

The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church

NEWSLETTER

May—June 2022



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is so nice to be able to return to some of the practices we had before Covid. I think all are pleased to be singing hymns again. And many enjoyed the ecumenical Good Friday and Easter Sunrise services for the first time since 2019.

The churches were decorated beautifully for Easter! Thank you to the volunteers who shared their time and talents to beautify our sanctuaries. And it was fun to see the variety of “Easter Bonnets”. (Maybe that could be a new tradition.)

Grace launched their 175th anniversary celebrations with a congregational breakfast on April 24. Watch for more events in the coming months.

The next celebration in the church year takes place on June 5. It is the celebration of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Come and worship with Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini.

I am taking 4 weeks’ vacation from May 16 to June 12. Thank you to Heather King and Rev. Sheena for filling in for me. While I’m off I will be having some oral surgery. For those who have heard that I’m having “surgery”, I assure you that it is no big deal. I’m told to expect bruising and swelling which is why I scheduled this time for my vacation. I’m

hoping that healing only takes up part of the month so that I might get away for a week.

I thank you all for your show of confidence in my ministry that allows me to stay with you for at least another year. This truly is a wonderful charge.

The beautiful new banners in Grace were made by Yvonne Morris and paid for by an anonymous donor. There is a different one for each of the seasons of the church year.

I remind you of, what I think, is the best instruction Jesus gave..." By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another.**"
John 13:35

Together in faith,



Rev. Kathryn



**YOUR FEEDBACK
MATTERS**

Let us know what you think about
the Newsletter

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When God Created Fathers by Erma Bombeck

When the good Lord was creating Fathers he started with a tall frame. And a female angel nearby said, "What kind of Father is that? If you're going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put fathers up so high? He won't be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping." And God smiled and said, "Yes, but if I make him child size, who would children have to look up to?" And when God made a Father's hands, they were large and sinewy. And the angel shook her head sadly and said, "Do you know what you're doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can't manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on pony tails or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats." And God smiled and said, "I know, but they're large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets at the end of a day...yet small enough to cup a child's face in his hands." And then God moulded long, slim legs and broad shoulders. And the angel nearly had a heart attack. "Boy, this is the end of the week, all right," she clucked. "Do you realize you just made a Father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the kid falling between his legs?" And God smiled and said, "A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, and hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus." God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had every seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. "That's not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?" And God smiled and said, "They'll work. You'll see. They'll support a small child who wants to ride a horse to Banbury Cross, or scare off mice at the summer cabin, or display shoes that will be a challenge to fill." God worked throughout the night, giving the Father few words, but a firm authoritative voice; eyes that saw everything, but remained calm and tolerant. Finally, almost as an afterthought, he added tears. Then he turned to the angel and said, "Now, are you satisfied that he can love as much as a Mother?" The angel shutteth up.

Calendar of Special Days

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- May 2-8 Mental Health Awareness Week in Canada
- May 9 Children's Mental Health Day
- May 8 Mothers Day
- May 15 International Families Day
- May 23 Victoria Day
National Indigenous History Month
- June
Pride Month
- June 5 World Environment Day
- June 6 D-Day
- June 8 Best Friend Day
- June 19 Father's Day
- June 21 National Indigenous Peoples day
- June 27 Multiculturalism Day

WANTED

Grace needs volunteers to learn to operate the live-stream camera and perhaps a few extra to learn how to run the PowerPoint presentation for the overhead. Contact Jim Dawson or the office if interested in helping.

#GetReal May 2-8 2022

“I can relate.”

It’s a familiar expression and one you’ve likely used countless times throughout the pandemic. When someone has been sick or stressed, felt lonely or lost their job. You say it without having to think: “I get it. I’ve been there. I can relate.”

But did you know that, hiding in these very simple sentences, is a sophisticated skill you may not even realize you have? Psychologists and researchers call it empathy. And it’s not just for therapists or counsellors. Empathy is the ability to share someone else’s feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in their situation. It’s a simple concept, but it may be the very thing we humans need most.

