

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



Good Gracious Gracious

October 2026

Who is our neighbour?

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37

We (Meg and family) have had the same neighbours since we bought our house in Ottawa 9 years ago. They are a lovely couple with cats and other animals. We help each other out with small things like picking up packages or feeding pets. We chat about what is happening in our lives, the weather, and the shared fence that needs fixing. Our relationship has never been particularly close, just friendly. So I was surprised when his family approached me to help them plan and then lead his grandmother's funeral. I was honoured to be able to say yes and to hopefully introduce the love of Jesus to folks who are unfamiliar with him.

When you first meet someone, it is hard to know where that relationship will go. It is also hard to know how long it might take to get there. Sometimes you click with someone right away, and sometimes it takes years before you realize what you have in common. And it is even harder to know what God might do through these relationships, or when that invitation might come.

The Good Samaritan, as told by Jesus in Luke 10, is a popular enough parable that our province has a law named after its main character. The story starts with a Bible scholar trying to test Jesus. When they start discussing loving neighbours, the scholar tries to limit the Bible's command by asking "Who is my neighbour?" As Jesus has a tendency to do, he flips the question around through the parable, leaving the scholar (and us) with a different question, "How can I be a good neighbour?" You can read the whole story in Luke 10:25-37.

Over the past couple years, we at Grace Church have been thinking about, praying for, and trying to engage with our neighbours. And we know some of you have stories of the unexpected ways God invited you to be a neighbour, both to those who walk into the building on a given day, and those outside the doors. Perhaps there is a particular story you would like to share during coffee hour this month. As we come into the fall, we pray that conversations will continue to happen about where God is already at work and to whom Grace Church is called to be a good neighbour. We can't wait to see what God is inviting us into next!

Blessings,

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

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

Autumn is my favourite season of the year. God's creation is glorious! Thanksgiving is approaching, a time to express our gratitude for God's faithfulness to us at Grace Church.

It's been a busy month. Grace Church hosted the Ottawa Presbytery meeting September 15 which included a delicious dinner. Thank you to all who contributed food and especially to Shirley for organizing the meal and Communion for the Presbyters. Thank you to Wayne and Judy for providing the audiovisual support.

The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario is holding a conference on the theme, "Voices and Perspectives of the Global Church", with guest speaker Dr. Martin Bellerose, on Friday, October 16th and Saturday, October 17th, hosted by St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, Quebec. The registration fee is \$20. Synod 2026 is open to both presbyters and visitors. The registration deadline has been extended from September 30 to October 7.

We completed and submitted the application for a Supporting Ministries grant from the PCC due October 1. There were many parts to this proposal. It was a challenge to work around summer schedules/vacations to complete but under Pastor Meg's direction, we got it done. Hopefully, we will hear if we are successful recipients by mid-November.

Our Pastor Easter fund is growing. We're up over \$80K. Praise God and thank you for your generous contributions! Our annual Miracle Sunday fundraiser will be directed to the pastor fund this year keeping in mind that at \$100K we will begin the search process for a pastor. The Pastor fund and the grant (if we are successful recipients) will ensure that we can sustain a minister for the first few years as the congregation grows. Please pray for discernment and wisdom going forward to proceed according to the Lord's timing and will.

A fire drill took place last Sunday, September 27. Thank you again to Shirley for getting this organized. The elders reported that the drill went well. This is something we need to do regularly to comply with Leading with Care, not to mention that it's good to practice in case of a real need to exit.

Thanksgiving is fast-approaching. Please read Kim's article in this G.G. for a 'taste' of what's to come with respect to music and food. To address the food insecurity that is increasing in our community, please consider donating non-perishable food items for our local food bank. We are grateful for the food already placed in the cart.

The elders are hoping and praying that another bible study will start up. As we had deep faith conversations over the summer, it was evident that getting to know one another better and growing our faith together was an objective. If you feel the Lord leading you to participate and/or lead a study, please approach any of the elders.

O, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

1 Chronicles 16:34

Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke



Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund that supports mission and ministry in Canada and around the world. The budget is approved each year at the General Assembly. The fund is used to build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice, create worship spaces and share God's love around the world. Mission staff around the world supported by Presbyterians Sharing include:

- the Rev. Dr. Blair D. Bertrand (Presbytery of Ottawa) as he serves as Mission Staff and Liaison to Zomba Theological University (ZTU) of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Malawi, and works with the Vice Chancellor of ZTU.
- the Rev. Joel Sherbino as he serves as the part-time Malawi Liaison with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre Synod. Joel seeks opportunities for Canadian Presbyterians to engage in Christ's mission in Malawi.
- former PCC Mission Staff member, Gerald Kent, returned to Nepal in September 2025 on a three-year volunteer appointment supported by Presbyterians Sharing. Gerry's new role in Nepal is Funding Manager at the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) Headquarters in Kathmandu.
- the Rev. Lora Nafziger serves as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), a faith-based international NGO that strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Stationed in Kathmandu, Lora provides spiritual and emotional support to all expatriate UMN staff and key Nepali staff, encouraging personal and team growth. To this mission work in Nepal Lora brings her background as a clinical social worker and a pastor. Lora is jointly appointed by the Mennonite Mission Network and The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Presbyterian Colleges in Canada are supported in part by Presbyterians Sharing. The Presbyterian Church in Canada offers various funding to help congregations in a variety of areas including children and youth ministry, worship, lay training, conferences, building projects, mission work, specialized ministries and ministerial assistance. The Supporting Ministries Grant that we just applied for and numerous other grants and loans are available through Presbyterians Sharing.

Recommended congregational contributions are 10% of a congregation's dollar base. The dollar base is calculated from the Statistical Report which is received from each congregation annually.

For the past 4 or 5 years, Grace Church has not allocated any of our budget to Presbyterians Sharing. In part, this was due to the theological disagreement we had with the PCC and also due to the amount of money allocated from the fund to administration rather than ministry/mission.

For 2027, the elders are recommending that we contribute \$2000 to Presbyterians Sharing. While we continue to disagree with some of our PCC brothers and sisters on certain theological matters, we also acknowledge that good ministries and people are supported through the fund.

Occasionally, questions are raised as to the difference between Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development. PWS&D raises funds over and above Presbyterians Sharing from congregations, individuals and government grants to overcome poverty and address disasters in Africa, Asia and Central America. International Ministries mission personnel, funded through Presbyterians Sharing, often work with partners who receive grants from PWS&D, and gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help keep PWS&D's administrative costs low.

Through Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development, the Presbyterian Church in Canada is sharing Christ's love in 25 countries. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing provide grants and mission staff to encourage, equip and accompany our mission partners in areas such as Bible translation, leadership development, evangelism, outreach and Christian service. PWS&D supports development work and provides relief in times of emergency. Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

I have given only a cursory description here of Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D taken from the PCC website. Check out the website yourselves for more information.

The Butterfly Story – credit to Linda's friend Ben

If you have ever wondered why you're struggling with your life, you'll enjoy the butterfly story. Life is like a butterfly. If we do the same thing again and again the result will be the same. For things to change we must do things differently. We go through changes before we become something beautiful.

As the butterfly story shows, we don't recognize it immediately but every step in our journey is making us stronger than ever before. Without the different steps, we would be the same. We must love each stage of our journey as we pass through. We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely admit the changes it has gone through.

A man spent hours watching a butterfly struggling to emerge from its cocoon. It managed to make a small hole, but its body was too huge to get through it. After a long struggle, it appeared to be tired, and remained absolutely still, seeming to give up.

The man thought he would help the butterfly, and with a pair of scissors, he cut open the cocoon, thus releasing the butterfly. However, the butterfly's body was tiny and wrinkled, and its wings were all crinkly.

The man continued to watch, thinking that at any moment the butterfly would unfold its wings and fly away. Nothing happened; in fact, the butterfly spent the remainder of its brief life crawling around with its shrunken body and crinkly wings, incapable of flying.

What the man out of kindness and his eagerness to help had failed to understand was that God had designed the cocoon in such a way that the close-fitting cocoon and the efforts the butterfly was forced to make to escape by squeezing out of that small hole were training the butterfly and strengthening its wings. The struggle made it stronger. Our struggles also force us to depend on God for our strength.

