



WHAT'S GOING ON AT GRACE: NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

REMEMBERING THE PAST AS A
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



Ministers' Message: Honouring the Past

The theme for November is remembrance. With over one hundred years of ministry, Grace certainly has a lot we can reflect on and remember with gratitude. We can joke that some of us have a hard time remembering what day of the week it is – or maybe what the message was from last Sunday's sermon – but we all value and recognize the importance of memory.

There are numerous examples in scripture for calls to remember. Let's look at just a few of them.

Psalm 77:11 – I shall remember the deeds of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

Luke 22:19 – And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

John 14:26 – But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

At different times in our faith history we are called to remember. The three references above invite us to think about, to remember, the Holy Trinity in our life as a congregation and in our personal lives. Consider how the psalmist recalls God's involvement during a time of need, seeking deep consolation but unable to find rest or the words to speak. But the psalmist recalls how God redeemed Israel long ago, how the God of heaven and earth led the people like a flock under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

During Communion we reflect on Jesus' words, and we remember that what we do in sharing the bread and the cup is in remembrance of Jesus. We remember Christ's

love, His sacrifice, forgiveness, there is much we can recall.

In the text from John, Jesus tells His disciples that a Helper is coming, the Holy Spirit, who will teach them and remind them of all that Jesus has said. We are called to remember God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – has been involved in the world for thousands of years and continues to be involved. The Holy Trinity has moved among women, men, and children in years past and continues to move among us today. It can be easy to become so distracted with the day-to-day that we forget the bigger picture, which is perhaps why there are so many references to remembrance.

Sometimes in preaching we look ahead, we look to the present, and we look back. It is written in 2 Peter 1:12 – Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.

Perhaps we know, theoretically or historically, that God has been involved in the world and in our lives, but we need to be reminded from time to time that God is still at work in us and at Grace. There is much to celebrate, and also much to give pause and wonder. Who is God calling me to be at this stage in my life? What kind of church is God calling Grace to be in 2022 and beyond?

Sometimes as I go through the church contact list I think about who I have seen recently or haven't seen in some time, if at all. As I come across names I remember that these aren't just people with addresses, and phone numbers, and email addresses; these are faithful people who have committed to making Grace Presbyterian Church a place where lives are transformed through God's grace. And so I pray through the directory. Maybe like the Apostle Paul's words in Philippians 1:3 – I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...

November is a time to remember and to reflect. We remember those who have gone before us and have passed from life on earth to new life in heaven. We remember the sacrifice and honour the lives of those who served in wars and conflicts so that others might know peace.

Remembering may not always be pleasant or joyful. For some of us looking back means pain or despair. Others among us may long for what used to be but no longer is, when the best years seem behind and not ahead. Inasmuch as we may have a hard time looking forward, it is important to reflect and remember the past so that we can more fully appreciate what was and either give thanks for it, or choose a different path for what is ahead.

However you choose to remember this November, be sure to remember that you are loved. Remember you are an important piece in a wider community. Remember that the Holy Trinity has been with us in years past and will continue to be with us today and in the future.

- The Rev. Christian Persaud, The Rev. Jake Van Pernis, and The Rev. Maren McLean Persaud (Rev. Maren is on parental leave until April 2023)



REMEMBERING 60 YEARS OF CAKE BAKE

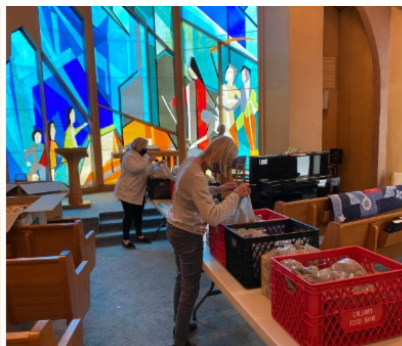


Thank you to Elizabeth Cressman, Lorna McNeill and Mark Durieux for submitting photos

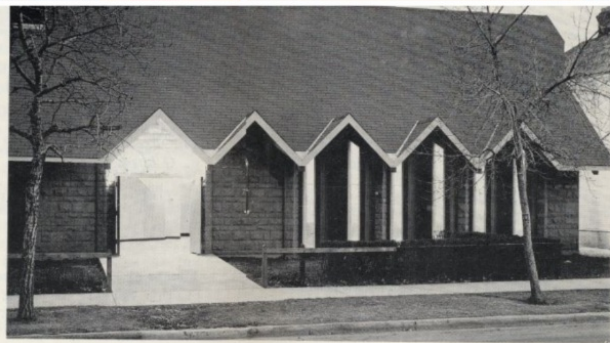
60 Years of Cake Bake - Remembering a Living Legacy

Is there any better way to remember the past than through the Grace phenomenon that is Cake Bake? Read the story of the 60th year, submitted by Lorna McNeill, with photos from Elizabeth Cressman and Mark Durieux, and Cake Bake volunteer stories on why they give their time.

