

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Read This! Book review
- Hazelwood
- Kids Corner

ONLINE OR
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

VISIT
WWW.GRACEORLEANS.CA



Good Gracious Gracious

June 2025

Meeting Together

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

This past month, the Profile Team met to continue work on the Grace profile. We are so grateful for the many people who contributed through filling out the survey we distributed in March and April. We spent time considering possible Scripture verses for each section of the report. It was a fun and illuminating exercise, as each of us shared Scripture verses that come to mind when think of the roots of Worship, Pastoral Care, Mission, Christian Education, and our future as a congregation.

When talking about why we worship, the passage above from Hebrews 10 was suggested. I love this passage because it reminds me that being at church on Sunday is so much more than an obligation. Worshiping together is a time when we get to encourage one another, to remind each other that we are loved, and to be inspired to live out our faith in our actions through the whole week.

Most importantly, when we gather together we can recall the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." The One who is faithful, our God in whom we hope, our friend and leader Jesus shows up when we meet! I believe this is true when we meet together virtually, but there is something special about gathering as children of God face-to-face.

Have you ever noticed how busy the parks and pathways are on the first warm, sunny day of the spring? Even our neighbours who don't know Jesus have an instinctive desire to be in community with other people. For us who know Jesus, we understand that the desire for community has its ultimate fulfillment in having a relationship with the Holy Trinity. Let us pray this spring that we have opportunities to share that good news with our neighbours and friends!

This month, we have a particular opportunity to connect with our neighbours at our picnic on June 22, after worship. Linda has shared the details in the report from Session, but our encouragement to you is to plan to chat with at least one new person during the barbeque. It is amazing how God works through a simple meal and conversation! We look forward to hearing where you saw God at the BBQ and throughout your summer!

Denise Allen-Macartney and Meg Patterson, Interim Moderators

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

At each of our Session meetings we spend time expressing gratitude for things that God is doing in our midst or for people who are making a difference. An “attitude of gratitude” is a very helpful position to take. The Session is so grateful for all of you who have persevered and who are contributing in whatever ways you are able. We thank you for being faithful!

The missional leadership course that Brian, Shirley and I attended this year has been encouraging and beneficial. As a result of that course, we are hosting a community BBQ on June 22nd after the service. We have/will invite the police, neighbors across Old Tenth Line Rd., people who use the basketball court during the week, and renters of the building not associated with a church. Keeping in mind the Great Commandment “*The most important one,*” answered Jesus, “*is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.*” We urge you to invite your friends and neighbours for lunch that day, no strings attached. Invitations will be available for the next few weeks at the welcome centre. Please pass them along and pray for those who receive them.

The profile committee has been working on developing the descriptive portion of the church profile using the feedback from the survey. We hope to present it to Session June 18. I extend much gratitude to Pastor Meg who is leading this project.

Pastor Denise has arranged for our summer pulpit supply. We look forward to hearing from some of our Mission partners and from speakers from our own congregation.

As representative elder to Presbytery, I have the opportunity to attend General Assembly of PCC from June 1-5 in Hamilton. The preparation has been a bit daunting, reading many of the committee reports submitted, but I have been advised not to be overwhelmed with it all. I look forward to a Presbytery retreat on June 11 in Morrisburg where we have a chance to develop friendships, worship together, learn and pray together. These retreats are having a positive influence on the atmosphere around Presbytery meetings.

You will read in Jacques’ article elsewhere in this Good Gracious about the intent to have elder elections in the fall. Please be in prayer for who God may be calling to be an elder amongst us. Allow the Holy Spirit to work to identify those individuals.

There will be no Good Gracious now until September so I will take this opportunity to wish you a pleasant summer of refreshment and renewal. Summer is a great time to immerse yourself in a good Christian book. We are always looking for book reviews for GG (hint, hint).

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Phil 1:2

A Letter from God – credit to Ben Rawls (friend of Linda Clarke)

God said, "Please be aware that there are changes you need to make in your life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill my promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know I already gave you 10 Commandments. Keep them, but follow these guidelines as well."

1. QUIT WORRYING - Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST - Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to me. And, although my to-do-list is long, I am, after all, God. I can take care of anything you put into my hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

3. TRUST ME - Once you've given your burdens to me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on my list. Problem with finances? Put it on my list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? I want to help. You just ask me!

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10

4. LEAVE IT ALONE - Don't wake up and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you're feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave me your burdens, and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. If I give you these problems back, you'll be right back where you started? Leave them with me and forget about them. Let me do my job.

