

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Interlock Project Update
- Kids Corner

ONLINE OR
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

VISIT
WWW.GRACEORLEANS.CA



Good Gracious Gracious

October 2025

Improvising Church

Praise the Lord.

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
2 Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.
3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
4 praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
5 praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Psalm 150 (NIV)

This month, members of Presbytery are gathering at Galilee Retreat Centre in Arnprior for prayer, learning, and connection with one another. We began these retreats in 2023 as a way for members to grow closer together as brothers and sisters who follow Jesus. This year, our speaker is Mark Glanville from St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, and we are reading his book, *Improvising Church: Scripture as the Source of Harmony, Rhythm, and Soul*.

In the book, Mark compares our congregational lives to that of jazz music. In it, he includes 12 "notes" of faithful incarnational communities (like the 12 notes in an octave on a piano). He writes: "they are my effort to discern and describe what God is already birthing in real, lived, incarnational communities.... Scripture has inspired the imagination of the communities of which I have been a part, and I want Scripture itself to inspire your imagination" (p. 5). My (Meg's) daughter Madilyn is in the jazz band at school, and I have learned that every time they perform a song, it is different. While the chords and general melody are consistent, the way they play with the harmonies and rhythms changes every time.

God loves music. We see examples all through Scripture, including Psalm 150, where God's people worship him with music. On Sunday mornings, we fill our sanctuary with praise music through instruments and voices. So perhaps this metaphor of notes on a piano can be a helpful way to understand our various church communities. The chords of God's goodness, of Jesus's teaching and sacrifice, of the resurrection and the presence of the Holy Spirit are present in all of God's communities of people. But the harmonies and rhythms of each of our individual congregations are unique based on our neighbourhood, the gifts found within our people, and a whole host of other factors.

It can be tempting sometimes to look at other churches and want what they have. But God already has a church like that. God needs us to be us, not them. And so we are invited to use our gifts in our own way, always to God's glory, but never quite the same way as anyone else. We as Interim Moderators take great delight in learning your gifts and seeing them used at Grace and in the neighbourhood to share the gospel. Our prayer is that you are always exploring how God is inviting you to play the chords of your faith to make beautiful music that draws people to Jesus.

Denise Allen-Macartney & Meg Patterson, Interim Moderators

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

The cold wet days of November are upon us. What a magnificent autumn we had. The changing seasons bring such variety to our surroundings. God is good!

Grace Church has completed the process of discerning future eldership. I'm so pleased to report that almost 100% of the active members of Grace Church submitted a ballot. Session thanks you for your partnership and enthusiasm in this important step.

Herein is the edict for ordination/admission of elders: Whereas Margaret Fatona and Jim Richmond, members of this church, have been duly elected to the eldership by this congregation, and have been approved by the session, notice is hereby given that the session will proceed to ordain Margaret Fatona and admit Jim Richmond to that office on the 23rd day of November in the year 2025, at 10:30 o'clock am, unless some objection has been given unto the co-moderator, Rev. Denise Allen-Macartney, within ten days from this date.

The wording states that Jim will be admitted. This is because he has already been ordained and has served as an elder in their previous church in Sudbury. If no valid objection to Margaret and Jim becoming elders is received in writing by Pastor Denise by November 13, 2025, the ordination/admission will proceed. Please continue to pray for them.

We are blessed to have the consistent leadership of Majelle in Sunday School and her prayer for the children during the service. We need an adult to periodically check in during the Sunday School time to comply with Leading with Care. If you would like to help out this way, please speak to any elder.

This coming Sunday will mark Remembrance Day with a reverent poignant service, one of my favorites of the year. Thank you in advance to participants and to Maureen for decorating. The social committee are planning their annual soup lunch after the service.

Samaritan's Shoeboxes are being filled anticipating their dedication happening on November 16th. On November 15th we will be participating in the Cairine Wilson School craft fair as a fundraiser. Contributions of crafts, baking and jams/pickles are welcome.

Everyone is invited to attend the Congregational Budget meeting on Wednesday, November 26th where we decide on the priorities of ministry for 2026.

Before we know it, the advent season will be upon us on November 30th.

