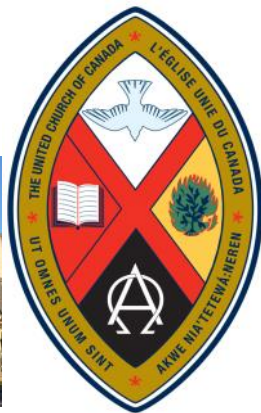


# The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

## Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church

### NEWSLETTER

January—February 2021



### *From the minister's desk...*

Revelation 21:4-5 (Good News Translation)

*He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared."*

*Then the one who sits on the throne said, "And now I make all things new!" He also said to me, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."*

Thinking about 2020 makes me think of these verses. Over the last 20 years we have seen many of our ways of being the church slowly change. Our Sunday School rooms are no longer bursting with children. Our UCWs no longer have several Units. Sunday attendance isn't what it once was. Baptisms are fewer; as are church weddings and funerals. Many of the older hymns have been replaced with new ones. It's increasingly harder to find volunteers to assume positions of leadership (committee chairs, board/council chairs). Many have been saddened by these changes. Collectively we grieve the passing of a bustling church building.

Then, last March, we had to close the building down completely because of the danger of spreading Covid-19. We weren't allowed to congregate. Nor were we allowed to visit those who are shut in. We were left to wonder, without any worship or pastoral care how can we be the church?

Yes, the old ways disappeared. Yet the new ways actually serve more people. We started taping worship and putting it on YouTube. And people said that it was good. In fact, more people watch our services on their computers or TVs than came to church before the shutdown. For those who didn't have computers, we mailed out copies of the service (complete with words to the hymns). And people said that it was good. For pastoral care, phone calls were made and cards were sent. And people said that it was good. For meetings and Bible study and Messy Church we used Zoom. Okay, that might not be as good as meeting in person, but it did allow people to gather for a common purpose.

These methods of doing things have worked so well that we have continued. The livestreaming equipment enables us to worship "together". And when the pandemic is over people will be able to continue worshipping with us in this way. I see it as a great thing for those who can't come because of health, mobility, or weather. Port Dover- Woodhouse Pastoral Charge on YouTube is a new thing. It is a good thing.



Grace has formed an ad hoc committee that is exploring "new ways of being the church". Of course this, too, is another good thing. We are limited only by our imaginations.

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation for all who have supported me with all of the changes and challenges through this past 2 year. There is a song that goes, "The church is not a building. The

church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place. The church is the people.” The chorus starts, “I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.”

I go forward, with you, into the coming year with great enthusiasm. We need no longer grieve the death of old ways. We are the church and, with God’s help, all things are being made new. Thanks be to God.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn".

Rev. Kathryn Vance

## **This hit me...**

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

# kindness

As you know our church has become active in supporting the **Church Out Serving** and its priorities to help those in need in Norfolk County. Recent efforts have included Christmas Hampers to needy families and clothing for Immigrant Farm workers who found themselves experiencing a cold Canadian winter when plans to return to the Caribbean were halted by the pandemic.



Pictures above: (left) thankful farm workers with their new winter clothing and (2) Carol delivering cookies for the Christmas hampers.

We would also like to share with you a recent message from the Church Out Serving (COS)

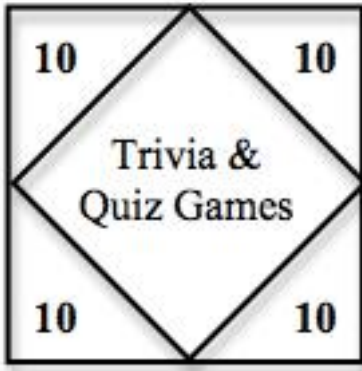
## **A message from the Church Out Serving:**

**THANK YOU** for the wonderful 159 bags of cookies you baked and bagged so beautifully for our Christmas Food Hampers. Such a special treat for our neighbours who are finding themselves vulnerable in this covid pandemic, and especially so at Christmastime, after a long and difficult year. Your gifts to these many individuals and families will be so enjoyed!

We appreciate how you responded quickly and well to this request, and are truly grateful for the relationship we are building, which in turn is proving to be such a blessing to our community.

**FEBRUARY IS**

**Black History Month**



3. Elizabeth
4. David
5. Ruth
6. Priscilla
7. Isaac
8. Joseph (N.T.)
9. Jacob

## NAME THE SPOUSE

1. Abraham
2. Adam

***Thanks to Steve Brightman for the TRIVIA Quiz submission.***



### **Fun & Caring Activity**

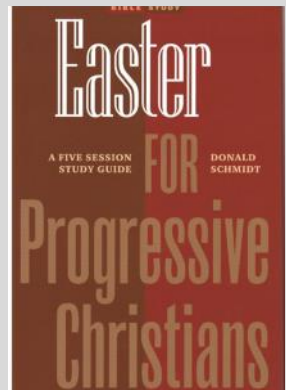
In the spirit of Kindness & Love, from now to Feb 14th, place a heart on the door of a neighbour, child, or friend, telling them what you love about them.

