

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, August 7th, 2022**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
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Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith

Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller

Grace Pianist: Cheryl Copeman

Office Administrator: Robyn York

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM

Licensed Lay Worship Leader: Heather King

Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini
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Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM

Office Hours 9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)

Sunday August 7, 2022: The ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Heather King, Licenced Lay Worship Leader

We Gather for Worship

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge our Creator and the world around us and our place within it. We acknowledge the many nations who call this land home. We acknowledge the Indigenous and non-Indigenous brothers and sisters who walked this land in the past and those who walk it today, this, the traditional and treaty lands of the Anishinaabek (Ahnish-in-nah-bek), Neutral, and Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-show-nee) peoples.

Welcome and Announcements

Light the Christ Candle

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

L: Welcome to worship today. Bring your joys and burdens to the Lord.

P: For God hears the cries of our hearts and heals our wounded souls.

L: Remember the wondrous deeds that God continues to perform in your life.

P: Let us be thankful for all the mercies and tenderness that God offers to us.

L: Come, praise the Lord with all your heart and soul.

P: Let our voices raise in a powerful concert of praise and thanksgiving. AMEN.

VU # 409: Morning Has Broken

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!**

**Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we want to follow you whoever you lead. Reach out to us this day, stirring our souls and spirits with the winds of your power that we may faithfully be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession (together)

**Faithful, fruitful God,
you call us to follow you, whatever the circumstance,
yet we confess we prefer to remain where we are.
You offer us new beginnings,
yet we continue to make the same choices,
guided by our own desires.
We make excuses for avoiding your challenge to change.
Forgive us, O God.
Cleanse us with your mercy,
and energize us to serve you even when the challenge seems great.**

Assurance of Pardon

In Christ, we are made a new creation; the old life is gone and the new life has come!

Know that God loves you and forgives you. Do not be afraid to make a new start!

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart: Faith is...

VU # 664: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

- 2 **Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
 who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- 3 **Are we weak and heavy laden,
 cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
 Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
 and we'll find new courage there.**

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, by your Spirit, open our minds to your truth, our hearts to your gospel, and our hands so that we can do your will, in the name of Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

VU # 775 – Psalm 50

God, the Almighty, has spoken;
 **and summoned the world
 from the rising of the sun to its setting.**
God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.
 Our God appears, and will not keep silence.

Before you, God, runs a consuming fire,
and a mighty tempest rages about you.

**You call on the heavens above,
 and on the earth below,
 to witness the judgement of your people:**

'Gather my people before me,
the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.'

**The heavens proclaim your justice,
for you yourself are judge.**

Scriptures:

Hebrews 11: 1-3 and 8 – 12 – The Living Bible – What is Faith?

Scripture: Galatians 5: 1, 13-25 (The Living Bible) Fruits of the Spirit

Message: Making a Choice

The Legend of two wolves.

An old Cherokee elder is teaching his grandson about life.

“A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy.

“It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.

One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.”

He continued,

“The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather,

“Which wolf will win?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

In the scripture this morning from Galatians, the apostle Paul is restating to the people of Galatia that life in Christ brings freedom from the bondage of rules the Jewish laws and ceremonies had in place.

He continues by making it clear that Christian freedom is not unconditional permission to do whatever you please but reminds the early followers of “ the way” to not use your freedom as an opportunity

for self-indulgence. Instead, use your freedom to create a life of loving service to the benefit of others (to love your neighbour as yourself). No matter what their gender, skin colour, language spoken or religion practised.

Freedom to love and serve in the example of Jesus is God's intention for humankind.

Freedom is a gift from God given to all through faith.

Like all good gifts, though it can be misused and even cause harm. For example, Christians thinking that they are better than others and dominating decision making that has negative outcomes on lives. (the residential school system Is an example of how Christian people dominated another culture which has been classified as genocide).

On the other hand, people who love and serve others unconditionally can also be taken advantage of and abused. (Our news headlines are full of warnings about telephone or online scams that steal money from people who think they are helping someone less fortunate).

The apostle Paul tries to distinguish between self-centred living that stems from pleasing of the “ flesh” and God-centred living which comes from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He provides two lists as a guideline:

On one side you have what we may refer to in today's culture as people who are materialistic and place a lot of value on self-satisfaction and overindulgences, which may lead to addictions. They are the people whose motto is: “ You only live once, so I try to say yes to everything – at least once”!