Finally, we can report that our 'church baby' Gabriella has found her forever home with Hannah and Ethan Richmond. Praise God for guiding this process from the start. Jim and Judy will remain as her grandparents. We'll miss seeing Gabby each week but we can hope for periodic updates. Perhaps God will bring another foster child for Jim and Judy to nurture in the next few months. Blessings on them!

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." Psalm 103:1

Samaritan's Purse

Grace Church has been participating in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project for many years. But there is more to Samaritan's Purse than this.

History of Samaritan's Purse: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Bob Pierce wrote these now-famous words in his Bible after visiting suffering children on the Korean island of Koje-do. This impassioned prayer is what guided him as he founded and led the ministry of Samaritan's Purse in 1970. His mission for this organization was "to meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing evangelical mission agencies and national churches."

Mission of Samaritan's Purse: After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." The mission is to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Samaritan's Purse Canada has been doing essential relief and development work in Jesus' Name all around the world since 1973. The Emergency Disaster Relief programs provide urgently needed assistance including food, water, and temporary shelter. They meet critical needs and give people a chance to rebuild their lives here in Canada and around the world.



The eldest son of Billy and Ruth Bell Graham, Franklin Graham serves as President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Under his leadership, Samaritan's Purse has met the needs of poor, sick, and suffering people in more than 100 countries. As an evangelist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, he has led evangelistic outreach initiatives around the world.

International Crisis Response: Samaritan's Purse is ready to respond at a moment's notice whenever and wherever disaster strikes. They specialize in meeting critical needs for victims of conflict, natural disasters, famine, and epidemics throughout the world, often working through local ministry partners to do so. They provide emergency food, water, shelter, medical care, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. They are in Jamaica now and have been in Gaza helping to bring food to the people. They share Christ's peace in the war-weary land of Ukraine and provide water for displaced families in South Sudan.

Canadian Disaster Relief: Samaritan's Purse mobilizes specialized staff and equipment as well as hundreds of volunteers when natural disasters occur on Canadian soil. They provide emergency aid and help with cleanup in the wake of severe wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornados, and more e.g. wildfires, Ontario ice storm.

Sharing the Gospel Through Agriculture: Senegal sees a high level of people facing acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Samaritan's Purse hosted an agriculture project in a rural community. They provided seeds, tools, and training. Now, vibrant fruit trees, bean plants, and moringa plants burst from once dry ground. Chickens and ducks also wander around contentedly.

Providing Safe Water to Drink: Unsafe water is a reality faced by countless children in the developing world. Roughly 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water. For school-age children, that's an estimated 443 million school days missed. Over a million deaths annually are attributed to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene. BioSand filters are being installed by Samaritan's Purse in many areas of the world improving the health of many children.

Medical Assistance: Samaritan's Purse responded immediately with medical assistance e.g. to the earthquake in Myanmar by sending an Emergency Field Hospital.

World Medical Mission: a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, places volunteer Evangelical Christian physicians, dentists, and other medical personnel in short-term service at mission hospitals and clinics around the world.

Edict for Ordination/Admission of Elders

After due process of elder election by the congregation, review of the nominees and prayer by session, and notifying the candidates giving them almost 2.5 weeks to pray and discern God's call on their lives, 2 candidates have agreed to accept God's call to eldership at Grace Church. Because Jim Richmond was ordained previously in Sudbury, he will be admitted to the session of Grace Church. Margaret Fatona will be ordained. Pastor Denise Allen-Macartney will preside over the service. We will move from 5 to 7 elders on session at Grace Church.

Edict for ordination/admission of elders: Whereas Margaret Fatona and Jim Richmond, members of this church, have been duly elected to the eldership by this congregation, and have been approved by the session, notice is hereby given that the session will proceed to ordain Margaret Fatona and admit Jim Richmond to that office on the 23rd day of November in the year 2025, at 10:30 o'clock am, unless some valid objection has been given unto the co-moderator, Rev. Denise Allen-Macartney, within ten days from this date i.e. November 13, 2025.

Orleans, Ontario, November 5, 2025.

Linda Clarke (Clerk of Session)



CAIRINE WILSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

Craft Fair

Saturday November 15th

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

975 Orleans Blvd

Over 100 Vendors-Free Admission-Children's Area-Cafe



Join us for our annual congregation

Budget Meeting

Wed. November 26th

6:30pm Refreshments in the narthex/foyer

7pm Meeting in the sanctuary

Hazelwood – Lest we forget! - by Donald Corbett (Living Faith)

Daily, at 8 p.m., in the town of Ypres, Belgium, a crowd gathers beneath the Menin Gate to observe the ceremony of the Last Post - a deeply moving tribute to those who gave their lives during the Great War of 1914-1918.

