

# Grace's Chatter - Winter 2025



## **Slow down, it's Advent!**

By Tammy Fergusson



Can you believe it is almost Christmas? That season where we decorate the Church with lights and tinsel? Well, before we arrive at Christmas, there is one more season to go through - and that is the Season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, which means coming or arrival. Advent is the time to wait, prepare, and anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, both in celebrating his birth and in the promise of his return.

The Season of Advent encourages us to slow down and to make room in our hearts for God's presence. In a world that often rushes ahead to the shopping and the brightness of Christmas, Advent gently calls us back to quiet expectation. It reminds us that God's greatest gifts come in more humble and hidden ways, like a baby born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Advent brings with it a renewed sense of hope, peace, joy and love - the themes reflected each week as we light the candles of the Advent Wreath. It draws us to prayer, reflection and acts of kindness. In this holy waiting, we learn to trust God's timing and to open ourselves to God's transforming grace.

In the Season of Advent, we are assured that God is trusting and faithful. The prophets of old longed for the coming of the Messiah, and their hope was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Today, we live in that same hope - the hope that light will overcome darkness, that peace will one day reign, and that Christ will come again to make all things new. Advent teaches us that even in uncertainty, God's promises are sure and love never fails.

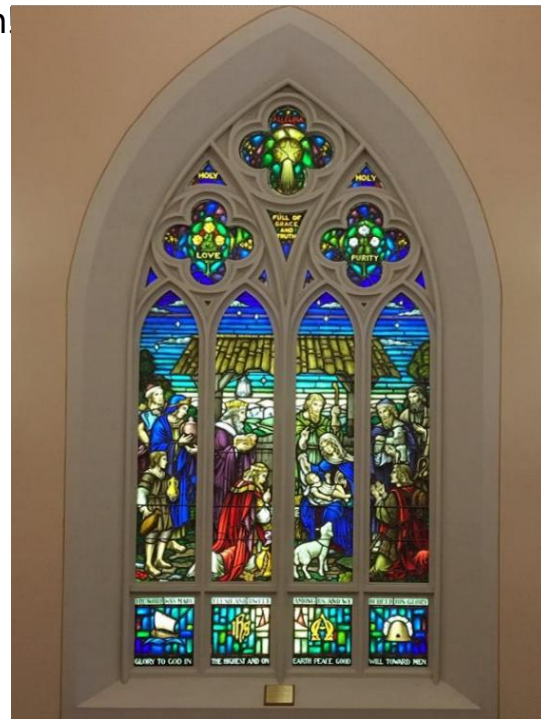
As we journey through Advent together, may we watch and wait with expectant hearts. Let us prepare room for Christ - not just in our homes and in our church, but in the deepest places of our souls. For in this season of holy anticipation, hope is reborn, and the promise of Emmanuel - God with us - shines once again.

## **Advent and Christmas Services at Grace**

The coming weeks will be busy ones here at Grace Church.

You are invited to join us for these special services:  
All morning services are at 10:30 am.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| November 30 <sup>th</sup> | Advent I - The Sunday of Hope<br>Worship leader is Tammy Fergusson   |
| December 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Advent II - The Sunday of Peace<br>Sacrament of Holy Communion<br>Worship leader is Rev. Erin Burns  |
| December 14 <sup>th</sup> | Advent III - The Sunday of Joy<br>Sacrament of Baptism<br>Worship leader is Rev. Erin Burns  |
| December 21 <sup>st</sup> | Advent IV - The Sunday of Love<br>Come celebrate with Organ and Brass<br>Worship Leader is Donna Norman                                    |
| December 24 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Eve Family Service at 7pm<br>Celebrate the birth of Jesus with carols, readings and candles<br>Worship leader is Rev. Erin Burns |
| December 28 <sup>th</sup> | Baby Shower for Baby Jesus<br>An informal service in the auditorium at 10:30 am<br>Bring a gift for a local newborn.                       |



## **Decorating for Advent**

**Save the date – Tuesday, November 25 at 1 p.m.**

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the Advent Season. All are welcome to join in and share time and talents as we prepare for this blessed time of year.

