



WHAT'S GOING ON AT GRACE: SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

REBOOTING AND RECONNECTING THIS FALL



Ministers' Message: Let's Reconnect!

From Psalm 122 *The Voice Translation*

*I was so happy when my fellow pilgrims said,
"Let's go to the house of the Eternal!"*

We have made the journey and now we are standing in your gates...

God's people belong here! Every group of the Eternal makes its way to come together and give thanks to the Eternal. It is because of people -- my family, friends, and acquaintances that I say, "May peace permeate you." And because of the house of the Eternal One, our God, is here know this: I will always seek your good.

Hi Friends!

Grace and peace to you!

We hope your summer was full and you were able to find renewal in days of sunshine and warmth. As we enter into fall, with its cooler weather and shorter days, many of us shift into routines that were different than the ones of summer.

The same is true at Grace. September means shifting into a more fulsome reopening of the building to the community and reconnecting through worship, rebooting the Sunday School Program, and our English Language Learners program.

We hope to re-connect and see you in-person as we shift into fall. Come be a part of our life together, in worship, in the groups that gather and in the activities happening around the sandstone walls of Grace, because this is a place of belonging, community, compassion, engagement and service.

It is because of people, friends, family, and acquaintances that we are seeking God's good and the good of one another and our neighbours together! Grace's search for a new Lead Minister continues (find an update below), but that isn't stopping us from lifting our praising, continuing to learn and grow, and using our hands and hearts to

care for each other and our neighbours.

This fall we have a fantastic line up of guest preachers who will share new perspectives alongside preaching from Rev. Christian and Rev. Jake, and we have upcoming programs and events that invite us to engage, to think, and to listen for the Holy Spirit (find out more below).

May peace permeate you as summer routines transition to the routines of fall. Know that you belong here and we are glad you are a part of Grace!

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



Congregational Connection: Fall Sunday School

We are so excited about the new year of Grace Kids and Grace Youth and we invite you to re-connect and re-commit! Learn what's on (Blessing of the Backpacks, Trunk 'N' Treat, meet the new Children and Youth Coordinator, Kate Van Pernis - and more!)

[Read more](#)

gracechurchcalgary.com

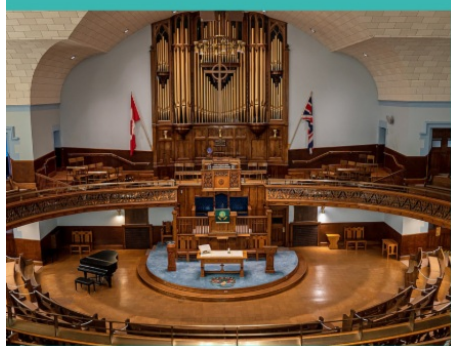


Community Connection: Grace Food Bank Meets Pandemic Demand

Volunteers at the Grace Satellite Food Bank site increased hampers from 15 to 20 per week, to help meet a growing demand for food in the Beltline during the pandemic.

[Read more](#)

gracechurchcalgary.com



CHURCH BUSINESS: MAJOR MONTHLY CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECISIONS AND UPDATES



Monthly Fall Financial Update

Please find both monthly financial updates for [May](#), [June](#) and [July](#).

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

Mural Project, Red Paint & Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Update

Tuesday, August 30 Update (following Monday, August 29 Session Meeting)

At approximately 2:00 a.m. on the morning of Monday August 29, the red paint on the two sets of front doors of Grace were painted over with tan paint by unknown people (the sandstone and stained-glass windows were not impacted). Grace is working with the Calgary Police Service to investigate.

Grace's Session met on Monday, August 29 and made the decision that the east doors of Grace's building will be repainted, to the cream colour they have been, starting on Sunday, September 25 following worship. The painting will be accompanied by a gathering of prayer and ceremony that the congregation and community are invited to marking this new step on Grace's journey of Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation.