The man, in his eagerness to help the butterfly, stunted its development and the butterfly emerged into a hostile environment with no strength to meet its harsh demands. We often make the same mistake with those we love. Because of our intense love for them we unintentionally mess with God's plan for their lives and end up putting them into the world unprepared to meet its challenges.

As a parent, as a friend, or as a spouse, the instinct to help is very hard to resist. It's hard to watch those who we love and are close to struggle, but often the best help we can provide is to do nothing. By intervening, and shouldering the burden ourselves, we rob those we care about of the opportunity to grow and get stronger. We see our kids struggling at school, interacting with other children, or falling behind on the playing field, and we want to step in and save them from hardship. We want to offload their pain onto ourselves. By doing so, however, we're eliminating the circumstances that the people we love need for their own personal development. It's instinctive, and understandable, to want to help. But often the best course of action is to wait and, like the butterfly, let the process unfold on its own terms and timeline.

When we see someone's success we naturally see the success that is right in front of our eyes. We do not see the struggle that was involved. We do not see the long walk that has led to the present moment. The struggle we're in today helps develop the strength we need for tomorrow. Don't give up. Butterflies can't see their wings, They can't see how truly beautiful they are, but everyone else can. People are like that as well! Behind every beautiful thing, there is some kind of pain.

Losing hope is the most destructive thing we do. Without hope, we cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel. Let's not lose hope because we never know what tomorrow will bring. Sometimes the best gift we can give our loved ones is to stand on the sideline, shouting encouragement, but allowing the process of growth to run its course.

When you think you are at the end of something, try to remember that spot might be the beginning of another journey. What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, God calls a butterfly. The life in front of you is far more important than the life behind you!!

Hazelwood—Count Your Blessings!

By Donald Corbett (Living Faith Bible Church)

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Seasons change; we change. As we age, our bodies may slow down, our routines may shift, and the busyness of the world might just begin to affect us less. If you’re not there yet, well I pray you will be one day. Nevertheless, I can say from experience that there is something special in this quieter season of life; and that is the opportunity to pause, reflect and be thankful for the blessings we have received.

Ok maybe you’re not feeling all that blessed today; and maybe things could be better. We’ve all been there. The good news is, every storm comes to an end. So; let’s take a moment to consider Paul’s gentle invitation to a peaceful rhythm of the soul.

The Apostle Paul’s writings are filled with wisdom and direction for our daily walk with Christ. And while he is not always succinct, in this particular passage he packs some amazing concepts into three short verses.

The first thing he tells us is to **“Rejoice Always”**

He’s encouraging us to find joy in God’s Love. True Christian joy does not depend on having a perfect day, or a strong body. It is a quiet gladness rooted in the unchanging love of Jesus.

Joy can be found in simple things—the warmth of the morning sun, the uninhibited laughter of a child, or the sweet assurance that you belong to God. Whether you have just come to know Him or have a long history with Him; either way it is a rich and deep well of joy.

Next Paul says we are to **“pray continually”**.

Prayer is all about having a conversation with God. It does not mean we have to spend our entire day on our knees making a long, drawn out, formal speech to God. No, it simply means we are to keep our heart open to God all day long.

When we wake in the night, or sit quietly in our favorite chair, turn your thoughts into quiet whispers to the Lord. Pray for your family, your neighbours, and the people you have yet to meet. Let prayer become the gentle breathing of your spirit.

Finally Paul tells us to **“Give Thanks in All Circumstances.”**

Let me be clear here; he is not telling us to give thanks FOR all circumstances. Simply put this is where we **count our blessings** with a gratitude that looks past today’s aches, pains, and frustrations, to focus on God’s faithfulness.

I have no doubt you have experienced God’s provision. Take this time to thank Him for the storms He has brought you through, and for the peace He offers you today. Gratitude can turn a heavy heart into a sanctuary of peace.

Count your blessings, name them one by one. You will be amazed at what the Lord has done!

God Bless,

Donald

Musical Musings about Food!

“For health and strength and daily bread, we give you thanks, O Lord.”

Happy October! Is it your favourite month? It is for me ... when we sing “For the beauty of the earth” ... a hymn that I’ve sung since Sunday School days, it’s October that I think about.

