

**October 24, 2021**

With the recent changes to public health protocols, some in-person gatherings at Grace will commence. Some meetings will continue online until further notice.
Access to the church building continues to be limited.

**This Week at Grace**

**SUNDAY Oct 24 Special Music Service** led by Christopher Burton **10:30 am**

 <https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live>

  **Coffee Hour** *(Zoom only)*

**MONDAY BVAA** *(Lower Hall)* **7:30 pm**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY Prayerful Ministry** *(Zoom)*  **10:30 am**

**THURSDAY Worship Committee** (*Zoom* **) 3:00 pm**

 **Truth and Reconciliation Presentation 6:30 pm**

 With Sally Jean Anderson (*Zoom info in separate eblast)*
**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**  **Oct 31**  **Worship Service- Anniversary Sunday 10:30 am**

 <https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live>

  **Coffee Hour** *(Zoom only)*

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Administrator:  Rosemary is on vacation for the next two weeks (Oct 18-29).

The Friday morning volunteers continue to be available as usual and

will be answering the phone and doing the announcements.

Minister:  Rev. Christine is on Study Leave for a week (Oct 18-25) but will be available for any emergencies and urgent pastoral care issues.  Please contact her by phone/text at 416-578-4551 or email at revcsmaller@gmail.com

**In-person Worship**

What a delight to give thanks for being able to worship in person again.
But many people are more comfortable worshipping on line and we are happy to have you worship any way you feel is best for you.

If you plan to come to church on Sunday mornings, this is the plan for you to follow:

1.  You must **pre-register every week**by the previous Thursday at 6 pm
 This is done by email at gucsignup@gmail.com or by calling 705-441-8326.

2.  You will be contacted on Thursday evening and given an arrival time to come
 to the church.

3.  Masks are mandatory.

4.  Ushers will show you to your pew and please remain there until the
 ushers indicate for you to leave at the conclusion of the service.

5.  At this time according to public health guidelines, singing is not
 permitted so no hymn books are being used.
Thanks for your cooperation and understanding as we navigate this new way of worshipping.
Copies of the entire Reopening Protocol procedures are available at the church or check the website under News & Bulletins <https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/pages/news-bulletins>

**Changes to In-person Worship****beginning November 14, 2021**

The Grace United Church Board approved the recommendation from the COVID-19 Safety Commission relating to in-person worship.

**Starting on November 14, 2021****,** all persons who wish to attend the service must show proof of being **fully vaccinated**against COVID-19. The only exceptions will be children who do not qualify for vaccination and a medical exemption.

There will be more information about the procedures to follow in order to register. Once proof of vaccination is provided that will be the only information that will be kept on file.

This exciting step forward allows for larger attendance so no one needs to be turned away and also will allow us to enjoy singing the hymns while all of us wear masks the entire time.

We appreciate your ongoing cooperation

**Note from the Minister:** What an exciting time it is for us at Grace! We successfully navigated our first in-person worship service last week and are looking forward to continuing to gather together for worship. Like a duck paddling madly under the water but looking graceful to onlookers, the smooth opening service was preceded by an enormous amount of work and planning by dedicated volunteers. I am grateful to all of you who made reopening possible, and want to especially thank Marg Tirpkoff, Carol Clarke, Sylvia McMurchy and Bonnie Hammond – along with our fabulous tech team who made the not-so-simple transition to hybrid worship look easy.

This Sunday (24th) is the very first (but not the last) “Music Focused” worship service led by our phenomenal Music Director, Christopher Burton.

Until Wednesday, I am on Study Leave but will be available for any emergencies and urgent pastoral care issues. I will be taking time to prepare for Advent and Christmas Worship. I will also be spending some time in retreat related to a program I am taking on Spiritual Direction. Throughout the week, as usual, I will be praying for you, our congregation, and our community. Please feel free to send me any prayer requests – and let me know if you would like me to keep them confidential or include them in our weekly Joys & Concerns.

 Blessings, Rev. Christine Smaller

**Joys and Concerns**: Please contact Rev. Christine Smaller by Friday morning with any updates to be included in the weekly e-blast. Phone 1-416-578-4551 or email revcsmaller@gmail.com

**Prayerful Ministry**: To book a session please contact Marilyn Parkin at 226-668-9628.

**By the Numbers at September, 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  **Actual**  | **Budget YTD** |
|  **Offerings/Tithes**  |  $ 80,040.33 | $ 101,250.00 |
|  Other income  |  $ 10,811.75  |  $ 13,875.00 |
|  Government Payroll Subsidies |  $ 14,411.49 |  $ 0.00 |
|  Total Income  |  $ 105,263.57 |  $ 115,125.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  **Total expenses**  |  $ 129,655.47 |  $ 135,639.00 |
|  Deficit |  $ 24,391.90 |   |
|  |   |  |
|  M&S (year-to-date) |  $  **11,965.15** | $ 15,000.00 |
|  2021 Goal |  | $ 20,000.00  |

After 19 months we are about to enjoy week three of meeting in person for Sunday service. We asked people how it felt. Here are a few comments -smiles and waves all around – comforting  -joyous - eye contact from across the aisle -the piano sounds wonderful -  the soloists enhance the hymns – great to have Sunday routine .   While some of us meet in  person to worship in Grace's sanctuary, the tech team continues to use the new technology to share the Grace service with people in their homes.  Thank you for your continued support of Grace United. Your Stewardship and Finance Committee: George Dickson 519-599-6219, Les Beattie 226-665-0082, Orleen Anderson 705-888-1615

**All Saints Sunday (Anniversary Sunday)** is on October 31st

We will be lighting candles in memory of the saints who have gone on ahead.
These can be people from Grace or family/friends we miss.  There is no limit.