Read
More



Grace Church
Memorial
Chapel



Commemoration of the 60th Year Anniversary of the Grace Memorial Chapel: Congregational Lunch

60 is a big year in 2022! On November 20, Grace celebrates the 60th year anniversary

of the dedication of the Grace Memorial Chapel.

If you would like to go back in time, [download the Chapel Booklet from 1962](#), that was prepared for the dedication event.

Sign up for the Sunday, November 20 Congregational Lunch to celebrate the Grace Memorial Chapel's 60th Year and hear some of the memories that have been made in this special space: [RSVP for the lunch here](#)! *(Please support the volunteer organizers with the food order estimate and register by Wednesday, November 16 at 4:30 p.m.)*

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT STORY: TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE GRACE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Grace Memorial Chapel: November 2022 60th Anniversary

The Past: The Gift of the Chapel

The congregation approved the building of the Chapel in 1960. The building was completed in 1962 - and was dedicated on November 25. In the dedication brochure, The Rev. Dr. Frank Morley stated: It is hoped, since much remains to be completed, that others will carry on the work to completion, to the glory of God and the service of mankind.

Why build a Chapel?

The hope was that the Chapel would be a space to help worthy causes, further community causes and education, and build up faith. (Source: A Century of Grace 1905-2005).

The Chapel has been a place for Sunday School and Children's Worship, Special Music Offerings, Evening services, and Blue Christmas celebrations for those struggling over the holidays. It holds a special place in the hearts of many people who have marked not only the special milestones of their own lives, but also of those close to them.



The Chapel in 1962

The Future:
What does the
future of
stewardship look like
in the Chapel?

The Present: The Chapel as a Special Space in Memory and in Marking Life Events

The Chapel in an intimate space where people remember marriages, baptisms, funerals and special services - sometimes across generations.



The Chapel Today

Recently, the Chapel has been used for Evening Grace (before the pandemic), is used by multiple congregations, including the South Sudanese and the Anyuak Congregation, and continues to be a special place for weddings, baptisms, funerals and special services. The Chapel is also used in community work - the Grace Satellite Food Bank prepares and distributes food hampers from the Chapel every week. On October 15, 2021, Rev. Maren McLean Persaud held a Candle Light Service for Pregnancy and Infant Loss.

2020-Present: The Grace Satellite Food Bank

Every Thursday, volunteers gather in the morning at Grace to assemble food hampers for Beltline residents who are registered with the Calgary Food Bank. The program began as a pilot and grew to 15 hampers per week, until April 2022. During the pandemic, there was a surge in food insecurity. In April, 2022, Grace began preparing 20 hampers a week. While Grace was supporting 780 neighbourhood families per year, now Grace supports 1,040.

Did you know? Newly arrived Ukrainians, who are fleeing the war at home, are moving into the neighbourhood around Grace and accessing the Food Bank.

Stewardship in Action:

- Talent: Relationships and project management: Identification of needs, establishing relationship with the Calgary Food Bank, managing volunteers.
- Time: in fall 2022, 2 shifts of volunteers (a collaboration of congregants, community volunteers, and Rotarians) prep and distribute 20 hampers
- Treasure: Use of the Chapel and church space, electricity and power, cleaning and facilities staff, and more.



Thank you to all for your gifts of time, talent and treasure.
Learn more at www.GraceChurchCalgary.com



October Snapshots



Thank you for reconnecting as a Church family, for welcoming our Beltline neighbours, and embracing new faces at Grace.

Here is a glimpse of some of what you did in October: Worship and fellowship time (new faces, old friends, and a return of some who have been gone for a time), Youth Lunch, Grace Quilters, Bethany, Beltline OPEN MIC NIGHT, the Blessed to be a Blessing Congregational Lunch, Choir, Engaging Vulnerable People Workshop 2, Handbells, World Communion Day, the start of English Language Learners English classes, Food Bank, Trunk N Treat Halloween Party in the Parking Lot...and more...



