

GRACE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Hazelwood
- Update from the Office
- Kids Corner

ONLINE OR  
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

VISIT  
[WWW.GRACEORLEANS  
.CA](http://WWW.GRACEORLEANS.CA)



# Good Gracious Gracious

## June 2026

### Listening for Jesus

<sup>15</sup> "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Matthew 13:15-17

My (Meg's) husband has a really hard time hearing in certain environments because of a fall he took as a toddler. If we are in a room with a lot of background noise or people are speaking with strong non-Canadian accents, he simply cannot follow the conversation. Later, I will fill him in on what he missed, but in the moment he knows someone is speaking but not what they are saying.

One of the phrases Jesus uses a lot in telling stories is "Whoever has ears, let them hear." Jesus is talking to people who have the spiritual equivalent of my husband's physical limitation: those who hear the words spoken, but they do not comprehend the implications for living one's life. Jesus calls those hearts "calloused" (or in other places, hard).

Conversely, Jesus says that when we are willing to listen with the intent of understanding and being changed by what we hear, then we will be blessed. Jesus' promise is that when we are intentional about listening, God will bless those efforts by speaking. So, we would like to invite you into a time of intentional listening this summer as we continue to seek God's guidance for the future of Grace Church.

Listening takes three forms. First, we need to listen for the Holy Spirit. This may come during worship on Sundays, during the prayer groups that take place during the week, or during your own personal devotional time. Be intentional about asking God to speak about his plan for the future of Grace Church.

Second, we are invited to be intentional around listening to one another. Periodically during coffee hour, you may be invited into a conversation about your current walk with God. Please participate as you feel comfortable and see how the Holy Spirit moves in that moment.

Finally, we are invited to listen for how God is already working in our neighbourhood. We are planning monthly prayer walks after church where people in the congregation will be invited to walk a particular neighbourhood near the church and pray for the people there. A leader will be assigned to each group with instructions. If you would like to participate and cannot walk through the neighbourhood, prayer prompts can be provided for a group who stays at the church, praying for our tenants.

We are really excited for how God may choose to speak through these activities. We hope you find them challenging and encouraging!

Meg Patterson & Denise Allen-Macartney, Interim Moderators

## Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

Are you ready for summer?? The summer season is so short and we attempt to pack so much in. Wayne and I are taking a bus tour of Newfoundland later in the summer and we are looking forward to the scenery and seafood. A break in routine is always appreciated. I pray that all of you are anticipating something fun to break your routine also. Pick up a good Christian book to read or listen to some podcasts. Obviously, summer worship services will continue with our faithful preachers and leaders with a somewhat more relaxed pace. Kim wants your favorite song/hymn suggestions to incorporate into the worship services.

We are moving forward in the application for the Renewing Ministries Grant. We need to come up with a long term and short term plan, objectives and goals for Grace Church. Our first step must be prayer to identify and discern God's plan and timing for Grace Church. Prayer walks around the neighborhood are anticipated so stand by for details. Really, anytime you're out for a walk you can pray for your neighbors. It is our desire that Grace Church be a vital part of the community. We were reminded of the importance of prayer by Ken Saah Fon last Sunday. God is not finished with us. He has a plan. We are in the hallway between the past and the future in the midst of transition. I loved that analogy!

I've been in communication with Esther Ekong lately. She sends greetings to Grace Church from Burns Mosa Presbyterian Church in Glencoe, Ontario where she is serving this summer. She has 1 more year of studies in Montreal before ordination. She is loving her summer placement and invites anyone who might be in southern Ontario this summer to drop by for a visit.

Our co-interim moderators and Linda will be attending a Presbytery retreat on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The topic of discussion will be "Marriage of Church and Technology: for Better, for Worse". We will discover the challenges and benefits of technology upon church ministry in the areas of worship, leadership and community (fellowship/pastoral care).

Grace Church Session is planning a day retreat October 31<sup>st</sup> here in Orleans at Genesis Stay and Pray on Page Rd.

June 14<sup>th</sup> will be a significant date for Grace Church when we will celebrate 3 adult baptisms and 1 addition profession of faith. We thank God for bringing all 4 of these lovely people into our Grace family. Pastor Denise will be with us to officiate.

**"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4 ESV**

## Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke

# Camp Cherith

The information and photos below were taken from the Camp Cherith website.

Camp Cherith® Lanark is a co-ed, interdenominational, Christian camp located on the banks of the beautiful Clyde River. This Christ-centered camp offers a variety of outdoor skill development within the context of a community committed to the pursuit of Biblical teachings and values. The desire is for children, youth, and adults to continually experience the joy of life and the beauty of God's love. Campers have the chance during the week to learn from the Bible, and understand how it can apply to their lives, and how they can grow as Christians.

