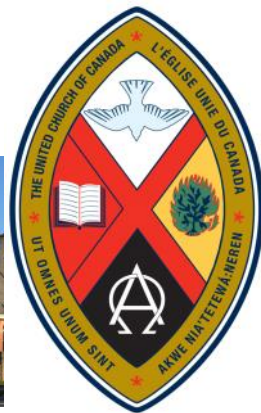


The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church

NEWSLETTER

July—August 2021



From the minister's desk...

Greetings in the name of Christ.

I'm excited that we will be worshipping at Woodhouse this summer. I hope to see many of you there. Don't forget to bring your mask and lawn chair for these outdoor services. I am optimistic that we will be able to move indoors by September and am hoping that we will be singing again by Christmas.

I have had both of my vaccination shots and am hopeful that I will soon be allowed to visit in Seniors' Residences and Nursing Homes. (So far I have only been allowed in when someone has been assessed as "palliative".)

Heading into this summer is much more encouraging than summer 2020. This time last year we weren't able to have any services and there were no Covid vaccines available yet. I truly pray that we will continue on this trajectory of recovery.

When we are able to meet indoors again, I'd like to offer more opportunities to gather for social and/or learning events. Let me know

what kind of things you would like to participate in. My email is kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca and my phone number is 519 717-7426.

Despite the challenges of the past 15 months, I continue to feel blessed to serve you. A program called Zoom has allowed meetings, Bible study, and worship to continue. Now that we have learned how to use this, we will have the option to use it in the future any time we can't get together physically. For example, when a winter storm makes it too dangerous to drive.

Sunday worship service will continue to be available online and, for those who don't have computers but are unable to come to church, we will continue to mail a copy of the service to them. We have learned that these actions are important to you.

This year I have been sending birthday cards to those whose birthdays we have on file. If your birthday was between January and June and you did not get a card from me, that means we don't have your information. Please let the office know. You don't have to tell us the year if you don't want – just the month and day.

As we have risen above the challenges of Covid restrictions, I think of Hebrews 6:10, "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." You and your ancestors have built strong faith communities. I believe that you will continue to offer that support when we reopen.

Blessings to you



Rev. Kathryn Vance

Calendar of Special Days

Calendar of Special Days

- July 1 Canada Day
- July 7 National Forgiveness Day
- August 2 Civic Holiday



A rather majestic-looking Dover Methodist Church (now Grace United); likely a Gordon photo. The building at the right is the original church; torn down and replaced by a new C.E. wing in 1962.

Global, International, National and World Forgiveness Days

Global Forgiveness Day is held on July 7. It is also referred to as "*World Forgiveness Day*" and "*National Forgiveness Day*".

International Forgiveness Day is held on the first Sunday of August

Forgiveness Day is a time to forgive and to be forgiven. If you dig deeply, you will discover that there are a number of other "Forgiveness" days, created by primarily religious organizations, or organized groups promoting the concept of forgiveness. There's enough trouble and strife in the world. The existence of multiple forgiveness days can only help to make the world and your life a little better. The sponsors of this day believe that a little more forgiveness will help to make the world a much better place.

All of the holidays promoting forgiveness, have one thing in common: to forgive and forget wrongs. Put aside the grudges. Bury the hatchet. And, end the feuds. Life is too short to hold in the pain and anxiety. Instead, forgive people and you will find your life is calmer, and more peaceful. Forgiveness goes both ways. While much of the focus of these days encourages you to forgive others, it is also important to seek forgiveness to both God and others, for any wrongs you have done.

Global Forgiveness Day began in 1994. It was created and is sponsored by the Christian Embassy of Christ's Ambassadors. This holiday originated in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

International Forgiveness Day was created by the World Forgiveness Alliance, a non-denominational, educational foundation.

Do your part. Use the day or any day for that matter to clear your conscience and your soul. Take a few moments to sincerely forgive someone and to ask forgiveness of others. If possible, make it public. That way forgiveness will spread.

** The Jewish celebration of Yom Kippur is a day of atonement or forgiving.

** In Christian religions, the first Sunday before Lent is called "Forgiveness Sunday".

Quote of the Day:

"To err is human. To forgive is divine."