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

5. TALK TO ME - I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I want you to never forget. Please don't forget to talk to me - OFTEN! I love you. I want to hear your voice. I want you to include me in the things going on in your life. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with me. I want to be your dearest friend.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

6. HAVE FAITH - I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in me that I know what I'm doing. Trust me, you wouldn't want the view from my eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9

7. SHARE - You learned to share when you were two years old. That rule still applies. Share with those who're less fortunate. Share joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in a long time. Share your tears with those who are mourning. Share your faith with those who have none.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4

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Eldership at Grace

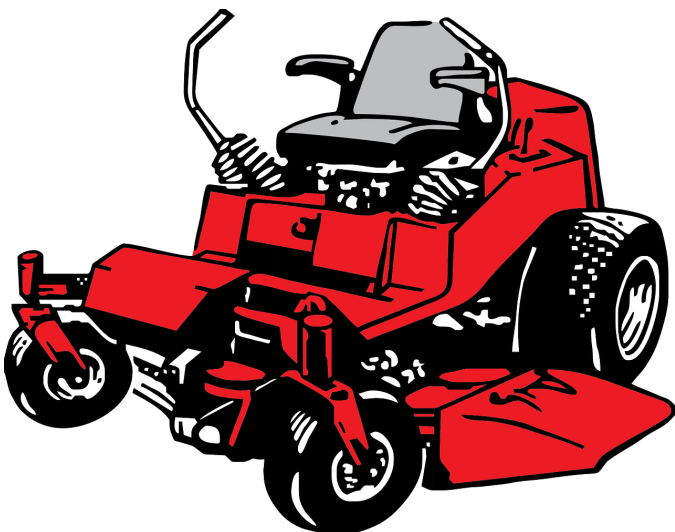
In the Presbyterian Church in Canada, elders are men and women ordained to share along with the minister in the leadership, pastoral care, and oversight of the congregation. Through their ministries, the Word is proclaimed, God's people are nourished and nurtured, supported and guided.

We follow a model of community leadership that is found in the Bible. In Acts 6, when the apostles didn't have time to properly see to the distribution of food to the poor, they brought in new leaders to help. Here and elsewhere, we see that God calls communities together and raises up particular people from those communities to lead. From Scripture and tradition, here are a few traits that make someone a good elder:

- Has strong faith in, and love for, Jesus
- Lives a life that is a good example to others
- Is a regular participant in the life of Grace
- Is willing to learn, serve and lead others
- Cares about people in and outside the church
- Works well in a team

Notice that having the Bible memorized and knowing all the answers are not on the list! None of us are perfect, and elders have the same access to both God and temptation as everyone else. At the same time, elders are ordained (set apart) for the special tasks of leading the congregation. We have many resources available for those considering eldership or who are newly ordained. Elders are elected by members of the congregation and must be members themselves.

Professing members in our congregation are the ones who nominate candidates for eldership. Ballots will be distributed in the fall. Please stay tuned for more details on the election process and consider whether anyone in our congregation comes to mind when you think of the traits above. Please do not consult the people you may nominate. Instead, allow the Holy Spirit to work. Finally, and most importantly, please pray that the right people for our Session are nominated and agree to serve!



Adopt a mower!

Looking for someone willing to look after the maintenance and upkeep of our machine so it is ready to go for our lawn mowing volunteers!

We currently do not have an External Maintenance Manager so this is a task that is falling through the cracks!

Please speak to Arlene in the office or email admin@graceorleans.ca if you can help.

A Letter from God – continued

8. BE PATIENT - I fixed it so in just one lifetime you could have so many experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs often, learn many trades, travel to many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient when it takes me a little longer than you expect to handle items on my to-do-list? Trust in my timing, for my timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

9. BE KIND - Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for my sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be very boring if you were all identical. I love each of your differences.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

10. LOVE YOURSELF - As much as I love you, why can't you love yourself? You were created by me to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes my heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget that!

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

With all my heart, I love you, GOD

Save the date!

Grace Community Picnic

Sunday June 22nd noon to 2pm

We are inviting all our neighbours to come for a free BBQ lunch and a chance to get to know each other. Invites now available!



Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke



Why the name Miriam? In the same way that Miriam saved her baby brother, Moses, as we read in the bible, Miriam Centre's mission is to protect life.

Miriam Centre has been serving the community since 1988. It offers emotional and spiritual support as well as practical assistance to all who find the circumstances surrounding their pregnancy difficult. The centre also provides follow-up care and guidance after the birth of the child. There are 3 fulltime staff members and various volunteers.

Miriam Centre reaches out with love and compassion to those grieving the loss of a child through miscarriage, abortion or infant death, sharing their pain and helping them experience healing and peace.