The history of the camp goes back as far as 1948 when Camp Cherith® was first held at a Brethren camp in Saint Jerome, Quebec. Laurentian Camp Cherith® was incorporated in 1976, initially as an all-girls camp. Boys started coming to camp in 1987. For about 40 years, they rented the campsite at Camp Kalalla, on Lac Notre Dame in Quebec. In 2008, they purchased their own property in the Lanark Highlands – formerly the River Farm Christian Campground – and they ran their first summer camp at the new property in 2009.

Camp Cherith's mission is to help children and youth put Christ first in every aspect of life, to nurture healthy relationships, and to develop a positive self-image.

There are traditional overnight camps for ages 8-16 for 3 different weeks in the summer. There is a weekend of family camp. There's also 2 weeks for day campers age 4-15 who don't want to stay overnight. Daily bus transportation is available from Kanata or Almonte. Every fall for youth ages 12-19, a long weekend is planned with a guest speaker and awesome worship. There's also a leadership training camp, CILT for ages 14-17 throughout the summer which prepares future leaders and camp counsellors.

Since 2017 Rev. Joey Molloy has served as Executive Ministry Director with Camp Cherith, Lanark. He also leads 'implementa' which is a ministry committed to training, equipping and encouraging youth pastors/leaders and the ministries to which they are called. Grace Church is thankful for the partnership with Joey who last came to visit us with an update in March. There's a big expansion being planned for a modern kitchen, expanded dining hall and extra meeting spaces. Their fundraising goal is \$1,300,000 so donations are most welcome. Building permits have been repeatedly delayed causing much frustration. Please pray for this.



*“What is our purpose? - To glorify God by proclaiming and teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ as revealed to us in the Bible, leading and guiding men, women and children along the path to become His followers and to be faithful, loving members of His Church.”*

Almost thirty years ago, in a totally unexpected moment, God grabbed me by the scruff of my neck, lifted me off the self-serving path I was following, and dropped me, totally unprepared, onto the narrow path that led to him. Since then I have tried to focus on others while seeking to learn as much as I could about Jesus. Since then, God placed many good teachers in my path and has created some amazing learning and growth opportunities for me.

At some point in this journey, I began to feel a gentle tug to do something more for God’s Kingdom than just attend Sunday worship. I shared this with my Pastor, and he immediately assumed I was considering a call to ordained ministry. I was surprised by that, but the seed his question planted has remained. I do feel called to minister to God’s people; to share my life experiences; and, with God’s help, to use my writing and teaching opportunities to bring people closer to him.

More recently I have found myself in the company of some amazing, Bible-centred people, all of whom are focussed on developing a fledgling church. One of the very first questions we had to address was, **“What is our Purpose?”** In time we determined that it was: **“To glorify God by proclaiming and teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ as revealed to us in the Bible, leading and guiding men, women and children along the path to become His followers and to be faithful, loving members of His Church.”**

With that, who are we, the church, for; and who are the men, women and children we are to lead? Are they the Churched, or the Unchurched; the Seekers, or the Saved?

I am going to suggest that the church is not for the Unchurched; it is for the redeemed and the obedient – the Saved.

John 1: 10 says, **“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.”** Since the world does not know him, or recognise him, why on earth would we tailor the church for what the world wants us to be? The only one about whom the church should be concerned is the Triune God!

Does that mean we ignore, and shun, the Unchurched? Of course not! We are bound by the Great Commission to make disciples of all the nations, but let’s temper that with what Paul says in I Corinthians 2:14 (NIV), that **“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”**

So when we are reaching out to the Unchurched, our objective should not be to determine what will get them to church and keep them coming; but rather to show them that they need to surrender their worldly life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Acts 17, we read an account of the early church causing “the world” to feel very uncomfortable – turning it upside-down, if you will. These days, the world is doing its best to turn the church upside-down – we must resist the temptation to become “user friendly” by adjusting our doctrine and beliefs to be more acceptable to the world. We must never forget that it is God who is sovereign, not the Unchurched. The Bible is the only authority for all church ministry.

A read through Acts 5 clearly shows that the early church was anything but user friendly; and the story of Ananias and Sapphira attests to that. Luke tells us in verse 11 that as a result of this incident **“Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.”**



# Update from the office....

Summer is almost upon us!! Our summer students start on Tuesday June 30th. I am excited both to welcome back Majelle Guillemette and to meet Alfy-Marie Kimpioka. Alfy-Marie will be the new Living Faith summer student. As in previous years, the 2 students will handle some office/admin duties, teach Sunday school and prepare our What's Cooking? camp curriculum and activities. Our volunteer sign up sheet is now posted on the bulletin board (and on our website). We are looking for small group leaders (5 adults and 5 helpers), station leaders (5 stations), outdoor games leaders (afternoons), as well as a couple of floaters to help where needed. If you are able to help July 27th to 31st, please sign up on the sheet, online or by contacting the office! Another idea/item we are looking for is a few Easy-bake ovens for a possible group activity. If you have one we can borrow, please let me know!

Our church picnic is coming up on June 21st. I am looking forward to all the picnic games! If you want to bring a side or dessert to share, that's great but it is optional. The fundraising team is providing hotdogs, hamburgers and frozen treats. (Donations gratefully accepted to offset costs—this is not a fundraiser lol) It is also perfectly fine to just come after the service just as you are—no prep required.