**Forgiveness
is the best form of love.**

**It takes a strong person to say I
am sorry and an even stronger
person to forgive.**

**Forgiveness is a sign that the
person who has wronged you
means more to you than the
wrong they have dealt you.**

Ben Greenhalgh

News from Robin's Nest and Jemima

Jemima has gone back to Teacher's College to get her diploma in teaching which will bring her to a higher level & more pay. She has been teaching at her local school off & on during this pandemic. Her older brother wanted her to stay home & look after their mentally disabled mother but I e-mailed her, encouraged her to take her diploma course & earn more money & even get a better teaching job & she could help her mother by buying her some food. She has been enjoying teaching school & told me she has a gift in mentoring the students. She says there has never been a best candidate from her local school but this past year she was made class manager & produced 12 candidates who are to join National School in July & has been ranked Best Teacher of Mathematics & Social Studies in their zone & was given a certificate. Jemima was first brought into Robin's Nest by me while I was there in 2012. Her younger brother & 2 sisters were 3 of the children at the orphanage. Susan [Gr 8 student when I was there in 2012] is now the Robin's Nest Social Worker. Allan [who we also sponsor] & a couple other students have gone to mud huts of the elderly & have repaired them so they are sturdier & the rain

Robin has a transition home in the same building as her office now & the young people stay there when they are on school holidays. They all take part in Sunday morning worship. Robin has sewing courses for them, also self esteem & empowerment courses & they learn how to say NO to sex & why, re: pregnancies & sexually transmitted diseases. She has also had students graduate from hairdressing, medical records, early childhood education, tailoring program & others are studying in other programs.

Please call me even if you could help for 1 month, lets help JEMIMA get through & be an independent woman & help her family & community.


Pat Tinney

Christian Education Update

On Monday May 31/2021 we had our last Messy Church for this church year by Zoom with 5 children attending. Since we couldn't have an outdoor barbeque we had online activities. We had a couple songs with video sharing then fitness exercises led by Kaitlyn Manley [my granddaughter]. A virtual scavenger hunt [Items they could find in their home] & then show us on screen.

Rev. Kathryn led them in a bible quiz of which they were pretty good at. Cheryl & I were pleased that they remembered so much from our former messy church meetings. I had a couple puzzles for them to match items. Everyone seemed to have fun & Kathryn closed with prayer.

Pat Finney



Tell people what you
love about them.

Less criticism, more
compliments.

- Lori Deschene

Jack Learns a Valuable Life Lesson

The telephone rang. It was a call from his mother. He answered it and his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday."

Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

"Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said.

"Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said.

"You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered.

Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture...Jack stopped suddenly...

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked.

"The box is gone," he said.

"What box?" Mom asked.

"There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said.

It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

"Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom." It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read.

Early the next day Jack went to the post office and retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside.

"Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filled his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.

Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! -- Harold Belser."


"The thing he valued most was my time!"

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days.*

"Why?" Janet, his assistant asked.

"I need some time to spend with the people I love and say I care for," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!"

~ Authour unknown



Too often we underestimate
the power of a touch, a smile,
a kind word, a listening ear,
an honest compliment, or the
smallest act of caring, all of
which have the potential to
turn a life around.

LEO BUSCAGLIA

News and Updates

Reopening Updates:

- **July 4th 10 am**—Outdoor services will commence at **Woodhouse United Church**. (Weather permitting) Attendees must bring their own chair and respect standard COVID protocols.
- **July 5th** —The church office will reopen and be staffed in-person. The office hours continue to be **9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)**

Church Office during the summer:

- **July 1—Canada Day**
- **June 30 to July 2** — The church office is closed— messages will be returned on July 5th.
- August 2—**Civic Holiday**
- **August 2-4** Office is closed and messages will be returned on August 5th

Meetings and other happenings:

- July 19th — **Grace Council Meeting** at 6:30pm
- August 23 — **Grace Ways of Being the Church** meeting
- August 27—**Mission and Outreach Committee** meeting at 9:30 am.
- Weekly Services on our YouTube Channel are prerecorded and posted. If you haven't seen it, check it out. Link on our Website graceunitedportdover.org
- You can subscribe to our email distribution by completing the form at <http://eepurl.com/gZrJH1>

JOKES

Daily Bible Lesson

Today's short reading from the Bible....from Genesis

“And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth.”

Then He made the earth round ... and He laughed and laughed and laughed!

Here endeth the lesson.

What did pirates call Noah's boat?

“The arrrrrrrk.”



What time of day was Adam created?

Just a little before Eve.

