



Grace's Chatter – Fall 2022



Rev. Takouhi's Reflection...



Fall 2022 – September 15, 2022

Dearly Beloved,

World leaders are celebrated with so much fanfare when they leave this physical world, I felt compelled that we need to dedicate this reflection to a loving leader, colleague and an example of a servant-leader, Rev. Seeley.

Every September, I reflect on new beginnings. As the new academic year begins, Mother Nature reminds us that change is in the air with the cooler weather and prepares us for winter. I take my vacations mostly in fall, bringing me new and refreshing outlook to life, as we attempt to hibernate through the coming months of winter. However, this time I want to concentrate and share with you a short reflection for the late Reverend J. H. (Harry) Seeley, who departed from this physical world on Aug. 1, 2022. Most of you knew him longer than I did, but I am compelled to share these words from my heart with you, as Rev. Seeley was the longest-serving minister at Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge and the Emeritus Minister at Grace United Church after his retirement, where he served as the Pastoral Care and Visitations Minister.

Beloved, there are no sufficient words to express who Rev. Seeley was and always will be, but let me describe him as a humble servant of the Almighty Creator with a genuine heart. Who was born on December 24, 1927, which meant, after his ordination, he never had a proper, personal birthday celebration as ministers lead Christmas Eve Services every December 24. Words cannot express how honoured I am that our lives, Rev. Seeley's, yours, and mine, were intertwined with God's Love.

We all know that Harry and Marion were married for more than 65 years, they were the Royal Couple of the Rideau Lakes Township, extending all the way to Gananoque. Did you know that Rev. Seeley was a hockey player at Queen's University? I know he was not in competition with anyone. He took his God-given talents and shared it with others with joy. When I learned that he actually helped establish a Joint Anglican-United Church Community of Faith for people involved with the Iron Ore Project in Quebec/Labrador, it dawned on me – this man was a prophet, the one who sees God's Vision. For the last twenty years or so, I have heard that the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada have been in conversations to bring forces together and work together, but nothing concrete has shaped up; here is the late Rev. Seeley, who already had done such a work, many moons ago. He was a quiet servant of God, filled with the vision of God without any fanfare. Harry's vision was not far from God's Vision of Love, Care and Unity.

He paid attention to details. After COVID had calmed down and we were able to visit, my first visit to him was in June 2021, at Carveth. The moment I entered his room, he said my full name without any hesitation and asked how my husband Gary, father-in-law Bert, and sister Choughik were. He paid attention to details and made everyone feel precious and loved.

Beloved, there is so much we can say about Rev. Seeley and his accomplishments as the Chair of Kingston Presbytery, and many other committees within the United Church of Canada and the Larger Community, such as Elgin Lion's Club President, and the Grand Chaplain of the Masonic Order for the Province of Ontario; and the Chaplain of the Rideau Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and he was awarded many recognitions.

But what stands out for me, as I know it stood out for him, is the fact he lived to make this world a better place with his Faith, Love and Laughter.

In 2013, when I became the incumbent minister serving Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge, I used to say, I am going to serve here more than 35 years so that I can surpass the years that Rev. Seeley served. But then in the middle of the pandemic, on June 27, 2020, God audibly called me to come and serve the Creator through Grace United Church. I was reluctant at first, but we all know that God's loving voice is persistent. And today, here we are: A Full Circle of Love moment where two ministers who served the Creator through Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge, and gladly served and still serving Grace United Church, are here to tell you that Life is not a competition. Therefore, do not be afraid to let your God-given talents bring forth goodness to this earth. Work together in harmony, do not be afraid to take chances, and Be Good to one another.

I truly love what Rev. Seeley wrote in his book *For Laughing Out Loud*:

"We came into this world without our permission and we have to leave it against our will. It is what we do with the time in between that makes life worthwhile. We can approach each day expecting the worst and find it or we can put on a happy face, pull ourselves up by our attitudes and live life to the fullest. A part of that reward is laughter. It is one of the most wonderful drugs on the market and it is totally free to all who will embrace it. There are no harmful effects from an overdose. It is perfectly safe."

Beloved, may the Great God, who led Rev. Seeley all the days of his life and showed us how to live Love, continue to guide us as we continue on this journey with Hope, Faith, Love and Laughter.

Thanks be to God for the Life of John Hendry (Harry) Seeley.

May we all do our best to make this world better than the time we were born.

