

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 2026

What fuels our work?

Through him we received grace... to call [everyone] to the obedience that comes from faith
— Romans 1:5

A guy I know stopped to help someone with car trouble. The car wouldn't start. Was the battery dead? No, the headlights worked fine. They opened the hood, but couldn't see a problem. They were going to call a tow truck, when someone asked, "Have you checked the fuel?"

My friend jogged to a gas station, filled up a small gas can, and took it back to the car. When they poured gas in the tank, the engine started like a charm. It had simply run out of gas. In our life with God, and our life with each other, we can run out of gas.

D. L. Moody, the American evangelist, was once asked "Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit?" "Yes," he said, "but I leak!" We all leak. So we constantly need filling up.

What fuels your work? What gets you up in the morning and keeps you going? The Apostle Paul invites us into *the obedience that comes from faith*. He calls us into *work that is fuelled by faith*.

How is that different from obedience fuelled by fear?

When we're fuelled by fear, we obey whatever power influences us: fear of failing, of being hurt; of letting others down, of the unknown, or of a bully—fears motivate us to act in certain ways. Obedience that comes from fear leaves us tense. It's a deer-in-the-headlights mindset.

Some obedience stems from pride. We obey our own egos. We work like crazy to build a reputation, or because we're sure that no one else will do it right. There are other motivators. But God invites us into *obedience that comes from faith*.

God calls us to work out of trust in *His* goodness, faithfulness, and love. Faith-obedience grows out of a relationship with God: knowing God enough that we really trust him. Knowing God enough that we discern what He's calling us to do, and not do.

If we drive a car, we develop the *habit* of refilling our car gas tank before it runs dry. When we follow Jesus, there are life habits to help us receive the fuel that the Holy Spirit wants to give.

As we head into Lent, we invite you to cultivate four habits:

<i>Daily prayer:</i>	Contemplate God's goodness. Seek God's help for our church, and our neighbours. Invite God to search <i>your</i> heart and lead <i>you</i> .
<i>Weekly Sabbath:</i>	Rest reminds you that you're not indispensable. The world will keep turning, without your input. Rest helps you to depend on God.
<i>Reading the Bible:</i>	Not just for information, but for life-fuel.
<i>Sharing Jesus' love:</i>	A daily act or word for a colleague, neighbour, or family member.

These habits are not a Christian self-improvement plan. They position us to *receive God's gift*. They make room for the Holy Spirit to work. They're the gas-can holding the fuel to fill us up.

Great habits often start out small. Baby steps. The habit of prayer. The habit of Sabbath rest. The habit of reading God's Word. The habit of sharing God's love with others. Some habits make us miserable. But the habits of the Holy Spirit re-fuel us, and bring us *life*.

Denise Allen-Macartney & Meg Patterson, Co-Interim-Moderators

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

We have entered the liturgical season of Lent, a time of reflection, meditation and preparation for the death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ. One of our theological schools, St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, has compiled its annual Lenten Devotional Guide beginning February 18. It is meant for individual or congregational use. The guide offers a daily scripture reading and prayer, along with a theological reflection from the community of scholars, students, and staff at the PCC's West Coast college. I would highly recommend this or any similar devotional guide that helps us work through the season of Lent. May we experience Lent with fresh eyes and open hearts this year.

<https://www.standrews.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SAH-LentenG-colour70-260204-pgs-1.pdf>

In anticipation of the AGM on March 28th, annual reports are being completed and end-of-year financials are being recorded and balanced. God has blessed us once again in 2025. Please plan to come out to celebrate over a potluck meal and short business meeting. We would love to have your input around planning for the future as well.

The Presbytery routinely makes pastoral visits to each of the congregations within the bounds every 3 years. A team of 2 elders and 2 ministers will be visiting Grace Church on Tuesday, April 21st in the evening. The visitation team spends designated time with the Interim Moderator(s), Session, BOM and congregation to chat about how things are going and if Presbytery can be of any assistance. Please put that date on your calendar. The revised schedule will be formalized soon.

We are thankful for new families who have joined us in 2026. We are thankful for Majelle who leads the Sunday School every week. If you would like to volunteer to be the 2nd adult in the room, please let Yohanna know. Our average attendance in person is around 44 with 2 children. 7-9 people are usually watching online. We welcomed a new speaker, Sue Matthews, on February 23rd and look forward to her return in March. She is a lay preacher who attends Gloucester Church.

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke

CANHAVE Children's Centre



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela.

In 1994, while Caroline Nakayenga (Ottawa nurse) was visiting Uganda, she was called to the home of a dying widow who asked her to look after her five children. Caroline came back to Ottawa to share the widow's plea with friends. One of those friends was Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee who was minister at Parkwood Church at the time. CANadians Helping Aids Victims with Education was born. Rev. James Hurd has continued the legacy serving as Chair/president of the current Board of Directors.

