

The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church

NEWSLETTER

September—October 2021



From the minister's desk...

Mark 12:32b-33 *"...God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

As you've probably heard, the two churches are opening up again in September: Woodhouse on September 5 and Grace on September 12. It sure will be nice to gather in our sanctuaries again. Many of you were able to see your church neighbours at the outdoor services at Woodhouse this summer. Others have been waiting for the church buildings to open.

This September will be especially important at Grace as we anticipate welcoming some of our Presbyterian neighbours. How can we offer them a warm and genuine welcome? One way that I have thought of is to use familiar hymns. So the hymns we will be using for awhile are ones that are found in both *Voices United* and *The Book of Praise* (Presbyterian hymnbook). There are 347 altogether. Do you go out for lunch after service? Perhaps you could invite them to join you. Are you

part of a small group ministry? Again, an invitation would be appropriate. Just think about how you would like to be welcomed.

This latest closing of the churches has been difficult for all of us. The opening of the sanctuaries is one step toward all the activity that we would like to have happening. Starting at 10:30am Tuesday, September 14, our Bible study will resume. That's another step. We will start the year off with a 14-week study of the book of Acts. We will be meeting in the Growing Room at Grace and will have it on Zoom as well for those who are still nervous about in-person meetings. Contact me if you are interested in joining this group.

November is coming quickly. We will be having "Sock It To Me" Sunday again this year. It will be on November 7. I continue to hear how appreciative the recipients are to receive warm, dry socks for their cold, wet feet. I'm sure Jesus would surely commend you for your generosity.

I look excitedly forward to the time when we no longer have any restrictions. In the meantime, let's do whatever we can to support each other within the limitations that Covid protocols impose.

Some of our members have moved away in these past 18 months. Others have moved into Seniors' Residences or Nursing Homes. If you know of anyone who has moved into a home, please let me know so that I can include them in my visitations. Also, if you would like a visit from me in your home, just let me know and we will figure out a good time.

Finally, I want to say, once again, what a joy it is to serve the Lord in Port Dover-Woodhouse Pastoral Charge. You are not only my employers, but you are also my neighbours. May I always love you as I love myself.



Rev. Kathryn Vance

Calendar of Special Days

Calendar of Special Days

September 5	International Day of Charity
September 6	Labour Day
September 7	International Day of Clean Air and Blue Skies
September 8	International Literacy Day
September 19	World Week for Peace in Israel and Palestine
September 21	UN International Day of Peace
September 30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day (Orange Shirt Day)
October	Women's History Month
October 1	International Day of Older Persons
October 3	World Communion Day
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 11	Thanksgiving Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 17	International Day of the Eradication of Poverty
October 18	Persons Day in Canada

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Let us know what you think about
the Newsletter

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UN International Day of Peace—September 21, 2021

Background

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

2021 Theme: Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. In 2021, as we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

The pandemic is known for hitting the underprivileged and marginalized groups the hardest. By April 2021, over 687 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered globally, but over 100 countries have not received a single dose. People caught in conflict are especially vulnerable in terms of lack of access to healthcare.

In line with the Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire last March, in February 2021 the Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for Member States to support a "sustained humanitarian pause" to local conflicts. The global ceasefire must continue to be honoured, to ensure people caught in conflict have access to lifesaving vaccinations and treatments.

The pandemic has been accompanied by a surge in stigma, discrimination, and hatred, which only cost more lives instead of saving them: the virus attacks all without caring about where we are from or what we believe in. Confronting this common enemy of humankind, we must be reminded that we are not each other's enemy. To be able to recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we must make peace with one another.

And we must make peace with nature. Despite the travel restrictions and economic shutdowns, climate change is not on pause. What we need is a green and sustainable global economy that produces jobs, reduces emissions, and builds resilience to climate impacts.

The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world". We invite you to join the efforts of the United Nations family as we focus on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful world. Celebrate peace by standing up against acts of hate online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover.



Peace is...

Peace is love, a smile, not fighting
Peace is doing a picnic with all of my family
Peace is love, being good to yourself
being happy and trying to make other happy
Peace is the wind or hearing calm music all by myself
Peace is sitting and watching our chickens while the birds sing
After a long day, peace is coming home and laying in my bed
Peace is like when you are in bed sleeping and dreaming
Peace is when I am with my family and friends
When I share my stuff with my friends
Peace is like a Friday morning when I walk to school seeing the forest
and the animals
Or Being at the beach in the morning eating chips and listening to the
waves
I feel peaceful when I can sleep and eat a good breakfast
When everyone has what they need
Peace is sitting on my porch listening to the wind
Connecting on Minecraft
Being by myself in silence for a moment with no interruptions
Peace is when you like what you have
Enjoying your life how it needs to be enjoyed
Peace is when I am with my friends and when I am silent
Peace is when I am helping somebody and also when I am eating
Peace is like a long Saturday morning and pancakes
Peace is what keeps us together

Written by

~ 5th and 6th Grade Students in Spain

Two Choices

What would you do?...you make the choice.