Mission and Outreach Update

M&O has been working with Haldimand- Norfolk Women's Services to identify the greatest needs for the women and children in their care. We have provided \$2,000 of funding from the TLC fund to provide \$50 Walmart and PC cards so that their clients, who are starting with nothing, can purchase what they need most. The Women's Shelter also asked for outdoor activity and game equipment and we have received tennis rackets, badminton rackets and some funds which we are using to purchase a badminton/volleyball net and game set and an outdoor playpen. These items have now been delivered to the Shelter to provide children with some safe outdoor activities.



Pikangikum New Hope Bike program Expanded!

The highly successful bike program at Pikangikum is continuing this summer with 5 local staff hired to run the bike repair shop and bike ride program again this summer. The program provides bikes, bike repair training and summer ride programs. The Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise has been involved with the program since its inception when they helped fund the bike trailer outfitted as a bike repair shop. You may recall Jim and Marjorie took bikes and skates in the trailer up to



Pikangikum over the winter road in 2019. This program has been so successful that OPP is seconding one of their officers, Adam Belanger full time by the OPP to expand the program into other First Nations communities.

Picture shows Project leader Rusty in front, L-R Lilly, Shandi, Elija, Sara, Gage (all our canoe/ Project journey kids)- Kneeling with little girl,

Grace: Memorial Candle lighting



July 18- We remember:

Max Chambers, Dorothy Fess,
Robert Gallagher, Rebecca McGee, Mary Jane Mummery,
Kenneth Simpson, Betsy Soles

Aug 15 - We remember:

Peter Fowler, Dee Brown, Grant Dougherty, Elsie Lawrence,
Ora Mason, Marguerite Underhill, Marie Wear

Woodhouse: Memorial Candle lighting

July 18 - We remember:

Jesse Jordan Michael Luton

Aug 15 - We remember:

Catherine Judd, Arthur Robertson



A gift we offer others
is our prayers.

Keep in our prayers the family and friends of:

Roberta Vardy who passed on June 3, 2021

A woman with long, light-colored hair is shown in profile, looking out a window. The background is filled with soft, out-of-focus light spots (bokeh) in shades of yellow and white, suggesting sunlight filtering through trees or a bright outdoor scene. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

“

When you wake up in the morning it's not just another day, it's another chance at life, another opportunity to challenge yourself to become better.

Be grateful for every sunset and thankful for every sunrise because every single day is a blessing.

- Roger Lee -

Scripture Readings July & August, 2021

July 4 - 6th after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 David is anointed King.

Psalms 48 God be praised in the city of Zion.

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 My grace is sufficient; my power made perfect in weakness.

Mark 6:1-13 Jesus, rejected in Nazareth, sends out the 12 to teach.

July 11 - 7th after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 David brings the ark to Jerusalem.

Psalms 24 The earth is God's and all that is in it.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Adopted through Christ and given an inheritance.

Mark 6:14-29 The death of John the Baptist

July 18 - 8th after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a David is not the one to build God's house.

Psalms 89:20-37 I will sing of God's steadfast love.

Ephesians 2:11-22 You are holy citizens, members of God's household.

Mark 6:30-34 Jesus teaches from a boat and heals the sick.

July 25—9th after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15 David and Bathsheba

Psalms 14 Fools say, "There is no God."

Ephesians 3:14-21 God's power accomplishes more than we can ask for or imagine.

John 6:1-21 Jesus feeds the multitude and walks on water.

August 1 - 10th after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Nathan's story that condemns David.

Psalms 51:1-12 Create in me a new heart, O God.

Ephesians 4:1-16 A life worthy of your calling; speak the truth in love.

John 6:24—35 The crowds ask for another sign from Jesus.

August 8—11th after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 David's son Absalom dies.

Psalms 130 Out of the depths, I cry to God.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

John 6:35, 41—51 I am the bread of life.

August 15—12th after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 David's death; Solomon's prayer.

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

Ephesians 5:15-20 With thanksgiving, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

John 6:51-58 Whoever eats my bread has eternal life.

August 22—13th after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Solomon calls on God to keep God's promise.

Psalms 84 How lovely is your dwelling place, O God.

Ephesians 6:10-20 Put on the whole armour of God.

John 6:56-69 To whom do we go? You have the words of eternal life.

August 29—14th after Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Arise, my love, and come away!

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9 Praise for the anointed hero!

James 1:17-27 Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Not from outside but from within is a person defiled.