### **Advent Bible Study**

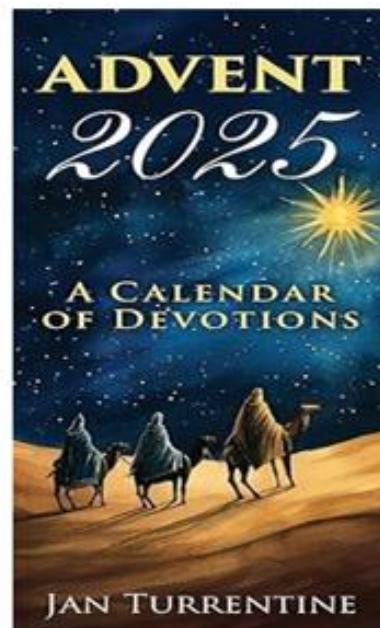
**Lead by Tammy Fergusson**

**Wednesdays**



**Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00am**

**Let us join  
together for  
fellowship, Bible  
Readings, stories  
and discussion  
as we wait  
for Jesus to arrive!**





# Our United Church Women have been busy!

By Denise Wood

The Grace United Church UCW has been busy

We recently hosted the Four Rivers Area UCW Fall Rally on October 15th. It was a wonderful day with 56 women from across our Area attending. Our Guest Speaker was Joan McKinnon from the Gananoque Horticultural Society and Rev. Lynne Gardnier lead us in singing and Communion. A big thank you to all who volunteered to make our Rally a huge success.

The UCW held an Edna's Cafe at Carveth Care Centre on November 5th. A big thank you to Paul and Colleen Harding and our UCW for your help. We had over 40 residents from LTC and the Retirement Lodge attend. It was a wonderful afternoon of singing the old favorite tunes and fellowship!



(In photo, left to right - Joan Shaw, Christina Charney, Marilyn Belbin, Paul Harding (at Piano) Diane Nuttall, Gerri Heath Denise Wood – Edna's Café at Carveth)

Once again this year we will be making our Christmas Cards for Fox Run and Carveth residents and other members of our congregation. Thanks to Julie Price for designing the Cards and putting together our kits and to Colleen Harding for your assistance putting them together.

Our UCW Christmas Lunch will take place at 12:00 p.m. December 15th at the Gananoque Curling Club. We will be having a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert for \$20.00. There will be a Secret Santa as well.

If you want to join in the Secret Santa just bring a gift ( under \$20.00) This is optional so no pressure to bring a gift. Please email Denise at [seelion89@gmail.com](mailto:seelion89@gmail.com) by December 8<sup>th</sup> if you wish to join us! All ladies of Grace are welcome to attend!

I will be attending a UCW Executive meeting with Diane Nutall on November 19th at Christ United Church in Lyn.

We have a limited number of Church Calendars for sale as a fundraiser at the back of the Church. Cost is \$10.00

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## From Concerts to a new Baby Grand, Grace is the place to be

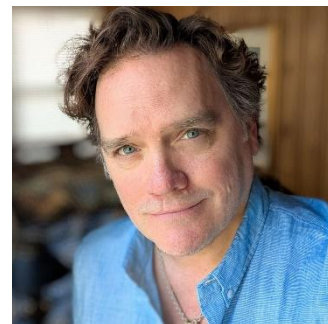
By Paul Harding

**WORDS & MUSIC** November saw a special night, when Maryanne Wainman, Frayne McCarthy and our own Paul Harding presented "Words & Music – Musical Theatre Favourites" as part of our ongoing concert series. Our audience enjoyed an evening of songs and stories, featuring music from shows like "Wicked", "Napoleon", "Les Misérables", "Hairspray", "The Sound of Music", and many, many more.



**Maryanne Wainman** is a Kingston vocalist, singing in musical theatre and concerts since her elementary school days. In her position at Queen's University, Maryanne is responsible for providing expertise and services in organizational development and design to clients within the Faculty of Arts and Science. She lives in Kingston with her husband Scott Davey and their 3 year old son, Oak.

**Frayne McCarthy** is known for being cast in many French-language and bilingual productions. He is remembered for originating the role of Marius in the French premiere of "Les misérables" (Montréal). He has also worked alongside composer Daniel Boulerice as the writer and lyricist of "Autoportrait", a production by the National Arts Centre of Canada, and with esteemed composer Blair Thomson on "The



Virgin Courtesan". Frayne and his partner Kevin John Saylor are the owners of the Royal Theatre Thousand Islands in Gananoque, Ontario, where he serves as the artistic director of King Street Productions.

