



Messages this month

Join us this December as we encounter Jesus in a series of messages entitled **Away in a Manger**. Each week we will meet one of the people who encountered the babe in the manger and hear how that experience impacted both then and today. Each week we will also light an Advent candle and highlight the story and meaning of one of the well-know carols of Christmas. The Grace Senior Choir will fill the sanctuary with music as they present a Christmas Cantata on December 10. With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday this year, the morning service will include a joyful for all ages celebration of Jesus birthday while the evening service will be a meaningful candle lighting service with carols and readings.

We look forward to a variety of music during the month from; *Erma Hawkes and Grace Senior Choir, Grace Winds & Strings, Harding Smith Memorial Handbell Choir, Kathy Margeson & Yunjia Dai - Piano, Sarah Jarvis - Cello, Julie Probert - Organ*

MESSAGES

- Dec 3** 10:30 AM-Hope in the Manager (Pastor Peter Lohnes)
- Dec 10** 10:30 AM-Love in the Manager (Pastor Peter Lohnes)
- Dec 17** 10:30 AM-Peace in the Manager (Pastor Jim Bae)
- Dec 24** 10:30 AM-A Celebration of Joy (Pastor Peter Lohnes)
6:00 PM-Traditional Candle Lighting Service (Pastor Peter Lohnes)
- Dec 31** 10:30 AM-How God Restores Us (Pastor Jim Bae)

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM Looking for someone to pray with confidentially with you? A member of the Prayer Ministry Team will be available after worship each Sunday at the front of the sanctuary. You will then be accompanied to the Prayer Room for privacy. (available after in person services)

NEW TO GRACE? If this is your first or second time coming to Grace, welcome! We would love to meet you and get to know you. The pew in front of you should have a yellow Connection Card. Please fill it out and drop it in the one of the offering boxes as you exiting the sanctuary. Check out our website gracememorial.ca for updates, services and much more.

GRACE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

536 Northumberland St, Fredericton, NB E3B 3K8

Telephone: 458-8527 **Email:** office@gracememorial.ca

Web: gracememorial.ca **FB:** [@gracememorialbaptist](https://www.facebook.com/gracememorialbaptist)

YouTube: [Grace Memorial Baptist Church](https://www.youtube.com/GraceMemorialBaptistChurch)

Senior Pastor
 Community Engagement Pastor
 Pastor of Seniors Visitation
 Organist/Accompanist
 Choir Director
 Church Office Administrator

Rev. Dr. Peter Lohnes
 Rev. Jim Bae
 Rev. Dr. Scott Dunham
 Julie Probert
 Erma Hawkes
 Lisa Melanson

Advent Pause—Join Pastor Peter for a 4-week series, starting Nov 29th, on the names of Jesus in Isaiah. Each 30-45-minute session will include an 11-minute video teaching segment from J.D. Greer and then a time to chat about that week's name of Jesus. Join from wherever by clicking the link (in your Mid-Week email) a little before 7:30pm. Create your personal account by either going to <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/gracememorial> or by scanning the QR Code. It's easy and will just take a minute.



DECK THE HALLS DECORATING PARTY



Saturday, December 2, at 9 AM -12 PM Join us this Saturday, December 2nd to deck out our beautiful church building for Christmas. We'll play some Christmas music, decorate the trees, hang the wreaths, transforming the sanctuary and a few other spaces for Advent and Christmas celebrations. Afterward, we'll enjoy some eggnog, and other treats. Everyone of every age is welcome; the more the merrier!



CHRISTMAS BLESSING CARDS These cards will bless our folks who are not able to attend regular services due to being shut in. Please drop your addressed cards for shut-ins in the card basket in the Welcome Centre or to the church office by **Dec 10**. They will be delivered with a visit from pastors and volunteers. No stamps needed. The list of names is printed in the Weekly Prayer Guide section of Grace Notes and in the monthly bulletin. **Thank you** for blessing those who are unable to attend regularly.