As human beings, we share an ability to imagine what life is like for someone else. To see the world as others see it. To look through someone else’s eyes. To climb inside and walk around in their skin.

When someone is struggling, they don’t always need someone to swoop in and fix things for them. First, they need someone to understand where they’re coming from.

During his time as president, Barack Obama suggested the biggest deficit in the world was an empathy deficit. He defined it as the ability to see the world through those who are different from us.

But maybe that’s shifted these past two years, as our world has faced a common problem: we’ve lived together through a long and grueling pandemic. The virus came for all of us. No exception. And while it left its mark on some more than others, it is clearer now that we’re as much the same as we are different. Empathy might, in fact, be the silver-lining to all of this: whatever our circumstances, it’s clear that we all need to feel seen and heard. If empathy doesn’t come easily to you, the good news is that it can be learned and practiced. Empathy can help us know ourselves and our own feelings. It can help us lead, help us communicate and help us support and connect with others. At home. At work and at school. For **Mental Health Week** this year – May 2-8, 2022 – #GetReal with each other. We may be different, but that doesn’t make us rivals. Let’s stop polarizing and start empathizing. Be there for each other when times are hard and be ready to listen. You don’t have to agree to understand, and you don’t have to fix it to help.

#GetReal. Don’t weigh in. Tune in.

Demands for mental health services are rising. Young people are experiencing more severe issues of mental illness, suicide and eating disorders. Now is the time to support mental health and invest in community services. Volunteer, sign petitions, stay up to date on issues, give to Mission & Services.

Keep up to date by reading a few relevant websites or books such as:

- For Facebook users join, the United Church of Canada Mental Health Network <https://www.facebook.com/United-Church-of-Canada-Mental-Health-Network-102391831971927>
- <https://everythingisnotok.ca/>
- Mental Health Commission of Canada – a federal organization developing a national mental health strategy, offering support, and programs:
- <http://mentalhealthcommission.ca/>
- eMental Health – finding mental health services in your community: <http://www.ementalhealth.ca/>
- Crisis Services Canada – Suicide prevention and support: <http://www.crisisservicescanada.ca/> 1-833-456-4566
- Canadian Mental Health Association – local offices offer services and support: <http://cmha.ca/>
- Coleman, Monica. Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman’s Journey with Depression and Faith. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016).
- Finnegan-Hosey, David. Christ on the Psych Ward. (New York: Church Publishing, 2018).
- Greene-McCreight, Kathryn. Darkness Is My Only Companion: A Christian Response to Mental Illness. (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006).
- Keefe, Rachael A., The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention (Atlanta: Chalice Press, 2018).

Planting Your Spring Garden

For The Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip For Meetings
2. Turnip For Service
3. Turnip To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme For Family
3. Thyme For Friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate With Love.
There Is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because You Reap
What You Sow. Pass It On!!!

Mother's Day....



Happy Mother's Day to all out there who play a mothering role. A dear friend once shared that the intention of Mother's Day is more of an advocacy for peace and for all to play a nurturing role towards our children, our planet and each other. I really like this much more inclusive interpretation. So you don't have to have borne a child yourself to feel special and celebrated today. In many countries, Mother's Day 2022 will occur on Sunday, May 8.

History of Mother's Day

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

Anna Jarvis Turns Mother's Day Into a National Holiday

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, provinces, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause.

Mother's Day Around the World

While versions of Mother's Day are celebrated worldwide, traditions vary depending on the country. In Thailand, for example, Mother's Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen, Sirikit. In Ethiopia, where families gather to sing songs and eat a large feast as part of Antrosht, a multi-day celebration honoring motherhood.

Are you a mother who wants to make a difference? Is there a mother or someone like a mother you want to honour? Do you know people who have lost mothers or mothers who have lost a child? Does anyone you know find Mother's Day hard? Are there people in your life whose untraditional family unit deserves recognition and celebration?

This Mother's Day make it a special opportunity to not only help families in need but also reach out to honour and support our loved ones.

How will you honour those who play a nurturing role in your families and communities in 2022?