Please provide Rev. Christine with the names of people and candles will be lit during the service.

The following information would be very helpful:
       1.     Full name
       2.     A little information about the person and the relationship
       3.     One thing for which they are remembered.
Please email revcsmaller@gmail.com or phone 416-578-4551 by Oct. 28th

**Green Team Projects:**Recycle your plastic film and save your used postage stamps:<https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/what-we-do/faith-formation-and-justice-programs/pages/green-team>

**Broadview article:**  Is mental illness genetic?

<https://mailchi.mp/96b0dd80f93c/mental-illness-awareness-week?e=bf041e1848>

**Western Ontario Waterwa**<https://heartandvision2021.eventbrite.ca> to receive the streaming link or contact Ali Hayes 905-771-5124 ext.31 orali@tucc.ca for more information.**ys Regional Council, UCC**

Racial Justice Training, Community Vaccine Champion Volunteers & Nov. Events

<https://mailchi.mp/united-church/septembernews2wowrc?e=0cc01af6f4>

**God’s Mission our Gifts** – October newsletter: click on this link

<https://mailchi.mp/united-church/gods-mission-our-gifts-1046819?e=b10aef3913>

**United Church Bookstore:**  Adventures in Faith & Family is now available.

<https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore/united-church-bookstore-1046731?e=b10aef3913>

**E-ssentials:** Election Resources, Called to Be the Church, Centennial Celebrations Committee, and more. <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es210907?e=b10aef3913>

**In and Around the Community**

**BVO - Senior’s Centre Without Walls:** For information contact Pamela McDermid at 519-599-2577, ext. 6, or email seniors@bvo.ca

**VON Grey Bruce:** **Bereavement Support Groups:**
**Drop-in Chats:** occur on Zoom every second Tuesday at 9:30 am. Call to register or email [www.von.ca](http://www.von.ca)

**Bereavement Support Groups:** Begins weekly Wed. Sept 22 (10 am –12 pm) and Thurs. Oct 14 (6 pm – 8 pm)

**One to One Peer Bereavement Supports:**  telephone support by trained volunteers

**Mindfulness & Grief Webinar Series**: starts Sept 27th 10 am -11:30 am

**Virtual Support Groups for Specific Losses:** Death by Suicide, Addiction, Medical Assisted or Child - Tuesdays 6:30 pm – 8 pm by zoom. For more information or to register for any of the above: Ingrid Bell 519-376-5895 ext. 260 or Ingrid.bell@von.ca

**NEW *ONLINE* APHA PROGRAM in Southern Georgian Bay:** If you are not familiar with Alpha I encourage you to check out this promotional video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK_Xb3Wg> Alpha is designed for the skeptic or the new believer. Alpha is a place where space is created for honest, open authentic dialogue to explore the big questions of faith, life and God. We are starting another online Alpha program, **Wednesday October 6th**. If you are interested contact [www.alphacanada.org](http://www.alphacanada.org)

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**General Information**

Your Church Staff are working from home. Phone messages will be checked regularly.

**Office Administrator:** Monday & Friday 9 – 5. Leave a message at 519-599-2438 or email accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca.

**Office Volunteers** are working from 9:00 – 12:00 Friday mornings.

If you have an announcement, email Rosemary accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca. before 9:00 am Friday. In the email subject line, please type “Announcement”. We will also be answering phones and working on other small projects.
Volunteer email address is volunteer@graceunitedthornbury.ca.

**Minister contact**: The minister, Reverend Christine Smaller, can be reached at 1-416-578-4551 or by email at revcsmaller@gmail.com

**Website Updates:** If there are updates or changes needed for the Grace Website, please make sure requests are sent to Rosemary accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca by Thursday evening. Webmaster will update the website ASAP. If your request is urgent, please make it known in the subject line.

**GUC Zoom Meeting Bookings:**If you need to use the church zoom account to schedule meetings, we will refer to it as the **ZOOM ROOM**. Like any other meeting space bookings, contact Rosemary through e-mail at  accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca  to arrange, or for questions about scheduling the Zoom Room.  To avoid delays, please arrange on Monday or Friday when Rosemary is at her desk.
**Someone in the Hospital?** If you, a family member or someone you know in the congregation is hospitalized, please contact Rev. Christine.
**Know anyone who needs a card from Grace?** We like to let our congregants know we are thinking of them during times of illness, bereavement and on special occasions too.

Please keep our Pastoral Care Team informed.
Contact Teddi Murray 705-445-3195 or teddimurray@gmail.com

***Sunday Services Online:*** *Additional Information*

Go to [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live) Worship starts at 10:30, but sign on early and contact tech support if you have trouble. See the countdown timer near the top of the page (or if you get there after 10:30, it will say there is a Live Stream in progress). Click the Chat button to join the chat. Type in your name and click “continue”, or you will display as ‘Guest’. Order of service and hymns will be there too.

***No picture? -*** At 10:30, **after** the countdown gets to 0, click on the video screen to start service.
***No sound?*** You may have to **un-mute** (click on the speaker icon).

***Still not working?*** Try the direct YouTube link.

***Need help?*** A tech assistant will be available at 10 am. Please check the weekly
e-blast for tech. contact information. *Do not hesitate to call.* The service is pre-recorded. We are at home watching, so a phone call will not interrupt the service!  ***Check out the past services Playlist at*** [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live).

**COFFEE TIME** is a separate Zoom at 11:15ish, after the Live Stream.
Check eblast for link and /or assistance.

**P.O. Box 219, Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0**

**email:** accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca **web:**[www.graceunitedthornbury.ca](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/) **YouTube Channel**: Grace United Thornbury
**Facebook:** Grace United Thornbury