Blessed to be a Blessing Video Celebrating Grace's 170+ Volunteers

**CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH: OCTOBER 16
BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING:
THANKFUL FOR VOLUNTEERS**



*Thank you
for sharing your generous gifts
from God with Grace - gifts of
time, talent and treasure.
Your gifts are most appreciated.*



 Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace



Plastics Fast Facts - Part of Grace's Earth Care Focus

- 12.7 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year
- 10,000 tonnes of plastic go into the Great Lakes each year - the same weight as the Eiffel Tower
- 80% of the plastics come from land

Grace Earth Care Program - The Problem with Plastics

Grace is taking part in an Earth Care Program - where we learn to be good stewards of the environment and the natural gifts from God. In October, we look at the impact of plastic in our water - from oceans to lakes to the water we drink every day.

The Problem with Plastics

Plastic waste has been found all over the world – from the Himalayas to the Antarctic. Every year, 12.7 million tonnes enter the ocean. Closer to home, researchers estimate 10,000 tonnes of plastic end up in the Great Lakes annually. That’s equivalent to the weight of the Eiffel Tower.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 80% of plastic in the ocean originates on land. Typical sources can come from incorrect disposal of plastics to products that contain microbeads or microfibres.

Sun, heat, wind and waves make plastic brittle and break down the plastic into tiny bits the size of a grain of sand. These microplastics not only harm marine and wildlife; they also enter our food chain and drinking water.



CHURCH BUSINESS:

MAJOR MONTHLY CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECISIONS AND UPDATES

Monthly Fall Financial Update

Please find the [monthly financial update for September](#)

Comments on September 2022 Financial Update: Overall results for September are encouraging and positive. Loss, before gain for the PCC portfolio investment, is \$196,160, compared to a budgeted loss of \$558,038. This is in part due to expenditures being \$330,000 less than budget and revenues being ahead of budget.

General Observations/Comments

- 3rd Quarter PCC portfolio investment information regarding 3rd quarter income and gain/loss on investment is not available until the end of November.
- Offerings to date are ahead of budget as are rental revenues.
- Key variances for facilities are higher utility costs; purchase of computer equipment; increased salary costs due to facility usage, and increased repair and maintenance costs.

*Find full financials on the [Giving and Financials website page \(find monthly, periodic, and annual financial reports, as well as Report to Congregation and Community with 2021 financial snapshot\)](#).

Year-End Donations and 2022 Tax Receipts: Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for the gifts of financial donations throughout the year, and at year-end. The Treasurer, Rob McDonald, has been asked multiple questions recently about year-end donations and tax receipts. Here are answers.

Does Grace accept donations of securities?

Grace does gratefully accept donations of securities. If you would like a tax receipt for 2022, the securities need to be transferred to our agent by mid-December.

When do general donations need to be made for a 2022 tax receipt?

If you are making a general donation and would like a tax receipt in 2022 for that contribution, Grace must receive the cheque or cash contribution by December 31. If you are sending a donation through the mail, it must be postmarked on or before December 31 to be eligible for a 2022 tax receipt.

When are tax receipts issued by Grace?

Tax receipts will be issued for the 2022 taxation year towards the end of January - first part of February 2023. If you make an online donation through CanadaHelps, the receipt is issued automatically.

How do I get more information?

If you have further questions about giving or tax receipts, please visit the [Giving Page](#), or contact Rob McDonald at robm@gracecalgary.org. Rob would be happy to answer any questions or provide information to you.

Session Highlights: October 3 (Session meetings take place monthly.)

At its regular meeting on October 3, the Session:

- Began with the reading of James 2: 1-12 and prayer
- Was thankful for the impactful National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) event with Stardale Women's Group, the joyful and inclusive communion service on October 2, and the upcoming reception of new members
- Agreed to recommend Chandra Mannix to be received by the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod for candidacy for ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Approved the Terms of Reference for an Ad Hoc Committee for Stewardship, to develop and implement a workplan to identify, nurture, celebrate and pursue Christ-centered stewardship at and through Grace Church
- Began a conversation about slowing the pace of new initiatives and programs, in balance with human and financial resources
- Supported a proposal for a Grace Quilters Craft Sale on November 13, to raise funds to help cover the cost of supplies
- Asked a small team to engage with the South Sudanese and Anyuak communities about their hopes for a closer relationship with the rest of Grace
- Agreed to individually complete the Presbytery questionnaire on how Presbytery can better serve congregations
- Was informed of the intention of the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris to retire as General Presbyter and from active ministry at year-end
- Supported plans for a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Chapel, to include a congregational lunch, on November 20
- Was advised of the Facilities Committee's plans to explore possible long term finishes for the front doors, including the option of returning them to the original oak and brass
- Reviewed a first draft of the 2023 budget and agreed to ask Committees to prioritize

and phase the initiatives in their workplans. Operational savings are to be identified by the Support Services Director. The congregation will be asked to approve the final 2023 budget on November 27.

