

# GRACE UNITED CHURCH

## 150 ROBERT ST. NAPANEE, ON

Volume 2/Issue 2 – Summer 2023

### HOLIDAYS

I love to have sand between my toes,  
to watch the tide as it comes and goes,  
to pick up shells and throw them away:  
thank you, dear God, for my holiday.

O God, you have counted each grain of the sand  
and the shells that lie washed on the shore.  
Please keep us all safe, as if holding your hand  
through this day, through this week, evermore.

~ From "*Prayers For All Seasons*"  
By Sophie Piper and Elena Tempurin

### A HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

On May 28, 2023, we celebrated the festival of Pentecost. This is the day in the church year when we remember the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus. They had watched Jesus die, discovered that he was alive again, had many encounters with the risen Jesus over 40 days, then watched him leave them again. He had promised that the Holy Spirit would come to give them power and the courage to witness to him. Every Pentecost, we read the story of what happened from Acts 2:1-21.

This year, to remind us of the power that the Spirit brings, the church was decorated with red helium balloons, table cloths with red flames on them, and streamers waving gently in the breezes. Thank you, Siobhan, for the decorations. We were delighted to receive four people as new members: welcome Rodney Rogalsky, Steven Lindsay-Maracle, Susan Munro and Roberta Partridge. We also celebrated Holy Communion. It was a special time of worship and grace.

When the four membership candidates spoke of why they were choosing to become a member at this time, they all said that they found Grace United Church to be a church which welcomed them and included them. I was greatly touched by their words. I thank the whole congregation for making this church a place where four people have found a faith home. I pray that we may continue to be welcoming and inclusive.

Side by side with this good news story, we also recognize that the number of people participating in the life of the church continues to decline, and those who are here are mostly senior citizens. Our church, along with Selby United Church and Trinity United Church, have embarked on a series of conversations to consider how we can most effectively be "the United Church of Greater Napanee." Not three separate churches, but a unified church, presenting a unified message to the Napanee community. At this stage, we are mostly talking and getting to know one another. I am part of these discussions, as well as dedicated and skilled lay person, Dave Remington. We are not yet making any plans or coming up with strategies. We hope plans and strategies will emerge over time.

In the meantime, please pray for these discussions. It is not easy to imagine a future different from what we have been as a church, but it seems to be necessary. There is a note of hope in these conversations. We do not know where we may end up, but we trust that things will become clear over time. We trust in the power and courage of the Holy Spirit.

*Rev. Elaine*





## MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

I would like to send a big thank you to everyone in our congregation. Thank you for your continued financial support to Grace United Church as well as the support you provide in so many other ways. I know it has been said before, but it bears repeating, it is the people who make the Church. It's not the building, but the people who sit in the pews each week that make us the Church we are.

I think Grace Church is a Church that we can be proud of. If you were at our Pentecost service on May 28<sup>th</sup>, you would have heard a new member that joined our congregation, emphasize what a welcoming congregation we are.

We are currently running a deficit of- \$25,782.60 at the end of April 2023. Although I would like to see a lower deficit for this time of year, we had an even greater deficit of- \$35,561.47 at the end of April in 2022. By the end of December 2022, we ended the year with a deficit of \$25,454.63. All this to say that as much as I would like to see a lower deficit, I know as a congregation you do what you can to try to balance our books by the end of the year.

Each year it is getting more challenging. The Finance and Stewardship Committee has been trying to find ways of reducing our expenses. Unfortunately, everything from fuel, utilities, and insurance has been increasing in recent years. Last year we had a major repair to our elevator which was a big expense in 2022.

There is also a new group that is meeting on a regular basis to discuss the future of our Church. The meetings are announced in the bulletin and are open to anyone who would like to attend. All ideas are

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welcomed.

We have also been searching for someone to replace our current Treasurer, Bert Needham. We have had several leads, but none of them have proved successful. We are quickly realizing that it will not be easy to replace Bert. If anyone knows of someone who would be a possible candidate for our next Treasurer, please let us know.

On a more positive note, we have had a couple good fundraising events so far this year. Our spring roast pork dinner in April brought in over \$3,000.00. Our 50's/60's music concert brought in over \$800.00. And, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we have Mary's Merry Minstrels performing a concert. The tickets are \$10.00 each. It should be a fun event. I hope everyone will come out a support this event.

*Submitted by Ron Murray, Interim Chair*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

The C.E. Committee prepared little gifts for young children recently baptised in our congregation and for our P. A. Day kids at Easter and delivered them. The gifts consisted of a book about the Easter story or a bible story and some chocolate. They were well received from families.

Since we are now able to live-stream the Sunday morning service, we are able to use our laptop to view our worship service in the nursery. This makes it easier for our volunteer supervisors and for families who prefer to stay with their children in the nursery to still feel connected to our worship. We can all feel part of the congregation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Napanee Valley Scouts will be hosting a yard sale on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, here at the church. Please stay tuned for more details, and how we can support the youth.

The Bay of Quinte U.C.W. East Central Ontario Region September Weekend at Camp Quin-Mo-Lac will be from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, and is hosted by Shining Waters Presbyterial. The theme will be, "Moved by the Spirit" with an Indigenous focus. Activities include: worship times, skits, music, workshops, fellowship and great food. The deadline to register is July 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$175 by e-transfer or cheque. Single day: \$85.00. Contact Linda Unrau: [shiningwatersUCWpres@g-mail.com](mailto:shiningwatersUCWpres@g-mail.com) or call 705-957-9650 for registration form or Freda Burns: [jfburns@kos.net](mailto:jfburns@kos.net) or 613-379-2337.

