**Dec. 20, 2020**

In the interest of public health, **most in-person gatherings at Grace**, including public worship, meetings and rentals have been moved online or suspended. Access to the church building is limited. Our Staff continue to work from home offices.

**For a click-able printable list of all the upcoming Advent and Christmas events and services** [**click here**](https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/events/2020-advent-and-christmas-events/2020-11-29) **or go to the Grace Website.**

**This Week at Grace**

**SUNDAY Dec. 20 Advent 4 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am** A Grace Family Christmas Pageant *“How the Governess Saved Christmas”*

  [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live)

 **Birthdays and Coffee Time *by Phone /Internet*** *(Zoom)* **11:20 ish**

**MONDAY Solstice Campfire (Registration required) 5:30pm**

**TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY Memories and Blessings Mini CarolFest 12:00 pm** [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live) **for more information:** <https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/events/mini-carolfest-with-memories-and-blessings-tree/2020-12-16> **THURSDAY Christmas Eve 20-minute Carol Service**

[www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live) **Available all day**

**FRIDAY Christmas Day 20-minute Carol Service**

[www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live) **Available Dec 24**

**SATURDAY Town of the Blue Mountain Worship Service 7:00 pm**

**SUNDAY Dec. 27 Christmas 1 Worship Service 10:30 am**

 [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live)

 **Coffee Time *by Phone /Internet*** *(Zoom)* **11:20 ish**

**Christmas Office Schedule: Deadline for announcements** for the weeks of Christmas and New Years is **Tues Dec 22nd**. The next eblast will be sent **Dec. 23rd** and begin again **Jan. 8.**

Rosemary is available at her home office on Mon. Dec 21, **Wed. Dec 23**and Mon. Dec 28 returning Jan 4. The office will be closed Christmas Day & New Year’s Day.

**Solstice Campfire: Monday Dec. 21, 5:30 pm (Registration extended to Dec. 20)**

Honour the gifts of darkness and light. Bring a note on plain paper to place in the fire with: • the name of someone to honour • or a gratitude • or something you wish to release as the earth turns toward a new year. Come with whatever your spiritual tradition or background is. Optional - Bring your own wieners and S’mores and sticks. COVID-19 restrictions in place. Social distancing required. Masks to be worn at all times except when eating.

Please register at [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/events/solstice-campfire/2020-12-21](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/events/solstice-campfire/2020-12-21) or call Rev. Thérèse and ask her to register you

**Greetings from Worship Committee and COVID-19 Safety Commission**

On behalf of the members of these groups, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. During these unusual times, we are thankful that we can celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus and rejoice in the presence of Jesus among us.

We commend our worship leaders for the services that they record every week and the innovative ideas that are presented to nurture us spiritually.

We wish you happiness as you observe Christmas this year, albeit very differently from other years. Stay well; stay healthy. Merry Christmas

**2020 Christmas Memories & Blessings Tree** *Help us decorate Grace`s Christmas Tree in honour of special people or events. Help us support Beaver Valley Outreach.*

Go to the website
<https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/events/memories-and-blessings-tree-2020>

to register your dedication. The date for mailing is passed. Wednesday noon is the deadline for emails for the final recording. **Last date** **for registering dedications *online*** is Christmas Day. *Decorations will be added each week to the tree. If you do not receive confirmation of your dedication and donation, please contact* Marg Tirpkoff at 519-599-2511 *before Dec. 21*.

**Memories and Blessings Mini CarolFest each Wednesday** (2 Christmas Carols) and adding of decorations to the tree.  Live Streaming[www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live)

**Dear Grace Family**
The Board wishes to inform you that we have begun our work to seek a new minister for the Grace congregation. Our first task was to discern what type of ministry would best suit Grace and which we could finance for the long term. It was decided that we needed time to explore our options and therefore have decided to seek a full time Supply minister for the short term.

To achieve this, a Search Committee has been chosen, whose names are as follows:- Orleen Anderson, Christopher Burton, Jim Dolmer, Mary Lou Gignac, Mary Armstrong, Jim Oliver, Shirley Woolner, Caroline Abbots Araujo and Heike Reck. The work of the Committee will be confidential but they will report their progress from time to time to the Board and we will keep you informed. When a choice has been made, the Board, the congregation and the Regional Council will have final approval. If you have questions please call or email me at any time.cdclarke@brucetelecom.com (519)-538-5403

**Gift Bags and Face Masks** The bags are available. Contact Diana by email at jddolmer@gmail.com. For masks contact Rev. Thérèse.

**S&F Committee:** Follow this link <https://youtu.be/VHSXy9LApAk> to listen to a short message from George Dickson, chair of the Stewardship & Finance Committee (S&F). It was first heard in last week’s Sunday service.