Grace's Session has also made the decision that a commemorative marker be made that reminds both Grace and the community of the story of the red paint on Grace's doors and the ongoing commitment to the work of truth, healing, and reconciliation. The congregation will be invited to share input about possible options for a commemorative marker. Announcements about how input on possible options for a commemorative marker will be shared starting the week of September 5 and will be announced in the bulletin, on Grace's website, and in worship.

Mural Project/Red Paint July 2022 Update from July Session Meeting

At its July meeting, the Session considered the next steps for the red paint on the doors. Since its decision in November 2021 to create a mural relating to reconciliation, incorporating the red paint on the doors, there has continued to be extensive work to provide opportunities for the congregation and community to learn about the history of colonialism, residential schools and the role of the church, and to discern how God is calling us to respond.

Feedback from the congregation has been widely varied, and the Session observed that further education and engagement is required to build authentic and broad commitment to reconciliation. The Session strongly affirmed the principle underpinning the November 2021 decision, that is, that the red paint is to remain on the doors, as a reminder of that history and an encouragement to continue the journey of reconciliation. However, at this point, the painting of the murals will not proceed, pending a further discussion at the September meeting of the Session. (See August 29 update from this Session meeting.)

The Ad Hoc Committee for Truth, Healing & Reconciliation is prayerfully reflecting upon the recent direction from the Session and will seek to provide further opportunities for Grace Presbyterian Church and the community to engage in this call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

**Please find details for an event at Grace on September 30, Orange Shirt Day, the National Day of Truth and Healing, below.*

Lead Minister Search Committee Fall Update

The Lead Minister Search Committee has received national and international applications and is confident God will bring us the candidate God has identified for Grace. We had hoped there would be a preach for the call this fall but that remains in God's hands. We continue to receive applications and interview candidates and will keep the congregation informed. Please continue to hold the committee and the candidates in your prayers.

Session Highlights: July 14 (Next meeting September 14)

At its regular meeting on July 14, the Session:

- Opened with prayer and reflection on Isaiah 40:27-31 and the importance of waiting on the Lord.
- Was encouraged to hear of the fellowship enjoyed by the Choir at a recent BBQ, by the new and familiar faces at worship, and that Jake is returned
- Considered the June 26 Congregational meeting and shared feedback on the difficult topic. It was noted that the conversations are a reaffirmation of how we want to behave as Christians.
- Approved updates to the Roll of Professing Members and updates to the Elders' visitation districts. Individuals impacted by these changes will be contacted directly by their new Elder.
- Confirmed the role of Elders and the model of pastoral care and visitation at Grace. This will be further communicated with the congregation.
- Approved the baptism of Asha Persaud, planned for September 25.
- Was advised that Summer Sunday School is going well; additional leaders are needed for the regular Sunday School program starting in September. It is hoped that a Children & Youth Coordinator to help cover Maren's parental leave will soon be in place.
- Agreed with offering a new members class.
- Received the latest financial information, which indicates that expenses are lower than budgeted, while offerings are higher, although there is still a shortfall in the operating budget that is being covered by deferred contributions.
- Supported recommending to the Board of Ridge Rentals Ltd. that Robin Telfer be appointed President.
- Acknowledged the Spirit-led work of Chandra Mannix with the Community Care Booth. Recognition of Chandra's service as Deacon of Community Care will be planned for an upcoming worship service.
- Affirmed the principle of leaving the red paint on the front doors as an expression of Grace Church's commitment to this time of discomfort, prayer, learning and discernment, journeying towards transformation and reconciliation. The Session will consider the painting of murals again in September.
- Received an update on the Lead Minister search. Conversations with two candidates are underway.
- Referred correspondence regarding the 60th anniversary of the Chapel to the Ad hoc Chapel Renovation Committee.
- Agreed to move the regular meetings to the second Monday of the month, starting in September.
- Closed with prayer.

*Session Highlights are shared in the bulletin and posted on Grace's website following Session meetings.

June 26 Citation Meeting:

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod Committee to Assess and Address Harassment shared their report of findings at the Sunday, June 26 Congregational Meeting. To access a copy of the report, please email office@gracecalgary.org. Next Steps: The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod will review the report at the September meeting.



