

Making a Difference

Grand Bend United Church



Our Unique Message: God is our partner in making our lives stronger and happier. Gone is the idea of a God who judges our actions. Gone is the idea of a God who controls our lives, or who wants us to be servants, or follow blindly. Rather, we understand that modern Christians have wonderful strengths of knowledge and wisdom. We believe that by joining our strength with God's strength we can be more than we are by ourselves. We also believe that God expects us to make the world we live in a better place because we were here.

We are there for those who do not attend church: It is a fact in today's world that fewer people feel the need to attend church on a regular basis. Our church is there for all folks whenever they wish to celebrate Christian holidays, special events of weddings and baptisms and in more difficult times like dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Medical science indicates prayers make illness easier: Studies have found that people for whom prayer is important do in fact have an easier time dealing with an illness. That does not mean that the illness goes away; it simply means that they are better equipped to face their situation. At our services each Sunday, prayers are received for those in need of comfort and support.

We Contribute to our Community: Our volunteers in the *Adopt-the-Beach* program clean up the beach after major summer holiday weekends. We *donate food, shampoo and soap* for the Blessings outlet in Zurich. Our *Caring Through Sharing* program assists local people who need temporary financial support. Our *Angel Tree* program buys gifts for area children at Christmas. At that time of year, we also have White Gift Sunday, collecting food and small gift items that make up part of the area Christmas hamper project for those in need of that support.

We send help world-wide: It was good to hear Stephen Lewis say in June at the Huron Country Playhouse that relief money from churches gets through to the people who need it. And there is not one cent used for administrative purposes. Our annual *Canadian Foodgrains* Celebration of Soup initiative, when matched with government funds sends over four thousand dollars for food each year to folks who need it around the world. We have other funds that send help too: Mission and Service, United Church Women, Christian Education. We also support a women's group in Guatemala.

Contributions of our large choir: Quality music is an important element of our Sunday services, providing joy, excitement, stimulation and the peace that spiritual music and singing bring to many.

Concert Series: This October's *Choristers Chaos*, our play at the Huron Country Playhouse II, is the fifth in a series of rollicking musical comedies. Funds raised through these productions go partly to helping the needy in our wider community and partly to bring visiting artists to perform in Grand Bend – a cultural experience not otherwise offered.

Summer Services in the Green Cathedral: During July and August our Sunday 11 am services are conducted outdoors, weather permitting. These services often include guests who provide special music.

New Land on Ontario Street near Merrywood Subdivision: Recently, we purchased four acres that fronts on the highway and backs on the Old Ausable River. Our current church is over 80 years old and has stairs to be navigated that create access issues. Whether we build on the new property, on another property, or on our current downtown property, we will not begin until we feel comfortable that we can complete the project.

We welcome everyone: We believe everyone is a part of this partnership with God. No matter what your situation, you are welcome. Come to a service and enjoy our fellowship. We would love to meet you and share some time with you. No obligations, no pressure.

That sense of comfort knowing the church is there: Though not everyone attends, it is a comfort knowing that there is a church available. Whenever there may be a personal situation that requires a special lift that can only be provided by a connection with a loving God – that is a reason our church needs to be here and why we send this letter.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry: Information regarding church services, attendance, making a financial contribution and related tax receipt, Sunday School, choir involvement, or any other matter, call 519-238-2402 or visit our website at www.grandbend-greenwaypc.com. Mailing address is Box 61, Grand Bend, ON, N0M 1T0.