



Grace United Church

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www.graceunitedhanover.ca

“A church with heart in the heart of the community.”

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” – Luke 24:36b

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and that nothing can silence God’s love, peace, and justice. Each one of the Gospels tells the story differently and they all emphasize different elements of what the post-resurrection experience meant for the disciples and the early church. However, all the stories always lead toward community. It’s an important piece of the story. Even when there is an individual encounter like Mary’s intimate experience of Jesus on Easter morning in the Gospel of John, or the private encounter of two disciples on the road to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke, the story always continues with community.

Christianity is centered in community. Being together with others is not an optional piece of the calling of Jesus – it is a necessity. It is a necessity in those times of joy and strength when we feel like we are doing just fine and don’t think we need any help. It is a necessity for those times when we feel so overcome by burden, grief, or difficulty that we don’t feel like moving out of our private and solitary places. Community is where we encounter the risen Christ, where we experience God’s presence lived out.

One theologian I read once wrote that the Church is a dress rehearsal for the rest of our life. It seems like an odd statement because worship and church means so much for many of us. It is the place where we re-center our lives, recharge, and lay down our burdens in prayer. This theologian went on to explain that as a church we practice the way we are called to live together. When I was a teenager I was part of a local

youth theatre program. I acted in many plays. There was safety in a rehearsal to try something new, stumble, mess up, and forget because there were people there to help you. In church we strive to live the God’s peace, love, and justice that Jesus shared before we go out into the complex lives we all lead. This is the place where we strive to love fully; where we forgive one another when we fumble; where we live peaceably and encourage one another; and where we lift up the banner of justice and dream about how God’s dominion can be made known in our homes, our community, and our world. We practice living the resurrection in this place together so that we can live it with all of the other communities and relationships we share outside of this place.

We need this community to practice our faith and to encourage us to live the life we are called to live each and every day. We need to be together to dance and celebrate life’s joys; to remember that life is God’s great gift to each of us. We need community to comfort, support, and carry us in difficult times; to remember that we are never alone. God is with us and we are with one another. The resurrection is experienced in community in the Gospels because in community we live the resurrection. In community we find the wisdom, guidance, and passion to go out and share blessing with all creation.

Come let us respond to Christ calling us into community where we can experience and live the resurrection.

Happy Easter and God bless, Micol



The Affirm Committee has been active in our church since January of this year. We are working towards formerly becoming a welcoming church for all members of our community both in their gender identity and sexual orientations. This is

a continuation of the journey we have previously undertaken, which includes an open marriage policy, approved in 2014. We recently presented our work and mission in detail at our church annual meeting. In the future we will be working towards making our marriage policy inclusive of all gender identities and opening discussions with video studies and conversations with our church community. The committee feels that this work is important to show the larger community that all our welcome at our church. Finally, when we feel that the church is ready, there will be a vote presented to the church community to see if we would like to become designated as an Affirming Church. If you would like more information you can feel free to talk to any committee member or visit <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

Your Grace United Affirm Committee

Chair: Adam Olivero Members: Lynne McDougall, Kathryn Dankel, Rev. Micol Cottrell, Donna Gaasenbeek, Cathy Caicco and Doug Kaufman

Mike Grace has been a professional musician most of his life. From playing ranch parties and road houses in Texas to touring the world with his trio or quartet, Mike has made performing classical and jazz music his passion. Among Mike's most treasured moments in education was being named a Disney-McDonald's Performing Arts Teacher in 1996, and being named Educator of the Year by the University of Michigan Musical Society, Ann Arbor.



Among the many performers Mike has had the great fortune to perform with are Dave Brubeck, Dizzy Gillespie, Mel Tormé, Roger Williams, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Henry Mancini, Jimmy Forrest, Peter Appleyard, Rosemary Clooney and Sonny Stitt.

He currently lives in Southampton and loves bringing his variety of talented friends together to perform in Grey/Bruce. He did a series of concerts last year at Southampton United Church.

The concert will feature Mike on Bass with a pianist and drummer playing their favourite jazz selections. This is sure to be a sell-out event, so get your tickets early. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the church office, from choir members and at Fabulous Fashions.



Walk N Talk

Two Thursday mornings per month in May and June
Thursday, **May 10** - Meet at the church at 9:30.
Thursday, **May 24** - We'll be walking at the Wellers.
Please meet at the church at 9:30 a.m and we'll
carpool.
Stay tuned for the June dates!

Come Travel With Me

May 16 Come travel to the Galapagos with Leigh
Anne Boese
June TBA

Senior's Connection Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, **May 15**, 11:45-2:00 at Grace
All seniors welcome!