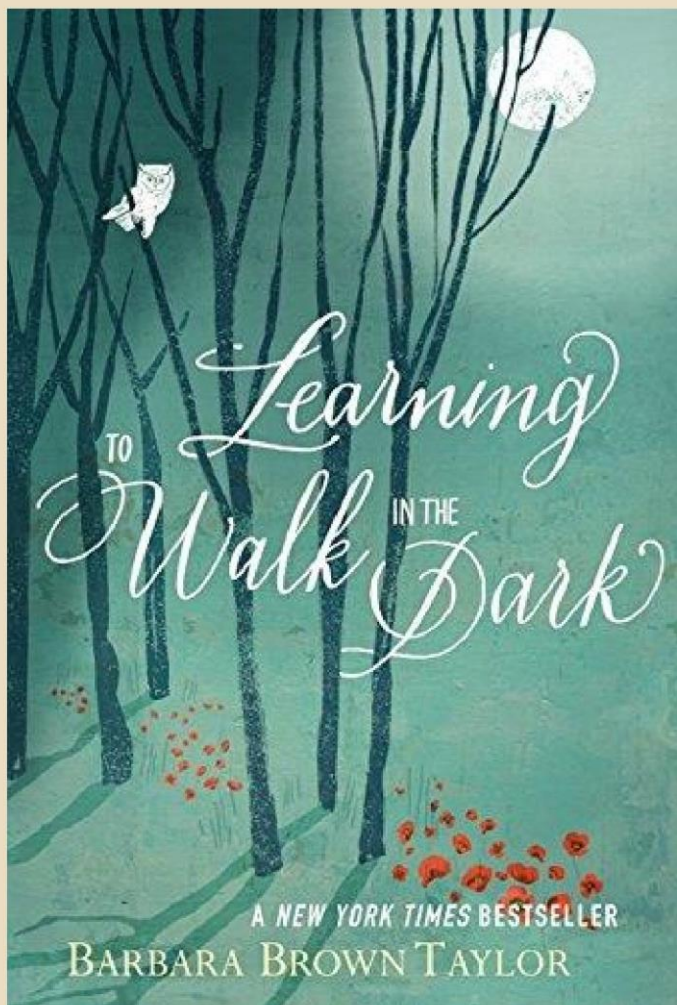
Be a blessing to ALL who come your way. All are created in the Image of God and called, Beloved – Just like you and I. **Amen.**

Stick To the Plan



I was observing two men that were working for the public works department. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. After a while I had to ask, "Why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?" The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the lad who plants the trees called in sick."

Grace United Church – Gananoque
Invites you to Join, Journey, Read, and Explore



“Learning to Walk in the Dark”

By: The Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. – via ZOOM

September 21, 2022 – Session #1:
“Introduction: Treasures of Darkness”

September 28, 2022 – Session #2:
Chapter 1: “Who’s Afraid of the Dark?”

October 5, 2022 – Session #3:
Chapter 2: “The Fear of the Lord”

October 12, 2022 – Session #4:
Chapter 3: “Hampered by Brilliance”

October 19, 2022 – Session #5:
Chapter 4: “The Dark Emotions”

October 26; November 2, 9, 16 - NO Session!

November 23, 2022 – Session #6:
Chapter 5: “The Eyes of the Blind”

November 30, 2022 – Session #7:

Chapter 6: “Entering the Stone”

December 7, 2022 – Session #8:
Chapter 7: “The Dark Night of the Soul”

December 14, 2022 – Session #9:
Chapter 8: “Working with Darkness”

December 21, 2022 – Session #10:
Chapter 9: “Our Lady of the Underground; & Epilogue: Blessing the Day”

ALL ARE WELCOME...

***This is a safe space where we wrestle with our
faith and find blessings!***

To receive the Zoom Link ***contact*** Rev. Takouhi
by September 20, 2022 OR revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca

NEW BOOK STUDY – never too late to join and all are welcome

Mission and Service and Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Update

Submitted by Dave Charles

Mission & Service

The Community kitchen is planning for 4 sessions in the Fall. Preferably 2 at midday and 2 in the evening. Marian McLeod will be providing an update report and request for 4 sessions to September 22 Official Board meeting.

Thanks to all who helped keep "Your Generosity Matters" going during the summer by reading as part of worship. Seems to work well combining into Ushers duties.

EOORC:

In case you missed it, Rev Carmen Lansdowne from Vancouver was elected moderator in early August. Rev Lansdowne is the second Indigenous person to be elected Moderator of the UCC. The Very Rev. Stan McKay served as Moderator 1992–1994. She is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation, and was born in Alert Bay, B.C.

Also, Rev Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister for EOORC is retiring. Rev Lambie led the covenanting service for Rev Takouhi in June.