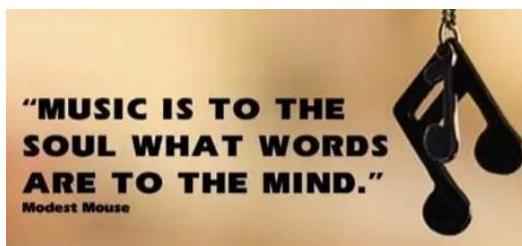
Grace United Church's Director of Music, **Paul Harding**, is delighted to provide accompaniment and perform with these two talented performers. We look forward to future collaborations of these fine musicians.

## NEW PIANO

November 11th saw the arrival of our Baldwin baby grand piano, a gift from Stella ter Hart. Stella is a well-known Canadian composer, educator, adjudicator and director, now living in Inverary. She is the Musical Director of the area choral group, MELODIA, which is performing their annual concert December 6<sup>th</sup> at Grace United Church to benefit the Gananoque and Area Food Bank.



With the guidance of piano technician and mover, John Hall of Napanee, and the brawn of volunteers Cliff Edwards and Douglas Gifford, our new instrument was moved into place in preparation for our Words & Music show. Many thanks to Stella ter Hart, Cliff, Doug and Julie Price who is underwriting the cost of the move and tuning. We appreciate your generous gifts.





## **GANANOQUE CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT – November 28<sup>th</sup>**

Grace United Church will host the GANANOQUE CHORAL SOCIETY, for their annual Christmas concert, on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm. Under the baton of musical director Anna Basten, the chorus will present an evening of holiday favourites, accompanied by Paul Harding on the piano and organ.



The same programme will be presented at Lansdowne United Church on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

## **MELODIA CONCERT – December 6<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, Grace United Church will welcome back the area choral group, MELODIA. Under the leadership of Stella ter Hart, this group of serious amateurs and professional singers presents a varied repertoire, all presented in fine form.



This annual concert is a traditional fundraiser for the Gananoque and Area Food Bank, so come out and enjoy an evening of Christmas music while supporting a cause in great demand at this time of year.

## **GRACE UNITED CHURCH PIPE ORGAN**



Purchased and installed after the devastating fire of August 1979, the pipe organ in Grace United Church is, as is the case with many such instruments, a hybrid of several different constructions with the addition of new components. Originally from Christ Church Cathedral (Anglican), Montreal, some of the pipes in our organ date from 1849, whereas the newest parts were built in 1980. Some of

the wind mechanism is in need of refurbishing (aren't we all?!), and we are delighted to welcome Tate Pumfrey, of Pufrey Pipe Organs, and his staff, as our new tuners/technicians. Tate has already been on site to make some repairs and will be back in early December to have us tuned up for Advent. An estimate for some urgent repairs has been presented to the Official Board for approval, and further news on this front will follow.

## CHRISTMAS BRASS ON DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>



On the fourth Sunday of Advent our Worship Leader will be Donna Norman, and we are blessed to have a brass quintet under the leadership of Gillian MacDonald to help lead us in the glorious carols of Christmas. Come enjoy Donna's inspiring message and sing your favourite Christmas hymns with organ and brass.

 **GANANOQUE CHORAL SOCIETY**  
Presents:

# Songs of Christmas Joy

Musical Director: Anna Basten  
Accompanied by: Paul Harding

**Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Grace United Church  
120 Pine St., Gananoque  
Doors open at 7:00 pm & concert begins at 7:30 pm

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Lansdowne United Church  
25 Miller St., Lansdowne  
Doors open at 2:00 pm & concert begins at 2:30 pm

Adults \$15.00  
Children under 14 \$ 5.00  
Family \$30.00

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR**  
Prepaid tickets are available from members, and at  
Corner Store Stylist, 117 King St. E, Gananoque



AN EVENING OF MUSICAL GOOD TIMES WITH

# MELODIA

A Light Hearted Christmas



**6 DECEMBER, 2025**  
7:00 PM, GRACE UNITED  
PINE ST., GANANOQUE

FREE-WILL DONATION  
IN SUPPORT OF  
THE GANANOQUE FOOD BANK



# Invite a Friend – Spread the Blessings of Advent

By Colleen Harding, chair of Session



**ADVENT** is a good time to invite others to join us  
- at this time of year people are thinking of  
"the reason for the season".