The list Paul prepared doesn't mean you can't have sex, attend parties or enjoy a glass of wine. He is warning about the excessiveness of these behaviours when they consume your life. The natural desire of sexual intimacy becomes an addiction to pornography; wanting a close relationship with the Divine leads to creating idols to worship; wanting happiness and a good time in your life, is only found if you use drugs to create the feelings you desire.

The other list is what we know as “ the fruits of the spirit”. Characteristics and qualities of people who truly try to follow the

golden rule of “ love your neighbour”.

The apostle Paul is adamant that the early Christians live by the spirit, be led by the spirit and walk by the spirit.

How can we apply these principles to our faith walk today?

- we can shower others with the same LOVE that God has given to us.
- We can seek true JOY in something that lasts far longer than the newest thing we now desire.
- We can foster PEACE and allow our words to communicate this to others when meeting in person or using online platforms like Facebook.
- We can choose PATIENCE, even when the choice is hard.
- We can be an example of KINDNESS as we go through our day, for those nearest to us and for those who are simply in need.
- We can turn away from the opportunity to be sharp-tongued and offer GOODNESS for goodness’ sake.
- We can sink our toes into the truth found in Scripture and let it fan the fire of FAITHFULNESS for us and our families.
- We can choose to let our responses to one another, be words of GENTLENESS especially if our day isn’t going as planned.

And we can take a breath and use SELF-CONTROL even when (especially when) our emotions are out of control.

All of these gifts are given freely to us, not to be sought but to accept, as presents. These simple fruits are ours already. They bring to us what we need to faithfully live in the way God desires.

And as we unwrap each one daily, the things we wish to steer clear of become things we no longer seek. We will find ourselves “in step with the Spirit” in new ways.

Being conceited and argumentative and envious will have no room because our life will be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.

Our lives will be overflowing with the very things that God desires for us most. And our words, our decisions, our day to day actions, will be

impacted in a way that others will see and want to duplicate.

Source: <https://familyfire.com/devotions/how-can-we-live-the-fruit-of-the-spirit-in-our-families>

When you give your life to Christ and decide to follow his teachings and examples, you have made a choice to live differently.

You have made a commitment to answer the call of Jesus. To love your neighbour as yourself,

to invest in your community of faith,

to put up with the rough edges of others and recognize that you are also not perfect, but a work in progress.

That call from Jesus encourages us to prepare our hearts for worship each week, to come to this sanctuary to be fed with the presence of the holy one and be in fellowship with other travellers who are on the same journey.

We are called to make a choice. (which wolf will you feed?)

We are encouraged to bear fruit of the spirit.

What actions can you take this week that will add more “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness and self-control to your Christian walk?

VU# 595: We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song) – Grace only

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering:

According to the Apostle Paul, the fruit of the Spirit includes kindness and generosity, gifts of God we enjoy. As we present our offering, may the Spirit fill us with generosity, and multiply our kindness for the sake of Christ our Lord.

VU# 541: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

O God, we know you to be kind and generous, so we bring our gifts in gratitude and joy. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and on our lives, so that we may bear the fruit of your Spirit in every situation and relationship, through Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

Minute for Mission: WWJD? Here's One of the Church's Best Answers

The question “What would Jesus do?” often shortened to the acronym “W.W.J.D.” has graced wrist bands, T-shirts, and bumper stickers since the 1990s. And while it might sound like an overused cliché, it’s a question that can lead our spirit and, by extension, our lives to profound transformation.

What did Jesus do? He crossed a lot of boundaries. In fact, when we think about the boundaries that separate people—things like money, gender, education, culture, religion, and class—Jesus crossed them all.

He struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman in a culture where it wasn’t socially acceptable for men and women, much less Jews and Samaritans, to speak to one another. He healed the bodies and souls of people suffering from a variety of diseases when it was sinful to have anything to do with them. He visited the homes of tax collectors and sex trade workers and advocated for the rights of widows, orphans, and those living in poverty. He not only valued children in a time when they were considered such drains on society that they were abandoned on roadsides, but he also told his followers that unless they were more like children they wouldn’t enter the kingdom of heaven.