Bus Trip to The Music Man

Tuesday, **May 22nd**

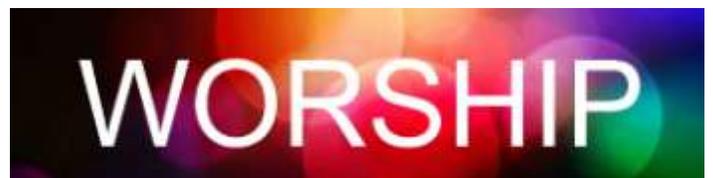
Valleyview Fish Fry

Tuesday, June 12, 2018
5 p.m. at Valleyview
Tickets available from Marian Jacklin at Valleyview
(226-434-2073), Sally Kormann (519-364-7261) or
the church office (519-364-3550)



FROM YOUR M&P COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who helped to clean the church in Randy's absence. The Ministry and Personnel Committee would also like to ask staff if they have any requests for future meetings. We continue to do the work of our church supporting our staff members. Thank you to all the Staff for keeping our church a vibrant and inviting community and for all the work you do outside of the church. **THANK YOU STAFF!**



Appreciation is extended to all who continue to participate in our worship services through ushering and reading scripture. In our worship meeting we agreed that if possible, we have equal numbers of men/women taking up offering.

Upcoming services:

- April 29** The Affirming Committee service
- May 6** Rev. Micol; Reverse Offering
- May 13** Christian Family Sunday – Sonya Bolek leading worship. Youth Choir & Ukulele Band performing
- May 20** Pentecost Sunday – Worship and Music leading worship: “The Art of Happiness”
- May 27** Canadian Food Grains Bank Service
Guests: Ray & Anita Dykstra
- June 10** UCC 93rd Anniversary Service in the gym – Communion, followed by the Church Picnic lunch.



If your church is one of your priorities – Please consider giving by PAR. See Laurel in the church office for details.



COMING IN 2018
Information on Planned Giving
& Legacy Giving!
GENEROSITY begets
GENEROSITY

Grey & Bruce
HIKE FOR HOSPICE

SUNDAY MAY 6TH, 2018



DONATE • PLEDGE • HIKE

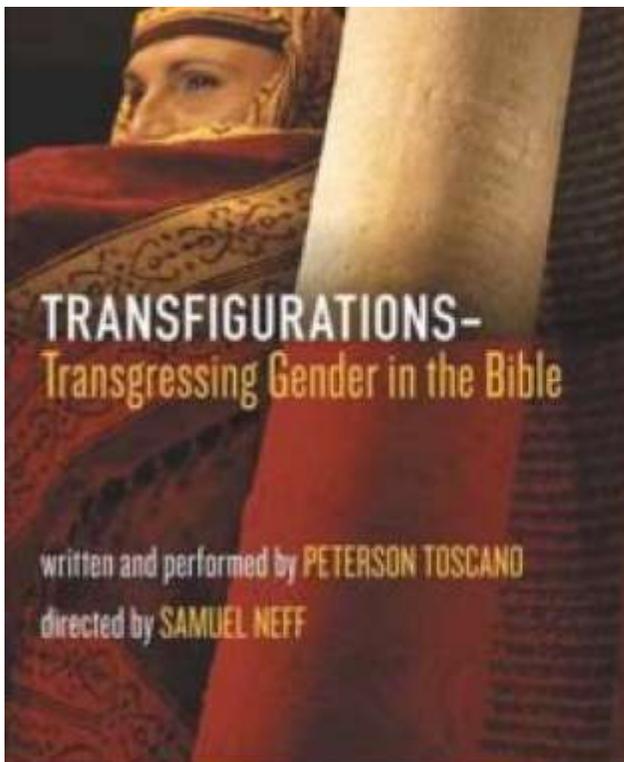
Families, Teams & Individuals Welcome

GREYBRUCEHOSPICE.COM

Hanover Park, 1 p.m.
 The following people in our congregation are participating and have pledge sheets. They will be hoping for your support after the service:

- Leone Kaster
- Tammy Weller
- John Hardy
- Donna Gaasenbeek
- Bob Schreinert
- Kathi Maskell
- Garry MacGregor
- Doug Kaufman
- Cathy McCartney
- Marion Kelly
- Faye Moore
- Sylvia Stewart

Tax receipts are given for donations of \$20 or more.



Peterson Tuscano Bible academics and received high praise for his ground-breaking, genre-bending, gender blending Bible scholarship. By unearthing the stories of gender-variant people in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, Toscano's film deepens well-known (and lesser-known) Bible stories and presents an array of Bible characters with an array of genders.

