps to minimize the risks associated with the current pandemic. This has included creating a committee that has been carefully studying local health unit, provincial, and our regional council guidelines and helped guide our church in how to resume in-person worship. This committee will continue to monitor current health guidelines, to update policy, and to keep people informed.

Together we strive to love God, love our neighbour as we continue to worship together and protect one another's health.

If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, please contact: Pat Blackmore at 226 434-2134.

Resuming In-Person Worship at Grace United

Beginning on Sunday September 27th in-person worship will resume in our sanctuary.

Prior to Attending Worship:

- **RSVP** by Thursday at 4PM to ensure you have a spot for that week's in-person worship service. This will also help us with our required contact tracing. If you are attending worship with others in your social bubble, please provide their information as well (you can RSVP for them). Laurel, our administrator, can help answer any questions you might have.
- **Self-Screening.** We ask you to self screen before attending in-person worship. Self-screening questions can be found below.
- **Worshipping at Home.** We will be resuming filming the services in the sanctuary which will be aired on our local cable channels and on YouTube the following week. Information about how to share in worship at home can be found below. Worshipping in this way is another way in which we celebrate God's presence and share in community.

Sunday Morning:

- **Entrance and Exit.** Please only use the main doors closest to the sidewalks and the door with the ramp near the elevator.
- **Masks and Face Coverings** are to be worn while inside the church building. We ask you to bring your own, but we will also have extra disposable masks available in case you forget or need to change your mask during the service.
- **Hand Sanitizer** will be available inside the doors and outside of the washrooms. Please sanitize your hands when entering the church.
- **Ushers** will be trained in our full health and safety procedures. They will check you in as you arrive for worship, direct you to your seat and washroom, and answer any questions you may have. Please let them know your name when you arrive.
- **Seating.** To ensure a minimum of 2 meters between worshippers we have roped off pews. We have also sectioned off pews from side to side meaning that no one will have to walk in front of you while you are in your pew. Please only sit with those in your social bubble. Ushers will seat people from the front of the sanctuary to the back of the service. Following worship, they will help people exit from the back of the church. If a physical need means you need to be seated closer to the doors or in our accessible pew, please let the usher know.
- **Elevator.** Our elevator will be staffed and running during this time. To ensure people's safety, only members of the same social bubble will ride together and riders and operators will be wearing masks and are to face the walls while in the elevator.

- **Washrooms.** The only washrooms available on Sunday will be the washroom in the basement across from the nursery. If you need to get up during the service, please feel free to do so. Please use the main doors at the back of the church.
- **Social time.** Following health recommendations there will be no coffee/social time following worship. We ask that you please exit the sanctuary following the service as directed by our ushers and be mindful of not blocking doorways, walkways, or access to vehicles.
- **The Worship Service** will be a shortened. Following health guidelines there will not be any singing, humming, spoken responses, or choir. There will not be bulletins.
- **Offering.** Our offering plates will be set on the table at the entry of the sanctuary and will not be handled during the service.
- **Space.** On Sunday morning only the entryway, the sanctuary, and the washroom downstairs will be accessible, in order to limit the amount of work needed to clean and disinfect. Please respect the off-limit signs in place.

Self-Screening for Attending In-Person Worship

We ask that you do not attend in-person worship if:

1. You have been in close contact with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
2. You have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days.
3. If you have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - cough
 - trouble breathing
 - sore throat, trouble swallowing
 - runny nose or red eyes
 - loss of taste or smell
 - not feeling well, tired, sore muscles
 - nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Source: www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Portals/0/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/COVID19/COVID-19_Screening_Checklist.pdf

Continuing Worship with Grace United Church

At Home

We celebrate that God's Spirit draws us together in worship and community even if we are physically apart. Worshiping at home is not a secondary form of worship but another way to share in celebrating God's presence and share in community. You can join us for worship from home in the following ways:

TV: Wightman TV at 8AM and 3PM
Eastlink at 5PM every Sunday.

YouTube: Search for Grace United Church Hanover or visit:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC38PQoLtKpnKBxo_IIEw65w

The Church Building Outside of Sunday Morning

- **Extra cleaning and disinfecting.** A cleaning and disinfecting plan has been carefully created in accordance with local and provincial guidelines.
- **Accessing the church.** At this time, our building continues to remain closed except for staff use, maintenance and upkeep, and for Sunday worship. If you need to access the building for any reason (even if you have a key) we ask you to call Paul Cruickshank at 519 364-4975. If you need to speak with one of the staff, we ask you phone them. Remember any space entered is space that needs to be cleaned and disinfected.
- The Official Board and the appropriate subcommittees will continue to monitor health guidelines, shape policy, and keep us up to date with any changes.



The Property Team is pleased to announce that our old, very rugged cross has been replaced by a beautiful, new one. The old cross served us well for over 50 years. We are counting on a long life for the new cross. Many thanks to Bob Schreinert who took on this job, along with many volunteers (at least 8), in removing the old cross, buying and painting the new cross, and finally erecting the new cross on September 12th. Grace church is at work, even in these difficult times!



In Memoriam

It's been a long time since our last newsletter, and we've lost many friends and family members during this difficult time. Let us now remember them with love and fondness.

David Sweiger

Sandra Howes

Wilfred Bender

Jan Wallace

Terry Carter

Laverne Porter

Joyce Ballagh

Rev. Margaret Bain

Marion Fry

Jacqueline Magwood

Gladys Otto

Gordon Hunter

Jean Campbell

Marg Gaunt

"How beautifully leaves grow old.
How full of light and color are their last days."
John Burroughs