## Lenten Book Study

Thursdays, Feb 25 – Mar 25

9:45-10:45

Please contact Kathryn by Feb 11 to order book. \$14.95 + shipping and tax



## Grace: Memorial Candle lighting

**January 17** - We remember:

Margaret Jean Archer,  
Louise Annette Behrens,  
Donald Norris Edward Carpenter, Jason Daniel Crandall,  
Harold William Foster, Margaret R. Hankforth,  
Adrian Keith MacKenzie, Sheila Ann Miller, Mary Anne Nadrofsky,  
Peggy Mae Trembley, Tillie Wright



**February 21** - We remember:

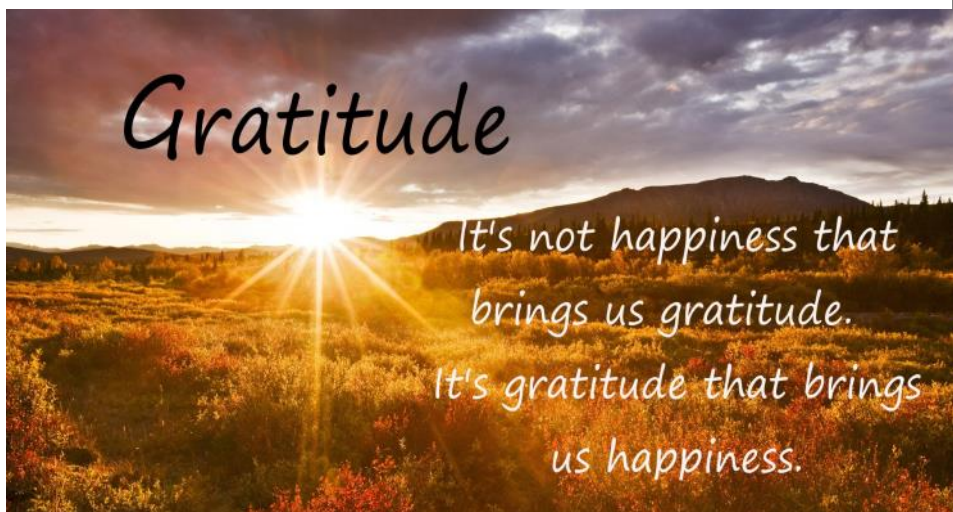
John Blazeiko, Peter Basyk Bobyk, Harry Arthur Butler,  
David Richard Jenkins Hughes, Lois Mina Keefer, Dorothy Jean Lee,  
Cawleen Malouin, Wesley Keith Riddle, Phyllis Margaret Robinson,  
Regina Schertzer

## Woodhouse: Memorial Candle lighting

**January 17** - We remember:

Hiram Lawrence Irwin, Shirley Roberts

**February 21** - no memorials





### News and Updates

The pandemic and lockdown continue in our communities. Unfortunately, in-person activities have been suspended for the interim.

However, the church continues to operate albeit a bit differently than we are used to. Upcoming events and activities include:

- Weekly Services on our YouTube Channel each Sunday at 11am. If you haven't check it out. Link on our Website [graceunitedportdover.org](http://graceunitedportdover.org)
- Bible Study continues Tuesdays by zoom
- New Ways Committee meets by zoom January 18 at 9:30am
- The Annual General Meeting will be postponed to later in the year, when we can gather again as a community.
- The office is mailing out 60 service bulletins weekly and e-mailing 124 members details of the weekly online services. If you wish to be added to the distribution or know someone who would like to be added, let the office know at 519-583-0342 or by email at [graceunitedportdover@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedportdover@gmail.com)
- If you would like to have your box of Contribution Envelopes delivered to your home, please let the Office know and we will make arrangements.

### **TRIVIA ANSWERS:**

- |              |               |            |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Sarah     | 4. Bethsherba | 7. Rebecca |
| 2. Eve       | 5. Boez       | 8. Mary    |
| 3. Zechariah | 6. Aquila     | 9. Rachel  |

## Scripture Readings January 17 to February 28, 2021

January 17 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

**1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) God calls Samuel.**

Psalm 139:1-6,13-18 God has searched and known me.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Your body is a temple of God's spirit.

**John 1:43-51 Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael**

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January 24 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Jonah calls Nineveh to repent.**

Psalm 62:5-12 Be still, my soul, and wait for God..

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 The time is short for the present form of the world.

**Mark 1:14-20 Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James and John**

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January 31 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20 God will raise up a prophet after Moses.**

Psalm 111 The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Concerning food offered to idols

**Mark 1:21-28 A man with an unclean spirit is healed in Capernaum.**

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February 7 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 Those who wait upon God shall renew their strength.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c God heals the broken-hearted.

**1 Corinthians 9:16-23 I have become all things to all people for the gospel's sake.**

**Mark 1:29-39 Simon's mother-in-law and many others healed.**

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February 14 - Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah is taken up into heaven.

Psalm 50:1-6 God summons the earth.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6 The light of knowledge shines in our hearts.**

**Mark 9:2-9 The transfiguration of Jesus.**

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*February 17 - Ash Wednesday*

*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Return to God with all your heart. or Isaiah 58:1-12 The worship*

*Psalm 51:1-17 Put a new heart in me, O God.*

*that God desires*

*2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Be reconciled to God..*

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Practise your faith in secret.*

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February 21 - 1st Sunday in Lent

**Genesis 9:8-17 The covenant between God and Noah.**

Psalm 25:1-10 Lead me in your truth, O God.

1 Peter 3:18-22 Baptism now saves you.

**Mark 1:9-15 The baptism, temptation, and mission of Jesus.**

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February 28 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God.

Psalm 22:23-31 You have not hidden your face, O God.

**Romans 4:13-25 God's promise rests on grace and faith.**

**Mark 8:31-38 Those who lose their life for the gospel will save it.**