

Grace United Church

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The Gospel of John tells us that the day after Jesus dies on the cross, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb very early in the morning, while it is still dark, and finds that the stone has been removed from the tomb. She is very distressed that the body of her Lord is missing. She runs to tell Simon-Peter and John. They run to the tomb to see for themselves, and they don't have any more explanation than Mary Magdalene has for where the body has gone.

Mary Magdalene then lingers outside the tomb crying. When she looks up from her tears, she sees a figure standing nearby. She assumes it is the gardener. It is only when the person says her name, "Mary," that she realizes it is Jesus.

For Mary, this is the moment the resurrection happens. All the stories of the resurrection of Jesus tell us that no one was there to witness the event. God rose Jesus from the dead when no one was around to watch. The resurrection becomes real only when the people who love Jesus have an encounter with him, alive and well, although scarred. They speak with him, they eventually touch him, they eat meals with him.

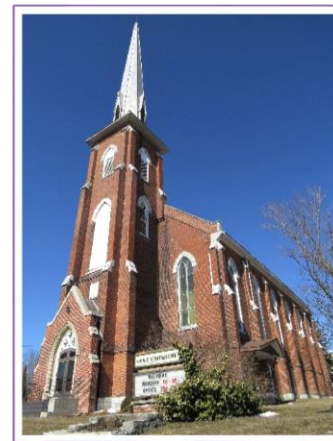
When Mary hears her name spoken by the one who loves her, she knows that her Jesus lives on. Death does not have the last word.

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you....You are precious and honoured in my sight, and I love you," says the Lord. (*Isaiah 43: 1, 2, 4*)

That is the promise of Easter – that you do not need to fear death or loneliness, or sickness, or separation, or mistakes, or indeed, anything at all. God's promise is for everyone. You have been redeemed through the love of Christ, for you are precious and loved.

With Blessings,

Rev. Elaine



Upcoming Events

April 3rd

Coffee Time Returns following our worship service. Please join us in the Hall for a snack, a "cuppa Joe", and fellowship. All snacks are pre-portioned to help with Covid protocols. We can't wait to see you there!!

April 4th

Please join us as we view the second season of the series, "**The Chosen**", beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. We have been viewing one episode per week with a brief discussion following. Everyone is invited to attend.

April 6th

Four Winds Presbyterial U.C.W. Annual General Meeting at Elginburg (formerly Trinity) United Church in Elginburg, On. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. with the theme of the day being, "Make a Joyful Noise!" Lunch will be available for \$12. Please bring your mask.

P.S. During the two weeks leading up to Easter, you will be able to hear a shorter version of this message on Napanee's local radio station, myFM, 88.7. It will be played several times over the two weeks. You will also be able to hear many of our local pastors, priests and ministers give their short message on "The True Meaning of Easter." I am very appreciative of myFM for giving local clergy the opportunity to speak to the public about Christ. If you support this programming, please let them know.



News from the Finance and Stewardship Committee

Hi Everyone,

As many of you know, the elevator at Grace Church has been out of commission for some time now. It is very important we have the necessary repairs done to the elevator to allow many of our congregation a means to attend church services. I know several people who are just not able to climb the many stairs to get to the sanctuary.

The Trustee's have been working to find a contractor who will be able to do the necessary repairs. The repairs are now underway, and we hope to see them completed in the next week or two. The cost for these repairs is substantial. It will cost an estimated \$20,000.00. The board has decided we should do a special appeal to the congregation to hopefully cover part of this cost. All donations to help get our elevator back in operation will be greatly appreciated.

There are many ways you can contribute. If you do electronic banking, you can send an e-transfer. To do this all you need is the church's email address. The email address is gracechurch@gmail.com. You can also place a donation in the offering plate at the back of the church. Use a separate envelope and indicate it is for the elevator repair. If you can't get out to church and are not comfortable with online e-transfers you can call the office, and someone will pick up your donation.

The Board of Grace United Church would like to thank you for your consideration of this special appeal and for your ongoing support to Grace United Church.

Submitted by Ron Murray, Chair of Finance and Stewardship

Easter Flowers

Every Easter we ask our members to help us decorate our sanctuary by purchasing a pot of flowers in memory or in honour of a friend or family member that they may take home with them following the Easter Sunday worship service. We usually purchase 6" pots, but due to the increase in prices and wanting to keep the cost down for our members, we have decided to go with 4" pots.

Upcoming Events

April 7th

ALL ladies of the congregation are invited to our **U. C. W. Soup and Sandwich Luncheon** beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the Hall. Soup and dessert will be provided, but please bring your own sandwich (avoiding fish products). Wear your Easter bonnet!!

Worship, Music, and Sacraments Committee Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

April 9th

Fundraiser for the Ukraine beginning at 3:00 p.m. Please join us in welcoming Valentina Filipenko whom has graciously agreed to speak to us about her experiences while fleeing the war in the Ukraine. There is no cost for admission, but donations can be made to the Ukrainian-Canadian Social Services. For more information see the article on page 3.

This year we will be purchasing Gerbera Daisies, Calandivas, Cyclamen, and Ranunculus for \$7 per pot.

If you would like to sponsor a flower pot in memory or in honour of a loved one, please place cash with your name and your honouree's name in an envelope and place in on the collection plate by April 10th. If you are unable to attend our worship, but would still like to purchase a plant, please contact Leslie in the office.