## Church Picnic June 21st

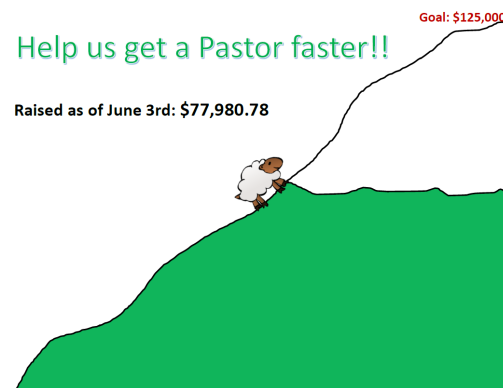
Our fundraising to get a new pastor is now up to \$77,980.78 as of June 3rd thanks to a generous pledged received in the office today. Our goal is \$125K but once we get to \$100K we can start the process of hiring a pastor!! We are all really excited to start this next chapter here at Grace. If you would like to support hiring a pastor, just mark "pastor" on your donation. You can donate by e-transfer, cheque, offering envelope, or online at [www.graceorleans.ca/give](http://www.graceorleans.ca/give). We are very grateful for the generosity of our Grace family.

A big thank you to Wayne for taking over the lawn mower maintenance and looking after the grass. Thank you to the other people that have offered to cut the grass. Our new beautiful garden and smaller garden around the sign will also need some love and weeding. We also plan to repaint the parking lot lines and the front doors. If you are able to help with this or any other maintenance task, please send me an email at [admin@graceorleans.ca](mailto:admin@graceorleans.ca) or speak to Wayne.

As summer begins, I will move to only coming in once or twice a week to support our summer students. This will also be the last newsletter until September. Our students will be checking the emails and answering phone calls and we'll include their schedule in the weekly bulletin email. I will be back to my regular hours starting Tuesday Sept. 1st.

I hope we all have a fantastic summer!

*Arlene*



JUNE  
2026

# Kids Corner

Kids Club had their year end Birthday Bash event on Friday May 22nd. I was out to help with taking and printing photos of everyone. (Thanks to Zoe for letting me borrow her photo printer). I was also tasked with preparing, setting up and playing the year end slideshow. A big thank you to Jacque who came in early for R.O.K.C and set up the projector for me while I was making pictures. The kids had a great time with a variety of activities. The craft was decorating a wooden frame that

they could put their printed pictures in. I got to help kids skip rope as I was one of the rope turners. The kids are not exposed to skip rope at all so it is a novel and exciting activity. LOL! The slide show was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed the trip down memory lane. We included photos from every Kids Club event this school year. A big thank you to Leslie, Anne and Joan for taking the pictures! Now we are gearing up to welcome our summer

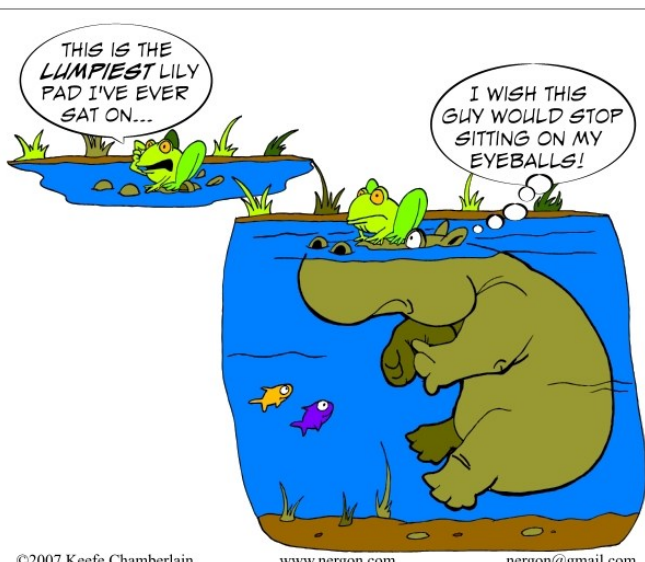
students, Majelle and Alfie-Marie, and preparing for summer camp. I have added the physical sign up sheet to the bulletin board and a digital version to the website. As always, we need a lot of volunteers to run camp. If you can help, please sign up!! We are also happy to have teens come out to help and we sign for volunteer hours.

If you have any questions or wish to help in children's ministry, please contact me in the office at [admin@graceorleans.ca](mailto:admin@graceorleans.ca) or 613-824-9260.

Arlene



## PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



# 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.
- **Gardener?** Our church garden near the sign will need weeding and the ornamental tree near the “steeple” needs some cleaning up.
- **New garbage shed:** As part of a new waste and recycling program we will have with the city, we are installing a new garbage shed the week of June 21st. If you want to help, speak with Alain or contact the office. (Shed has been purchased but ground preparation, platform, cement patio stones and assembly is required.)

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