In the same way, our generosity through [Mission & Service](#) breaks down walls that divide and builds bridges that draw us together.

Your generosity supports organizations like hospitals, counselling centres, drop-in circles, and homeless shelters that are there when people need them most. Your gifts sustain education programs that teach farming skills, provide job training, and help remove obstacles so children can remain in school. Your generosity stands up for victims of human trafficking, ensures workers and children know their rights, and advocates for those persecuted because of their sexual orientation, gender, or beliefs. It fosters anti-racism, supports healing and reconciliation, and deepens spiritual practice.

Through Mission & Service, the arms of your generosity stretch wide, reaching into schools, camps, hospitals, shelters, prisons, and churches with three main goals: to help transform lives, deepen meaning and purpose and build a better world.

Mission & Service is one of our church's best answers to the question "What would Jesus do?" Thank you for your support.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern:

Living God,

we give you thanks for life and breath to follow you all our days.

Thank you for the gift of faith that gives us courage when things are difficult,

and for the encouragement we find in the faith of others we meet.

Inspire us to remain loyal to you as our true Source of life and hope.

Faithful God,

thank you for guiding us when we cannot see the path ahead.

Thank you for showing us a way through our challenges

when we cannot see a solution on our own

Renew our trust in you in these days when so much is confusing and uncertain.

We pray for those who wonder if they can rely on you,

and for those who are afraid for the future.

Give them courage to listen for your call and follow your leading.

We pray for those who doubt.

Give them courage to explore those doubts and questions

and so discover renewed trust in your promises.

We pray for those who are impatient.

Bless them in times of waiting for what comes next

and fill them with kindness.

We pray for those who have chosen a path that has led to trouble.

Turn their hearts towards you

and lead them in ways of goodness, justice, and generosity.

We pray for your Church in these days when so much is changing.
Give us wisdom to discern ways to reach out to our community,
and faithfulness to keep following Jesus into the future you hold in your hands.

Faithful God, we depend on you.

Be gracious and bless us, so that our lives may be a blessing to others.

(share the names aloud or in the silence of our hearts, those people and situations that need your healing hand)

Creator, Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

**Lord's Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the
glory, forever and ever. Amen**

We Take Christ's Message Into the World

VU# 580 – Faith of our Fathers Grace only

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,

the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

- 4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Benediction

May the transforming love of God
work in your lives, today and always.
Go forth into the world with peace, love, and joy.
Follow Christ wherever he leads you.
Fulfill the promise found in the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

Parting Song: VU#289: It only takes a spark – verse one and three -
It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

- 3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Services will be at the regular times.
Woodhouse Service 9:30 am; Grace Service 11:00 am

**Decoration Day Service at Woodhouse United Church Cemetery --
Sunday August 14, 2022, starting at 9:30 am**

Everyone is welcome! If you can, please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, service will be held indoors.

No weekly service at Grace that week.



Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Please leave a message or send an email
and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

If you are in need of Pastoral Care please contact:

Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini

519-428-6770, 519-420-0094 (cell) mmarini@nornet.on.ca

Recently Moved? Please let the office know so we can update your mailing address. We mail out your weekly "service from home" on Thursdays.

Prefer not to receive the mailing anymore? Let us know and we will remove your address from the mailing list. *This helps us save a stamp!* 519-583-0342 - Thank you

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contribute to the Church Directory

- ⇒ Committee Photos
- ⇒ Event Photos
- ⇒ YOUR photo!

**Email Committee and event photos to
graceunitedportdover@gmail.com**

**To book your Photo sitting time, talk to Lisa Jo 519-428-2827
or Marg 519-583-2783. Everyone receives a free 8x10 photo
and directory.**

**Save The Date: 175 Anniversary Mini Golf
Friday Sept. 9, Arbortown Mini-golf
More information to come.**



**A Memorial Service and internment of ashes
for Rev. Jean Mosher will be held at Woodhouse Church
on Saturday August 13 at 1 p.m.
Rev. Brian Elder will be presiding.
All are welcome. Refreshments will be served following
the service.**

Stewardship Seconds

August 7, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The gospel according to Luke reminds us, "Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an un-failing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