It has twice been my honour, to participate in that ceremony, and to spend a moment reflecting on the sacrifice of my Great-Uncle, Duncan Ross, whose name is etched into one of the stones along with the names of the thousands of other soldiers killed in the Ypres-Salient, and with no known grave.

On November 11, we are asked to pause and remember all those who have made “the ultimate” sacrifice, and the scripture most often quoted is, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:13(NIV)

More than a century has passed since that first service of Remembrance; and today, when we pause, it is not just for those who died in WW I, but also for those who have answered the call to serve Canada in every conflict since. While we will always honour and remember those who died, there are many more who came home having made great sacrifices, and carry unseen wounds. As we remember their service, consider the words of **Psalm 34:18 (NIV)**, “*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*” These are comforting words for those who cannot forget what they have seen.

A couple of years ago, I came across a poem entitled “Veterans” written by Carl Lundrigan, a talented poet from Newfoundland. It really struck a chord with me, so much so that I asked, and received, his permission to arrange it into a song. I have now done so and I pray you find some meaning in the lyrics.

Veterans

On this the Eve of Remembrance Day
For all of their souls I bow and pray
That we remember and not forget
The sacrifices made by every Vet

They gave their lives, their limbs, their minds
For all of our freedom yours and mine.
For our surviving Heroes the war rages on
In their dreams, their thoughts, remembering days
long gone

Horrors of death, blood and gun fire
To forget but a desire
So many faces etched in their dreams
They’ll ne’er forget all they have seen

Hail of storms and bullets fly
By land by sea, across dark skies
They fought for you, they fought for me
So we can live our lives to love and to be free

On this the Eve of Remembrance Day
For all of their souls I bow and pray
That we remember and not forget
The sacrifices made by every Vet

On Remembrance Day you will likely hear, again, the words of John 15:13. Consider it in the context that Jesus is telling us, his followers, to love one another as he loves us, even to the point of laying down your life for your friends.

Jesus did; could you?

Lest we forget!

Blessings,
Donald

Psalm 34:18 (NIV), “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

NOVEMBER
2025

Kids Corner

Kids Club had a fantastic costume party on Oct. 24th and now we are gearing up for our Christmas party on Friday Nov. 28th! It sounds too early but the first Sunday in Advent is Nov. 30th!

Before we get swept away into the Christmas season, we take time this month to remember those who serve. On Remembrance Sunday Nov. 9th, there will be a clam chowder lunch served after the worship service. (A squash soup will also be offered). Please join us for this annual tradition.

Also this month, we will finalize our budget and plans for 2027! The budget meeting will be on Wed. Nov. 26th. At 6:30pm the doors will open and there will be some refreshments followed by the meeting in the sanctuary at 7pm. Hope to see you all there.

Sunday School continues to be planned and covered by our former summer student, Majelle Guillemette. We are excited to have Majelle looking after the kids every Sunday. If you would like to help by being a second body

(a position I like to call "crowd control" LOL), please speak to Majelle Sunday mornings or contact the office.

If you have any questions or wish to help in children's ministry, please contact me in the office at admin@graceorleans.ca or 613-824-9260.

Arlene



Shoeboxes are due back Nov. 16th!

SEND
**GOOD
NEWS**

**GREAT
JOY**



 Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

**PACK A
SHOEBOX**

Grace's Ministry Groups

The six functional groups and there leaders are:

1. Worship Coordination: Brian Wilson
2. Discipleship: Linda Clarke
3. Pastoral Care: Yohanna Kimoun
4. Faith Sharing: Linda Clarke
5. Temporal Support: Shirley Blank
6. Personnel Support: Linda Clarke



Opportunities to Serve!

- **Fundraising Committee:** looking for people to help plan, setup, take down, cook, and participate! Talk to Linda, Shirley or Arlene for more info.
- **Want to be part of the meal ministry?** Contact the office or speak to an elder.

Contact the church office for more information on how you can help!
admin@graceorleans.ca or by phone at 613-824-9260.