We have a three-pronged plan:

- 1) We will be broadcasting a message on MyFM radio throughout December. The message was written by Tammy Fergusson and recorded by Cliff Edwards.
  - 2) A video was created by Paul Harding and is already circulating on social media.
  - 3) The third part involves you - we have printed and will distribute invitations, encouraging attendance at our Advent services. Each member of the congregation is asked to **GIVE** an invitation to someone, and to invite that person to **join** them for worship. The invitations will be available at the church.
- **RED WAGON** We hope our Red Wagon will be filled with food and other necessities for the Gananoque and Area Food Bank, each Sunday in Advent, starting November 30th. Specific needs will be announced each week in the bulletin.
  - **MEMORY TREE** Each Christmas we give people the opportunity to honour one or more loved ones who have passed by placing their names on our Memory Tree. We are in search of a volunteer to take responsibility for this special project. We thank Marilyn Belbin for her initiative in past years. We have the tree; we have extra ornaments; we just need a convenor.
  - **WHITE GIFT** Our White Gift service will be December 14th. Stay tuned for more details. David Grant will be singing a solo that Sunday as well.



# Red Wagon Food Bank

During the 4 weeks of Advent, Grace United Church collects various goods for the Food Bank with our Red Wagon Food Bank Drive. Below is a suggested list of items for each Sunday.

## Red Wagon Food Bank



### **November 30<sup>th</sup> - Personal Items, Cleaning products**

Toilet Paper, Paper towels, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Feminine products, Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Household Cleaning products.

### **December 7<sup>th</sup>- Breakfast Items**

Various Cereal, Oatmeal, Instant Oatmeal, Jams & Jellies, Peanut Butter, & Peanut Butter substitutes, Pancake Mix and syrup.

### **December 14<sup>th</sup> Canned Goods**

Tuna, Salmon, Flaked Chicken or Ham, Spam, Vegetables, Tomatoes, Chunky Soups, Stews, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Broths, Tomato Sauce, Pasta.

### **December 21<sup>st</sup> - Snack Items & Miscellaneous.**

Juice Boxes, Kids snack packs, Peanut free snacks, Granola bars, Crackers, Cookies, Popcorn, Cake mixes.

***NOTE: Cash Donations are always appreciated.***

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## A church of many talents – come join us!

By Vicki Leakey



Our church family has realized a very successful year in times of uncertainty. It is amazing the work that can be accomplished in a small community with everyone pulling together and sharing the best of our talents.

We have had great success with the monthly concerts that were made available, there has been a great increase in rental space

of our church helping with revenue there, our pie committee has blown the number of pies made and sold this year out of the park, we still have our highly anticipated Christmas market coming on November 29<sup>th</sup> so please come and support the vendors and if any extra time more hands assisting is always appreciated.

Our session has done an amazing job this year filling the pulpit with excellent speakers each week, organizing shared services with St. Andrew's and keeping us all organized for a Sunday service and a special note of thanks for the guest singers we were fortunate to have over the past year.

We also open our doors to groups in the community that look for space to bring an interest to residents, very happy to see Girl Guides back at Grace as our youth need our attention, we also have been very fortunate to make great use of our Benevolent Fund to help local organizations like the Food Bank, the Breakfast Club and a couple of vulnerable families in need of financial support for emergency shelter. The Community Kitchen continues to come monthly and there is a bustle of noise as about 8 people join in the kitchen to chop and prepare meals under a Chef's supervision, followed by a fellowship meal with leftovers packed up in take out containers for participants to take home.

So as Treasurer, thank you to our small church family that has worked together and accomplished a lot in this past year. I look forward to continuing to work together and see what else lies ahead in what we might achieve.

We have the ability and will distribute brochures explaining how you can set up PAR or preauthorized remittance to Grace United, which is a great way to spread out your automatic giving's throughout the year or you can also 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](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com). Just follow the instructions given.

**Offerings by mail** is another option – send by mail to Grace Church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7.

This is a season for hope and gratitude and without even asking our church family continues with strong efforts by giving Grace United Church time, talent and finances within one's means. We need to show patience with each other and show strength and optimism for a future that continues to give this church family and the community comfort and friendship.