News and Updates

Church Office :

Victoria Day—office closed May 23, 2022

National Indigenous Peoples Day—office closed June 21, 2022

Celebrations and Worship Services:

Rev. Katherine Vance will be on leave from May 16 - June 12

Officiant Schedule

- **May 22—Heather King**
- **May 29—Hymn Sing**
- **June 5—Sheena Riley-Marini**
- **June 12—Heather King**

Meetings and other happenings:

- ◆ **Grace Council Meeting—May 2nd 6pm**
- ◆ **Friday 13th Luncheon—Grace Hall 11am to 4pm**
- ◆ **Grace 175th Anniversary Celebration Picnic**, June 26th at Woodhouse United Church following a joint Grace/Woodhouse Worship Service at 10:30.
- ◆ **Grace Council meeting June 27th 6:30 pm**
- ◆ **175th Anniversary Committee is planning additional events for 2022**, stay tuned for details.
- ◆ **Church Directory** will be updated in 2022 stay tuned for details.
- For updates and changes checkout the Calendar of upcoming events can be found on the church Website graceunitedportdover.org

You can subscribe to our email distribution by completing the form at <http://eepurl.com/gZrJH1>

Christian Jokes

Messages on various church signs across the country.

Shared by Rev Kathryn Vance:

Cremation is your last chance for a smoking hot body

*Whoever stole our AC units, keep one,
it is hot where you are going*

*Adam & Eve the first couple to not read
the APPLE Terms & Conditions*

*With all the rain, we need an ARK. (Wait for it)
We Noah Guy!*

Forgive your enemies, it messes with their heads.

Love is Grand. Divorce is Twenty Grand.

Forbidden Fruit causes many Jams!

Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are.

*Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to
meet him.*

10 TOOLS TO HEAL HUMANITY

1. Find gratitude for the present moment
2. Accept responsibility for your own behavior, language, actions, and existence
3. Allow yourself to be yourself and accept who you are with kindness
4. Focus on creating what you want and it will manifest; don't be anti-anything
5. Reconnect with nature to find your own beauty
6. Recognize your connection to everyone and everything at all times; you are never truly isolated
7. Forgive yourself and others; accept that nothing is against you and no one is opposed to you
8. Behave in a place of love and set that example for everyone else
9. Join together in community, spreading love and dissolving fear
10. Bring God into your Life.



Christian Trivia

Unscramble these verses. Do you know which book of the bible they are from?

- The beginning in.
- Oil anoint head thou thy dost with.
- Thy lamp is a feet unto thy word and path light unto and a
- Wept JESUS.
- The shepherd my LORD is.
- Murder thou not shalt.
- Father and your mother honour.
- Love thou thyself shalt thy as neighbour.
- Love me do you?
- The light is my I salvation fear and Lord whom shall?

Thanks to Steve Brightman for the submission.

God's plan for aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.



Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

M&O helps Youth in transition program

Mission and Outreach has been working with R.E.A.C.H. in their youth in transition program to help youth who are transitioning out of the children's aid program. Many youth come out of CAS at age 18 and are now faced with starting out on their own. As an example of the issues, some youth need to get ID to get their health cards and drivers licence etc all of which cost money and so the youth need help to get their official documents. This program was actually one that was requested by the youth as something they really need to help get established. The \$1,000 donation, from the M&O TLC fund, is split in two areas- one to help cover one time costs such as ID documents and the other area is food cards to help youth with buying necessities as they often start with nothing.



Pictured are Kathy Gammon of REACH, Maureen Clements, Rev Kathryn Vance and Jim Dawson.

Young at Heart

"I asked an elderly man once what it was like to be old and to know the majority of his life was behind him. He told me that he has been the same age his entire life. He said the voice inside of his head had never aged. He has always just been the same boy. His mother's son. He had always wondered when he would grow up and be an old man. He said he watched his body age and his faculties dull but the person he is inside never got tired. Never aged. Never changed.