The S&F committee’s hope for you is to find joy, love, peace, health and happiness as you journey through this unpredictable and unprecedented Christmas Season.  Stay Calm.  Stay Kind. Stay Well.´- George Dickson, Les Beattie, Orleen Anderson

**Joys and Concerns Resetting for the New Year**: Some congregations re-set their prayer list for the new year, and Grace will be doing that this year. If you have a concern on the prayer list that you would like to have continued in the new year, please contact Marilyn Parkin. See Joys and Concerns for contact info.

**Photos for Annual Report**–Even though we are not holding events in and around the church that there is still opportunity for you to submit photos of you doing church in a different space. There might be lots of selfies but it would be nice to see committee chairs, small bubble groups, those that have taken on special projects, etc. Be creative and email your submissions to accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca

After all we still have been very active at Grace in 2020.

**Administration message:** Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding during this time of working from different spaces. Your faithfulness and commitment to the work of Grace is admirable.

A few items as we approach the end of the year

1.  *Offering envelopes for 2021* – being that many have not been using their envelopes
 on a weekly basis and we are unable to be in the church to pick up new sets of
 envelopes **please continue to use the supply from 2020** that you still have and be
 sure to let me know if you need me to prepare some more to carry you through the
 year of 2021.
2.  *Donation deadline for 2020 receipting* - If you wish to get receipted for donations
 during 2020 that are to be mailed, I need to receive them by the end of the year.
 The mail is great but can present delays, so plan ahead (mail today) and help
 Canada Post  to be able to get it to me prior to Dec 31st.

3.  *Tithely online donations*– for the convenience to those of using this form of giving,
 please be mindful that (same as other forms of online processing) it takes up to three
 business days to process your donation so again if you can make your transaction
 happen by Christmas we can be sure that the banking process will get included in
 the current year for donations.  (Also a general reminder to allow 3 days to process).

 *Christmas blessings to you all from the office administration desk ~ Rosemary*

**Sock it to Dementia** socks for the Alzheimer Society at $10 pair. All funds raised stay in Grey/Bruce. Great Gift! Contact Diana at jddolmer@gmail.com.

**Green Team:  Plastic film recycling** through Grey Highlands. Contact Norine Baron 519-599 -2442 or Diana Dolmer 519-599-6457 and arrange for drop off.

**Stamps:** Grace still makes available the opportunity to save your stamps.  Be sure you leave a margin around them so they can be used. Our contact is Norine Baron who will be happy to send them on to Oxfam Stamp Program.  Here is an excerpt from her recent shipment….
*Thank you for your donation to the Oxfam Stamp Program. With the proceeds from the stamps sold in 2019 we raised $29,000 and if we do as well this year, we will pass the half million mark* *in total donations since the program began almost 40 years ago. With our 2019 funds we decided to continue to sponsor a project in Asia dealing with violence against women and girls.(It is a 5 year 'flagship" project for Oxfam Canada and this is the fifth year we are helping to support it).*

*A handwritten PS at the end said " a nice large mix of Canada and worldwide stamps!
Just what our collectors want as they are stuck at home like we are, looking for help with their hobbies."*

**Pastoral Care:** If you know of anyone from Grace in the hospital, please let Rev. Thérèse know.

**IN AND AROUND THE COMMUNITY**

**The Blue Mountains Video Holiday Experience**will be launched on Sat. Dec 19th

Enjoy a virtual holiday video experience of The Blue Mountains from the comfort of your home! The video will feature warm holiday greetings, ministerial services, performances from local musicians and ministerial choirs, and other special guests.

**The Review** For community articles and events click on this link:

<https://www.bluemountainsreview.ca/index.cfm>

**Drive Thru Nativity** at 5:30-7:00 pm Christmas Eve. St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, 20 Russell St. E., Thornbury invites you to drive through with your car to experience that first Christmas celebration. (Enter off Napier Street - follow the signs).

**BVO’s Seniors Centre Without Walls** is now open! Refer to their monthly calendar.
**Upcoming: 11 am CHRISTMAS DAY** Songs & **inspiration** for church goers & non-church goers alike, with **Rev Thérèse Samuel.** For more information and to register to get the monthly calendar of events, call Answers4Seniors 519 599 2577, ext. 6 or email, seniors@bvo.ca Pam McDermid for the Answers4Seniors team

**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 519-599-2993 or email accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca.

**Office Volunteers** are in 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.

**Minister contact**: email rev.tess@graceunitedthornbury.ca or 705-351-4610. Tuesday is her day off, but she is available for emergency pastoral care 7 days a week.

**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

**Someone in the Hospital?** If you, a family member or someone you know in the congregation is hospitalized, please let Rev. Thérèse know.

**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, you may have to click on the video screen to start the service.
***No sound?*** You may have to **un-mute** (click on the speaker icon).

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

***Need help?*** Rev. Thérèse will be available at 10 am: phone or text 705-351-4610, or phone 519-599-2993 *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 gathering at about 11:20ish, after the Live Stream. For the link or for help phoning in, contact the Minister 705-351-4610 or rev.tess@graceunitedthornbury.ca .

**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