

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Hazelwood
- Kids Corner

ONLINE OR
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

VISIT
WWW.GRACEORLEANS.CA



Good Gracious Gracious

March 2025

Road of Love

So keep walking the road of love. This is what is needed for the times we live in. The night is almost over. The first rays of the new day are already shining! For the day when Creator will finish setting us free and making us whole is now closer than when we first began walking this road.

Romans 13:11-12

Some time ago, I (Meg) purchased a new translation of the New Testament, called the First Nations Version. It is an English translation created by a council of North American Indigenous elders, scholars, and pastors who desired to have a New Testament translation that spoke to the culture of their people. One of the translation choices I appreciate in this version is the use of “walking God’s road” where most English translations would have “kingdom of God.” In this passage in particular, they have chosen “road of love.”

I find this phrasing helpful because it is so active. In the kingdom of God, some may mistakenly believe that action doesn’t have to be part of living our faith. On the other hand, walking the road is inherently active. A road has no purpose if there is no movement on it (as many drivers on highway 174 can attest to!). God has invited us on a journey of faith, trust, and love as we follow Jesus.

Paul’s words to the Romans continue to be true for us: walking the road of love is what is needed today. Paul reminds us that every day we get closer to when God will make us whole, so we have no time to waste! At the same time, we don’t need to panic, because God is in charge. We get to walk the road (as opposed to sprinting down it), at the pace we are able, with the Holy Spirit to guide and support us. The important thing is that we continue to move down the road.

Your Profile Committee has started meeting, and we are working on developing a profile that describes who Grace is as a community today, and where we think God might be leading us. Eventually, we will also include information on the type of minister we are looking for, but we first need to understand who we are.

This is where you are invited to provide input. In the next few weeks, we will be reaching out to the congregation to get your perspective on Grace Church. We want to know how Grace has helped develop your faith and how you see Grace interacting within our neighbourhood, for example. We plan to have a few different ways for people to share their experiences, including a survey and a future discussion after church. We hope that you will walk this road with us as we look at where God is calling Grace to focus our resources.

God bless you and thank you for your support!

Denise Allen-Macartney and Meg Patterson, Interim Moderators

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

The month that has passed since I wrote the last snippets has gone by very quickly. Session has met once on Zoom due to a massive snowstorm. I've been sick with flu/virus for over 3 weeks and since then have been writing annual reports due at the end of February. I hope you enjoy reading the reports and the financial statements that will be publicized prior to the AGM on March 29th. I'm very encouraged by what has happened over the past year and anticipate greater encouragement over the next year. God is faithful to Grace Church. He has answered so many prayers just at the right time. Come out to the AGM to celebrate God's goodness.

I encourage you to seek out daily devotionals, Bible studies and/or prayer groups to nurture and grow your faith. In these days of uncertainty in the world, our faith in the Holy, Sovereign King Jesus is what will give us hope. He alone holds the power over all!

March 5th marks the beginning of Lent. "Lent functions a bit like Advent does in preparation for Christmas. It is a time of anticipation and thoughtful prayer about both the temptations that Jesus endured when he first began his ministry and the temptations that he felt in the Garden of Gethsemane before his death. It is a time to search your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to help you deeply consider his death, burial and ultimate victory over sin and death through his resurrection....all for us." (quoted from Gospel in Life)

There was another online session of the Missional Leadership course that Brian, Shirley and Linda are attending. We will be reporting on a few things we are learning there at the AGM with regard to reaching out to the community.

The profile committee will have met for a second time by the time you read this. They are meeting on February 26 under the direction of Pastor Meg Patterson.

Again, by the time you read this, we will have already celebrated the 1st birthday of Gabriella on March 2nd. We celebrate the joy she brings to all of us and the example of selfless love that Jim and Judy are providing for her.

I leave you with this devotional that we explored at our February Session meeting: Mark 12:28-31 *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "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."*

Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke

Unlike other months when I write about a particular Mission that Grace Church supports financially and prayerfully, this month I want to highlight an organization that supports the evangelical church. We designate \$200 in our annual budget for EFC The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. All of the following information has been taken from the December/January edition of 'Canada Watch' a publication of the EFC. Their website is evangelicalfellowship.ca

The EFC has 3 centres:

Centre for Faith and Public Life – This centre in Ottawa brings biblical principles to bear on law and public policy, witnessing through constructive engagement in public life in areas like:

Prostitution/sexual exploitation

Religious freedom

Protecting kids online

Euthanasia

Online harms/hate crimes

Centre for Ministry Partnership and Innovation – This centre facilitates collaboration between EFC affiliates and partners to support ministries, denominations, educational institutions and congregations across Canada. They find innovative ways to respond to felt needs and challenges.

Abuse awareness and prevention network

Canadian Christian women's network

Our common calling

Welcome church

Centre for Research on Church and Faith – This centre conducts ministry research for their affiliates and in partnership with them to help frontline ministry workers make better informed decisions and to help those outside our movement understand them.

Women in the Canadian Evangelical Church study

Identifying evangelicals

Update on Canada's most immediate issues that EFC is working on:

At the Supreme Court – in support of the current prostitution laws which protect human dignity and promote equality.

Protecting kids online webinars – these webinars provide parents with helpful information, tools and strategies for keeping kids safer in online spaces.

Preventing image-based abuse – EFC asked the Justice Committee to support a bill that helps prevent consequences for those whose images of abuse have been posted online.

Religious freedom court case – the rental agreement of a faith-based organization was cancelled by a Quebec cabinet minister because of the organization's beliefs.

Charitable status for advancing religion – The EFC has written to the minister of finance outlining the significance and benefit of religious charities in Canada and urging him not to adopt two committee recommendations that could potentially remove charitable status from faith-based charities.

EFC has a new video series called 'Faith Matters'. They consider how Christians can speak compassionately and effectively into our country's public life and how Scripture should inform our thinking on key issues. To find out more – TheEFC.ca/FaithMatters

Operation Christmas Child Update



God did amazing things around the world through Operation Christmas Child in 2024! We thank Him that **11.9 million shoeboxes** were prayerfully packed and collected. That means millions of children will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be discipled in 2025!

In 2024 11,927,439 shoebox gifts were packed by people from 11 countries. 5.5 million children participated in the greatest journey and 3.2 million decisions were made for Christ.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.” Ephesians 3:20–21

Kids Corner

MARCH
2025

This is a very busy time in the office with year end tasks followed by annual report prep. Lent begins March 5th with a really late Easter on April 20th. There is a lot happening!

We have just confirmed a carnival theme for our summer camp which will run from July 28th to August 1st 9am to 3pm.

Registration is now open for "Step Right Up" on our website. (graceorleans.ca/events) We will also be looking for lots of volunteers and there is a volunteer sign up form online as well. As part of camp prep, we are getting the job posting up for our summer students and coordinating the efforts with our partners in camp, Living

Faith Bible Church. The physical sign up sheet for volunteers will be up closer to the summer.

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

BE COURAGEOUS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. — DEUTERONOMY 31:6 NIV



Jeff gives it up for Lent.

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain;
A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,
And refined, aged wine. Is 25:6

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.