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

'When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection.

Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do.

Where is the natural order of things in my son?'

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. 'I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child.'

Then he told the following story:

Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.'

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt.. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart.

The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

In top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly,

much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. At the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game.

Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, 'Shay, run to first!

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!'

Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base.

By time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team.

He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home. All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay'

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third!

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!'

Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world'.

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

~ Author Unknown ~

5 Simple Things You Can Do

to make the world a better place for people with mental health challenges and their families

Be a friend. Provide companionship and compassion on the road toward recovery. Offer a ride to church or to a local support group. Listen without judgement. Pray for those you know with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and for their family members.

Share your story. Has mental illness impacted you or your family in some way? Your story may empower others to seek treatment or have hope.

Watch your language. Pay attention to the words you use and avoid stigmatizing labels. Do not refer to people as “crazy,” “psycho,” “lunatic” or “mental.”

Be a “StigmaBuster.” Challenge negative attitudes toward mental illness among your friends and acquaintances and in the media.

Learn the facts. Educate yourself about the various mental health challenges, substance use disorders, neurodevelopmental differences, and other brain disorders. Check out the resources at the UCC Mental Health Network (www.mhn-ucc.org), take a Mental Health First Aid class and visit the Mental Health Commission of Canada for education, supports and programs related to mental wellness <http://mentalhealthcommission.ca/>

Conversations about mental health, both public and private, sometimes can be complicated and difficult. Below are some Do’s and Don’ts that may help.

DO:

- ◆ Be careful to respect your congregants’ confidentiality. Many people with mental illness have endured stigma for many years. They may not want others to know they have mental health challenges, substance use disorder, neurodevelopmental difference, or other brain disorder, so always check with the person before talking about their condition publicly.
- ◆ Watch your language. Avoid stigmatizing words like “crazy,” “nuts” and “psycho.”
- 8◆ Listen without being judgmental or offering advice.

- ◆ Talk to others of God’s unconditional love for them and your care and concern for them.
- ◆ Pray for balance in their lives and tolerance in yours.
- ◆ Gently educate those who spread misinformation about mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and brain differences, or perpetuate negative stereotypes.
- ◆ Treat persons affected by mental health challenges and their families with compassion, not condescension. Most don’t want pity, just understanding.

DON’T:

- ◆ Don’t tell a person with a mental health challenge or substance use disorder to just pray harder. That would not be appropriate advice for someone with cancer or a heart condition, and it is not appropriate for someone with mental illness. Mental illnesses are biological conditions that may have environmental triggers, and frequently respond well to therapies and/or medications, just like other disorders.
- ◆ Don’t use shame or guilt as a motivator. For many who suffer from mental health challenges and substance use disorders, shame and inappropriate guilt may exacerbate their problems.
- ◆ Don’t look down on persons with mental illness or substance use disorders for using medications to control their symptoms. Someone with depression using antidepressants is no different from someone with diabetes using insulin.
- ◆ Don’t forget to find simple ways to support family members and friends of people living with a mental illness. A card, a meal, and your supportive listening can be healing.
- ◆ Don’t shy away from talking with a person who has let it be known they are living with a mental health challenge, substance use disorder, or brain difference.

Some of the above content was adapted from an article by Jan Lutz, “The ‘Do’s and ‘Don’ts of Ministry,” published by NAMI FaithNet.

A Prayer for a World Pandemic



Loving and caring God,
We have done everything we've been told:
Worn masks, stayed home, gotten our shots—
Isn't it about time all this is over?

Let us remember always that no, it's not over;
It's not over for the people in so many places we never
think about:
People whose lives were already a struggle
Now overflowing with illness and loss and grief.
And often with no masks, no shots, no way to stay safe
at home.