Giving thanks for God’s gifts to us is part of our weekly worship services, and most of our worship songs and hymns are related to that message. In October, I give thanks for so many things in my life ... a Thanksgiving meal and time together with family, another upcoming wedding anniversary, and food, friends, home, and of course, music. All of these things are part of our time together as a church community too ... how many of you are thankful for the good chatter, coffee, delicious food, and special times together both during and after the service.

Growing up on an eastern Ontario dairy farm, food was, and still is, a priority. “Eat what is on your plate, “my Dad told his 6 lively kids around our supper table, “we grow it here!” Our life and work were based on milk production, and growing food and feeding cows and other livestock. Feeding the crew that enabled it all was a large part of my daily life too as the eldest girl helping Mom in the kitchen. Having enough food, or being without it, was something I never had to worry about.

In today’s world, we read of, and perhaps see on the streets of our community, the harsh realities of others ... many who have to make difficult decisions every day. A trip to the grocery store or paying the rent is a choice some face on a regular basis. Increased demand at, and use of, food banks to feed families in our community, breakfast programs at schools, and agencies like The Ottawa Mission, providing food, hope and help for the homeless in our community.

Hunger is a global issue too. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank, an agency that was formed as a Christian response to global hunger, reports that 645 million people around the world live with hunger. The Presbyterian World Service and Development (The Presbyterian Church of Canada) is one of 15 partner churches and Christian agencies that make up the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Read more about their work on their website: foodgrainsbank.ca.

So, this October and the liturgical season of creation, what can we do about this immense demand for dignity, nutrition, and help for others in God’s world?

Sing about it, by giving thanks for God’s gifts to us, as always! (Songs about food coming up for sure this month!) And maybe, just maybe, a folktale, some fun activities, and a silly song about how to make soup with a stone (and gathering up some food in the process for those who need it), will be just the reminders we need to help others in our community!

Kimberley (Kim) Allen-McGill

Director of Music, Grace Presbyterian Church



Update from the office....

This month Kim is bring out the food and thanksgiving theme for the month of October. (Check out her article in this month's newsletter) The kids will be gathering food donations, learning about, singing songs and "making" stone soup. We will be collecting food bank donations during the service and including the kids in gathering it up. On Sunday Oct. 18th we will have a "Stone Soup Lunch" after the service to continue the theme. On Thanksgiving Sunday aka Miracle Sunday, the miracle we are praying for is to get a pastor faster!

Our grant proposal has been submitted after being reviewed and approved by Presbytery. We are hoping to hear if we are approved before the end of the year. We need to get both the grant from the PCC and reach our target in the Pastor Fund to be able to support a full-time minister. In order to start the hiring process, we need to hit \$100K in the fund. As we discussed we need to receive the grant funding plus reach our fundraising goal of \$125K in order to ensure we can hire and pay a minister over the next few years.

You can help us reach this goal by marking "pastor" on your donation. You can donate by e-transfer (admin@graceorleans.ca), online or by cheque/cash. A big thank you to everyone who has generously donated!! I am excited to see what God does next!

Arlene



Stone Soup Lunch

Sunday October 18th

Join us after the service for a delicious soup lunch! There will be several varieties to choose from as well as some delicious homemade desserts.!

OCTOBER
2026

Kids Corner

Really Outrageous Kingdom Crew (R.O.K.C) had their kick off Sept. 11th and their next event is coming up Oct. 9th. This group is led by the Daltons and is geared for 12 to 17 year olds.

Kids Club had their kick off event Sept. 25th with a Wacky Night. The kids enjoyed the escape room game complete with transforming prize. The kids made beautiful lanterns from glass jars. Check out the picture of Pearl appreciating the craft and prizes. LOL! We had 14 kids

come out including 4 from

one of the new families we had at VBS. Kids Club is still looking for an adult volunteer to handle the greeter position: welcoming people as they arrive and checking kids in. Please speak to Anne Walker, Belinda Barnes or myself (office) if this is something you could do. Kids Club meets on the 4th Friday of the month Sept. to Nov. and Jan. to May.

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



PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



DON'T JUST ASK GOD TO DO THINGS FOR YOU,
THANK HIM FOR ALL HE'S ALREADY DONE FOR YOU.

LET OUR LIVES BE FULL
OF BOTH
Thanks & Giving

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. The large gardens out front need some weeds pulled. Just come on by whenever you have time!

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