

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, March 27, 2022**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Box 814, 18 Chapman St. West,  
Port Dover, ON N0A 1N0  
Church Office: 519-583-0342**

**Email: [graceunitedportdover@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedportdover@gmail.com)**

**Website: <http://www.graceunitedportdover.org>**

**Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith**

**Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller**

**Grace Pianist: Cheryl Copeman**

**Office Administrator: Jackie Misner-Hilton**

**Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM**

**Licensed Lay Worship Leader: Heather King**

**Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini**

**Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM**

**Cell: 519-717-7426 or [kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca](mailto:kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca)**

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

March 27, 2022

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**We Gather to Worship**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Joke** - A priest was just finishing his sermon and was urging the congregation to choose something they really loved to give up for lent, starting in early March.

As an example, he told the congregation that he was giving up his favorite pastime and wouldn't be golfing for the 40 days before Easter.

Now, he knew this wouldn't be much of a temptation to him since there was still snow on the ground.

Time went by and in early April a week of warm weather melted the snow and the priest couldn't take the pressure. He decided to go to the next town over and do a quick 18.

Everything was going well and he was having the game of his life. Finally he got to the 18th hole, it was a mean par 4, with a nasty dogleg.

Looking down from Heaven, St Peter turned to God and said, *"This is the last hole. If you are going to punish him, now is the time. What do you want me to do?"*

God said, **"Give him a hole in one."** St Peter said, *"But good God, that's not a punishment, it's a reward!"*

God smiled and said, **"He just finished with the best score of his life and now he will get a hole in one on the most difficult hole on this course. He gave up golf for Lent, who's he going to be able to tell?"** (God and St Peter laughed and laughed)

**The Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit**

**Call to Worship**

Let us approach our God with joy,  
**for God does not wish to condemn us.**

Let us bring our praises to God,  
**for God will lift us up.**

Let us bring our troubles to God,  
**for God offers us steadfast love.**

*Wanda Winfield, Blenheim U.C., Blenheim, Ont.*

## Hymn – VU #716 **My Life Flows On**

My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing:  
It finds an echo in my soul -  
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Saviour still is living.  
What though the shadows gather 'round?  
A new song Christ is giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
since Love commands both heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
and hear their death knells ringing:  
when friends rejoice both far and near,  
how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell and dungeon vile  
our thoughts to them are winging:  
when friends by shame are undefiled,  
how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
and day by day this pathway smooths,  
since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing:  
all things are mine since I am Christ's -  
how can I keep from singing?

## Opening Prayer

Merciful God, in this season of waiting and anticipation, we come to you hopeful for the possibilities of new life. We await the coming of spring, when the sleeping creation will break forth and once again verdant life will grow. As we wait, cause new life to stir within each one of us, that we might prepare for a renewed and plentiful life. We pray in the name of the one who came to bring life. Amen.

*Ryan McNally, St. Mark's U.C., Cannifton, Ont.*

## We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does a cardboard box remind you of God? (next week a car)

## Hymn - VU # 574 **Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love**

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
tender and true, tender and true,  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell  
joyfully came, joyfully came,  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
sharing their sorrow and shame,  
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
why do they roam? why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
home, weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love, wonderful love

dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!

Come and abide, come and abide,  
lifting my life till it rises above  
envy and falsehood and pride:  
seeking to be, seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of the distant past, God of the far-reaching future, God of the here and now:

we receive words from the ancient texts,  
we read the sayings of Jesus,  
and we listen to today's interpretation.

We pray that your word will continue to be as meaningful and fresh to us today and in the future as it was to Abraham, our ancestor in faith.

*Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.*

### **Scripture: Psalm 32 Confessional**

Happy are those who have nothing to hide;

**Even happier those whose slate has been wiped clean.**

I used to lie awake, worrying about things I had done;

**and during the day, about things I had not done.**

My conscience tormented me, I couldn't concentrate.

**I was terrified of being exposed.**

So I went to God and confessed.

**I made no excuses for myself; I didn't hide anything.**

And God forgave me.

**What a relief it is to share a gnawing secret!**

Forgiveness is like a cool drink on a hot day,

**like a warm fire in a winter blizzard.**

God's grace renews my strength;

**it gives me a second chance.**

God says, "I will teach you how to take charge of your behaviour.

**You are not like horses and camels**

**who need bridles and bits to control them.**

You have a mind; you can think.

**You can anticipate consequences before you act."**

Experience isn't always the best teacher.

**Let God lead you through life.**

## **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no

longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has

come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who

reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of

reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in

Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed

to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's

ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We

implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him

who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the

righteousness of God.

## **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear

Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This

man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his

father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his

property between them.

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off

for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild

living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in

that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and

hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

## Message

### Hymn - VU # 288 **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!



## We Respond to God's Word

### Offering

#### Chorus VU # 542 We Give You But Your Own

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

### Prayer of Dedication

Patient and empowering God, bless these gifts and use them for your purpose in the world. Bless our own gifts and inspire us to see your path for our service. Guide us to let hope prevail where despair has taken hold, to let compassion grow in the place of judgment, to let peace flourish and heal the fractures of the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont.*

### Minute for Mission

#### 10 Million Signatures for Peace

Seventy years is enough. End the Korean War. That's the message of the recently launched global campaign called the Korea Peace Appeal.