Remind us, God of the whole world,
That the whole world is our family.
That this won't be all over until it is over for all.
And let us do all we can
To give our whole-world family what we take for granted:
Hope for a future.
Amen

News and Updates

Reopening and Church Events:

- **September 5**—Woodhouse United Church (9:30am) will resume Sunday Worship Services inside
- **September 12**—Grace United Church (11am) will resume their Sunday Worship Services
- **October 17**—Woodhouse United will celebrate its Anniversary Service (Grace will be closed)
- **October 24**—Grace United will celebrate its Anniversary Service (Woodhouse will be closed)

Church Office :

- A reminder that the church office is open Mon to Thurs 9– 11:30am
- **September 6—Labour Day—Closed**
- **October 11—Thanksgiving — Closed**

Meetings and other happenings:

- Gary Brooks and Margaret Richard have joined the M&P committee
- Mark Gamble is welcomed as the new Chair of the Manse Committee
- Matt Brown has accepted the position of Chair for the Building and Grounds Committee at Grace
- Planning is underway for a fall lecture series entitled **Indigenous Voices** starting **September 29**, and occurring biweekly. More details to come.
- The next session for **Bible Study** will begin on Tuesday, September 14th at 10:30. Contact the office for information or to join.

Bringing these children the honour we denied them in life

Published On: July 19, 2021

To Residential School Survivors, Families, and Communities:

I want to acknowledge the pain that you, as survivors of residential schools, families, and communities, are experiencing. We understand that the pain endured at these schools went far beyond their walls and grounds into community and through generations.

The United Church of Canada operated [15 residential schools](#): Alberni, Ahousaht, Coqualeetza, Kitimaat (Elizabeth Long Memorial Home), and Port Simpson (Crosby Boys' and Girls' Home) in BC; Edmonton, McDougall Orphanage/Morley, and Red Deer in Alberta; Cote (formerly Crowstand), File Hills, and Round Lake in Saskatchewan; Brandon, Norway House, and Portage la Prairie in Manitoba; and Mount Elgin in Ontario.

We are aware of cemeteries on some of these sites, and we know that there are also unmarked and likely undocumented graves of children. We acknowledge that our role in the residential school system and colonization is an abuse of power through our Christian faith. We hope that our ongoing work for reconciliation, which has been guided by United Church residential school survivors, more truly reflects what our faith calls us to be and do. We are committed to the [Calls to Action of](#)

[the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), especially those directed to us as perpetrators. These include those related to burial sites and missing children.



In the spirit of truth telling and transparency, we want to share the work that we have done, in consultation with community, on

Rally participants march down Portage Ave in Winnipeg in support of residential school survivors and the families of missing and murdered Indigenous children. Credit: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Mike Sudoma

identifying and restoring graveyards. The United Church in southwestern Manitoba has actively supported ongoing work on the identification and preservation of gravesites related to the residential school in Brandon; this includes the 104 graves identified off-site in 2018. In Saskatchewan, we supported the community of Okanese in preserving its graveyard and honouring the children buried there. The United Church of Canada has also been a partner in the preservation of the Regina Industrial School cemetery. (Regina was operated by the Presbyterian church, but the United Church shares responsibility.) United Churches in Red Deer, Alberta, worked to preserve the residential school cemetery in cooperation with the communities whose children were sent to Red Deer. There has also been research into possible graves at the Edmonton Residential School.

This work is just a beginning, and we understand that it must continue. Steps are required to properly locate, identify, and honour these children, and for the truth that Indigenous people have always known to finally be heard. Any work we do to help search grounds of and surrounding United Church residential schools must be done with respect for, the consent of, and with the guidance of Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families.

We know that we are not the experts in this work. We will continue to share all the documents and knowledge we have. If anyone in community wishes to share information and expertise with us, we will gratefully accept it and be committed to transparency.

We are committed to meeting with leadership to hear how they wish to proceed, and whether they would like our assistance at any stage. This includes financial assistance for what community leadership deems appropriate.

The United Church of Canada is committed to reconciliation and to transparency in our efforts to support Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families in bringing these children the honour we denied them in life.

With respect,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott

Moderator

Grace: Memorial Candle lighting

September 19- We remember:

William Ernest Adams,
Roy Anderson, Lillian Mary
Awde, Karen Barrett, Jefferson Bruley, Evelyn Hobbs,
Peter Frank Kalina, John Rowell MacDonald,
Barbara Rose MacDonald, Stanley Robert McMillan,
Myrtle Marie Pos, Marjorie Schneider,
Joan Elizabeth Stetson, Patricia Ann Trinder



October 17 - We remember:

Dennis D'Hondt, Harry Gamble, Sandra McFarlane,
Jean Riddle, Terrence John Smith, Douglas Albert Smith,
John Edward Wells

Woodhouse: Memorial Candle lighting

September 19 - We remember:

Herbert Roger Cruickshank, Keith Bennet Everett,
Frances Louise Woolley



A gift we offer others
is our prayers.

