



# Grace United Church

An Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada

990 Cathcart Boulevard • Sarnia • Ontario • N7S 2H2

519-542-1203 • fax 519-542-1361

office@graceucsarnia.com • www.graceucsarnia.com

Members and Adherents of Grace,

In the face of uncertainty, Good News unfolds around the globe. Enactment of gospel remains the focus and commitment of the members, adherents, and staff of Grace. We remain on mission, offering care and support to each other.

The committees of Grace Council continue with confidence, receiving this moment in time as an opportunity to live in to the 1996 vision statement:

We grow in faith together and share our love of Jesus Christ.  
We welcome challenges, confident that God will guide us.

What follows is a brief account from a few of our Grace committees on the faithful work being done in response to the closure of our building and the practice of social distancing.

Wishing you peace,  
Linda and Pat

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

---

Even during these times of self-isolation, “We are not alone, we live in God’s world...”

The Worship Committee is working to develop alternatives to our normal Sunday Worship gatherings. During this time when we must physically isolate, we can still join together as a community of faith, and in fact, expand our community using a number of on-line resources. We encourage everyone to explore the worship resources that are being developed both nationally and locally.

The United Church of Canada Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott, has begun offering weekly on-line worship services for the duration of the isolation measures. The services are streamed live on Tuesdays at 7 pm EDT and are then available for viewing at any time thereafter.

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/worship-online-during-covid-19>

At Grace, the Pastoral Team and Worship Committee are developing and preparing messages, meditations, and additional resources that will allow us to worship together during this time. Check the Grace website in the coming days as resources are created and posted.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/graceucsarnia/>

Grace Website: <https://www.graceucsarnia.com/>

Although we are unable to physically worship together in the sanctuary, we remain members of the Grace United community, and can use alternative methods to share in God's messages of hope, love and compassion for all.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND GROWTH

---

We care for each other. Even in this time—most importantly at this time—we care for each other. We are gifted at Grace with caregivers who enact Matthew 25:31-46 by making it their ministry to care for those among us needing help.

The Pastoral Care Team, consisting of staff and lay leaders, have developed a plan to connect with any member of the Grace family who would benefit from a phone call or a visit, or those who need help picking up groceries or medications. Please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Linda at 450-522-3005 or [linda@graceucsarnia.com](mailto:linda@graceucsarnia.com)

Please continue to reach out to each other.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

---

During this time of physical isolation and building closure, our staff continues to provide pastoral care and deliver modified programming. The Finance Committee continues to manage expenses related to staffing and our beautiful building. If you are not yet on PAR we invite you to consider continuing with your offering using any of the following methods:

- (1) Sign up for Pre-Authorized Payment (PAR)  
The attached PAR file can be completed and mailed to the Grace office.
- (2) eTransfer (include envelope number in 'comments' section)  
eTransfer to this email address: [office@graceucsarnia.com](mailto:office@graceucsarnia.com)
- (3) Paypal payment using a credit card  
Go to <https://www.paypal.com/ca/for-you/transfer-money>  
Send to [paypal@graceucsarnia.com](mailto:paypal@graceucsarnia.com)
- (4) Mail in a cheque (include envelope number on cheque)  
990 Cathcart Blvd., Sarnia, ON N7S 2H2
- (5) Call the Grace Office to arrange for your cheque to be picked up at your home.  
Call Lori at 519-542-1203

## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

---

The M & P Committee remains committed to maintaining communication with staff members and discussing concerns and questions as they arise.

As we know, this is a rapidly evolving and unprecedented situation that will require creative solutions as we move forward. At this point, we are here to support staff as they transition their roles to home-based and virtual platforms.

Staff will continue to be paid throughout this period of closure. Lori is able to monitor phones and email from home and can act as a point person for receiving communication from the congregation. Curtis has taken an unpaid compassionate leave of absence to tend to Tracey and we are supporting him to apply for employment insurance benefits. John Scott is currently covering for Curtis as he deals with Tracey's illness. Part of his work is the deep cleaning that is necessary during the time of closure to ensure that the building will be clean when we re-open. John Cooke has been in communication with Linda and Pat about their roles. Linda's appointment ends on May 31/20. A decision to extend beyond May 31 likely needs to be made in April. Joanna has reached out to Glenn to ensure that he is aware that he can be in touch with us as needed. He is working with the Worship Committee to plan alternate forms of worship while the building is closed.

The M & P Committee is available and willing to work with staff to ensure that we can meet their needs as they provide leadership to the Grace community.

## **A MESSAGE FROM GLENN**

---

During this time, my role as Director of Musical Ministries at Grace United Church has taken a shift sideways so to speak. My duties of providing music for the Sunday worship service, conducting choir and band rehearsals have been put on hold; in the sense of being present for these duties.

I will continue to select new choir anthems for upcoming services. I will also be providing the choir with individual parts for practise purposes via MP3 recordings. Selecting new material also involves looking at the musical challenges these various anthems pose to the sections of the choir.

I also will continue selecting material for the band. This involves the task of writing out charts for the musicians with regards to keys and instrumentation.

I am looking into recording music for any alternate forms of worship the staff at Grace is planning. I have been experimenting with various microphones that I own and have been quite pleased with the results. I have been exploring the idea of a podcast that Grace could put on its website. My wife, Beth, has offered to lend her voice to hymns. Together, along with the Grace team, we look to provide a meaningful worship for those at home.

I feel blessed that I can provide music and work with a ministerial team who will give support and guidance throughout this challenging time.

Stay well, stay safe and God bless.

## **A MESSAGE FROM DAN**

---

It's time for creativity.

I continue to offer programming that connect people of all ages. In the coming days I will be reaching out to adults in the congregation to invite participation in the production of video resources that will be part of the unfolding of the pending HALO report. If you're not sure what the HALO report is, brace yourself.

JOLT will also continue in a modified form through the creation of playful interviews to be shared on social media.