* If you have started to receive Christmas cards in the mail, we are also collecting used stamps. All year long there is a collection box located in the Welcome Centre.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS BANQUET SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



If Christmas were in July, this would be the meal – Boneless BBQ Chicken breast, Baked Potato, 30 Item Salad Bar, and Apple Crisp for dessert. After service, we'll enjoy a great meal, sing a few fun songs, hear a few stories, and laugh together. The meal is being provided, so to help with the planning we are asking you to please get your tickets in advance. These tickets will allow us to know how much to order, so be sure to buy your tickets. The cost to the meal is being generously subsidized through a donation, so it's a great price of \$5 per Adult, or \$10 for a Family (cash only). You won't find a better deal this Christmas, except the free Christmas Day Dinner! Tickets will be sold at the Welcome Centre Kiosk on **Sunday, Dec 3 & 10th** or during the week from the church office (9AM to 4 PM).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24th) Worship services with Christmas Eve being on a Sunday this year, services will be slightly different than previous years.



10:30 AM-A Celebration of Joy

Join us for an all-ages celebration of Jesus birth as we light the Candle of Joy. We'll retell the Away in a Manger Christmas story in a fun but meaning way to begin the holiday celebrations. After the service, stay for some birthday cake & hot chocolate.



6:00 PM-Traditional Candle Lighting Service

This service will feature carols and readings as we light the Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath. We will finish the Away in a Manger series with the visit of the Magi and conclude the service in candlelight with Silent Night. (We'll have battery operated candles for the little ones.) A meaningful family celebration and tradition to begin the holiday celebrations. Please note the time change from previous years.



CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER AT GRACE 12 Noon Monday December 25

We know most people have plans for Christmas, but if you are looking for an option for dinner on Christmas Day, Grace will be hosting a free traditional turkey dinner at 12 Noon. Along with turkey, the meal will include stuffing, potatoes and multiple vegetables, cranberry sauce, and apple pie along with a variety of sweets for dessert. Anyone and everyone is welcome. Feel free to invite a friend or someone you know who would appreciate the opportunity to dine with others on Christmas Day. We just need to know you are coming. Reservations can be made by calling the church office (506-458-8527) or emailing; office@gracememorial.ca. **Please make your reservation by Wednesday, December 20th.**

We also need some volunteers:

- ♦ 6-8 people at 10am December 23 to help set tables
- ♦ 3-4 people to peel carrots and potatoes after morning worship on December 24
- ♦ 6-8 people at 10:30am on December 25 to help with cooking and serving the food

No experience is necessary, just a heart to bless others. If you would like to help, just sign up in the Welcome Centre, connect with Pastor Peter, or contact the office.



SHARED
HOPEFUL
GIFTS

*Supporting Kids
at Risk in Bolivia*

THE 2023 CHRISTMAS OFFERING- This year, along with vital support for our local ministries, part of our Christmas Offering will help Kids at Risk in Bolivia. In Bolivia, children and youth who have been the victims of family or community violence often have few options but to live on the streets. Some even turn to prostitution. Others find themselves at risk while a parent is in prison. A lack of healthy food, medical care, and life skills limits their hopes for a better future.

What is being done to help?

Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) works with three ministries changing young lives at risk:

JIREH provides street children with care in education, health, and nutrition, as well as psychological and spiritual support. Children receive training in crafts, sports, cultural events, health and hygiene, prevention of bullying and violence, along with healthy food and medical care. Parents also receive support and training on topics such as abuse prevention, communication and peacekeeping in the home, and coping with alcohol and drug addiction.

Casa Prison Children works with kids whose parents are incarcerated. They receive training in art, Bible stories, recreation, leadership, health and hygiene, along with medical care, psychosocial support services, and healthy food. Parents who are able to participate in the programming are involved in Bible studies and family strengthening workshops.

The Children with a Future project empowers and strengthens children and youth by helping them discover their gifts, making use of their abilities, and setting real goals for their dreams. Children are also offered teaching in language and vocational skills, such as design, along with healthy meals and medical care, including eye doctors and dentists.



Your Christmas offering will support these programs as they provide care and life skills to Bolivia's children at risk, giving them hope for a future free of violence, sickness, poverty, and broken relationships, as well as giving witness to the real-life Good News of Jesus.

UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|----------------|
| Jan 3 | Maiah Benigno | Jan 25 | Anita Sergeant |
| Jan 7 | Nina Cruz | | Brian Randall |
| Jan 9 | A-Afolabi Sanni & Adebola Afolabi Sanni | Jan 27 | Michael Clarke |
| Jan 13 | Carol Jarvis | | Wayne Ross |
| | Victoria Murray | | Claire Randall |
| Jan 15 | Camille Zhu | | Eileen Wallace |
| Jan 18 | Bianca Cruz | Jan 29 | Joey Niles |
| | Ed Evans | Jan 31 | Janet Spurrell |
| Jan 21 | Marisel Benigno | | |
| | Rev. Scott Dunham | | |



If you do not see your celebration date and would like it to be added, please contact the office.



SURVIVING WINTER-BACKPACK CARE PACKAGES—We are inviting our congregation to participate in donating items for our most vulnerable population. We will be gathering 40-50 backpack care packages to distribute on the last Saturday of January. Items needed for the care packages are: backpacks, socks, hats, gloves, scarves, protein bars, hand and foot warmers, underwear (various sizes of both men's and women's), toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrush, dry shampoo, and cash donations to purchase these items. Other items we are collecting are gently used tents, tarps, sleeping bags, blankets, winter jackets, and boots (various sizes of both men's and women's). Collection will be until **Sunday, January 21, 2024**, look for a box in the Welcome Centre.

On Saturday, **January 27th from 1-3 PM**, a group of people from Grace will pass out these backpack care packages with the downtown team lead (Under the Tent) reaching tent communities across Fredericton. If you would like to join us in handing out these donated items please contact pastor Jim; Jimbae3@gmail.com or the office. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY.**

ADVANCE NOTICE! MARK YOUR CALENDARS! **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE- FEB 10, 2024**

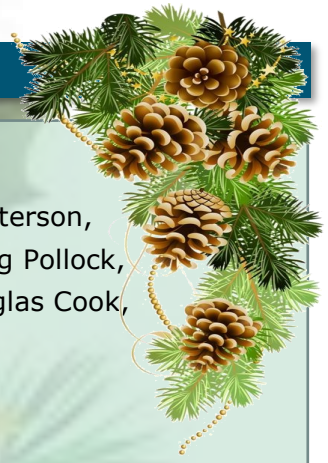
A leadership conference is planned for Grace Memorial on Sat, Feb 10, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Video talks by World Class speakers and experts on leadership will be selected from the 2023 Global Leadership Summit. Interested individuals will be able to register starting in mid-January. A detailed schedule with speaker information and more will be provided in the January bulletin.

MINISTRY MEMO

FINANCE/PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM MEMO

Thanksgiving Offering—A total of \$8,325 was received for the Thanksgiving Offering with \$2,750 going towards a Special Mission Project. This year the project was in support of Behzad Firouzabadi who recently arrived in Fredericton under the refugee sponsorship program.

Property—An estimate has been received from Atlantic Roofers to re-roof two sections of the building that consists of the gymnasium and the area of the coat room between the sanctuary and Welcome Centre. The estimate to complete both sections is estimated at \$58,500. Immediate priority will be given to completing the area of the coatroom at a cost of approximately \$4,500. A contract has been signed with Atlantic Roofers who hope to complete that section of the roof in December 2023.



GRACE WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE DEC 3-10

At Home: Heather Fletcher-Switzer, Maureen Arp, Teddy & Claire Randall, Rose Marie Patterson, Helen Currie, Shirley Pierpoint, Sheila Marlin, Edgar & Dorothy Barrieau, Stephanie & Marg Pollock, James Rankine, Lawrence Steeves, Erma Hawkes, Ron & Sherrie Evans, Lisa Lohnes, Douglas Cook, Guna Kulasegaram

Shannex: Velma MacDonald, Gregory Nickerson, David Ridley, Mavis Hallett

Windsor Court: Eileen Wallace

York Manor: Ruth Steeves

Farraline Place: Phyllis Betts



PRAYER MINISTRY is always available and welcomes your prayer requests. Please send them by email to Kathleen Brewer at kbrewer168@gmail.com or by phone 449-0848. New members are always welcome.



