

GRACE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Hazelwood
- Kids Corner

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IN-PERSON

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SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

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# Good Gracious Gracious

## May 2026

### Sign Language

*“when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses...” – Acts 1:8*

Have you ever been in a place where you didn't speak the language? Maybe you communicated with hand gestures, or pointing. A kind of sign language.

Helen Keller grew up blind and deaf in the 1800s. For six years she lived in dark silence: self-absorbed, frustrated, undisciplined, ferocious. She threw violent kicking tantrums. Locked her mother in a closet. Dumped her baby sister out of the cradle.

Then Annie Sullivan began to teach her sign language. She would place Helen's hand on a thing and spell it. Weeks later, at the water pump, Helen suddenly connected the word spelled on her hand, with the water flowing over her fingers.

Words transformed Helen. Words gave her power to understand the world, to understand people, and to communicate her thoughts. What a gift!

Every relationship is based on communication. Even our relationship with God. It begins as *God* speaks to *us*. When we live without God's light bringing us hope, without God's voice speaking love, truth, forgiveness, and purpose: the darkness can make us frustrated, selfish, hurtful.

But Jesus pierced the darkness with God's light and God's speech. In Jesus, God's Word arrived in person. Jesus communicates God's love for us and for the world. Sets us free from the prison of living for ourselves. Invites us into life with him and with each other.

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live *in* us: our companion, guide, and teacher. In Jesus, God moved into the neighbourhood. By the Holy Spirit, *God moves into our very lives*.

The Holy Spirit is not just an optional extra. He comes on *every person* who trusts in Jesus as Lord. When you welcome Jesus, the Holy Spirit gets to work. He speaks God's truth to your heart, and gives you the ability to *speak truth*.

*“You will be my witnesses,”* Jesus says. The Holy Spirit helps *you* to shine God's light, speak God's truth and love: into your family, your workplace, your neighbourhood.

*Your life and your words*, can become a kind of sign-language for others.

The Spirit changes the way we see our neighbours. He ignites love in us. He gives us a voice. New ways to share the good news of Jesus. *Sign language*: signs of God's love.

This season, let the Spirit make you bold to speak where you once lacked courage. Let him give you words, where you once had no clue what to say. Watch him give you opportunities to *show* people God's compassion.

Sign language allowed Helen Keller to speak, and others to speak to her. The Holy Spirit brings us a joyful new language. Through the Spirit we can communicate with God and hear God speak. He helps you converse with folks who live in the dark, bringing them clues of God's love. This is our prayer, as we thank God for Grace Church!

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

## Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

It appears that spring is finally here. Hallelujah!! The farmgirl in me can hardly wait to get dirt under my fingernails. As I get older, my body protests more and more but oh what joy to reap the benefits of the work done in the spring and I only have flowers.

There are many references in the bible to reaping what we sow. Luke 8:15 says “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” I pray that all of us at Grace Church have good and receptive soil where the Word of God will take root and flourish so that we can exhibit plentiful fruit in our lives. I am thankful for the preaching team and for our Interim Moderators who are continually contributing to our spiritual wellbeing and growth.

Last week, we had a pastoral visit from a team from Presbytery. They received a snapshot of life at Grace Church. The Session is grateful for all those who came out especially the 5 that attended from the congregation that weren't part of the Board or Session. The visitation team will write a report of their visit, send it to us for approval before presenting the report to Presbytery. They were very encouraged by their visit.

I (Linda) have agreed to remain the Presbytery representative for the next year.

Rev. Lara Scholey from Pointe-Claire, QC has been named the new Moderator of the upcoming General Assembly. She will begin her term at the June 7-11 Assembly.

At the AGM, we talked about applying for a Renewing Ministries Grant from PCC to augment the amount we might be able to pay a settled pastor. To that end, a few people will be getting together with Pastor Meg in the next few weeks to brainstorm, pray and imagine what God has in store for Grace Church in 2027. As part of the application process, we need congregational input. Let's hear what you might be imagining for Grace.

Session has been working on a few small changes to the Order of Service which might be implemented in June. Don't worry, it's nothing too drastic.

We're still planning on having a fire drill in May or early June. Remember, that adults should congregate in the parking lot over by the road away from the building. Children that are in Sunday School will be escorted to the basketball court where their parents can collect them later. The fire alarm will sound after the service, we won't interrupt our worship.