Fundraiser for the Ukraine

Please join us as we hear from special guest speaker, Valentina Filipenko, whom recently fled the war in the Ukraine beginning at 3:00 p. m. on Saturday, April 9th. She has graciously agreed to speak about her experiences, and what is needed to support the Ukraine and the citizens that remained to fight for their home with the aid of translator, Maria Stebelsky, Vice President of the Ukrainian-Canadian Social Services.

Donations can be made at this event to the Ukrainian-Canadian Social Services, an NGO with 30 years of experience providing food relief to the Ukraine. Charitable donation receipts will be provided by this organization for amounts of \$20 or more.

There will also be sunflower seeds available for purchase for \$3.00 per package with proceeds returning to this charity. The sunflower ("soniashnyk" in Ukrainian) is the national flower of the Ukraine, is one of their biggest exports (mainly sunflower seed oil), has become a worldwide symbol of peace and solidarity, as well as a sign of resistance, so pick up your package and show your support!

If you are unable to attend this event, but would still like to hear Valentina, she will be speaking at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 179 West St., Napanee on Sunday, April 10th following their 10:00 a.m. mass. Donations to the Ukrainian-Canadian Social Services can also be made at this time.

1st Napanee Valley Scouting

Our 1st Napanee Valley Scouting Association regularly raises money to help off-set costs of registration, training, outings, and adventures of all shapes and sizes. If you feel that you are able to support the youth, below is a following of their current fundraising ventures:

- April brings their annual Scoutrees environmental stewardship and donation drive. Anyone wishing to donate can e-transfer Michelle Chamberlain at michellechamberlain9@gmail.com with Scoutrees donation in the note or write a cheque to Scouts Canada-1st Napanee Valley. The youth will collect donations for the month of April ending with a Quinte Conservation Authority led sapling planting event on Saturday, April 30th. 100% of the donations



Upcoming Events

April 10th

Palm Sunday

April 11th

Please join us as we view the second season of the series, "**The Chosen**", beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. We have been viewing one episode per week with a brief discussion following. Everyone is invited to attend.

April 14th

Hall Rental – Maple Ridge Women's Institute beginning at 1:00 p.m.

April 15th

Good Friday – Please join us for our worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m.

April 17th

Easter Sunday – Please join us as we celebrate the risen Christ! We will begin our worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m., and we will be participating in the Sacrament of Holy Communion utilizing pre-portioned packages.

collected go directly to Scouts Canada-1st Napanee Valley Scouting Group.

- The Cubs are hosting a "FUNDrive" and will be accepting donations of clothing in good condition, linens, and household items until May 22nd. All items collected will be taken to Value Village where they will receive money in exchange for the items. All funds will be utilized for a Cub Adventure later on, possibly to the Science Centre and/or Medieval Times in Toronto. If you have items that you wish to donate, please contact Ashley Morrow at ashley-morrow@hotmail.com or 613-893-4898. Some items may be brought to the church and stored in "the Scout Corner" under the stairs by the mailbox.
- Mabel's Labels is a year-round fundraiser in which 40% of sales is profit for the Group. Mabel's Labels are a fantastic way to label your food storage containers, kids/adult clothing and footwear, or books! Check them out at www.mabelslabels.ca making sure to cite 1st Napanee Valley Scouting.
- Who likes coffee?!?! Not Leslie!! Most other people have a hard time making it through the day without that hot cuppa Joe, though, so why not support our local troop by ordering their ethically and organically grown coffee? Head to their website, www.scoutcoffee.ca, and choose from a lovely selection of roasts. 35% of proceeds return to 1st Napanee Valley, and 5% of sales return to the Scout-run program, "No One Left Behind". This is also a "year-round" campaign.

If you know someone that may be interested in joining the 1st Napanee Valley Scout Group, they can register at www.scouts.ca/join/register-2022.html. Activities throughout the year include hiking, camping, canoeing, Apple Day, Beaver Buggy/Cub Car/Scout Truck Rallies, and SO MUCH MORE!!!

Beavers (SK-Gr.2) meet on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Cubs (Gr. 3-Gr. 5) meet on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Scouts (Gr. 6-Gr.9) meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Camp Quin-Mo-Lac

Everyone at Quin-Mo-Lac is gearing up for a summer season of fun, new friendships, and fellowship! In order to keep the camp running smoothly this year, they are looking for a few items. If you are willing to help, they would graciously accept any donations of:

- 9V batteries for smoke detectors in cabins and other buildings.
- Tea Towels
- Stainless Steel Cutlery

If you have any of these items that you are willing to donate, please contact the office or drop them off with Rev. Elaine.



Upcoming Events

April 18th

Please join us as we view the second season of the series, "**The Chosen**", beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. We have been viewing one episode per week with a brief discussion following. Everyone is invited to attend.

April 24th

We will be hosting our **Annual General Meeting** immediately following our worship service. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. Hard copies of the report are now available.

May 8th

Mother's Day

May 12th

Hall Rental – Maple Ridge Women's Institute beginning at 1:00 p.m.

June 5th

Pentecost – We will be participating in the Sacrament of Holy Communion utilizing pre-portioned packages.