Concert for Ukraine

By, Laurie Cadue

In July Grace United Church held a concert featuring "Mary's Merry Minstrels", a fiddle group from the Kingston area who donate their time to help raise funds for various groups throughout Eastern Ontario. The concert was held in support of the Gananoque Refugee Settlement Group, who are helping Ukrainian Refugees get settled into the area. The concert was a wonderful event with many people in attendance. In total, Grace United Church raised \$2,981.30 to support GRSP. Thank you to all who attended the event and who have made donations.

The Food Bank Needs our Help

With the rising costs of everything, families are struggling to put healthy food on the tables and in lunch boxes. Please remember to contribute to the food bank. Not only does the food bank provide food to families, they supply personal and hygiene items as well, such as shampoo, deodorant, laundry soap and toilet paper. Please – give as you can.



2 Corinthians 9:10-11

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Cliff Edwards

Sheri Shenton

Paul Harding

Sing a Good Song

An evening of favourites from classic pop, show tunes,
folk songs & jazz standards

at

Grace United Church

Saturday, October 1

7:30 pm

Tickets: \$15 at the door
Or call the Church office: 613-382-2161
a fundraiser for Grace United Church

Cliff Edwards, former lead singer/producer of "THE BELLS" a pop singing group from Montreal, who had great success, from performances at The Copacabana, The Americana Hotel in Miami to hit recordings including "Moody Manitoba Morning", "Fly Little White Dove, Fly" and the several million selling "Stay Awhile".

Cliff continues to perform, writing songs and has released a CD "Undercurrent", with all original songs as well as a compilation CD "Through The Years", celebrating his recordings as a solo artist.

Sheri Shenton has performed in a wide variety of musical endeavours as a conductor/ director, soloist; in choirs, small ensembles, musical theatre and big bands; from the Maritimes to the Prairies.

Her elementary teaching career spanned 35 years, which included 22 years in Kingston, in regular classroom, French Immersion, and music specialist roles. A highlight was 15 years as director of the Limestone County Children's Choir.

Sheri is now enjoying her retirement at home in Ivy Lea where she is grateful to have met Paul Harding who is opening doors for her to keep "making a joyful noise" in beautiful Gananoque.

Paul Harding has been Organist and Choirmaster at Grace United Church since 1968. He has been active on the music scene in the Kingston area as a teacher, rock musician, accompanist and musical director for five decades. Actively involved in musical theatre, he has been musical director, pit musician and composer for more than 30 musicals, both amateur and professional.

Paul has been conductor of the Gananoque Citizens' Band, musical director of "The Swinging Sixties", a 50-voice choir of local seniors, and was the first conductor of the Gananoque Choral Society, beginning in 1993.

Among Paul's favourite musical events were reunion concerts of his high school rock band "The Coachmen", whose performances raised over \$150,000 for the Town of Gananoque.

Fall Events help support your church

By Vicki Leakey, treasurer

As we are soon to turn another season, which brings out much beauty around the area we live in, I truly hope we can continue to enjoy some of the events that are beginning to open up again and be with family and friends.

This fall, the stewards and other members of the congregation are setting up fundraising events that will allow us to get back to supporting congregational needs financially with less reliance on drawing from our trustee funds. Please be aware of the great concert at the church on Oct 1, with songs and music by Cliff Edwards, Sheri Shenton and Paul Harding, homemade treats and coffee will be available at intermission. Later this fall we have a family afternoon of magic and crafts which will be a great outing for families, the date to be announced later. We are looking to bring back our Christmas market on Dec 3, which has always been a great success with wonderful variety at the crafters tables. We also wish to remind everyone of the Fundscrip program that Grace United Church is involved with, this time of year many of us are looking at ways to help our grandchildren in college, university or just with living costs and this is a great way to purchase gift cards for groceries, pharmacies, restaurants,

gas stations etc. where the church does receive a % of every purchase of a card which helps with fundraising. Call the church for further information on how you can participate on line or ask myself, Denise Wood or Linda Brooks on a Sunday in church. The stewards are open should anyone have an idea for an event they would like to see considered and they can assist with, we hope to see \$12,000 raised this fall with all of the fundraising efforts. We continue to so appreciate the time and service of the pie making group as they have faithfully allowed for fundraising dollars to continue to flow in throughout the summer.

