

The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church
NEWSLETTER

September-October 2022

From the desk of your Office Administrator

“Turning over a new leaf”

Greetings!

For as long as I can remember, the beginning of September has marked a return to organized activities from the lazy days of summer. As any parent knows, the lazy days are not at all lazy when you have little ones at home!

This was a busy summer at Grace & Woodhouse—with Church Directory photo sessions and record updating, 175th Anniversary celebration planning, the creation of a 175 Anniversary calendar, a church picnic in June, and Woodhouse’s Decoration Day in August, it certainly was not lazy days around the Port Dover-Woodhouse Pastoral Charge. **Congratulations** and **Thank you** for all the collective work that goes into these activities.

With September comes new activities, new things to learn, and new opportunities for reflection, growth and change. October reminds us to give thanks for our blessings, and to celebrate milestones and anniversaries for both churches.

I hope you enjoy some of the content I found to usher us into the autumn season. I welcome suggestions and **especially** submissions from everyone in the church family! As always, my door is open Mon-Thurs, 9-11:30 am

- Robyn York, Office Administrator

Calendar of Special Days

September 5	International Day of Charity
September 5	Labour Day
September 7	International Day of Clean Air and Blue Skies
September 8	International Literacy Day
September 15-22	World Week for Peace in Israel and Palestine
September 17	<u>World Cleanup Day</u>
September 21	UN International Day of Peace
September 23	<u>Global Climate Strike</u>
September 30	<u>National Truth and Reconciliation Day</u> <u>Orange Shirt Day</u>
October	Women's History Month
October 1	International Day of Older Persons
October 2	World Communion Day
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 10	Thanksgiving Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 17	International Day of the Eradication of Poverty
October 18	<u>Persons Day in Canada</u>

DIGITAL EXTRAS

As many of our church family read this newsletter on an ipad or computer, we will include links to official websites connected to content. Watch for [blue underlined text like this](#). (links to Readers Digest article). Let me know if this is helpful by emailing [**graceunitedportdover@gmail.com**](mailto:graceunitedportdover@gmail.com)

DID YOU KNOW?

Why do we mark International Days?

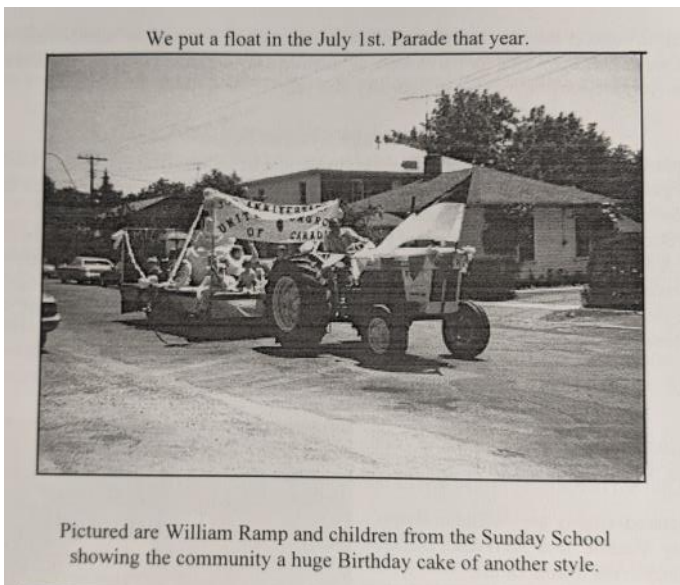
International days and weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool.

From The United Nations website un.org

September is a Busy Birthday Month

September is [the most common month for birthdays](#) in the U.S., (based on data from 1994 to 2014). In Canada, [according to data from Statistics Canada](#), the most popular months of births have been July, August, and September, from 2009 to 2013.

A photo from the archives. See [Page 7](#) for write up



Grace United—a 175 Year Journey of Faith...

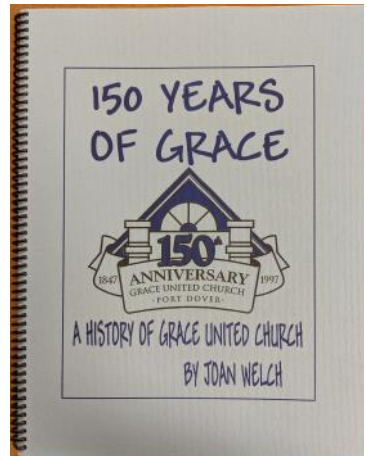
For the 150th Anniversary of Grace United, 1997, Joan Welch researched, compiled and wrote **“150 Years of Grace” - A History of Grace United Church** Port Dover. There are many stories within the long history of our community. This and upcoming newsletters, will highlight some of the stories, new and old.