The Centre receives no funding from the government. It could not exist without the generosity of its loyal supporters and the proceeds from various fundraising events.

As important as it has been and continues to be for Miriam Centre, this type of funding never really provided the level of stable and predictable income necessary for the efficient operation of any organization. This led to the creation of a sister organization in 1998.

MIRIAM CENTRE FOUNDATION

The Foundation is an autonomous organization, with its own Board of Directors, whose sole mission is to help Miriam Centre meet its financial requirements. The Foundation collects and invests the donations it receives; the interest produced by the investment of this capital is transferred to Miriam Centre.

In other words, while donations to Miriam Centre are used to cover ongoing expenses, donations to the Foundation are an investment in the future of Miriam Centre. Among other things, donations to the Foundation make long-term planning much easier, as they guarantee that funds will always be available to finance at least some of the work done by Miriam Centre.

The information above was taken directly from their website. Miriam Centre is located at 1803 St. Joseph Blvd, unit 107 in Orleans. The stamps that we collect all year long are given to the Miriam Centre, sorted and displayed and available for purchase at their annual stamp sale. When I'm travelling I try to pick up some stamps from the country I'm visiting to contribute to their collection. Financial donations and donations of baby and toddler essentials, Canadian Tire money, used or new jewelry are gratefully accepted too.

Hazelwood – “Making a difference; one life at a time.”

by Donald Corbet (LFBC)

“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19: 34 (NIV)

Recently I had the honour to represent Canada, with the RCMP Pipes and Drums, during the 80th Celebrations of the Liberation of the Netherlands. It was a very busy two weeks and we came home exhausted, but with many new friends and a lifetime’s worth of great memories.

One occasion that really stood out for me was during the Remembrance Ceremony the Groesbeek Cemetery. One of the speakers was a young boy – Ivan Pryimenko – a refugee from Ukraine. His story struck home, and reminded me of the importance of Leviticus 19:34.

Here’s what he had to say: *“On 24 Feb 2022, I woke up as usual and started getting ready for school, but my mother said that the war had started and that I could not go to school. At first I was happy that I had a day off, but a little later I realised that it was not just one day off. I felt that my parents were scared, and I didn’t understand what was happening.*

The whole family slept in the corridor. The windows were blocked with cupboards and we lived without light or water. One day we woke up because the chandelier in the room was swinging back and forth because of the shelling that could be heard outside. It was very scary.

I felt like everything I loved could disappear in a second. We decided to move out of the city and leave everything behind. I had to leave my favourite room, my soft pillow, my toys and the books I liked to read with my mother at bedtime. We had to leave; it was getting too dangerous.

On the way, we were welcomed by complete strangers who shared their beds and delicious food with us. The Netherlands welcomed us and I went back to school. I was difficult at first to learn the Dutch language but now I can talk easily with my Dutch friends.

When I sleep, I often dream. I dream that there is no war in the world – nowhere, ever again.

I dream about my toys, my cuddly toys, and the smell of my house. I dream of me jumping up and down on my bed, of me running around with my brother, of our family taking a ride in the car with the windows open and feeling the wind. I dream that we go to stay with my grandparents at their house.

Today we remember the wars that have been. Not just the war 80 years ago, but the many wars since. I remember my war. We remember to honour, but also to learn. Let us ensure that children and adults do not have to flee. No fear, no senseless destruction.”

World Refugee Day (June 20th) is a call for communities around the world to work toward peace and security for all, remembering especially the millions of people who are displaced, or forcibly uprooted, from their homes.

“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)

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Hazelwood – continued...

“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt..” Matthew 2:13-14

No one is a refugee by choice. Families, and children like Ivan Pryimenko, would much rather not have to leave their homes and travel to a foreign land; learn a new language; and start all over again. But they make that hard decision to protect their family; and then they depend on the compassion of others to help them on their journey.

In June 2024, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that there were some 122.6 million people who have been forced to flee their homes. How can one church possibly make a difference? Consider this well known story.

One morning, an elderly gentleman went for his usual walk along the beach. There had been a storm during the night and the beach was littered with starfish tossed up by the rough seas. He noticed a young boy walking towards him. Every so often the boy would pause, reach down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. When they met, the man said, “Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?” The young boy replied, “I’m throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can’t return to the sea by themselves. So unless I throw them back into the water, they’re going to die.” “But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I’m afraid you won’t really be able to make much of a difference” said the old man. The boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, “It made a difference to that one!”

It is a wonderful thing that Grace Church continues to be so active in supporting as many refugees as possible. May God bless you for taking Leviticus 19:34 to heart, and making a difference one life at a time!