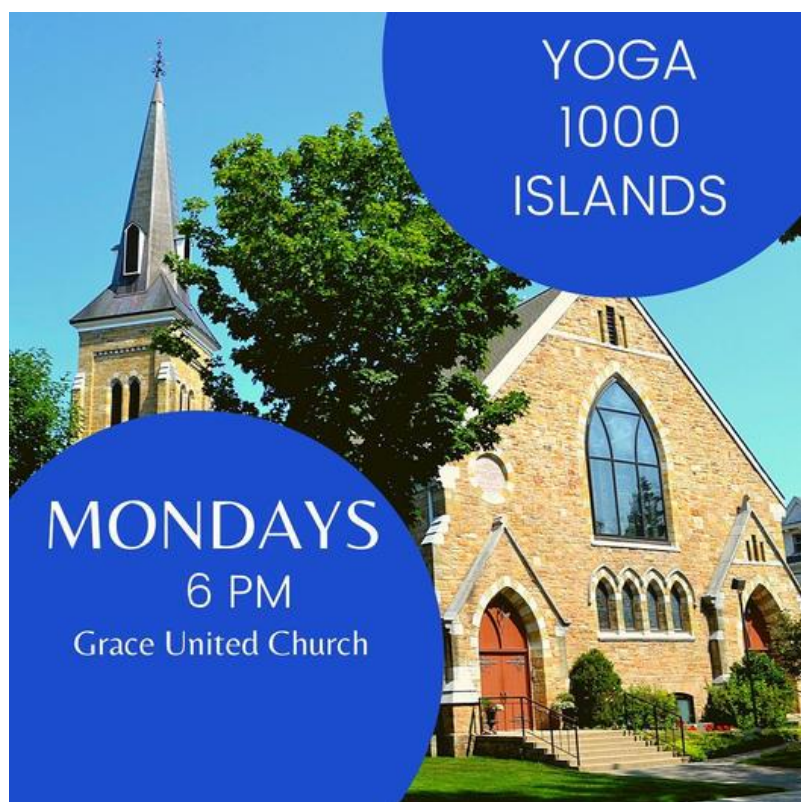
I am very proud to report that Grace United Church remains a congregation dedicated to give help to those in need as we saw funds sent to Mission and Service, local needs, and refugee assistance in total of over \$15,000. In these very trying times for many, we are fortunate to have the support from many of you that provide separate funds to assist with the various outreach programs.

We have several Offerings' options available for those that may wish to provide continued support.

E-transfer from your on-line bank account is popular, you can look for "send an e-transfer" on your on line banking website and send to grace.gan@outlook.com. Just follow the instructions given.

Offerings by mail is another option – send post dated cheques by mail to Grace Church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7. And of course, we would love to have you join us for worship on Sunday mornings.

We have a very special congregation! Everyone works hard to contribute to the success the church has been able to recognize in the past few years. Thank you for your gifts of time, talents and finance, all of you are so appreciated with the support we have been able to share with each other. Let's go full swing this fall, continuing with some care and caution, but allowing us to have more personal contact and enjoy the presence of God in all that we can accomplish together.



YOGA 1000 ISLANDS

MOVING MIND, BODY, AND SOUL

Thomas is offering YOGA classes Monday Nights at Grace United Church. Classes are 1 hr in length and the cost is \$12/class.

You must preregister, as space is limited.

To register google 1000 islands yoga, link below.

<https://yoga1000islands.com>



ORDER your Thanksgiving Pies NOW!!

Never too early to order your pies.

We have a number of varieties available.

Apple, Apple Crumble, Cherry, Blueberry, Peach, Strawberry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Strawberry Rhubarb Crumble, Bumbleberry and Rhubarb, for \$15 each.

There are also a few Raspberry for \$20 each.

Call Carol at 613-382-4376

Pickup will be October 6th from 3 to 6pm
at Grace United Church, 120 Pine St.

Maintenance Committee Was Busy Over the Summer

By Brian Brooks

Furnace/Boiler replacement.

GLAD has replaced the old furnace and hot water tank. Rads in the lower section of the church were drained and re primed. Some minor adjustments are required plus the system must be certified before upgrade is fully completed.

Eve troughs

It was noted that some of the eves on the Church exterior were in need of repair to avoid further damage. This was completed and a review of the remaining eves showed that no additional work was required.

Exit lights

A number of old emergency exit lights have failed over the recent past. It was decided to replace them all with new "Running Man" lights as required by current code. This has now been completed.

Entrance lights

Inside lights over the Pine and Stone Street doors plus the one over the choir entrance door were not able to switch off. JET electric found a defective junction box in the Church attic and fixed the problem.

Pine Street door

The entrance door locking system and accessibility opening pads have been installed. Some cosmetic work on the door face and a new sweep on the bottom are required to complete the project.

Mark your Calendars - Christmas Market – December 3



Grace United will be holding the Annual Christmas Market December 3rd 2022. We are excited to bring this event back and are looking forward to seeing everyone. To make the event a success, we will need your help. Volunteers are needed for various positions, and we are looking for donations of “Theme Baskets” for our Basket Raffle/Silent Auction. We also need Vendors. If you sell Avon, Epicure, Leggings, Crafts etc – WE NEED YOU. Call or email the church if you would like to donate a basket or to reserve a table. The cost is \$20 for a table. **Spread the Word!!**

Session Briefs

Grace United Church Session met on September 14 with 10 members present.