The following is an excerpt from “Chapter 4 The Most Recent 25 Years (1972-1997)”

1972, The 125th Anniversary Year

At the beginning of 1972 the building debt stood at \$6000, and by September, the loan on the new building remained \$3,900. Then suddenly, it was completely paid off when Mr. Evan Thomas made the generous contribution of the remaining amount in memory of his wife Isabel, who had passed away that August. The target had been met in less than the 10 year goal!

On the occasion of our 125th Anniversary, the C.E. Building notes were burned in a very special service. Rev. G.A.B. Moore, who did much to get the project started, was invited as our guest speaker. He and members of the Building Committee took positions at the front of the church. Chairman of the committee, Evan Thomas, and Treasurer Ted Jaques did the burning and Percy Ryerse held a tray to catch the ashes while committee members looked on. A photograph of that occasion follows.





Burning of the Bank Notes for the C.E.Wing - Oct.29,1972 Back Row: Rev. Dr. G.A.B Moore (Minister at the time of construction), Harry L. Waddle (Presbytery representative and Chairman of the Board of Trustees), Peter Pos, Ed Holland Front Row: Mrs (Tom) Verna Caley, Edward M. Jaques (Treasurer of the Building Committee), C. Percy Ryerse, Evan W. Thomas (Chairman of the Building Committee), Rev. John Vardy (Minister in 1972), Don McNeilly Absent: John Broker (builder), Alfred Snider (builder), Thomas Graham, Mrs. J.H. Misner.

Problems With The Organ

As 1972 unfolded, repairs to the base pipes of the organ were required and there were difficulties obtaining reliable service from our previous contact. The issue arose many times in

Board meetings that year, and over the next several years, eventually culminating in the decision to purchase our present organ in 1977, following much frustration and patient investigation. Under Bill Ramp, an every-home visitation for the Sunday School was undertaken that year.

Rev. Pletsch Comes To Port Dover

As 1973 began, Mary Lou Bridgwater and the Junior Choir were raising funds for new gowns, and the Board committee structure was changed somewhat to permit both elders and stewards to serve communion for the first time. Previously, only elders had enjoyed this privilege. In June 1973, Rev. Vardy announced his decision to leave, having seen us through the years of the building debt, and a Pastoral Relations Committee was named to begin the search for a new minister. Rev. Don Pletsch accepted the call to Port Dover and Woodhouse, at a starting salary of \$7500, plus a car allowance of \$1500. Before the arrival of the Pletsch family, considerable painting was completed in the manse under Doug Clapp's committee. Plaster repair, painting, door refinishing, and florescent-light upgrades were also completed that summer in the church, under George Powell's committee. Early that fall a decision was made to raise the custodian's salary to \$100 a month.

That year a Personnel Relations committee was established with membership from both churches, which has operated ever since. A closing picnic was held for the Sunday School in June, and Leith Stetson filled in with pulpit supply before the arrival of Rev. Pletsch in the fall.

Some New Routines

As events got rolling in 1974, the old Building Fund was finally closed and the remaining funds transferred to the General Fund. Mrs Joan Stetson was employed for temporary assistance with secretarial duties in the office, the Minister's salary was raised to \$8500 and the Organist's salary was raised to \$1500. George Powell's committee was asked to build bulletin boards in the C.E. wing.

Rev. Pletsch suggested some committee re-organizations. He preferred to have only two broad sub-committees on the Board. All

elders were listed in Annual Reports either on the Finance Committee or on the Worship Committee only. The other sub-groupings apparently continued their activity because reports from them are given, yet individual names are not attached to these groups in the Annual Reports. This pattern continued throughout Rev, Pletsch's tenure here. Much more discussion of issues took place at Board Meetings in those days since committees were not so often presenting their considered recommendations for approval, as they do today, but were bringing issues to the larger assembly for discussion. He also brought a new emphasis for missions work because of his personal experience in the field. Under his ministry, each couple who was married in the church received a gift Bible, and considerable emphasis was placed on pre-marital sessions with the Minister. Some new habits got established which remained for most of Rev. Pletsch's years with us. We had our first Maundy Thursday Service, shared a Good Friday Service with Knox Church, and the Young People sponsored an Easter Sunrise Service. We first entered into the Fair Ministry that year, helping to man a booth at the Norfolk County Fair, a practice we continue since then. Early services for summer Sundays were attempted, but dropped when attendance proved to be low. Discussion began about ceasing the use of Communion Cards at that time as well.

Canada Day Float

A float in the July 1 parade announced our good health and enthusiasm, and collections were undertaken to support the hungry in Bangladesh, and to help erase leprosy world-wide. A new automatic washer was provided for the Manse. Remember David Plumb (1962)? He came back to supply for Rev. Pletsch one Sunday in February that year.

[\(See photo inside cover\)](#)

Archival Storage System Begins Spurred by knowledge that the following year would be an historical one, Harry Waddle and helpers began activity to collect, organize, and store archival material in a system which has been admired by many ever since. It has been a boon to this writer!