God bless,

Donald

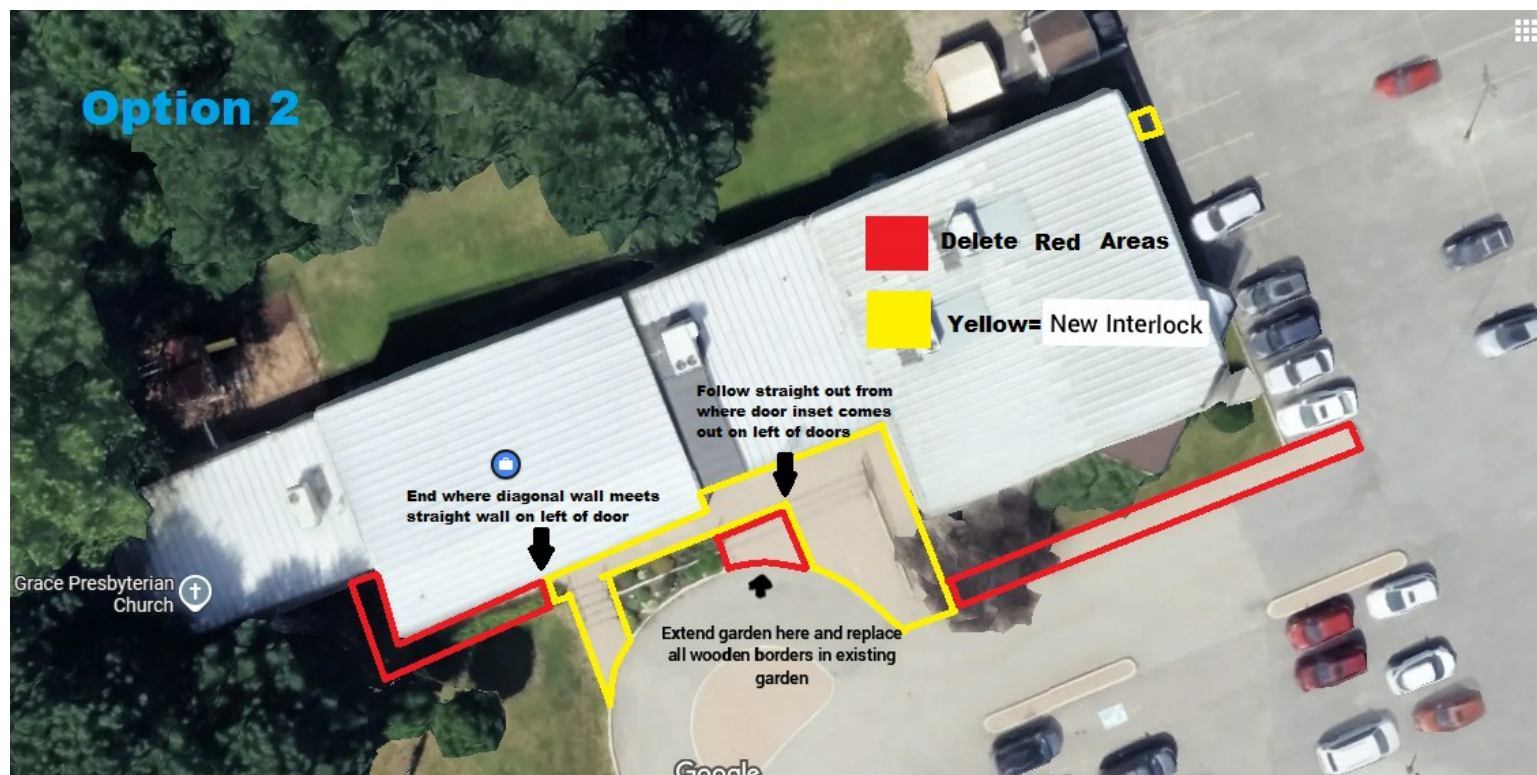
PS: We often forget that Jesus was a refugee. “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt...” **Matthew 2:13-14 (NIV)**

Footnote:

1 From a transcript of Ivan Pryimenko’s speech, Groesbeek Cemetery, 4 May 25

Building Update submitted by Arlene Lamadeleine

Our big “Miracle Sunday” project for 2025 is to redo the interlock in front of the church. We are excited to tell you that we have now signed a contract with Harmerstone. All of the pink bricks will be removed (except for in the parking lot) and new bricks will be laid. We will not be replacing all the areas with interlock in an effort to reduce costs. You can see from the picture below (Thanks Lauren!) that we will be losing the extra path to the parking lot and the “path to nowhere” past the hall doors. These will be seeded with soil and grass instead. The garden in the front will double in size and the stairs will be almost half as wide as before. New retaining walls and foundation work for the interlock and garden will be done and new railings put in at both staircases. The ramp will be rebuilt in the same spot it is now. We expect the project to happen at the end of July or early August and will publicize the dates once we get them. (about a week before the project starts) It should take about 3 weeks to complete and cost a total of \$65,371.43 after our significant HST rebate. We are asking for both your patience during the mess this summer as well as your financial support to pay for this much needed building improvement. You can donate in any of the usual ways by marking “Miracle Sunday” or “Interlock” on your donation. (e-transfer, cheque/cash, monthly from your account through PAR auto-debit, online through Tithe.ly or by text)



JUNE
2025

Kids Corner

Kids Club's year end event May 30th was a beach theme with fun activities, games, snack and beachy craft. A big thank you to Leslie and Anne who organized most of the events this year. We would also like to thank Cyndi, Stacey-Faith and Joan for volunteering regularly. Starting in September we will need at least one more person to help plan and lead the 9 Kids Club events for the 2025/26 school year. If you have a heart for children and can spare a few hours, please speak to Leslie Bryson, Anne Walker or myself. Kids Club is a

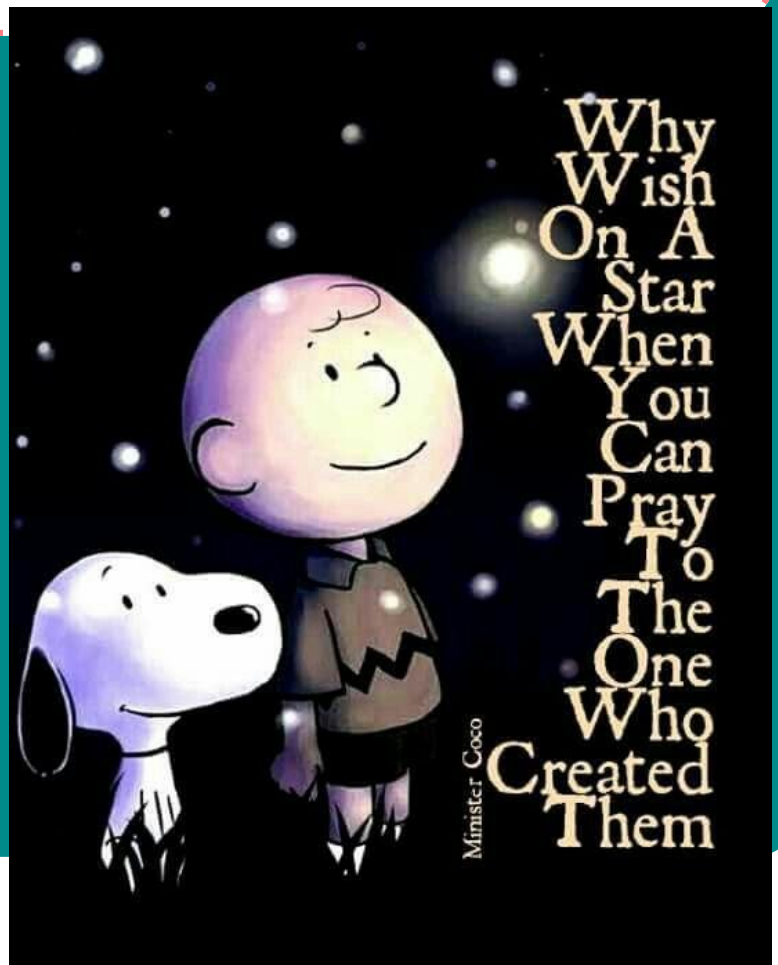
great outreach and we need help to make it happen!

Our camp registration is completely full with 30 kids registered plus another 7 families (13 kids) on a waiting list. The Step Right Up carnival themed camp will run from July 28th to August 1st 9am to 3pm. The volunteer sign up sheet is on the bulletin board and an online version in on the website. Don't miss out! Join us for a fun-filled week of circus inspired fun!

Coming up this month, is our Community BBQ on June 22nd from noon to 2pm. We are taking this opportunity to invite all our neighbours and whole community to join us for a free lunch and a chance to get to know each other. Invites are available on the Welcome centre and on the website.

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



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!

- **Children's ministry:** We need people on "stand by" Sunday mornings to take any kids out for Sunday school. There are lots of ways you can help! We also appreciate your prayers.
- **Fundraising Committee:** looking for people to help plan, setup, take down, cook, and participate! Talk to Linda, Shirley or Arlene for more info.

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