And, finally...our U.C.W. ladies are collecting a number of items to help local charities. The list is as follows:

- **Pop Can Tabs** – to be sent to the Army/Navy Club for medical devices for veterans.
- **Used Stamps** – to be sent to the Canadian Leprosy Foundation.
- **Eye Glasses** – to be given to the Lions Club which delivers them to places where eye care is limited.
- **Used/Dried Markers** – markers of all kinds are recycled by Crayola through a local school.

Thank you SO much for helping us save these items. They can be dropped off in the office throughout the week, or in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

*Submitted by Patti Sweet, Chair*

## THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Earth Day clean-up around the church on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We were able to clean up the shed and grounds, and enjoyed some food and fellowship afterward.

Also, thank you to Mark Milligan of M. Milligan Wildlife Control, whom helped us with some bees that were residing in our shed and were becoming an issue. As it turns out, he grew up in our church, but admits that he often tuned out the minister and dreamed of fishing instead. In a way...it kind of worked out.

We appreciate everyone's help!! Thank you!



*Photos submitted by Rick Sweet*

## HELP WANTED!!

We have a few positions within our Board that we need help filling. We also have some other “jobs” that we require some more volunteers. Some jobs require as little time commitment as a couple hours, a couple times per year to a few hours per week. They are as follows:

- Treasurer
- Chair, Finance and Stewardship Committee
- Chair, Trustees
- P. A. Day Helpers
- Ushers/Greeters – Maybe 4 Sundays per year, you would be responsible for being the friendly face greeting folks as they arrive, helping them locate any hearing or seating devices, bulletins, and hymn books.
- Audio/Visual Team - We need to have more people learn how to use our equipment to live stream our services to YouTube so they can be sent to CogecoTV and the Community Channel. This effort is one of Grace U.C.'s best out-reach into the community for folks who can't get to our church or who maybe searching for a new church to attend. If you can answer a cell phone you can assist with our equipment, it's that easy!



## QUIN-MO-LAC QUAY

Another season of camping is upon us, and the craft director from Camp Quin-Mo-Lac has put out a call for some recycled items that their campers will be using in the craft hut this summer. If you could help them by saving the following items, it would be very much appreciated. We will be collecting the items at the church until Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Items include:

- empty cardboard paper towel rolls/toilet paper rolls
- cardboard egg cartons
- empty & clean plastic yogurt or pudding cups

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., Jun. 5<sup>th</sup>** – **Pastoral Care Committee Meeting** beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

**Wed., Jun. 7<sup>th</sup>** – **Board Meeting** beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

**Sat., Jun. 17<sup>th</sup>** – **Men's Breakfast** beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Hall. *All men* are invited to attend!

- Please join us for an afternoon performance by **Mary's Merry Minstrels** beginning at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person, and are available by calling the office or at the door. Light refreshments to follow.

**Sun., Jun. 18<sup>th</sup>** – **Father's Day and National Indigenous People's Sunday** – Please wear a bow tie or regular tie to church in honour of our fathers.

**Mon., Jun. 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Future's Discussion Group Meeting** beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. *Everyone* is invited to attend!

**Sun., Jun. 25<sup>th</sup>** – **Annual Congregational Potluck "Picnic"** beginning after our worship service. *This is also the final Sunday before our summer vacation.*

**Thurs., Jun. 29<sup>th</sup>** – **Leslie's last day in the office before summer break.** If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care during the month of July, please contact Rev. Mark Arnill at Trinity United Church, 613-354-3858. Also, we are *all invited* to worship with our friends at Trinity United Church, 25 Bridge St., E., Napanee, throughout July beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**Tues., Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>** – **Office Re-Opens**

**Sun. Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>** – **First Sunday After Vacation** – We will return to our regularly scheduled worship services beginning at 10:30 a.m. We are also pleased to welcome our friends from Trinity U. C. in worship throughout August.

**Wed., Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>-Thurs., Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>** – **Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show** – Hey folks! We have booked a booth at the Plowing Match this year, and we could use your help and support! The match this year is in our own "backyard", 1351 Deseronto Rd. (Think corner of Deseronto Rd. and Tucker Rd. or just north over the hill past "the old" Empey Hill United Church.) Please watch the bulletin and our Facebook page for ways that you can help!

**Sat., Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>** – **1<sup>st</sup> Napanee Valley Scouting Yard Sale** in our parking lot. Stay tuned for more details!!



## FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

- Find a new park or beach that you have never been to. (Check out Adolphustown UEL Park or take the grandkids for a drive to Marble Lake!)
- Visit a museum. (Adolphustown UEL Park has a museum! 2 birds, 1 stone! Lots of others in our county.)
- Paint a flower pot or bird house or rocks for the garden.
- Make a fairy garden.
- Have a water balloon fight!
- Go fruit/veggie/berry picking with a BIG ice cream cone to follow!
- Learn a magic trick!!
- Spend an evening stargazing...maybe pack the bug spray for this one!
- Make a marble run using recycled items.
- Make some paper planes, and have contests. E.g. distance, tricks
- Fingerprint your family members and compare or make a neat family tree!