“Those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.” Galatians 6: 8b-9

## Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke

### The Orthodox Presbyterian Uganda Mission [OPUM] – Leah Hopp

Leah and her family were active members of Grace Church at one time. Grace Church has been prayerfully and financially supporting Leah's mission work for fifteen years. Leah is home in London, ON, now on furlough and will be visiting Grace Church on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Leah has now been living and working in Karamoja, Uganda for fifteen years with the OPC Uganda Mission. Previously, she had graduated with a Bachelor of Health Sciences from the University of Western Ontario and a Biblical Studies certificate from Kuyper College. After spending one year as a public health intern in rural Tanzania, she returned to Canada to work for Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's Urbana 2006 Mission Conference and also IFES's World Assembly in 2007. As a Health Educator, she started a community health program in conjunction with a mission clinic to employ six Karimojong health teachers in Uganda. They walk in pairs to teach in six villages alongside two primary schools and at the mission clinic. A Ugandan nurse now assists with the management of the team allowing Leah to conduct locally relevant research. After graduating with a Master of Public Health, she has published two journal articles and is embarking on further research in conjunction with a very well-experienced Christian, Ugandan, research advisor.



The members serving on the Karamoja station labor in the areas of evangelism, church planting in Nakaale, leadership training, village Bible instruction, literature production, literacy training, medical care through the work of Akisyon a Yesu Presbyterian Clinic, community health instruction, and other works of mercy such as the operation of a farm.



A Yesu (The Compassion of Jesus) Presbyterian Clinic (AYPC) is a small, outpatient-only clinic located in rural Uganda. It was originally opened in 2002. AYPC provides many medical and laboratory services in the context of a Christian environment. AYPC has a well-supplied laboratory which often receives referrals from the surrounding clinics and hospitals. Many tropical and infectious diseases are diagnosed here. Various procedures and many immunizations are done routinely. Weekly outreaches include such things as malnutrition screening, childhood immunizations, HIV counselling and testing, health education, and a Bible lesson. Routine preaching is done at the clinic, prayers are offered regularly, and patients are invited to church. The compassion of Jesus is shown to the patients. This is where Leah spends most of her time now.

## Hazelwood—So this is love? By Donald Corbett (Living Faith Bible Church)

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

(1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 NIV)

It all began with a sharp axe and an angry teenager.

**“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”** (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 NIV)

Swish, BANG, split – toss – new log; Swish, BANG, split – toss – new log; Swish, BANG, split – toss – teehee... **TEEHEE?** I stopped and glared in the direction of the giggle. There on the porch of the Dining Hall, was that dark-haired beauty I had seen working in kitchen. “What’s so funny?” I asked. “You are!” she said; and for whatever reason I forgot why I was frustrated, drove the axe into the block and wandered – ever so casually – in her direction. I sat down beside her, and we began to chat.

That was 54 years ago this summer and we’ve yet to run out of things to chat about! It must be love. More importantly, thinking back on that incident reminds me of just how important love is.

Am I suggesting that there is something beyond the limits of physical love? You bet! In his book, *The Four Loves*, published in 1960, C.S. Lewis describes the four types of love mentioned in the Bible. They are:

**Affection (storge).** This is the ancient Greek term for natural, instinctual affection or familial love, often described as the bond between parents and children or among family members

**Friendship (philia).** “To the Ancients, Friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves,” says Lewis, “the crown of life and the school of virtue. Friendship develops over something in common and our need for camaraderie and is a very powerful love indeed.

**Romantic (eros).** This is the love that involves a physical attraction and it is even more powerful than Friendship. Allowed to flourish, romance brings us to a point where our personal happiness is no longer central to our very being – it is the happiness of someone else. Here is where we truly love our neighbour as ourselves.

**Charity (agape).** This is the unconditional love of God described in John 3:16 and demonstrated by him sending his only begotten Son as a sacrificial lamb. This is the love we should all be striving for; and affection, friendship and romantic love are each the training ground for charity to grow.

When asked to identify the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus replied: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”** Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

Going back to our opening passage, we now see that Paul describes love as:

**Active:** “Love is patient, love is kind.”

**Humble:** “It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others; it keeps no record of wrongs.”

**Selfless:** “it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered”

**Truthful:** “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

**Consistent:** “It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

So this, my friends, is LOVE!

Four years after I met that dark-haired beauty, God blessed our marriage on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1976; our love and commitment to each other and our family has continued to grow ever since. We are truly looking forward to what God has in store for us.

God Bless,

Donald

# Update from the office....

May has arrived faster than I was prepared for.... I fell ill with a bad cold the last week of April and I am just starting the road to recovery.