The goal of the appeal is to collect 100 million signatures for peace by 2023, the 70th anniversary of the armistice. The ultimate goal is peace. The Korean War began in 1950. While open clashes ceased in 1953 with the signing of an armistice, a peace treaty has not yet been established and the war is not over. For more than 70 years the Korean people have endured a constant state of hostility and war, which has solidified the division of the peninsula.

For more than 30 years your gifts through Mission & Service have supported justice and peace work in Korea through the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK). The NCCCK supports women's programs, human rights, and peace and reconciliation efforts. The NCCCK has challenged The United Church of Canada to add 10,000 signatures to the Korea Peace Appeal by the summer of 2022. The



request is urgent. Please join the **Moderator** and others by adding your signature today.

“The point of the campaign is to urge an end to the Korean War and establish a peace agreement,” says Patti Talbot, the United Church’s team lead for global partnership. “Sometimes it can be hard to know how to take action on large global issues. By adding our signature to this campaign, we can take a tangible step to help create a world free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat and break the vicious cycle of the arms race.”

Your support through **Mission & Service** actively supports peace-making in Korea. If you would like to take another step to help, please consider signing the petition. Add your name to those calling for peace. We are stronger together.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

### **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, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **We Take Christ's Message Into the World**

Hymn VU # 556 **Would You Bless Our Homes and Families**

Would you bless our homes and families,

Source of life who calls us here;

in our world of stress and tension

teach us love that conquers fear.

Help us learn to love each other

with a love that constant stays;

teach us when we face our troubles,  
love's expressed in many ways.  
When our way is undemanding,  
let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
and in you, our gracious God.  
From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.  
Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
love's expressed in many ways.

### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

As we go forth from this time of worship,  
can we be like the father to his prodigal son?  
May we not dish out "just desserts" but instead  
a banquet of welcome and forgiveness?  
Let us hope and pray that from others we will receive the same.

*Karen Boivin, Bells Corners U.C., Ottawa, Ont.*

## Closing of Bible and Extinguishing of Candle

### Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do

Go now in love, and show you believe; Reach out to others, so all the world can see

God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen



**Grace**  
**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Kick-off**  
**Celebration Breakfast**  
Sunday April 24, 2022 at 9am

*We thank you for your donations*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

### Let's Celebrate

#### Pastoral Charge Birthdays

Mary Lou VanSickle	March 27
Georgia McCormick	March 29
Elizabeth Barath	March 30
Derek Morrison	April 1

### Ukraine Relief

The Ukraine invasion has shocked the world — the need is great, and you can help.

Mission & Outreach has allocated \$400 from O&M funding for Ukraine relief to go to Canadian Red Cross. If you would like to help, mark your envelopes or cheques with Ukraine or Red Cross.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to those who have continued regular donations via mail or Canada Helps.



### **We need your continued support**

In this difficult time, we do really need to have some help with our ongoing costs and we realize that times are tough for people and not all of us can afford to donate. However, if you do have the desire and capacity, we would really like to encourage you to make regular donations.

### **Here are 4 ways to make a donation:**

Your offering can be mailed to our address on the front of the bulletin. Please make a cheque out to either Woodhouse United Church or Grace United Church and note your envelope number. You can also mail Woodhouse cheques to Paul Malcomson, 65 Crestlynn Crescent, Simcoe, N3Y 4Y4

If you wish to donate cash to Grace, please call the Treasurer, Brian Jamieson at (519) 583-2216. To donate cash to Woodhouse please call the Treasurer, Paul Malcomson at (519) 428-2827.

Joining the Pre-Approved Remittance Plan (PAR) at Grace is very simple, and we would welcome anyone who wishes to join. Please contact Marilyn Dixon at (519) 429-3971 if you wish to join PAR or want to revise your current level of contributions.

Go to our homepage and click the "Donate Online" button. Please indicate Grace or Woodhouse in the comment section. An immediate receipt will be issued by Canadahelps.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Community and Church Activities at Grace United

#### **T.O.P.S. (Grace Room)**

Mondays at 8:30am

#### **Tai Chi (Hall)**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursdays 9-12 (restarting March 14)

#### **AA Meetings (Grace Room)**

Mondays/Fridays @ 8PM

Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Month

#### **Prayer Group (Growing Place)**

Tuesdays 9am at Grace United

#### **Bible Study (Growing Place)**

Tuesdays 10:30 – 12:00

#### **Hand & Foot (Hall)**

Tuesdays 2-4pm

#### **Fitness Classes (Hall)**

Wednesday/Friday at 1pm

#### **Guides Program**

Wednesdays

Sparks (Hall) 6:30-7:30,

Guides / Pathfinders (Grace Room/Parlour) 6:30-8:00

Thursdays—Brownies (Hall) 6:15 - 7:30

#### **Duplicate Bridge Club (Hall)**

Thursdays at 1-4pm

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Feel free to call and leave a message or send an email at any time and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

[graceunitedportdover@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedportdover@gmail.com)

**For Pastoral Care, please contact**

**Rev. Kathryn Vance**

**519-717-7426**

**kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca**

### **Announcement reminder**

Please submit announcements by end of day Tuesday for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

### ***Stewardship Seconds***

**March 27, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Don't be paralyzed by the big problems. You can always find something to give.