GRACE YOUTH Please pray for:

- **Grace youth** as we have started a bible study series exploring the topic of the first Christmas. Please pray that the youth may reflect on what Christmas truly means and represents. Pray that they start to understand the significance of Jesus' birth.

Thank you for praying for our youth as they grow in CHRIST



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Please pray for:

- **Leaders, volunteers, Grace Kids, and parents** as they prepare for the Christmas holiday. Pray it would be filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. That they each would understand the meaning of Christmas as they receive the greatest gift of Christ.

GOING TO HOSPITAL? Even though limited visiting is now open in Horizon Health facilities, clergy and pastoral care people no longer know whether a particular person is in hospital or not. If you find yourself or a loved one in the hospital and desire a pastoral visit, please let family or a friend contact the church office so that we can be an encouragement and support.



FERNE SEWELL WMS—Join us on Monday, **December 11 at 12:00 PM**, in the church Parlour. Lunch is a Cold Finger Foods Potluck with the Christmas Program to follow. All women are welcome from the church. For more information, please contact Carolyn Brewer; cjbrewer100@gmail.com.

**BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF GRACE;
A CHRIST CENTERED MOSAIC**

MANY PEOPLES—ONE COMMUNITY





Comfort's Calling Potluck
Good Food
& Great Friends



Thanks for
the

shoeboxes!






400 Muffins



Movember
Men Making Muffins



SCHEDULE FOR GRACE DECEMBER 2023

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Fri, Dec 1 | |
| Grace Youth, GG, gym | 7:00 PM |
| Sat, Dec 2 | |
| Christmas Decorating Party, Sa, WC, Par, etc.  | 9:00 AM-12 PM |
| Grace Winds and Strings, Choir Room | 10:30 AM |
| Sun, Dec 3 ~ Communion & Food Bank ~ Advent of Hope ~ | |
| Worship service, Sa | 10:30 AM |
| HSMH Choir, Sa | 12:00 PM |
| Pickleball & Badminton, gym | 2:30-5 PM |
| Mon, Dec 4 | |
| Roger & Marilyn Crisp, GG, Par | 6:30 PM |
| Wed, Dec 6 | |
| Graceland, FC, gym | 12:00 PM |
| Advent Pause series (2/4), online-RightNow MEDIA | 7:30-8:15 PM |
| College & Career, GG, Par | 7:30 PM |
| Thurs, Dec 7 | |
| Grace Senior Choir, Choir Room | 7:00 PM |
| Fri, Dec 8 | |
| Grace Youth, GG, gym | 7:00 PM |
| Sat, Dec 9 | |
| Grace Winds and Strings, Choir Room | 10:30 AM |
| Sun, Dec 10 ~ Advent of Peace ~ | |
| Worship service, Cantata, Sa  | 10:30 AM |
| HSMH Choir, Sa | 12:00 PM |
| Pickleball & Badminton, gym | 2:30-5 PM |
| Mon, Dec 11 | |
| Ferne Sewell WMS, Par  | 12:00 PM |
| Brunswick & Thomas Hall, Shannex service | 2:00 PM |
| Wed, Dec 13 | |
| Graceland, FC, gym | 12:00 PM |
| Advent Pause series (3/4), online-RightNow MEDIA | 7:30-8:15 PM |
| Thurs, Dec 14 | |
| Grace Senior Choir, Choir Room | 7:00 PM |
| Fri, Dec 15 | |
| Grace Youth, GG, gym | 7:00 PM |