CANHAVE provides an education and a mentor to Ugandan children who have lost both parents to HIV/AIDS to increase their sense of belonging, safety, and security to realize a brighter future.

Funds were raised in the Ottawa/Gatineau area at the beginning. From 1995 until 2006, the number of children CANHAVE supported increased by about five each year. The annual expenditures amounted to approximately \$7000.00.

Through letters from the school leavers, the Canadian Board became aware of their difficulty in finding work to maintain the family. They continued to hold responsibility for their siblings (as they were still orphans) but they were not able to find jobs without further training. They requested continued support for skills development through trade and vocational training. They made a case for building a trade school for CANHAVE school leavers. This became a reality when Brother Vincent gave CANHAVE CHILDREN'S CENTRE seven acres of land in Kisubi in 2005.

Through hard work and dedication the CANHAVE Vocational School opened officially in February 2008 and the first classes were held in October 2008.

Since 2008, CANHAVE has supported 60 orphans in primary and secondary schools; some CANHAVE students attended the Vocational School in Kisubi and others attended university or post-secondary institutions. At Kisubi they took classes in carpentry and joinery; sewing and tailoring; hairdressing and beauty; catering and hotel management; fish farming and farming; computers.

In the fall of 2023, the Ugandan Board of Trustees decided to close the vocational school, owing to a decline in enrolment, and, more importantly, the change in educational policy in Uganda which has now mandated that vocational skills training be incorporated into secondary schools. The children's program continues, with some 87 children presently supported in the primary and secondary levels.

One of the Board members, Olivia Meyia, spoke at the November Ottawa Presbytery meeting encouraging churches within the Presbytery to support this worthwhile cause. Grace Church Missions Committee decided to support CANHAVE in 2026. Please check out their website for more history and information.

Hazelwood—To fast, or not to fast, that is the question. By Donald Corbett (Living Faith Bible Church)

The season of Lent is upon us. It began on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and will continue for 40 days until Maundy Thursday (April 5). It's a period of preparation for the culmination of Christ's ministry – his death and resurrection.

It is said that the 40 days of Lent, are meant to mirror Jesus' 40 days of prayer and fasting in the desert where he was tempted by Satan. Consequently, during Lent, we are encouraged to pray and reflect on Christ's ministry and what it means to our walk with him. In some denominations, people are encouraged to fast, give up certain foods, or activities.

But why do we celebrate Lent? If it's because the Bible says so, we're on good ground. But, if it's because we've always done it, then we may have a problem.

There is no mention of Lent in the Bible, but we've been doing it for centuries and it is definitely an annual occurrence in the Christian Church. You might say it is a tradition.

That brings to mind the opening scene from "Fiddler on the Roof" where Tevye, breaks the fourth wall, and addresses the audience directly saying,

"A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no? But here in our little village of Anatevka, you might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof, trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck. It isn't easy. You may ask, why do we stay up there if it's so dangerous? We stay because Anatevka is our home... And how do we keep our balance? That I can tell you in one word... tradition!"

Because of our traditions, we've kept our balance for many, many years. Here in Anatevka we have traditions for everything... how to sleep, how to eat, how to work, how to wear clothes. For instance, we always keep our heads covered and always wear a little prayer shawl... This shows our constant devotion to God

You may ask, why did this tradition get started? I'll tell you why - I don't know. But it's a tradition, and because of our traditions, everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do."

Directions for the observance of Lent will not be found in the Bible; it is a tradition – a sacred tradition that we follow every year because we believe it is what God expects us to do. So we may not have a problem. Let's take a closer look just to be sure!

Lent's official history began in 325 AD with the Council of Nicea. Some two hundred years later Pope Gregory established Ash Wednesday and the 46 day period leading up to Good Friday. Why 46 days? It was because Sundays were set aside as feast days and therefore excluded – hence the 40 days of Lent.

The word "Lent" has roots in many languages; in Old English it is "lencten" which means "spring season"; and in West Germanic it is "langitinaz", which roughly translates to "long days". Either way, we can see that it is tied to the coming spring and the return of the light.

At this point, you might be thinking, "Well that's all very interesting! However, if Lent is not in the Bible, and we place such great import on celebrating it, are we not treading into the issue of human tradition over which Jesus chastised the Pharisees? You know, where Jesus said, **"You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."** Mark 7:8 (NIV)

Good question!

Like many other things we do throughout the church year, the observance of Lent is a human tradition. So the question really expands to, **"Should We Keep Traditions?"**

My response is a resounding "YES!"... With a small proviso...