Music Notes

Organ Buddy

Would you like to join Matt Kallio, our Interim Music Coordinator at the organ? Email mattk@gracecalgary.org to arrange it.

Choir Fall Practice

The choir reboots on Thursday, September 8. 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.

Handbell Fall Choir Practice

The handbell choir begins practising this fall. Would you like to join? Email Mattk@gracecalgary.org.

Grace is Seeking a Lead Tenor (Male) and Lead Alto (Female) for the Choir

The Grace choir is looking for a lead tenor. Responsibilities include attending Thursday night choir practice (7:30-9:30 p.m.) and singing in services at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. There are also occasional extra events throughout the church year. There is an honorarium for these roles.

The ability to read music is required and it is very helpful to have good sight-reading skills. Our choir is a very friendly and fun group and we perform a variety of sacred music from classical to contemporary. We aim for quality in material and execution. Our choir consists of everything from professional to amateur musicians. Interested? Please email Matt Kallio at MattK@gracecalgary.org.

September and Fall Calendar: Activities, Events & Opportunities

Month of September

Cake Bake - please request order forms through the office or pick them up on Sundays. Return completed forms to the boxes available on Sundays, or to the office.

Sunday, September 11

- Blessing of the Backpacks and Workbags: Bring backpacks and workbags to Grace for an inter-generational blessing during worship as we move into a new school year and fall schedules.
- Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Leaders
- All Elders and Committee Members Meeting ([Click to RSVP: deadline Sept 5](#))

Sunday, September 18

- Welcome Back Reconnect Lunch: Everyone welcome! ([Click to RSVP: deadline Sept 14](#))

Sunday, September 25

- Baptism of Asha Persaud
- Orange Shirt Sunday at Grace

Thursday, September 29

- Second Engaging Vulnerable People Workshop 10:30 a.m. to Noon at Grace. RSVP to Cindy Stephenson, at cindys@gracecalgary.org.

Friday, September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- Orange Shirt Day event, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Grace South Parking Lot: [*Reconnection, Reconciliation and Resilience - an event for hope and a better future in honour of Orange Shirt Day*](#)

September Notes:

- English Language Learning is set to reboot this fall. Session 1 starts Monday, October 3 to November 14, Mondays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (deadline to register for Session 1 is September 26). Learn more, find details and registration information for all 5 Sessions here. [Click to learn more and register.](#)
- Earth Care Program: The Engagement and Service Committee is starting an Earth Care program. Regular messages will appear in the bulletin and on Grace social media.

Fall and Winter 2022 Forecast Calendar

Committee planning is underway for the fall and 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.

October:

- Sunday, October 2: Worldwide Holy Communion (Inter-generational Worship)
- Tuesday, October 4: National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Monday, October 10: Thanksgiving Day
- Wednesday, October 12: *Learn more and register here: [Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision](#)*
- Friday, October 14: Open Mic at Grace (stand-up, music, monologue - and more! Details to come!)
- Wednesday October 19: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Wednesday October 26: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Sunday, October 30: Reformation Sunday
- Monday, October 31: Trunk N Treat - details to come!

November:

- Wednesday, November 2: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Sunday, November 6: Remembrance Sunday and Daylight Savings
- Friday, November 11: Remembrance Day
- Sunday, November 27: Hope, the First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, November 27: Congregational Meeting
- Wednesday, November, 30: Advent Study

December:

- Sunday, December 4: Peace, the Second Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion
- Wednesday, December 7: Advent Study
- Saturday, December 10: Advent into Christmas Concert
- Sunday, December 11: Joy, the Third Sunday in Advent
- Wednesday, December 14: Advent Study
- Sunday, December 18: Love, the Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services: Details to come
- Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day
- Monday, December 26: Boxing Day
- Sunday, January 1: New Year Day

[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.

1009 15 Avenue SW, Calgary AB T2R 0S5 | 403-244-5861
office@gracecalgary.org | www.gracechurchcalgary.com

// CONNECT WITH US //