- Closed with prayer and a benediction

Lead Minister Search Committee Fall Update

The Lead Minister Search Committee is continuing its work. At this time we are continuing the recruitment and interview process. A recent update from Graham Standish included the comment that minister searches in both Canada and the USA are going slowly - perhaps this is COVID-related or perhaps there are fewer candidates available. At Grace we have specific requirements in the position description including leadership, worship and preaching, adult spiritual growth, communication, inclusion, stewardship and prioritization/delegation, which necessitate a candidate with quite a bit of experience as well as interest in Grace and in Calgary. We remain confident that God will bring us the candidate God is calling for us at the time God believes we and our candidate are ready.

Janet Hyde (Co-convener), Clark Hanna (Co-convener), Elizabeth Cressman, Jan Dewar, Flora Stephenson, Jennifer Lee, Greg Retzer

Update on the Red and Tan Paint on the East Doors by the Steps

The east doors (sometimes known as the Front Doors) to Grace have been painted over in cream and the red paint on the stained-glass windows has been removed, as was decided by Session. This followed a September 25 Red Paint Painted Over Ceremony on Orange Shirt Sunday at Grace. See Session highlights for potential plans for the doors by the Facilities Committee. Work around a memorial plaque is being done by the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Team under the Engagement and Service Committee.



Music Notes

Join the Choir!

The choir is up and singing! Practices run on Thursdays, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Would you like to join? Email the Interim Music Coordinator, Matt Kallio, at Mattk@gracecalgary.org.

Calling all Performers...Christmas OPEN MIC NIGHT at Grace

December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Back by popular demand, following the October success of the first OPEN MIC NIGHT at Grace, this version focuses on Advent and Christmas - share a song, poem, story, dance or more. While some acts will be Christmas-themed, you can share what you like. Learn more and sign up to perform [here](#).

All is Calm, All is Bright Multi-Church Music Concert

Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace

The choir is working on a multi-church Advent Music Concert - open to all - based on the popularity of last year's event. Stay tuned for details to come in the bulletin and Advent announcements!



RESET Society of Calgary Christmas Gift Bags

We are again making plans to create our annual 30 Christmas gift bags for the young women in the RESET program. Your wonderful donations of toiletry and items are needed and very welcome in order to give the women a special gift.

Items Needed:

• shampoo • conditioner • body lotions • toothpaste and brushes • soaps • beauty items • hair brushes • lip balm

Please drop your donations in the bin at the entryway door to the family room by Sunday, December 11. Monetary donations are also very welcome.

Winter Calendar: Activities, Events & Opportunities

Month of November:

- Tuesday, November 1: [Service of Remembrance will take place on the evening of All Saints Day in the Grace Memorial Chapel at 7:00 p.m.](#) This service is an opportunity to honour and celebrate the lives of our dearly departed, especially members of Grace's congregation who died during the pandemic. Please come as we celebrate their lives and remember God's promises.
- Wednesday, November 2: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision - [Sign up here](#)
- Sunday, November 6: Remembrance and Change Sunday and Daylight Savings
- Wednesday, November 9: Final Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Friday, November 11: Remembrance Day
- Sunday, November 13: Quilter's Gift Sale after worship
- Monday, November 14: Deadline for registration for Term 2 of Conversational Community English Classes - if you know people in need of English classes, they can sign up [here](#)
- Sunday, November 20: 60th Anniversary of the Chapel Celebration and Congregational Lunch following worship. [Please sign up to support the volunteer organizers.](#)
- Sunday, November 27: Hope, the First Sunday of Advent
 - New Members Lunch
 - Congregational Meeting, 7:00 p.m. [Click to learn more and register](#)
- Tuesday, November 29: Advent in Plain Site Advent Study Week 1: 7:00 p.m.

2022 Advent at Grace - These are the tentative dates and opportunities. Further details will be shared in November as plans are confirmed and approved by Session.

Theme: Advent in Plain Sight

There are two Advent studies for 2022. Both studies are four weeks long.