Our spirits are eternal. Our souls are forever. The next time you encounter an elderly person, look at them and know they are still a child, just as you are still a child and children will always need love, attention and purpose." ~ Author Unknown

Trivia Solutions

1. In the beginning. (Gen. 1)
2. Thou dost anoint my head with oil. (Psalm 23)
3. Thy word is a lamp unto thy feet and a light unto thy path. (Psalm 119:105)
4. JESUS wept. (nJohn 11:35).
5. The lord is my Shepherd. (Psalm 23)
6. Thou shalt not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
7. Honour your father and mother. (Exodus 20; 12).
8. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Matthew 22:39)
9. Do you love me? (JESUS to Simon.) (John 21:16)
10. The light is my salvation and LORD . Whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1)

Grace: Memorial Candle lighting

May - We remember:

Deborah Muriel Bennet,
John Robert "Jack" Dosser, John Harry
Hankforth,
William Edward Innes, Faye Tisdale

June- We remember:

Mary Ileen Dougherty, Marin Dykstra, Joseph Robert Misener,
Michael Mitchell, James William Mummery, Maureen Ruth Ongaro,
Ethel Margaret Vardy

Woodhouse: Memorial Candle lighting

June - We remember:

Linda Darlene Moodie, Russell Gordon Cullimore, Jean Marie Bethune



A gift we offer others
is our prayers.

Keep in our prayers the family and friends of:

Nancy Louise Styles who passed on February 24, 2022

Kenneth William Painter who passed on February 27, 2022

Jim Hoover who passed on April 9, 2022

When God Created Moms by Erma Bombeck

When the good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of overtime, when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one." And the Lord said, "Have you read the spec on this one? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 180 moveable parts, all replaceable; run on black coffee and leftovers; have a lap that disappears when she stands up; a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; and six pair of hands." The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands...no way." "It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have." "That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, "What are you kids doing in there?" when she already knows. Another here, in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't, but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, "I understand and I love you," without so much as uttering a word." "Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve gently, "Rest for now. Tomorrow..." "I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower." The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly. "She's too soft," she sighed. "But tough!" said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what the mother can do or endure." "Can she think?" "Not only think, but she can reason and compromise," said the Creator. Finally the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you, you were trying to put too much into this model." "It's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear." "What's it for?" "It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride." "You're a genius," said the angel. The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there."

Scripture Readings May 1 to June 26, 2022

May 1 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-20 Saul's conversion on the way to Damascus

Psalm 30 God turned my mourning into dancing.

Revelation 5:11-14 Worthy is the Lamb.

John 21:1-19 Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

May 8 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) to life.

Psalm 23 God is my Shepherd.

Revelation 7:9-17 The saints of God will never hunger or thirst again.

John 10:22-30 My sheep listen to my voice.

May 15 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 Peter's vision of unclean animals

Psalm 148 Let the whole creation praise God.

Revelation 21:1-6 I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

John 13:31-35 A new commandment: love one another

May 22 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 Paul, Lydia, and the women by the river

Psalm 67 Let the light of God's face shine upon us.

Revelation 21:10,22-22:5 John's version of the city of God

John 14:23-29 The Holy Spirit will come to teach.

May 29 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34 Paul and Silas are freed from prison.

Psalm 97 God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21 I am coming soon.

John 17:20-26 Jesus prays that they all may be one.

June 5 - Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 The Spirit comes on the day of Pentecost.

Psalm 104:24-34 God and Wisdom create together.

Romans 8:4-17 A spirit of adoption, not slavery

John 14:8-17,25-27 God will send you the Spirit of Truth.

June 12 - Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Wisdom's part in creation

Psalm 8 How glorious is God's name.

Romans 5:1-5 Suffering endurance-character-hope does not disappoint.

John 16:12-15 The Spirit of truth

June 19 - 2nd after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-7, 8-15 Elijah hears God in the sound of silence.

Psalm 42-43 As a deer longs for the water

Galatians 3:23-29 No longer Jew or Greek, male or female, all one in Christ

Luke 8:26-39 Jesus heals a man filled with demons.

June 26 - 3rd after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Elisha sees Elijah ascend to heaven.

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 I cry to God in my distress.

Galatians 5:1, 13-15 Called to freedom; the fruit of the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62 Foxes have holes, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.