Our man-made traditions should never go against Scripture, or be elevated above what God would have us do. Our traditions should support, and direct us to the Gospel, because traditions themselves cannot save us. That honour falls to Jesus. If our traditions point us to the world, then we are doing something wrong.

Still rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus continued, **"...*'You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!*'"** Mark 7:9 (NIV)

The church year is a man-made cycle of many sacred traditions, many of which are not specifically commanded in the Bible. It begins with Advent and runs to Christmas and Epiphany; and then from Lent to Easter; and finally to Pentecost.

Should we follow this? Again the answer is yes, as the entire calendar is designed to lead us through the Bible following the "red thread" that runs from Genesis to Revelation.

So with respect to Lenten question **"To fast, or not to fast?"** feel free to fast if that's what helps you to focus on the season; but without fail, let us each go into the wilderness with Jesus, let us prayerfully prepare for the day we shout, **"He is Risen!"**

"So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter." 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NIV)

God Bless

Donald

But why do we celebrate Lent? If it's because the Bible says so, we're on good ground. But, if it's because we've always done it, then we may have a problem.

Kids Corner

MARCH
2026

Kids Club Kids Club held an Olympic themed event Friday February 28th with fun "Olympic events", a 3D Olympic themed card craft, games and snack. A big thank you to Anne, Leslie and Belinda for organizing and a whole bunch of people for volunteering. We are blessed with Joan and a bunch of young volunteers who come out on a regular basis to help. The new youth group organized by Living Faith Bible Church and co-sponsored by Grace will have their

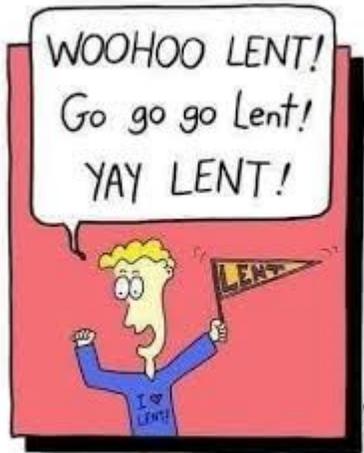
second youth event following kids club. (8pm to 11pm Feb. 28th)

Registration for our summer camp opens March 1st. This year's theme is "What's Cooking". Majelle will be coming back to run the camp and we will be looking for a second student to fill the summer position. Please pray that we will be approved for the government grant so we can pay our student staff!

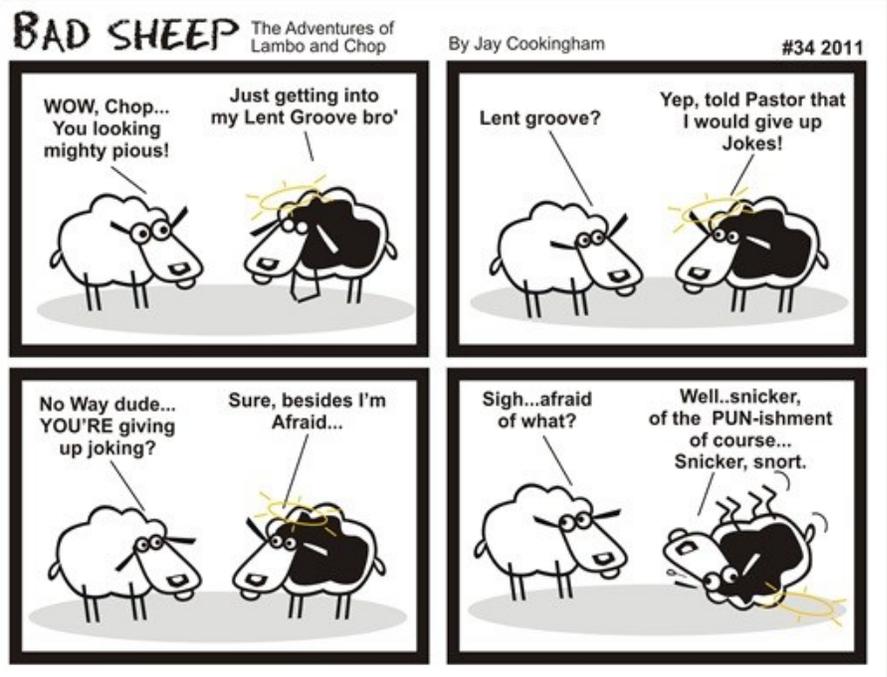
If you would like to help by being a second body (a position I like to call "crowd control" LOL), please speak to Majelle Sunday mornings or contact the office.

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



Jeff gives it up for Lent.



**Camp
Registration
March 1st**
Cost: \$20
Date: July 27th to 31st

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.