Advent in Plain Sight Advent Study, Led by Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Tuesday Evenings, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., online and in-person

Sign up details will be posted soon at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/

- Week 1: Tuesday, November 29: Gates
- Week 2: Tuesday, December 6: Tears
- Week 3: Tuesday, December 13: Belts
- Week 4: Tuesday, December 20: Trees

Holy Disruption, Advent Study, Led by Rev. Christian Persaud

Thursday Mornings, 10:30 a.m. to Noon, online and in-person

Sign up details will be posted soon at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/

- Week 1: Thursday, December 1: The End of the World As We Know It
- Week 2: Thursday, December 8: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All
- Week 3: Thursday, December 15: Home for the Holidays
- Week 4: Thursday, December 22: Hidden in Plain Sight

November:

- Sunday, November 27: Hope, the First Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday, November 29, Advent in Plain Site Advent Study Week 1: 7:00 p.m.

December: Services and some dates are tentative and will be confirmed following the mid-November Session meeting.

- Thursday, December 1: Holy Disruption Advent Study Week 1: 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, December 2: Christmas BELTLINE OPEN MIC NIGHT: 7:00 p.m. Sign up [here](#)
- Sunday, December 4: Peace, the Second Sunday in Advent; Holy Communion
- Tuesday, December 6: Advent in Plain Sight Advent Study Week 2: 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 8: Holy Disruption Advent Study Week 2: 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, December 9: Poinsettias Arrive at Grace
- Saturday, December 10: All is Calm, All is Bright Music Concert, 7:00 p.m. Details to come!
- Sunday, December 11: Joy, the Third Sunday in Advent
 - Messy Church Christmas Party, Noon - 1:30 p.m. (Open to all!)
 - Poinsettias delivered to recipients
- Tuesday, December 13: Advent in Plain Sight Advent Study Week 3: 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 15: Holy Disruption Advent Study Week 3: 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 18: Love, the Fourth Sunday in Advent (Fellowship Time - Christmas cookies!)
- Tuesday, December 20: Advent in Plain Sight Advent Study Week 4: 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 22: Holy Disruption Advent Study Week 4: 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services: *Tentative services and times*
 - 4:00 p.m. Family-Friendly Service (In-person and livestreamed)
 - 8:00 p.m. Communion and Candlelight Service (in-person only)
- Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Service 10:30 a.m. (in-person and livestreamed. There is no Sunday School.)
- Monday, December 26: Boxing Day Church Closed
- Tuesday, December 27: Holiday, Church Closed

2023 Winter Forecast Calendar

Committee planning is underway for the winter. Below please find activities with tentative dates, times and topics. Further details and additional activities will be added in monthly newsletters, on the website and in the bulletin as they are approved by Session and submitted by committees and project leads.

January:

- Sunday, January 1: New Year's Day, 10:30 a.m. Communion Service (There is no Sunday School for this service.)
- Monday, January 2: Holiday, Church closed
- Friday, January 6: Epiphany
- Sunday, January 8: Baptism of Jesus
- Sunday, January 8: Reception of New Members
- January 18-25: Prayer for Christian Unity

February:

- Sunday, February 5: Presbyterian World Service and Development Day (PWS&D)
- Sunday, February 19: Transfiguration Sunday
- Monday, February 20: Family Day
- Tuesday, February 21: Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday Start of Lent

Advent starts this month!

Advent plans are underway - and approvals are pending the November Session

Meeting - final details will be shared following the Session meeting. These is a sneak peek of tentative dates.



Tentative Dates Advent at Grace Advent in Plain Sight

Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services

- Sundays at 10:30 am
(In-person and livestreamed)
- Sunday, November 27 - Hope
- Sunday, December 4 - Peace
- Sunday, December 11 - Joy
- Sunday, December 18 - Love
- Sunday, December 25 - Lessons and Carols
- Sunday, January 1 - Communion

Advent Opportunities

Two 4-Week Advent Studies (In-Person and Online)

- Advent in Plain Sight Study
 - Tuesdays at 7:00 pm
 - November 29 - December 20
- Holy Disruption Study
 - Thursdays at 10:30 am
 - December 1 - 22

Christmas Eve Services

- 4:00 pm Family-Friendly Service
(In-person and livestreamed)
- 8:00 pm Communion Service with
Candlelight (In-person only)

Events

- Friday, December 2 at 7:00 pm
Christmas OPEN MIC NIGHT
- Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm
All is Calm, All is Bright Music Concert
- Sunday, December 11 at Noon
Messy Church Christmas Party

Learn more at www.GraceChurchCalgary.com



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

Worship: In-Person and Online

Donate Online

Visit our
Website



Feedback

Our goal is to create value with this newsletter, so it's helpful to know what you think. Send your feedback to communications@gracecalgary.org. We may not always be able to incorporate suggestions, but we'll do what we can to respond to interest and need.

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