Welcome Wagon came to town that year, and we co-operated with information about church services. A Sunday School teacher-training program was funded for five of our teachers in 1974, an Anniversary committee, headed by Leith Stetson was appointed for the following year, and we closed the year with a whopping M&S total, and no debt, no loan had been needed all year! All were very heartened by this "first" in a long time, following upon years of debt.

FIRST PHOTO DIRECTORY

1984 saw the creation and sale of our first photo directory of the Grace and Woodhouse congregations. Many of us have these booklets lovingly saved as a glimpse in time at "how we were then".



Here's the photograph of the Board in 1984 which appeared in our directory. Shown are, - Rear: Tom Myerscough, Bob Faint, Joan Stetson, Dave Stone, Bob LePage, Harry Waddle. Front: Bob Gallagher, Marion Anstee, Leota Werner, Dick Esseltine.

For more history and a better reproduction, see page 48 in *A History of Grace United Church* in the office.



The story behind Orange Shirt Day

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story in her own words...

I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school!

When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.

I was 13 years old and in grade 8 when my son Jeremy was born. Because my grandmother and mother both attended residential school for 10 years each, I never knew what a parent was supposed to be like. With the help of my aunt, Agness Jack, I was able to raise my son and have him know me as his mother.

I went to a treatment centre for healing when I was



27 and have been on this healing journey since then. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter. Even with all the work I've done!



I am honored to be able to tell my story so that others may benefit and understand, and maybe other survivors will feel comfortable enough to share their stories.

From the United In Learning Archive (United Church of Canada)

Indigenous Children Then, Now and Tomorrow? A Panel Discussion for Orange Shirt Day (2021)

[View the Recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4dKm_yRsTY) (click blue text or copy following into web browser)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4dKm_yRsTY

Dallas Fiddler, Allison Forsberg, Jocelyn Formsma, Leeann Shimoda, and Rev. Murray Pruden, explore how Indigenous children and families were and continue to be impacted by colonialism. They answer a series of questions posed by moderator Springwater Hester-Meawassige, which touches on a range of topics including Indigenous Children in Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop, Millennial Scoop, and bringing our children home. With opening prayers by Donna Kennedy.



Image: Screenshot of Youtube panel discussion with Rev. Murray Pruden , Originally aired Sept 29, 2021

Youtube Tips: When watching a video on your computer, click the **letter C** on your keyboard to activate the subtitles/closed captioning. The **space bar** pauses the video. The **letter F** puts video in full screen, **ESC key** to return to window.

Memorial Prayer for Children of This Land

Great and Heavenly Spirit,
God of compassion, healing and comfort,

We lift up in prayer the sacred lives of the children, some now known to us, all known to you, who died in residential schools.

We lift up in prayer the sacred lives of the children who went missing from these schools and whose fates are unknown to those who held them most dear.

We grieve the loss of so many thousands of these little ones, and we grieve especially their loss so far away from home.

We grieve the loss of youth with so much potential. These were children of this place, children of our land. The loss of their giftedness is our collective loss.

We lament how long their families have had to live with unanswered questions.

Hear our prayers:

for those who were not informed of their children's deaths at all, or on a timely basis;

for those who were not told of where their daughters and sons had been buried;

for those who have long hoped that a child who went missing somehow survived and had a good life—even as they may have also feared the worst.

We lament our complicity in the loss of these children. As members of a church which ran residential schools, we seek your help as we look to redress the many ways in which our church failed these Indigenous children, their families, and their communities. We pray that your reconciling love will teach us how to create true bonds of community and understanding as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples today.

We lift up with gratitude the efforts of all those who are seeking to honour the lives of the children who died, as well as the children whose fates are unknown, through ongoing research and acts of remembrance. We ask for your continued guidance of them as they work to uncover the stories of the lost. We understand how precious this information is, and how vital it is to the healing of so many families and communities. Bless those who are preparing to honour the children with sacred

ceremonies and those who work to protect burial sites, in keeping with the traditions of Indigenous peoples across this land.

We pray for the families of these children and for all who loved them. Envelop them in the warmth of your infinite care and give them peace. Inspire all of us with energy, wisdom, and commitment to the loving pursuit of the truth which will heal all of us in our brokenness and lead to reconciliation with our neighbours across this land.
Amen.

—A prayer offered by [Indigenous Ministries](#) for the memorial register honouring children who died at residential schools (TRC Call to Action 72), [launched on September 30, 2019](#).

From the United Church of Canada Prayer archive

Call to Action 72 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#) (TRC) called for a memorial register of children who died at residential schools, so that their lives and names will never be forgotten.

After consultation with Elders, the National Centre for Truth Reconciliation have created a memorial register.