Study Group

Sundays 8:30-9:30AM

June 3, June 10th, and June 17th

We will be sharing breakfast, watching the Lector/Performance version of the film, and sharing conversation.

Session 1: Deborah, Esau & Jacob, Joseph

Session 2: The eunuchs

Session 3: The man with the pitcher of water

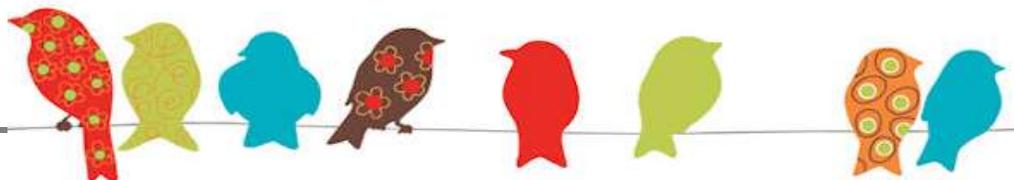
Film Night

Sunday June 24th, 2-3:00 PM

Join us as we watch the hour long performance version of Transfigurations

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Tuesday, June 12, 2018
5 – 7 p.m.
 Adults - \$18 Children 12 and under - \$5
 Tickets available in early May
 Take Out Available



REVERSE OFFERING
 Bring your offerings May 6

The Food Bank has a special need for the following items from our reverse offering suggestions:

- Salt and pepper shaker sets
- Small dish soaps
- Hand can opener
- Shampoo and soaps from hotel rooms
- Tooth brushes
- Wash cloths
- Hand towels
- Icing for birthday cakes

The offering plate will be sent around once more Sunday, May 29 but if you've missed the offering plate, feel free to bring items anyway for the May 6th collection. Last fall's reverse offering gathered 724.5 pounds of goods for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Our spring goal is to surpass ourselves.

Save the Date!



PLEASE NOTE

Staff will be out of the office on the following dates:
 May 7-13 Rev. Micol on study leave
 May 14-16 Laurel at Church Admin. Conf.
 May 16-20 Rev. Micol on medical leave
 May 25-27 Rev. Micol at Hamilton Conf. AGM
 June 28-July 29 Rev. Micol on vacation





Join us for Mother's Day as the C.E. Committee leads the service with music from the Youth Choir, a special musical treat and the Ukulele Band.



"Celebrating the Past - Embracing the Future: 160 years of Faith and Family."

Several events are being planned beginning with The Mike Grace Trio on **May 11** at 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary. See the included information for tickets. On **June 10** we are planning 'Church in the Gym' followed by a cold picnic-style potluck lunch (no hot foods). Special events in October include a Linnea Good concert in the sanctuary on **October 20** at 7 pm followed by a special church service on Sunday, **October 21** with guest speaker Michael Shewburg from our Five Oaks education centre.

Sunday late afternoon we will be hosting a roast beef dinner with vegetarian options. Theme will be 'fashion through the ages, including the future' - your choice.

Former clergy are being extended an invitation to our celebration weekend and we encourage everyone to extend an invitation to their own families for this very special event.

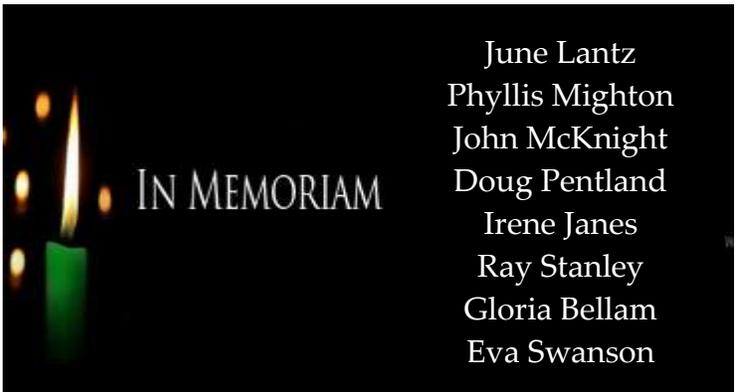
Your Anniversary Team.



Registration forms are now available.

Contact the church office.

Anyone interested in volunteering with this year's troupe, please contact Sonya.



IN MEMORIAM

- June Lantz
- Phyllis Mighton
- John McKnight
- Doug Pentland
- Irene Janes
- Ray Stanley
- Gloria Bellam
- Eva Swanson



All are welcome!

Bridge

Playing until May 22



"SPRING:
A LOVELY REMINDER
OF HOW BEAUTIFUL
CHANGE CAN TRULY BE."