Schedule continues on to the next page

| |
|--|
| Sun, Dec 3 |
| Ushers: 1 Frances Hanson 2 Afolabi Sanni 3 Kyle Baker |
| WC Greeter: Carolyn Lovely |
| Media: Emilio Ancheta |
| Prayer Team: Connie Storr |
| Sun, Dec 10 |
| Ushers: 1 Kendall Dunham 2 Roger Crisp 3 John Curtis |
| WC Greeter: Carolyn Power |
| Media: Kate Thompson |
| Prayer Team: Betty Ann Taylor |
| Sun, Dec 17 |
| Ushers: 1 Eric Smith 2 Ed Stairs 3 Gerry Taylor |
| WC Greeter: Janet Howland |
| Media: Robin Mohle |
| Prayer Team: Lisa Lohnes |
| Sun, Dec 24 10:30 AM |
| Ushers: 1 Blair Burke 2 Patsy Burke 3 Mel Sproull |
| WC Greeter: Dale Sproull |
| Media: Emilio Ancheta |
| Prayer Team: Adebola Afolabi Sanni |
| Sun, Dec 24 6:00 PM |
| Ushers: 1 TBA 2 3 |
| WC Greeter: |
| Media: Robin Mohle |
| Sun, Dec 31 |
| Ushers: 1 Frances Hanson 2 Afolabi Sanni 3 Kyle Baker |
| WC Greeter: Carolyn Lovely |
| Media: Kate Thompson |
| Prayer Team: Lisa Lohnes |



PICKLEBALL & BADMINTON Join us for some exercise, fellowship, and fun to play Pickleball and Badminton on **Sundays, 2:30—5 PM** in the gym until **Dec 10th, resuming Jan 14th** . Did you know that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America? A great opportunity to try it out and we would love to have you join us! Equipment will be available for use or you can bring your own. This will be a 'drop in & play' and everyone is welcome. If you have questions please contact Pastor Jim Bae; Jimbae3@gmail.com or contact the office for more info.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Sat, Dec 16 | |
| Grace Winds and Strings, Choir Room | 10:30 AM |
| Sun, Dec 17 ~ Advent of Joy ~ | |
| Worship service, Sa | 10:30 AM |
| HSMH Choir, Sa | 12:00 PM |
| Church Fellowship Christmas Banquet, gym | 12:00 PM |
| Mon, Dec 18 | |
| Roger & Marilyn Crisp, GG, Par | 6:30 PM |
| Wed, Dec 20 | |
| Advent Pause series (4/4), online-RightNow MEDIA | 7:30-8:15 PM |
| Thurs, Dec 21 | |
| Grace Senior Choir, Choir Room | 7:00 PM |
| Fri, Dec 22 | |
| Grace Youth, GG, gym | 7:00 PM |
| Sat, Dec 23 | |
| Grace Winds and Strings, Choir Room | 10:30 AM |
| Sun, Dec 24 ~Advent of Love ~ | |
| Worship service, A Celebration of Joy, Sa | 10:30 AM |
| Worship service, Traditional Candle Lighting, Sa | 6:00 PM |
| Mon, Dec 25 ~ Merry Christmas ~ | |
| Christmas Dinner, FC | 12:00 PM |
| Sun, Dec 31 | |
| Worship service, Sa | 10:30 AM |
| Rooms Legend: Sanctuary; Sa, Parlour; Par, Welcome Centre; WC, Family Centre; FC, Choir Room, gym Grace Groups; GG | |



The **Nursery** is located off the Welcome Centre, is currently available during services for families with adult supervision. In the main space, services are Livestreamed so parents can still watch the service. This quiet space provides toys, books, and a rocking chair. A semi-private room is set up for all newborn needs.



GRACE KIDS will be not available **Dec 24th & 31st**, resuming **Jan 7th**. Children in Kindergarten to Grade 5 will begin in the worship service with the whole community. Midway through the service, children are invited to follow our leaders and volunteers to the Family Centre for an age-appropriate program.



GRACELAND will be **finishing Dec 13th, resuming Jan 10th**. Join us weekly on Wednesdays, from 12-2 PM, for grades K-5 at the Grace Memorial Church. An afternoon of fun adventures, playing games, listening to exciting bible stories, getting creative with new crafts, and just enjoying spending time with children their own age. Children can be registered on the website, gracememorial.ca the online form.