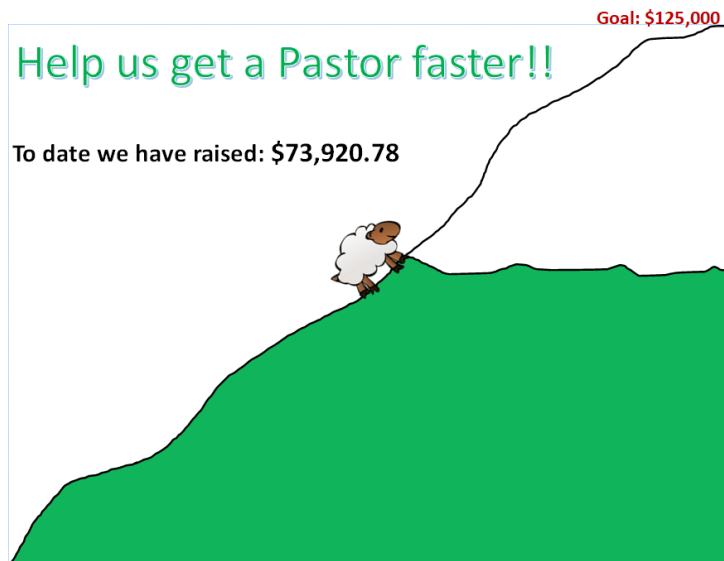
The Shabraque Celtic Fundraising Concert was a huge hit raising a grand total of \$690! This is a new record for this fundraiser. A big thank you to everyone who participated.

As of the end of April we have over \$73K raised towards getting a Pastor faster! Check out the updated sheep journey!

This Sunday May 10th we will have a Baby Shower in support of the Miriam Centre. Financial donations are also appreciated if you didn't get a chance to shop the baby aisles.

Our summer student grant was approved and interviews are taking place. We will have our 2 summer student candidates (one hired by Grace and one by LFBC) in place by mid-May. A big thank you to Leslie for being the Grace rep and to Joan and Donna from Living Faith for doing the interviews. We are excited to get the planning and prep underway for camp!

The date for the annual church picnic has been set for June 21st. As in previous years, the fundraising team will be offering burgers, hot dogs and frozen treats. (freewill donation accepted to defray costs) You can bring a side to share and join us for fellowship, good food and picnic games for all ages.



Miriam Centre

## Baby Shower May 10th



## Church Picnic June 21st

# Kids Corner

MAY  
2026

Kids Club is planning their year end event coming up May 22nd.

Interviews are happening to hire our summer students. We will be looking for a lot of volunteers to make the camp happen! Sign up sheets will be coming out later this month. I am also on the look out for a couple of "easy bake" ovens as I thought that would be an

awesome activity for our What's Cooking theme camp. If you can lend us a toy oven, please let me know!  
Plans are also underway for our annual picnic which will be June 21st after the service. The fundraising team will have burgers and hotdogs as well as frozen treats. (donations accepted to offset the cost of food) If you are able to bring a side

to share, that would be fantastic.  
If you would like to help Sunday mornings 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

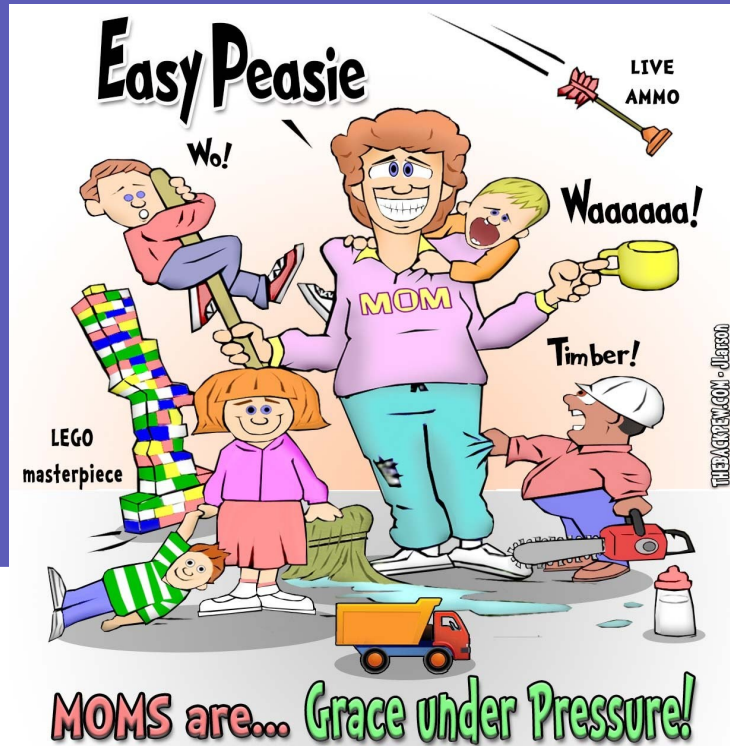


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"Know what? God knew me before I was born, but I can't quite remember Him."



"We're looking for a church with a vibrant, active congregation... that we can quietly observe from the back pew."



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# 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.
- **Want to help with the website? Facebook? Speak to Arlene in the office.**

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