With the Fall season in full swing, Session is looking for more usher volunteers to handle the Sunday morning routine. Reminders will be printed in the bulletin.

Session reviewed a set of protocols regarding the rental of church spaces. They will be forwarded to the Handbook committee for inclusion in the revised document. Paul Harding submitted a summary of tasks to be completed by volunteers when he is away later in the fall.

An update on homelessness was received from Leeds and Grenville and a monthly newsletter will be received which will help to understand the needs in this area. We will also check with larger churches in our region to determine how they handle homeless people looking for help from the church.

The Worship Planning Team met on Sept. 13 and has services and events in place up to November 27. Worship leaders and guest organists are in place for upcoming study leaves and vacations.

Thanksgiving Sunday is October 9 at which time we will welcome two new members. Anniversary Sunday is October 30, 2022.

The next meeting is on Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m.

“Hi’ Tea with Rev. T.” Thursdays @ 1:30 – 3:00

At Grace United Church –

Downstairs Hall – Accessible –

120 Pine St. Gananoque

October 13, 2022, November 24, 2022;

December 8, 2022

No Reservations are required, ALL are welcome.

This is a casual social time with Rev. Takouhi for all. You can chat about what ever you wish and enjoy some light snacks. Mark your calendars for the next Tea Time!



First Peoples' Performing Arts Festival features Reconciliation Walk

By Maddie Morris

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro and Tammy Fergusson will participate on Sunday, Sept. 25 in this year's Reconciliation Walk. For those members of Grace United who wish to be involved, the following outline is provided.

Sunday, September 25 starting at 1 p.m. Ollin Drum will provide an hour long performance at the Royal Theater. Afterwards, anyone wanting to participate in the Reconciliation Walk will head to the front steps of Town Hall. Ollin Drum will lead the procession of the Reconciliation Walk and at approximately 2 p.m. an acknowledgement of the Little Shoes Memorial will take place. Clarice Gervais will provide a brief introduction of the walk and lead a Smudging ceremony for those who wish to be involved.

The walk will proceed down Stone St. with the first stop being Grace United Church. Members of the First Peoples' Circle will perform the Strong Woman Song and Rev. Takouhi and Tammy Fergusson will respond. The walk will continue to St. John's the Evangelist Church where another member of The Circle will again sing the Strong Women Song and allow a St. John's Church representative to respond.

The final stop will be the First Peoples' Park at the foot of Stone St. at the waterfront where final acknowledgments and speeches will be made.

This Community of Faith acknowledges all traditional territories, all ceded and unceded lands that we live upon - and give thanks for all the generations of people who have taken care of these lands before us and still do with us today. May we be open to historical truths and may we continue to learn from the past, shape our present time and build a better world with All People.



(Picture: Credit to Indigenous Ministries and Justice – The United Church of Canada)



Happy Birthday to all who are celebrating over the fall including Susan T., Brian T., Bert P., Susan T., Susan B., Helen J., Neil M., Faye T., Brian B., Carolyn S., Murray R., Bud W., Denise W., Steve T., Paul S., Bonnie S., Edna M., Carol G., Catherine M. We send you our blessings and good wishes.

Happy Anniversary to all who are celebrating over the fall including, Brad & Anne C., John & Helen C., Brain & Linda B., and Dave & Joan. Congratulations everyone.

Contributors this month: Rev. Takouhi, Vicki Leaky, Brian Brooks, Dave Charles, Maddie Morris, Barb Jenkins, Paul Scott and Laurie Cadue

NEXT DEADLINE – Friday December 9, 2022

**Do you have an article for the newsletter? We would love to hear from you.
Please contact Paul Scott or Laurie Cadue**

Contacts:

Minister: Rev. Takouhi Demirdijian-Petro - **Direct line: 613-777-0880**

You can learn more about Rev. Takouhi on her website www.RevTakouhi.ca

Church Office:

Laurie Cadue 613-382-2161 grace.gan@outlook.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8am to 1pm (Closed Wednesday)

Church Boards:

Official Board – Brian Brooks 613-382-2385 brooks525@gmail.com

Session: Chair - Barb Jenkins barbjenkins1@gmail.com

Board of Stewards: Chair: Denise Wood seelion89@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vicki Leakey 613-382-4015 vickileakey@gmail.com

Mission & Service & Ministry & Personnel: Dave Charles dwcharles@me.com