GRACE YOUTH will finishing **Dec 22nd, resuming Jan 12th**. Weekly on Fridays from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, this high-energy community of middle and high school students meets from Sept to Mid-June. We focus on helping students to think more deeply about what God is saying to us in His word and helping them to form their own opinions about Christ. New youth are always welcome (all year!). Contact Maiah; gracemyouthfredericton@gmail.com.

OFFICE CLOSED FROM DEC 23RD TO JAN 2ND
OFFICE OPEN REGULAR HOURS JAN 3RD

The church office will be **closed** from **Dec 23rd to Jan 2nd** and **resume** regular office hours (8:30 AM-4:30 PM) on **Jan 3rd**. Pastor Peter will be on vacation from December 26 to January 3. If you have pastoral concerns over the holidays, please contact Pastor Jim by phone (506-999-3166) or email Jimbae3@gmail.com. Thank you

- **January's Bulletin** will be released on Jan 5th with an updated Grace Groups chart.
- **Please** have **Annual Reports** ready for **Jan 15th**



The **Library** is located in the Family Centre. **Please note, it will closed Dec 24th & 31st, resuming Jan 7th**. Open half an hour before service and again after service. Resources include everything from books, music, bible studies, movies, resource bible books and more! Questions contact Danielle; schriver.danielle@gmail.com.



WAYS TO GIVE – Thank you for your faithful giving during this period when many find it difficult. It is a blessing to our Grace Community of Faith. We currently have four methods of giving:

AT WORSHIP — At each of the three doors to the sanctuary, there are offering boxes just inside the room. You can drop your offering into one of those boxes at any worship service.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT – You can set up an automatic withdrawal from your account to Grace. If you wish to start, contact the office.

DROP-OFF – You can bring your offering to the Church Office. Use the Northumberland Street door during office hours (Monday to Friday 9 AM – 4 PM). Please call ahead to let the office know of the drop off.

E-TRANSFER – Please clearly note in the message section of the e-transfer how much you are directing to particular funds (For example: Current, Missions, Building, Easter). Funds that are not designated will be directed to Current expenses. Send e-transfers to our **Financial Treasurer,** at treasureratgrace536@gmail.com.

CANADA HELPS - Canada Helps is a registered charity that collects online donations, then passes them on to the charity. Go to canadahelps.org, search for Grace Memorial Baptist. Then follow the instructions to make a donation.



2023 TITHES & OFFERINGS

CHARITABLE RECEIPTS

Please note, that for donations to qualify for Charitable Receipts for 2023 income tax deductions, they must be received by **December 31st**. The last opportunity to give in 2023 will be at the morning worship service on December 31. If you are planning to drop your donation off at the church office, please note the **office will be closed after December 22nd**. E-transfers also need to be made no later than December 31st.

CURRENT ACCOUNT (to Oct 31, 2023)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular Offerings | \$198,951.22 |
| Loose Offering | 1,259.45 |
| Easter Offering | 7,762.00 |
| Thanksgiving Offering | 5,525.00 |
| Rental Income | 18,385.00 |
| Initial Offering | 110.00 |
| Summer Camp Registration | 4,057.50 |
| Student Grants | 9,780.40 |
| Total Revenue | 245,830.57 |
| Less: Expenditures | 261,673.44 |
| Operating Deficit to Oct. 31 | (15,842.87) |
| Balance Dec. 31, 2022 | 3,809.69 |
| Ending Balance | (12,033.18) |

MISSIONS ACCOUNT

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Target for the Year (Regular) | \$42,500.00 |
| Actual Offerings (Regular) | 29,946.32 |
| Target for Thanksgiving Special Project | 2,500.00 |
| Actual Thanksgiving Special Project | 2,750.00 |
| Total | 32,696.32 |
| Less Expenses | 20,708.35 |
| Shortfall from Target | (\$11,987.97) |

BUILDING ACCOUNT

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Offerings | \$6,232.76 |
| Less: Expenses | 0.00 |
| Balance from 2022 | 22,516.82 |
| Ending Balance | \$28,749.58 |

A gift of \$71,923.47 was also received from the Dunham Estate in May, 2023.