Keep in our prayers the family
and friends of:

Leslie John Roberts who passed on **July 7th**
Derwyn Powell who passed on **July 22nd**
Margaret (Peggy) Matthews who passed on **August 12th**
Shirley Long who passed on **August 22nd**

NOT able to Join Church in-person?

- Weekly Services on our YouTube Channel are 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>

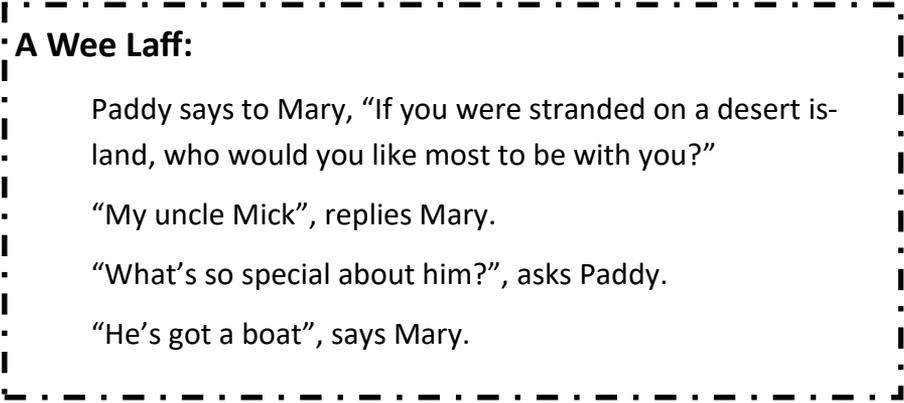
A Wee Laff:

Paddy says to Mary, "If you were stranded on a desert island, who would you like most to be with you?"

"My uncle Mick", replies Mary.

"What's so special about him?", asks Paddy.

"He's got a boat", says Mary.



***Can't sleep?
Try counting
your blessings :)***

Scriptures For September / October 2021

September 5 - 15th after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 A good name rather than riches

Psalms 125 Do good, O God, to those who are good.

James 2:1-17 Faith without works is dead.

Mark 7:24-37 The Syrophenician woman's faith challenges Jesus.

September 12—16th after Pentecost—Creation Time begins

Proverbs 1:20-33 Wisdom cries in the streets.

Psalms 19 The heavens declare the glory of God.

James 3:1-12 Not many of you should be teachers of God's word.

Mark 8:27-38 Who do people say that I am?

September 19—17th after Pentecost—Creation Time 2

Proverbs 31:10-31 A tribute to a capable woman

Psalms 1 Blessed are those who follow God's law.

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Wisdom from above is gentle and peaceable.

Mark 9:30-37 Whoever welcomes a child, welcomes me.

September 26—18th after Pentecost—Creation Time 3

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Esther pleads for the life of her people.

Psalms 124 If God had not been at our side

James 5:13-20 The sick should be anointed by the elders.

Mark 9:38-50 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off.

October 3—World Communion Sunday—Creation Time 4

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Job's first affliction; faith intact

Psalms 26 Prove me, test me, test my heart.

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 God gave the world to humans, not angels.

Mark 10:2-16 Question of divorce; Jesus blesses children.

October 10—Thanksgiving Sunday—Creation Time 5

Joel 2:21-27 Do not fear, O soil, for God will provide.

Psalms 126 Those who sow in tears reap in joy..

1 Timothy 2:1-7 Offer prayers for everyone.

Matthew 6:25-33 Do not worry about what you will eat or drink.

October 17—21st after Pentecost—Woodhouse Anniversary

Job 38:1-7, (34-41) God's rebuttal to Job's complaint

Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c With Wisdom, God created the earth and all its creatures.

Hebrews 5:1-10 Christ learned obedience and was made perfect.

Mark 10:35-45 James and John request to sit on Jesus' right and left.

October 24—22nd after Pentecost—Grace Anniversary

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Job acknowledges God's power; Job's fortunes are restored.

Psalms 34:1-8, (19-22) Taste and see that God is good..

Hebrews 7:23-28 Christ the permanent High Priest

Mark 10:46-52 The healing of Bartimaeus

October 31—23rd after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-18 Ruth chooses to go with Naomi.

Psalms 146 I'll praise my maker while I've breath.

Hebrews 9:11-14 Christ, the High Priest of good things

Mark 12:28-34 Which commandment is the first of all?.