[The National Student Memorial Register is available online](#). It contains the names of students who passed away at residential schools and the name of the school. It will not contain any other information. If you are a relative and want to find more information, you can [contact the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) to receive it.

The names of many children are still to be found. If you have information on missing children not on the list, you can provide that on a confidential basis directly to the Centre.

For more on the United Church's journey towards Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice, visit:

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice>

Upcoming in the liturgical calendar



September 4, 2022

**Thirteenth After
Pentecost**



September 11, 2022

Creation Time 1



September 18, 2022

Creation Time 2



September 25, 2022

Creation Time 3



October 2, 2022

Creation Time 4



October 9, 2022

Creation Time 5



October 16, 2022

**Nineteenth After
Pentecost**



October 23, 2022

**Twentieth After
Pentecost**



October 30, 2022

Reformation Sunday

News and Updates

Church Office :

Sept 5 Labour Day — Office Closed
Oct 10 Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed

Celebrations and Worship Services:

September 25 Orange Shirt Sunday
October 16 Woodhouse 222nd Anniversary Service
October 20 Grace 175th Anniversary Supper
October 23 Grace 175th Anniversary Service

Meetings and other happenings:

Friday Sept 2 Mission & Outreach Meeting 9:30 am
Mon Sept 12 Worship & Music (Parlour) 10:00 am
Mon Sept 12 Grace Council Mtg (Parlour & Zoom) 6:00 pm
Tues Sept 13 Woodhouse Board Mtg (WH & Zoom) 1:00 pm
Tues Sept 13 Grace UCW (Hall) 1:30 pm
Tues Sept 13 Dover Uke Heads resume (Hall) 6:00 pm
Mon Sept 26 Messy Church (Hall) 4:00 pm
Mon Oct 24 Municipal Election—polling location (Hall)

Please send your upcoming church meeting details to be included in the calendar/newsletter by the 25th day of the month

IN THE COMMUNITY Oct 1, 7pm: Tia McGraff at Sydenham-Heritage United Church 120 Sydenham Street, Brantford. Advance tickets \$20; at door \$25. Call church office 519-753-1248 or Verna Timpener 519-752-2804.

Our Calendar graceunitedportdover.org/calendar



Woodhouse:

Memorial Candle lighting

September- We remember:

Herbert Roger Cruickshank	September 21 2018
Mary Ann Kleiner	September 14 2021
Frances Louise Woolley	September 24 2017

Grace: Memorial Candle lighting

September- We remember:

William Ernest Adams	September 8 2019
Keith Roy Anderson	September 22 2020
Karen Barrett	September 5 2019
Paul Richard Edwards	September 4 2021
Evelyn Hobbs	September 3 2018
Peter Frank Kalina	September 11 2017
Barbara Rose MacDonald	September 14 2019
Stanley Robert McMillan	September 14 2018
Dorothy Isabel O'Brien	September 6 2021
Myrtle Marie Pos	September 17 2017
Marjorie Kathleen Schneider	September 2 2020
Patricia Ann Trinder	September 19 2018

October- We remember:

Dennis D'Hondt	October 11 2017
Harry Gamble	October 25 2017
Sandra McFarland	October 18 2017
Jean Riddle	October 6 2019
Terence John Smith	October 2 2017
Douglas Albert Smith	October 11 2018
John Edward Wells	October 27 2020

Scriptures For Sept-Oct 2022

Thirteenth after Pentecost

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1–11 or
Deuteronomy 30:15–20
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 or Psalm 1
Philemon 1:1–1:21
Luke 14:25–33

Creation Time 1

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28 or
Exodus 32:7–14
Psalm 14 or Psalm 51:1–10
1 Timothy 1:12–17
Luke 15:1–10

Creation Time 2

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1 or Amos 8:4–7
Psalm 79:1–9 or Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1–7
Luke 16:1–13

Creation Time 3

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15 or
Amos 6:1a, 4–7
Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16 or Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6–19
Luke 16:19–31

World Communion Sunday/

Creation Time 4 *October 2*

Lamentations 1:1–6
Lamentations 3:19–26 or
Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4
Psalm 137 or Psalm 37:1–9
2 Timothy 1:1–14
Luke 17:5–10

Thanksgiving Sunday/ Creation Time

5 *October 9*

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7 or
2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c
Psalm 66:1–12 or Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8–15
Luke 17:11–19

World Food Sunday *October 16*

Jeremiah 31:27–34 or
Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 119:97–104 or Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14–4:5
Luke 18:1–8

Peace Sunday *October 23*

Joel 2:23–32 or Sirach 35:12–17 or
Jeremiah 14:7–10, 19–22
Psalm 65 or Psalm 84:1–7
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18
Luke 18:9–14

Reformation Sunday/

All Saints Sunday *October 30*

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4 or
Isaiah 1:10–18
Psalm 119:137–144 or
Psalm 32:1–7
2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12
Luke 19:1–10