## **Gananoque vet receives Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence**



(In Photo - Shirley's daughter, Patti Detlor with Shirley Walker – Photo Lorraine Payette/Post Media)

Local Veteran and Grace United Church member, Shirley Walker, was recognized with the Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence during a special ceremony held on Nov. 4 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 in Gananoque. Congratulations Shirley, a well-deserved honour.

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## **Grace United Church Annual Christmas Market November 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm**

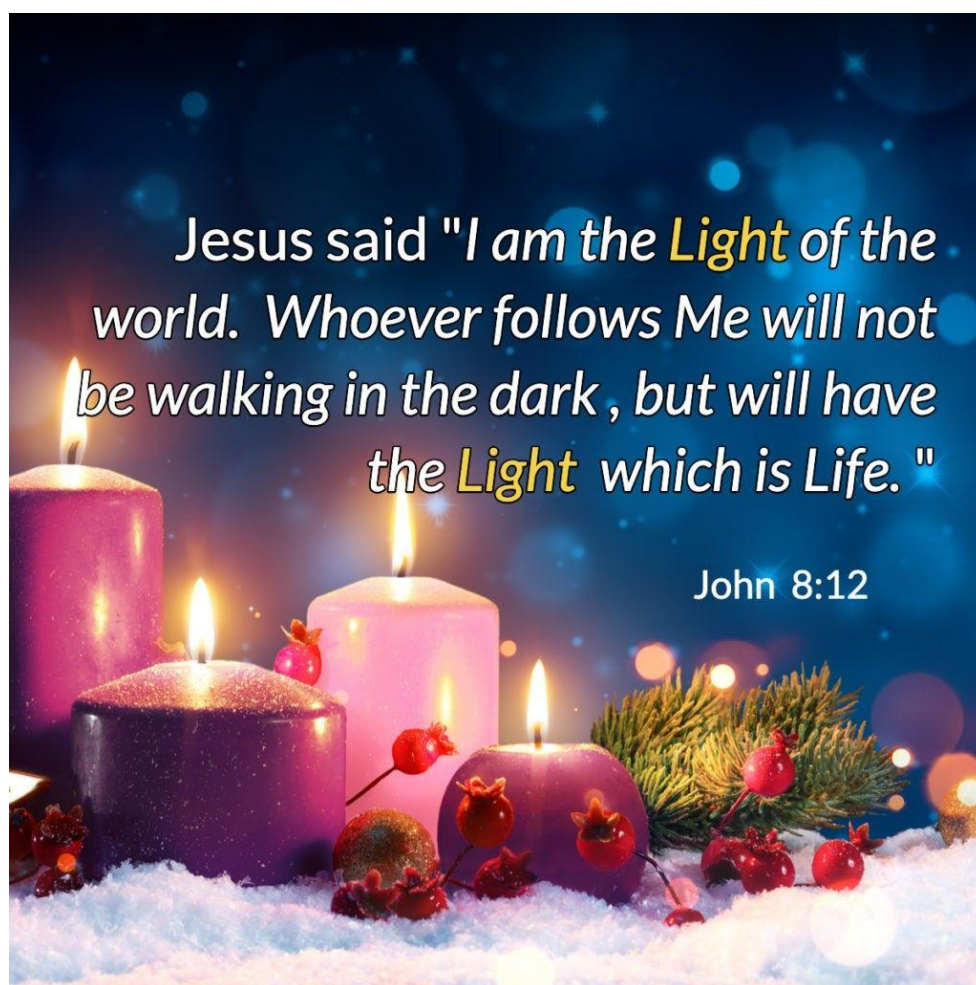
Join us for our annual Christmas Market, Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm. Various local vendors will be here along with our Bake Goods Table, Pies, Silent Auction and much more. There will also be a delicious hot lunch available, eat in or take out.



Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? If you would like to be kept up to date with all the church events and news, please call the church office to update your information. 613-382-2161 [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com)

Happy Birthday or Anniversary to all those who are celebrating over the next few months. We pray that what ever your celebration may be, that you are blessed by family and friends.

Our sincere condolences to all who have lost loved ones in recent months. Know that your family at Grace United is praying you find comfort and peace.



This month's contributors are - Tammy Fergusson, Vicki Leakey, Paul Harding, Colleen Harding, Denise Wood, Vicki Leakey, Laurie Cadue, Paul Scott

**Deadline for Spring Edition - March 13, 2026**